

ABSTRACT

THESIS: Exposure to Videotaped Police Interaction and Cultural Mistrust Among Blacks:

Exploring Trust in News Media and Black Identity Centrality

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DEGREE: Master of Arts

COLLEGE: Sciences and Humanities

DATE: July 2018

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Researchers have yet to examine how interactions between Blacks and police officers in the media affect Black viewers' psychological functioning. I examined the relationship between exposure to police interactions in news media and the endorsement of cultural paranoia symptoms as well as the effects of trust in news media and Black identity on the relationship between police interactions and cultural mistrust. I randomly assigned 153 self-identified Black/African Americans (68% female, mean age of 28.72 years) to watch one of three 5-minute video clips (e.g. positive, negative, or neutral interactions). Participants then completed a survey. Contrary to the study's hypothesis, exposure to the different video conditions did not affect participants' cultural mistrust scores. However, the results revealed that Blacks who trusted the news media and who had greater Black identity centrality reported feeling more cultural mistrust. The study's contributions to the literature and implications for this study on clinical practice and media representation are discussed.