Sexual harassment of LGBT+ students in Intercollegiate Speech and Debate Activities

RESEARCH QUESTION

- What, if at all, are the sexual harassment experiences of LGBT+ students in Intercollegiate Speech and Debate activities?

BACKGROUND

- Even though sexual harassment has captured political attention, little Communication research exists on how Title IX influences and impacts sexual harassment and assault within the LGBTQ community.
- Previous research has explored heterosexual harassment in competitive Speech and Debate; however, same-sex interactions have not received the same level of scrutiny.
- There is a dearth of research regarding same-sex sexual harassment in the collegiate speech and debate community.

METHODS

- Participants will be students from multiple speech and debate programs across the United States.
- By extending the work of Dr. Pamela Stepp on sexual harassment within the Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA) community, a more nuanced picture of sexual harassment inside extracurricular university activities can be expanded.
- Using a version of the Sexual Experience Questionnaire altered for LGBTQ participants, the conversations related to sexual harassment can be examined.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Nearly two thirds of college students experience sexual harassment
- More than 90% of sexual assault victims do not report the assault
- Sexual Assault is significantly more prevalent among transgender students.
- Sexual Assault is significantly higher among gay/lesbian and bisexual undergraduates.
- Studies have shown that gender, sexual orientation, and race/ethnicity separately influence risk for sexual assault among undergraduate students.

LGBTQ STUDENTS EXPERIENCE HIGHER RATES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND REPORT LOWER CONFIDENCE IN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CLIMATE FOR PREVENTION AND RESPONSE.

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FUTURE WORK

- What are some additional steps and actions that colleges and universities can implement towards ensuring a safe and equitable learning environment?