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Research Question

Introduction

In his article, *The Social Life of Social Death*, Sexton (2011) brings forth the concept of *dehiscence* to the reader in his emphasis of the need for critical conversations regarding global African American studies:

We might call this outlook or approach—in distinction from and relation to both black studies and African diaspora studies—*global* African American studies. This is an endeavor, or projection, that teaches us all how we might better inhabit multiplicity under general conditions at the global scale for which such inhabitation has become (and perhaps always has been or must be) a necessary virtue. And it does so less through pedagogical instruction than through an exemplary transmission: emulation of a process of learning through the posing of a question, rather than imitation of a form of being; which is also to say a procedure for reading, for study, for *black* study or, in the spirit of the multiple, for black *studies* ... wherever they may lead. And, contrary to the popular misconception, they do lead *everywhere*. And they do *lead* everywhere, even and especially in their **dehiscence**.

Dehiscence has two separate meanings. In Botany, it refers to the building up of turgor pressure within the plant at maturity until it reaches a point where the plant bursts open and forcefully scatters its seeds throughout a given area. However, in Medicine, it refers to the rupturing of a wound along an incision line usually due to complications (Merriam-Webster, 2016).

Research Question

I will be conducting an exploratory qualitative study using narrative inquiry to discuss the #BlackLivesMatter movement using the concept of dehiscence as “seeds of change” or the “re-opening of a wound” as it compares to previous Civil Rights movements in the United States. Through my interviews with three students from C&I 6973 #BlackLivesMatter, we will explore the following question:

Examining previous Civil Rights movements in the United States using both concepts of dehiscence, do you believe that the #BlackLivesMatter movement is “seeds of change,” a “re-opened wound,” or possibly both compared to past efforts?

References

Merriam-Webster (2016). *Dehiscence*. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dehiscence>,

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Sexton, J. (2011). The Social Life of Social Death. *In* *Tensions* (5). Fall/Winter 2011

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