“A life of ambiguity”: LGBTQIA mixed-race experiences of (in)visibility

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Social environment influences others’ perception of an individual’s race, gender, and sexual orientation

Methods
Following Deterding and Waters (2018), interviews from twelve mixed-race queer women and non-binary people were deductively and inductively coded in QDA Miner Lite. Thematic analysis produced five major analytical categories that encompassed a total of 26 subcodes.

Key Findings
• Perception is dependent on the surrounding social environment
• Mainstream queer community was felt to be dominated by White aesthetics; interviewees felt that appearing more queer caused them to appear more White
• Cis lesbians reported feeling excluded from queer communities less than other gender and sexual minorities
• The interviewees felt that there should be more diverse queer representation in mainstream culture

Theoretical Explanations
• Looking glass self (Cooley 1902; Khanna 2004)
• Schemas (DiMaggio 1997; Green 2001)
• Heterosexual matrix (Butler 1990)

References

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