Abstract

Gay men embrace “straight-acting” behaviour to avoid feminine traits. The discourse of “straight-acting” produces and reproduces anti-effeminacy behaviours and homophobia contributing to the likelihood of mental health problems. Research suggests that Latino gay men tend to conform with traditional masculinity ideology when they are strongly involved with their ethnic group, social customs and traditions. This attitude leads to the anti-effeminacy as well as homonegativity. However, literature still scarce on studies that examine how Brazilian men navigate and make meaning of homonegativity and anti-effeminacy stigmas. Therefore, this qualitative study uses interpretive narrative method to centre the voices of six Brazilian men living in Canada. The findings explore themes of culture, race and ethnicity, and their intersectionality with gender and sexuality. Thus, it provides an overview of how these men navigate discourses of masculinity and femininity in their daily interactions and its implications for promoting healthier relationships and overall mental health among Latinx.

Keywords: Latinx; Brazilian men; homonegativity; anti-effeminacy; qualitative methods; gender and sexuality