**Exploring the Closet: Reconceptualizing Machismo through Masculinity**

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Abstract: Machismo has been treated by a lot of literature as a negative component of Latinx masculinity, rarely attempting to understand the holistic effect of its cultural implications on gender or queer individuals. This study utilizes past literature focused on reconceptualizing hegemonic masculinity, hybrid masculinity, and homomasculinity to create a framework to reconceptualize the cultural value of machismo, within U.S.-born, queer Latinx sons of immigrants. Drawing from 15 different qualitative interviews, this study examines the cultural mechanisms and creations utilized by the participants in negotiation with their visualization of machismo within Latinx communities where their sexuality is disclosed and public. These men illustrate specific strategies they have adapted in their attempts to safely navigate sexuality within the context of machismo while attempting to maintain their autonomy as queer bodies. These findings implicate that masculinities performed in different ethnic environments need to be reconceptualized and provided a diverse framework for analysis in its development in order to fully understand the relational influence they hold over queer, male presenting bodies.

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