Call for Contributions for Edited Book Volume

Black Senior Women: Race, Age, and Sexual Identity
Publishing House: Palgrave Macmillan
Editors: Bette J. Dickerson, PhD & Nicole Rousseau, PhD
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A truly collaborative project, the first editor of this piece, Bette J. Dickerson, is an associate professor in the department of sociology at American University in Washington. Dr. Dickerson's research specialties include: ageing and the social aspects of sexuality; the social construction of race and identity in U.S. society; collective memory and public history; Black feminist theory; and intersectionality research methods. She is currently engaged in participatory action research with senior women in South Africa and her work has been included in several publications in the United States and Japan. Co-editor, Nicole Rousseau, is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at Kent State University. Her work on the structural and institutional roots of race, class, and gender inequalities, social rhetoric and identity formation, and Historical Womanist theory have been included in several publications in the US and South America.

This edited volume seeks to explore sexuality in the context of age and race/ethnic minority statuses with specific focus on Black senior women. Scant attention has been paid to Black senior women’s sexuality, leaving an astounding gap in the literature. The research within this text will reveal the ways in which scholars have often analyzed a generic sexuality in the United States without regard for the unique social, political, and economic contexts of Black American life or the senior experience. Adequate analysis of the state of and erasure of Black senior sexuality must take into consideration the larger structural and institutional foundation, notably, the economic, political, and social framework.

This text will address the following research themes:

1. To what extent the analysis of Black senior sexuality differs from that of the current hegemonic discourse on White sexuality.

2. To what extent the use of negative propaganda has affected the image of Black female sexuality, and in turn Black senior women’s sexuality.

3. To what extent Black senior women’s sexuality is affected by the unique relationship Black women have historically maintained with the state, as both producers in the wage-labor force and reproducers of the wage-labor pool.

4. The current state of Black senior women’s sexuality, including: practices; taboos; health; freedom of sexual expression; and the sex ratio imbalance.

Submissions are due by 5:00PM Friday August 27, 2010 (electronic submissions preferred)
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