ON INTERSECTIONAL DISCRIMINATION & STIGMA, NOT INTERSECTING POPULATIONS (& OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR INTERSECTIONAL RESEARCH ON BISEXUAL HEALTH)

Lisa Bowleg, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Psychology
Founding Director, Intersectionality Training Institute
NIH Bisexual Health Research Workshop, 9.23.19
Session 2: Intersecting Populations
KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Do researchers know/understand intersectionality?
2. Social identities vs. social processes (e.g., biphobia, bi-erasure, racism)
3. Attention to power and privilege; the threat of flattening
TEXT: “…An examination of the health status of LGBT people in the context of racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity will provide a more complete understanding” (p. 7)

INDEX: “Intersectionality: A theory used to analyze how social and cultural categories intertwine” (Knudsen, 2006 as cited in IOM, 2011, p. 318)
Focusing primarily on social identities/positions “runs the risk of continuing to reinforce the intractability of inequity, albeit in a more detailed or nuanced way” (Bauer, 2015, p. 12)

Greta Bauer, Ph.D., MPH, Professor, Epidemiology & Biostatistics
Western University, London, ON
“... What makes an analysis intersectional — whatever terms it deploys, whatever its iteration, whatever its field or discipline — is its adoption of an intersectional way of thinking about the problem of sameness and difference and its relation to power.”

(Cho, Crenshaw, & McCall, 2013, p. 795)
4. Multilevel: individual and social-structural context
5. Methodological challenges (esp. with quant. research):
   - Which intersections are most important/relevant?
   - Design and sampling (statistical power, sample size)
6. Remember the positives: assets, resilience, pleasure, protective factors, etc.
INTERSECTIONAL DESIGNS
(McCall, 2005)

- **Anticategorical**: rejects categories
- **Intracategorical**: within-group diversity
- **Intercategorical** (or categorical): between-groups
### Sampling Challenges

#### Intracategorical (Within & Between)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Black Men (N = 1,440)</th>
<th>Black Men (N = 960)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low SES</td>
<td>High SES</td>
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<td>Gay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bisexual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heterosexual</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Intercategorical (Between Groups)

**Intersection of Race, Ethnicity, Gender & Sexual Identity (N= 14,400)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual Identity Position</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Latinx Black</th>
<th>Latinx White</th>
<th>Asian American</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Gay/Lesbian</td>
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<td>Heterosexual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asexual</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>960 960 960</td>
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<td>960 960 960</td>
<td>960 960 960</td>
<td>960 960 960</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PANEL DISCUSSION

- Key findings to date
- Key gaps in research
- Strategies for addressing empirical gaps with new research