The SophoMORE You Know: Socialization and Peer Influences on Masculine Expression

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ABSTRACT
During the collegiate years, some men engage in high-risk behaviors and adopt detrimental attitudes. There is a strong correlation between these behaviors and attitudes, and the ideals of masculine hegemony (Wagner, 2015). In addition, college men are more likely to be the perpetrators of most forms of violence and commit violations of campus policies when compared to their female counterparts (Edwards & Jones, 2009). Participants identified external expectations influencing them to act tough and demonstrate other traits of hyper masculine hegemony. The experiences of these men illustrate that they want to learn how to be a man, but do not necessarily have a safe space and/or lack the support to craft their definition masculinity.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS
1. How does the socialization of sophomore men impact expression of masculinity?
2. Is there a connection between sophomore men’s values and actions?

METHODS
- Utilized abbreviated version of the Conformity to Masculine Norms Inventory (Parent & Moradi, 2009)
- Random sampling of 300 sophomore males completed 60 surveys anonymously
- Conformity to Masculine Norms Inventory utilized a four-point Likert scale
- SPSS utilized to find Bivariate Pearson and Spearman Correlations as well as Frequencies

CONCLUSION
- Incongruence between sophomore men’s actions and behavior when compared with values and beliefs
- Higher education institutions are not providing ways in which men are able to explore masculine gender identity

FUTURE DIRECTIONS
- Conduct study on men at different college levels
- Conduct a qualitative study to hear the stories of these men
- Create interventions in which men can explore their gender identity

SELECTED REFERENCES

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