Main Research Question

How does the reaction of White parents to their child "coming out" differ from the reaction of Hispanic parents? The purpose of our research is to explore the affect, if any, that race and culture have on the way people view sexuality. We are also interested in how accepting White and Hispanic parents are to their child's sexuality as non-normative.

The Rationale

It is important to challenge people's mindsets in the hopes of pushing people to become less ignorant about LGBT issues. Many people are ignorant of the fact that people deal with some very different reactions from parents because everyone grows up differently. Many people identify themselves in ways that may be contrary to what their parents see as the norm.

Methodology

An efficient method to use would be a survey. The survey will include John Jay students. To ensure that there is little to no bias in our research, we will survey random people. In the survey questions, we will give a very inclusive list of racial backgrounds and ask the participants to pick the race they identify themselves as. We will ask the students if their sexual orientation follows or challenges heteronormativity.

Our thesis will be confirmed if our data is conclusive that more Hispanic homes than White homes will be negatively affected by the child coming out to their parents.

Survey Questions

1. How old are you?
2. Does your sexual orientation challenge normativity?
3. What is your nationality?
4. Did you tell your parents you were LGBT?
5. What race do you identify yourself with?
6. Rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being not comfortable and 5 being comfortable) how you would feel/felt if you have/had to "come out" to your parents as challenging heteronormativity?
7. Rate (using the same scale) how your parents would react to you coming out.

The Thesis

As a group that has members from both White and Hispanic racial backgrounds, we believe that White parents tend to have a more accepting reaction than Hispanic parents towards their child "coming out." Gay marriage is legal nationwide in the United States, but not legal in most Hispanic countries.

Also, because there are many gay couples that are openly public about their relationship in the United States, White parents are more likely to be exposed to, and therefore accepting of, challenges to heteronormativity. Gay marriage is illegal in most Hispanic and Latin American countries, therefore, Hispanic parents who were born and raised outside of the United States might consider heterosexuality as the norm.

Existing Data

Historian Jonathan Ned Katz's theory helps us understand that heterosexuality is seen as the norm by some.

According to Katz (1990), the transition of society from producer to consumer encouraged people to also view their bodies as a means of consumption and pleasure.

This suggests that people went from considering sex as procreation, to viewing sex as a way to satisfy lust.

References

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