Wanted: Bromances: Impacts of Hegemonic Masculinity on the Relationships of Sophomore Men

Zach Hooten
University of Dayton, stander@udayton.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://ecommons.udayton.edu/stander_posters

Part of the Arts and Humanities Commons, Business Commons, Education Commons, Engineering Commons, Life Sciences Commons, Medicine and Health Sciences Commons, Physical Sciences and Mathematics Commons, and the Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons

Recommended Citation
http://ecommons.udayton.edu/stander_posters/532

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Stander Symposium at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Stander Symposium Posters by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.
Hegemonic masculinity is constructed in a way that pressures men into certain behaviors and mindsets. Hegemonic masculinity and its foundations give way to how men translate the pressures of masculinity into relationships. The research for this study revolved around the success of sophomore students and attempted to gain a new perspective into the real issues of sophomore men.

**ABSTRACT**

Hegemonic masculinity is constructed in a way that pressures men into certain behaviors and mindsets. Hegemonic masculinity and its foundations give way to how men translate the pressures of masculinity into relationships. The research for this study revolved around the success of sophomore students and attempted to gain a new perspective into the real issues of sophomore men.

**PARTICIPANTS & METHOD**

Qualitative interviews with 8 sophomore men.

The sample data was collected at a midsize, Roman Catholic research institution. The institution has an enrollment of approximately 11,000 students including undergraduate and graduate. There are approximately 1,800 sophomore students.

Regardless of buy-in, all participants showed understanding or knowledge of hegemonic masculinity.

Close relationships are very important to these men, but generally limited to 1 or 2. Each participant could articulate how/why they establish close relationships.

Hegemonic masculinity plays a role in the beginning of relationships before men have had a chance to get to know one another.

Most of the men recognize the pressures of hegemonic masculinity but they don’t believe it has a large effect on their relationships for varying reasons.

**IMPLICATIONS**

It is clear that men need close relationships with other men. These relationships are defined in many different ways. Higher education professionals can assist in the developmental process by supporting men where they are. Men need assistance with major selection, personal growth, and development. They also need strong role models that can show them what healthy masculinity can look like.

**FUTURE RESEARCH**

Sophomores are a research topic that is new and exciting, especially men. Many higher education professionals view sophomore year in a negative light – the sophomore slump; it does not have to be a negative experience. Much more can be done to understand the challenges faced in the sophomore year especially regarding vulnerability and peer support.

**SELECTED REFERENCES**