

Exploring Dehiscence of the *#BlackLivesMatter* Movement Relative to Previous Civil Rights Activism in the United States of America

- **Qualitative research allows us to study groups or populations, to identify new variables, and to hear silenced voices (Creswell, p. 48)**
- **Research Questions**
 1. What key understandings or images of the *#BlackLivesMatter* movement do members of the Black community have?
 2. Do the activities of the *#BlackLivesMatter* movement influence change within organizations, educational institutions, or other sectors of society?

Purpose

- The purpose of this narrative inquiry study is to examine **dehiscence** within the *#BlackLivesMatter* movement relative to previous civil rights movements in the United States.

Epistemological Approach

- The researcher utilizes a social constructivist framework and believes that truth is a social construction obtained not only from his own direct experiences but by considering the experiences of others as well.

Methodology

- The methodology employed for this narrative inquiry study consisted of interviews examining the impact of the *#BlackLivesMatter* as it relates to previous civil rights activism.

Context

- The participants were three Black women who are members of the Special Topics class C&I 6973: *#BlackLivesMatter*.
- Each participant represented a different level of degree of study within the university: one undergraduate, one masters, and one doctoral student.
- Additionally, each participant was between 20-29 years old
- Each were born and raised in three unique geographic locations related to civil rights activism: Detroit, southern California, and Mississippi.

Data

- The gathering of data occurred through one hour participant interviews
- The researcher used the same nine-question survey for each participant interview with additional probing as needed for general clarification as well as for additional points of interest related to their answers.
- Member checking will occur for transcript verification.
- Triangulation for data gathered is being compared with additional sources to include scholarly articles, books, and other artifacts.

Issue with possible Bias

- The researcher is also a member of the special topics class and developed professional relationships with all three participants prior to the interviews. Each participant understood that the pilot study was for practice only and discussion of the results will remain in the classroom setting.

Coding and Data Analysis

- Coding and data analysis is currently in process.
- The researcher is coding participant responses regarding the impact of the activism of the *#BlackLivesMatter* movement as well as historical civil rights movements for the two forms of dehiscence: **reopened wounds** or **new seeds of growth**.

Limitations of the study/Future Research

- Interviews occurred only with Black women and not Black men
- Findings may not be generalizable
- Future research will result from this pilot study practice. The doctoral participant and researcher will collaborate on a similar study to interview Black students from UTSA involved in civil rights activism.