ABSTRACT

THESIS: Black Greek Letter Fraternity Men: Constructions of Masculinities and Racial Identity

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The purpose of this phenomenological qualitative study was to explore how Black Greek letter fraternity men construct their masculinities and racial identity and how their membership affects those constructions. In particular, this study focused on six African American men’s personal experiences while attending a predominately White institution and being a member of a Black Greek letter fraternity. The themes identified were as follows: redefining Black masculinities, Black nationalist identity, family engagement in racial identity development, and impact of involvement in Black Greek letter fraternities. Ultimately, it is concluded BGLF men construct their masculinities and racial identity, in relationship to their identity as a fraternity man. The participants shared connections to intersectionality theory, Connell’s multiple masculinities, Cross’s theory of psychological nigrescence, and Majors and Billson’s cool pose theory.