Utilizing PEN-3 and Ecological Models of Health to Study Cultural Influences Shaping Minority Stress and Sexual Health among Black, Post-incarcerated Men Who Have Sex with Men and Women (MSMW)

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OVERVIEW

PURPOSE: To study the sociocultural, historical, political, and institutional factors related to minority stress as an expression of belonging and difference that impacts sexual health of black, post-incarcerated MSMW and propose a sexual health intervention.

METHODS: Theme analysis of secondary data, primary data collection utilizing semi-structured interviews, community engagement in assessment of study findings and intervention design.

RESULTS: Preliminary emergent themes identified during open coding of transcripts include negative sociocultural influences, negative institutional influences, and influential perceptions of sexuality disclosure.

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

➢ Health research and health care need to account for cultural diversity among sexual minorities.[1,2,3]
➢ Anti-bisexual sentiment, socioeconomic marginalization, culturally specific masculine ideologies, and sexual identity may negatively influence sexual partnerships and likelihood of disease acquisition for MSMW.[4]
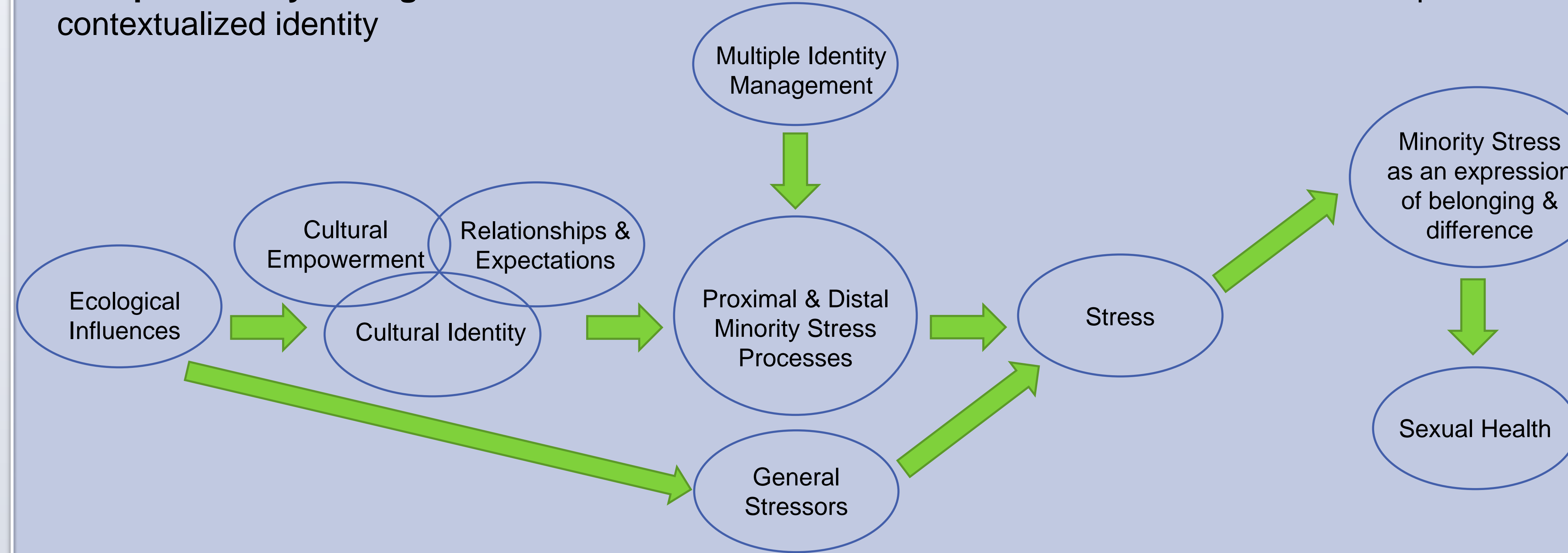➢ To study culture's role in health, it is critical to identify and define known theoretical and cultural constructs.[5]

OBJECTIVES:

1) Investigate and characterize sociocultural, historical, political, and institutional factors
2) Diagnose perceptions, enablers, and nurturers
3) Characterize positive, existential, and negative cultural influences
4) Conduct community-engaged analyses to guide assessment of cultural influences and guide intervention design

METHODS

INTEGRATED CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:
➢ **PEN-3 Model**[6] Assessment of cultural identity, relationships & expectations, and cultural empowerment
➢ **Ecological models of health**[7,8] Assessment of historical, political, institutional-level influences
➢ **Minority Stress Model**[9,10] mechanisms connecting stress and coping to health outcomes
➢ **Multiple Identity Management Model**[11] interaction of the individual with the external world to produce a contextualized identity

ANALYSIS PLAN: An iterative process consistent with grounded theory[12,13] combined with community-engaged analyses

1) Open coding of interview transcripts
2) Coding based on theoretical dimensions
3) Emergent themes organized into categories based on theoretical dimensions
4) Develop a semi-structured interview guide
5) Theoretical sampling, Confirmatory analysis, Theoretical saturation
6) Community engaged analyses utilizing 3x3 table (see Table 1)
7) Production of a substantive theory to guide intervention design

TABLE 1. SAMPLE 3X3 TABLE TO GUIDE PEN-3 COMMUNITY-ENGAGED ANALYSES[14]

Relationships & Expectations	Cultural Empowerment		
DOMAINS	Positive	Existential	Negative
Perceptions	TBD	TBD	TBD
Enablers	TBD	TBD	TBD
Nurturers	TBD	TBD	TBD

RESULTS

TABLE 2. PRELIMINARY THEMES FROM SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS WITH SAMPLE (N=20)

THEMES RELATED TO NEGATIVE SOCIOCULTURAL INFLUENCES	A parent with severe substance abuse and/or mental health issues
	Childhood trauma that isolated a respondent from their support system, such as sexual abuse by a parent, sibling, or relative that they kept secret
	Disruption of the social support, such as being removed from the home and being put in foster care or juvenile justice
	Negative influential perceptions of same-sex sexuality
	Prolonged "street life" and substance abuse
THEME RELATED TO NEGATIVE INSTITUTIONAL INFLUENCES	The effect of an incarceration event or intermittent and prolonged incarceration on relationships and expectations outside of incarceration settings
THEMES RELATED TO INFLUENTIAL PERCEPTIONS OF SEXUALITY DISCLOSURE	An individual in whom one confides about their sexuality and provides emotional support and unconditional acceptance
	An individual that responds both negatively and positively, with some changes in attitude about the respondent's sexuality over time

CONCLUSIONS

➢ The PEN-3 cultural model provides structure and methodology for assessment of cultural influences on health and community engagement in that process.
➢ Ecological models of health structure the assessment of historical, political, and institutional influences on health.
➢ In next steps, the cultural constructs drawn from these models will be operationalized for the study of minority stress as an expression of belonging and difference that impacts sexual health of the study population.

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