

The Impact of Intersectional Stigma on the Sexual Health of Black Gay Men

By

Marlon M. Bailey

Benedict Distinguished Visiting Professor

Carleton College

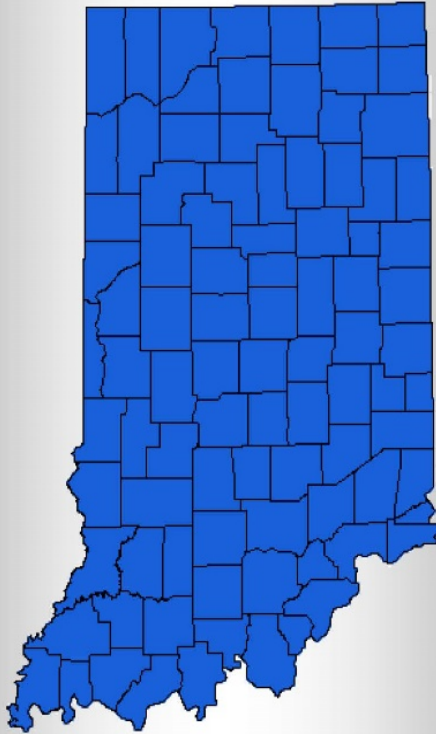
Associate Professor

Arizona State University



HIV (STDs, STIs, and Viral Hepatitis)
Prevention and Men who have Sex with Men
(MSM) Needs Assessment

I
N
D
I
A
N
A



Report and Recommendations

Dr. Marlon M. Bailey, Ph.D., M.F.A. (Lead Investigator)
Dr. Xavier Livermon, Ph.D.
Joshua Thompson, B.A.
George A. Kraus, M.P.H.
Katie E. Dieter, M.A.
Patrick Ballami, B.A.



Pilot Study

“What I’m told, what I want, and what I do:
Examining the Meaning of Sex and Sexual
Health for Black MSM.”

Marlon M. Bailey, Ph.D., M.F.A., Principle Investigator

Kiwan R. Lawson, M.S., B.A.

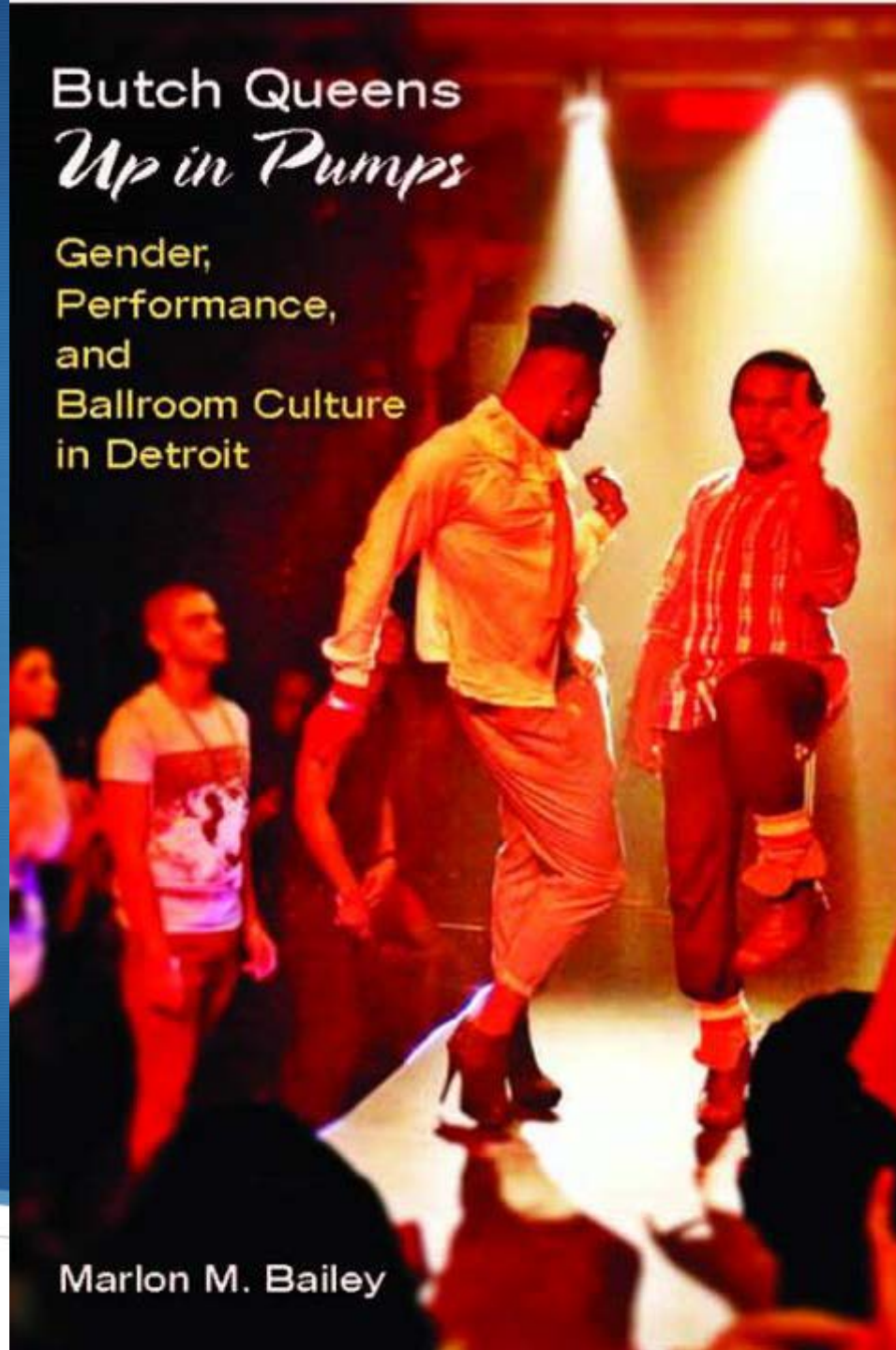
Shandu Foster, M.A., B.A.

Funded by the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS), UCSF

Butch Queens
Up in Pumps

Gender,
Performance,
and
Ballroom Culture
in Detroit

Marlon M. Bailey



Structural Conditions of Black gay Live

- ▶ Black gay men disproportionately experience the consequences of institutional racism, such as poverty, under/unemployment, incarceration, health disparities, and violence perpetrated by law enforcement and civilians.
- ▶ Emily Arnold *et al*, *Triply cursed*: Black queer people described multiple experiences with racism, homophobia, and HIV related stigma.
- ▶ Social inequality and health disparities are caused by convergent racism and homophobia
- ▶ Lisa Bowleg, Black gay men's experiences are shaped by race, gender, and sexual oppression that challenges their mental health and overall social well-being.

Sexual Health and Wellness

- ▶ World Health Organization (WHO)
 - ▶ Sexual health is the state of physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being in relation to sexuality.
 - ▶ Sexual health promotion requires an understanding of the complex factors that shape human sexuality which include both risk and pleasure and simultaneous barriers and facilitators of sexual satisfaction.
 - ▶ Fundamental to sexual health is the right to information and pleasure.

Stigma

- ▶ stigma is the collection of disparaging and negative meanings that are associated with and attached to social behaviors and practices, identities, bodies, and disease--in this case same-sex practices and HIV and/or other STDs and STIs.
- ▶ participants' experiences with stigma or stigmatized environments are grouped under three categories: social conservatism, homophobia in schools, and internalized homophobia.
- ▶ societal attitudes toward sex and stigma associated with gay sex, HIV, and other STIs are intertwined.

Intersectional Stigma

- ▶ Intersectional stigma describes those individuals who possess overlapping membership within two or more stigmatized groups, such as race, sexuality, class, and HIV positivity. These people embody the structural ways in which the disease functions and highlights longstanding areas of inequality along race, class, and gender axes (Berger, 2004, p. 3).
- ▶ Areas of intersectional stigma
 - ▶ HIV and gay sexuality
 - ▶ HIV, gay sexuality, and Blackness
 - ▶ HIV, gay sexuality, Blackness, and sex practice (position)

Intersectional Stigma and Barriers to Sexual Health

- ▶ Barriers to Prevention Services
 - ▶ Testing
 - ▶ Information
 - ▶ Homosex-normativity
 - ▶ Mental Health
 - ▶ Substance abuse treatment
 - ▶ Self-advocacy
 - ▶ Sexual pleasure and satisfaction

Challenging Intersectional Stigma

- ▶ Those experiencing intersectional stigma can become conscious of their social position as HIV-positive and politically active as activists, advocates, or helpers (Michelle Tracy Berger, *Workable Sisterhood*)
- ▶ We can't have policy change unless there is cultural change.
Charles Stephens, Founder and Executive Director of
The Counter Narrative Project
- ▶ Black gay men loving Black gay men is a revolutionary act
Joseph Beam, Black gay artist, activist, and author

The Counter Narrative Project

THE COUNTER NARRATIVE PROJECT
BUILDS POWER AMONG BLACK GAY
MEN AND WORKS IN SOLIDARITY AND
COALITION WITH ALL MOVEMENTS
COMMITTED TO SOCIAL AND RACIAL
JUSTICE.

