

Peer Review

Review of: "Black Female Counseling Students' Experiences of Racial Microaggressions at a Southern University"

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This article presents an important and well-researched phenomenological study on the experiences of Black female counseling graduate students facing racial microaggressions at a Southern university. The study is thorough, well-structured, and contributes significantly to the field of counselor education and racial equity in higher education. However, minor issues in organization, grammar, and clarity slightly impact the overall effectiveness of the article.

The writing is generally clear, but some sentences are lengthy and could be more concise. For example, "Due to this overlap in experiences between the researcher and the participants, care was taken to avoid influencing or directing participant experiences." The authors should consider revising for conciseness, which would improve readability.

The introduction could be more compelling—it provides background but lacks a strong opening statement to immediately engage the reader. The literature review is comprehensive but might benefit from better integration of sources instead of listing studies separately. Using synthesis paragraphs would enhance cohesion. While well-explained, some methodological terms (e.g., "bracketing," "reflexivity") could be briefly defined for clarity, particularly for interdisciplinary readers. Consider a visual representation of the research design (e.g., a flowchart of data collection methods) for greater clarity. Some themes overlap, particularly "devaluing messages" and "awareness." A more distinct differentiation between these would strengthen the thematic structure. The discussion could further connect findings to existing literature to highlight how this study advances the field. Ensure consistent citation formatting (e.g., APA style, punctuation around brackets).

This is a well-executed and highly relevant study with strong theoretical and practical implications. With minor revisions for conciseness, organization, and citation consistency, it will be even stronger.

The key recommendations for improvement include tightening up the sentence structure and removing redundancies. Strengthen the introduction with a compelling hook. Integrate literature more fluidly in the review. Provide clearer distinctions between overlapping themes. Streamline citations for consistency.

An insightful and impactful study that adds to the discourse on racial microaggressions and student experiences in higher education. With minor refinements, it will be even stronger.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.