

Newton, Veronica. 2023. "Hypervisibility and Invisibility: Black Women's Experiences with Gendered Racial Microaggressions on a White Campus." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 9:164-178.

**PRIMARY ARGUMENT:** The author argues that Black undergraduate women experience a unique form of racialized and gendered oppression on predominantly white university campuses, represented by the contradicting combination of hypervisibility and invisibility.

**IMPORTANT DEFINED CONCEPTS:**

- Intersectionality: a perspective to understand the ways that configurations of social identities produce unique forms of oppression which are not discreet but can only be expressed together.
- Hypervisibility: Falling subject to heightened scrutiny and often made to feel like the individual is "always on display", which can manifest towards being objectified, stereotyped, or having one's presence and actions policed.
- White Habitus: the internalized dispositions White people in the US have because of their exposure to racially segregated environments (like HPWIs), relationships, norms, and cultural frameworks
- Gendered Racial Microaggressions: pervasive and demeaning yet subtle expressions which are insulting, invalidating and based on objectification of race and gender simultaneously.

**PRIMARY FINDINGS:**

1. Black women have experienced emotional and psychological tolls while at the white universities. Their experiences resulted in them feeling marginalized, invalidated, stressed, exhausted, a lack of belonging due to the constant need to navigate microaggressions and prove themselves.
2. In classroom dynamics, Black women are often hypervisible, stereotyped, their opinions are often dismissed, and tokenized, all while their classmates and professors sometimes focus on their race and gender instead of their academic contributions.
3. Black women college students' experiences of pervasive intersectional oppression on predominantly white college campuses led them to adapt strategies to manage these paradoxical forms of microaggressions that would also subvert stereotypes of them, reflecting stereotype threat.
4. Having to constantly deal with paradoxical microaggressions led Black women college students to retreat to campus spaces where they were more safe from them, because they constitute a stressor and require emotional labor to deal with.

**KEY QUOTE:** "The invisibility of Black women, coupled with their successful matriculation through college, renders their racial and gendered oppression invisible to many, resulting in the erasure and lack of understanding of Black college women's continued oppression at PWIs" (174).

**QUESTION:** Are the experiences of both hypervisibility and invisibility unique to Black women, or do other marginalized groups on campus experience similar dynamics?