

Oral Defense Announcement

University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Philosophy in Education with an emphasis in Counseling

Breon Rose

MA, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Adler University, 2015
BA, Psychology, North Carolina Central University, 2012

Diverse Gamers and Resistance Through Video Gameplay

Date: April 16, 2024

Time: 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Place: Remote

Abstract

With most of the global population engaging with video games, it is crucial to understand the relationship between gaming and the holistic health of players. However, counseling scholarship exploring the relationship between gaming technology and mental health is nascent. Moreover, ethical guidelines in counseling require professionals to further their awareness and competence while working with underrepresented populations (American Counseling Association; ACA, 2014). To address the preceding statements, this two-study dissertation focused on expanding awareness and clinical understanding of video game technology and human experience. The first study used quantitative methods to examine the relationship between race-related stress, motivations to play online video games, and psychological well-being for gamers of color. Results from this study revealed several significant interactions between racialized distresses, motivations for online gaming, and psychological well-being. More specifically, gaming motives for recreational gameplay partially mediated the relationship between racialized distress and psychological well-being for gamers of color. The second study used qualitative methods to explore connectedness with Black Queer men who play video games. Findings from the second study underscored the capacity of video games and gaming communities to be beneficial for soothing distress and building life-enriching relationships. Additional insights, limitations, and suggestions for counseling educators, researchers, and practitioners are also discussed.

Defense of Dissertation Committee

Susan Kashubeck-West, Ph.D. Chair

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