



GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES CLINICAL & POPULATION HEALTH RESEARCH PROGRAM

Ph.D. THESIS DEFENSE

GANGA BEY

MENTOR: Sharina Person, PhD

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Interpersonal Discrimination, Gendered Race, and Cardiovascular Disease Disparities: Application of the Emerging Identity Pathology Model

Uncertainty about the primary causes of disparities in cardiovascular health (CVH) between black and white women and men may be due to the relevant but understudied ways in which social group identity influences the experience and effects of interpersonal discrimination. An emerging framework, the Identity Pathology (IP) model, partially addresses these inconsistencies through outlining how identity beliefs associated with group membership lead to predictable differences in the health-damaging effects of discrimination exposure depending on the type and setting of discrimination.

Using data from CARDIA, a community-based sample of black and white women and men in four U.S. cities, this doctoral thesis seeks to: 1) propose a novel psychosocial characteristic, identity pathology, that drives the distribution of reported race and gender discrimination in health-relevant ways, 2) assess whether there are group differences in the effects of multiple versus single forms of discrimination on future CVH, and 3) assess variation between these groups in the relationships of reported racial and gender discrimination in a variety of daily life settings with future CVH.

These findings contribute to the literature through introducing the novel IP framework, which explores how beliefs about identity contribute to gendered racial disparities in CVH. The IP framework suggests that beliefs about identity unique to each gendered race group influence the perception of discrimination and in what setting reported exposure will be associated with CVH. This work also provides preliminary evidence that compounded experiences of interpersonal racial and gender discrimination may not substantially contribute to poorer CVH among black women.

Mentor(s)

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