

Female Masculinity in the Queer Latinx Community

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The purpose of this research is to investigate female masculinity in the queer Latinx community. Female masculinity is the way masculinity, a quality or attribute regarded as a characteristic of men, is embodied by those who identify as women. This study examines the complexities of gender among Latinx individuals, particularly with the growing visibility of LGBTQ+ people, which can be seen

upon them at a young age. The consequence of this is that the idea of female masculinity counters what it means to be a “good woman” within these cultures. Those who stray from this expected behavior are often scrutinized, especially into adulthood. Analysis of these gendered and cultural expectations will further the investigation of how race and ethnicity affect the way sexuality is viewed by queer Latinx women.

To gather this data, I have been conducting semi-structured interviews with self-identified queer, Latinx women between the ages of 18-40 residing in the DMV (DC, Maryland, Virginia) for a minimum of two years. In combination with voluntary participants recruited via social media, I chose interviewees through snowball sampling which is recruiting subjects through my pre-existing friendships and their acquaintances.

This project addresses the following questions: How do queer Latinx women define masculinity and femininity? In what settings are women more open to expressing their sexuality? Do queer Latinx women in the community believe that the lines between masculinity and femininity blur in a relationship, or your relationships in general ... did one

of you take on the more “male” role? Why do you think this is?” This role embodies masculinity and contrasts femininity, which is a quality or attribute regarded as a characteristic of women. The majority of my participants said on

standards took on the masculine role — solely based on outward presentation. Second, this role was linked to how the women interacted in an intimate bedroom setting. Even with both individuals in the couple being feminine presenting, sexual interactions caused one member to identify with masculinity. Finally, participants noted that the “male” role is equated with doing traditionally masculine things in a relationship such as holding doors, paying for food on dates, buying flowers etc. Participants’ reasons clearly varied, however, it is evident that for many women in the queer Latinx community, a “male” role is taken on in some way.

By continuing this research, I hope to learn more about the dynamics of how masculinity functions within this community (queer Latinx women) and how it differs from other communities. Unfortunately, research on Latinx women within the queer community has not been prioritized by many scholars. I trust my participant’s stories will unpack the important truths regarding this research.

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