



Wanted: Bromances

Impacts of Hegemonic Masculinity on the Relationships of Sophomore Men

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ABSTRACT

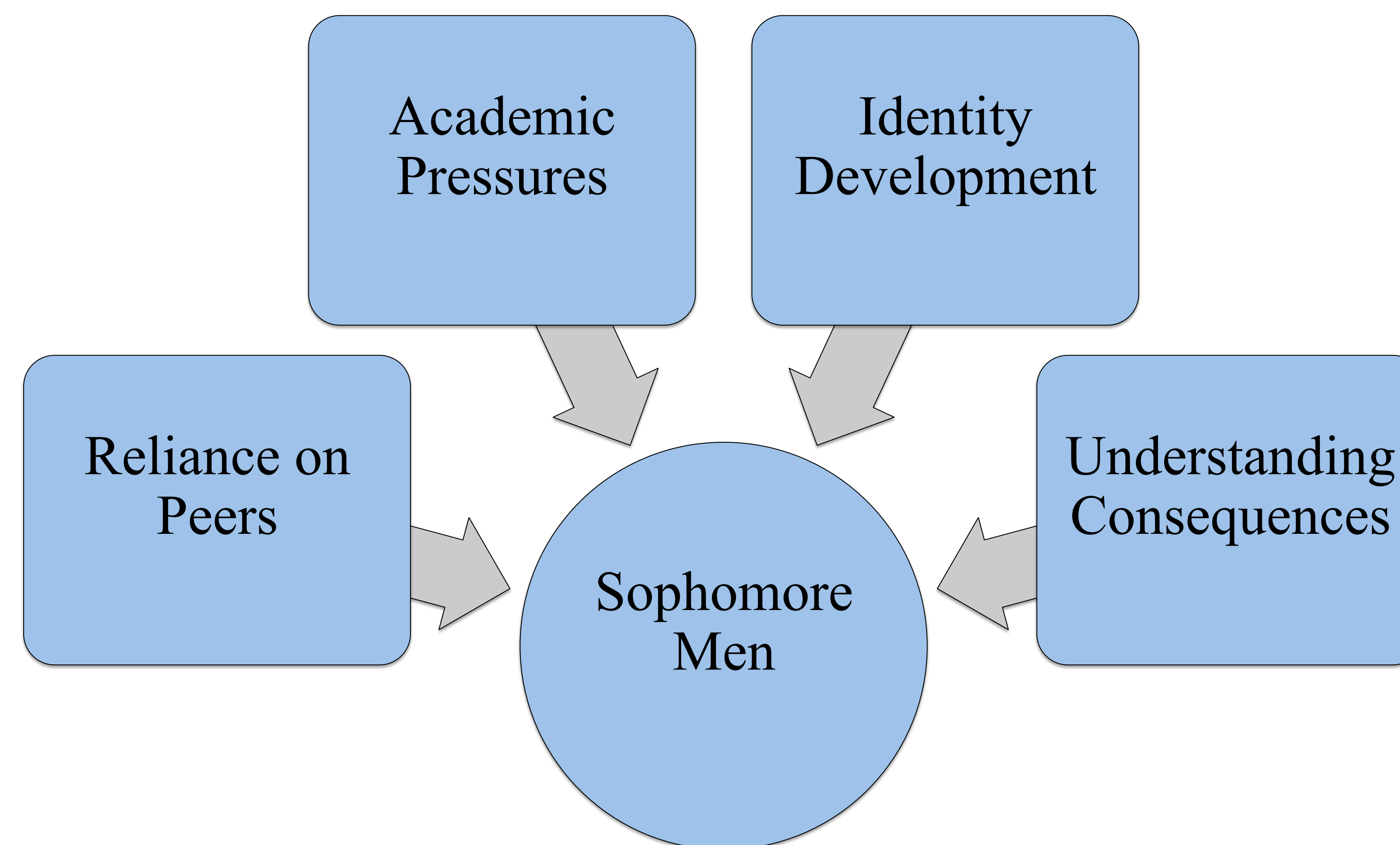
Hegemonic masculinity is constructed in a way that pressures men into certain behaviors and mindsets. Hegemonic masculinity and its foundations give way to how men translate the pressures of masculinity into relationships. The research for this study revolved around the success of sophomore students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

Hegemonic Masculinity

- Emotional Detachment
- Competitiveness
- Power
- Objectification of Women

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.

FINDINGS

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

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