Hermeneutics and Communications

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Professor

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Assignment

### *Developmental Readings*

Review Assignment #3, the course essential elements, assigned readings, and recommended readings to identify selections of books and scholarly articles to identify and select developmental reading sources and entries.

* Refer to the “[Student Guide to Developmental Readings](https://drive.google.com/file/d/161V_FaYR2BnNGCSFUlWPjUSIQzcH04Hq/view?usp=share_link)” for updated information on sample comments, rubrics, and key definitions related to developmental readings.

**Your developmental readings fall short of the required number of sources. See below from the course syllabus:**

● Include developmental readings from a minimum of fifteen research sources. Include developmental readings taken from three to four books and the remaining developmental readings taken from scholarly peer-reviewed journal articles. For grading criteria go to the “Developmental Reading Log Instructions & Template, Description, Grading Rubric\_DPhil\_MLItt” document, in the General Helps folder in the AA-101 The Gathering Place Course on DIAL.

**Source One:** McLeod, M.N., Heller, D., Manze, M.G. *et al.* Police interactions and the mental health

of black americans: A systematic review. *J. Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities* 7,

10–27 (2020). https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-019-00629-1

**Comment 1:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**  Black Americans comprise 13% of the US population, yet data suggests that they represent 23% of those fatally shot by police officers. Data on non-lethal encounters with police in the Black community is less available but can understandably result in emotional trauma, stress responses, and depressive symptoms.

**Essential Element:** this was unclear to me. I read everything, but it doesn't make sense.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**  This is an additive to the discussion of the impact police interactions have on the mental health of African Americans namely men. This study gives insight to the organizational culture of police in terms of their dealings with African Americans as opposed to other ethnicities.

**Contextualization:**  Police are charged with caring for the community and ensuring safety. I was taught at a very young age, before beginning primary school, what to do if I were to encounter a police officer. I never viewed the police as a safe haven, rather an authoritative helm to be feared and respected. When I became a middle school teacher, I saw that it was common practice to call the school officer if a black child was disorderly. If a child of a different ethnic background displayed those same behaviors, other protocols were used such as giving the child a break, lunch detention, or even calling their parents. These modes of discipline were not afforded to black children so their only encounters with police were negative. This leads me to wonder are the police protecting the world from black people? Does the duality of needing the police for protection/safety and fearing the police due to the violent interaction patterns lead to mental health issues within the black community?

Sadly, much of what you see is the result of legal issues brought by the African American community. Schools in California, for example, are told NOT to discipline an African American child the same way as other races due to the lawsuits brought by the African American community. There is different treatment to be sure.

**Source Two:**  Bor, J. Tsai. A. et el.(2018). Police killings and their spillover effects on the mental health

of the black community: A population based, quasi-experimental study. The Lancet,

392(10144). DOI:[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(18)31130-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736%2818%2931130-9)

**Comment 2:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Each additional police killing of an unarmed black American was associated with 0·14 additional poor mental health days (95% CI 0·07–0·22; p=0·00047) among black American respondents. The largest effects on mental health occurred in the 1–2 months after exposure, with no significant effects estimated for respondents interviewed before police killings (falsification test). Mental health impacts were not observed among white respondents and resulted only from police killings of unarmed black Americans (not unarmed white Americans or armed black Americans).

**Essential Element:**

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is a variant to my understanding of how police brutality affects Americans as a whole. This source is helping me to see the gravity of negative police encounters and the toll it takes on the black community as a whole. It also brings awareness to how we as a society can be desensitized to death.

**Contextualization:** I personally do not watch any video releases of police killing black people, especially videos where they are unarmed. I fear that it will either desensitize me to death. On the day of the George Floyd trial, there was police footage released showing the murder of Makiah Bryant. The country was so torn over the footage that I felt compelled to watch. I was silent for three days after viewing it. I think for white people to witness the murder of an unarmed person and it not have any effect is reminiscent of the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). Several people passed by and were not moved by the situation. This begs the question of whether it is a solely racial issue or if there are intersections like the lack of spiritual morals?

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Police killings of unarmed black Americans have adverse effects on mental health among black American adults in the general population. Programmes should be implemented to decrease the frequency of police killings and mitigate adverse mental health effects within communities when such killings occur.

**Essential Element:**

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is an additive to the discussion of punishment from law enforcement, namely towards members of the African American community. It specifies that the frequency of killings directly impacts the mental health of the general black population. This also speaks to the lack of accessible mental health resources within the black community.

**Contextualization: Before** the murder of George Floyd, I thought I was a deviant from the mean when it came to the last impact of police murdering unarmed black people. Every news article would resurface the fear of my six black brothers making it home safely each night. Sometimes I had to stop watching social media because of the anxiety it gave me. There was one instance where a group of black men gathered in a parking lot to have a pillow fight at night. I could not enjoy the laughter or fun because my brain instantly spiraled to what if scenarios of the danger that could possibly ensue from simply being black.

**Source Three:**

Pazzanese, C. (2021, May 14). *How unjust police killings damage the mental health of Black Americans*. HarvardGazette.https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2021/05/how-unjust-police-killings-damage-the-mental-health-of-black-americans/

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Some scientists use the term “accelerated aging”; in other studies, they use the term “biological weathering.” What that body of research is suggesting to us is that in the United States, African Americans are aging biologically more rapidly than whites. At the same chronological age, African Americans are 7.5 years older or 10 years older, on average, compared to their white counterparts. We think that what this more rapid aging and physiologic deterioration reflects is the accumulation of all of these negative, stressful exposures in the physical, chemical, and psychosocial environment.

**Essential Element:**

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is a variant reading to my understanding of how psychological trauma affects the body as whole. This study is aiding my understanding of the intersectionality of physical and psychological trauma.

**Contextualization:** Gathering more data on such insights would provide much needed information on mental health needs and the link between the mental and physical trauma. I read a study about how other organs suffer/deteriorate if a person does not properly weep. I am curious to know what the results would be if African Americans who are better socio-economic states were tested. I was a teacher during the pandemic and our EAP increased from 10 to 30 sessions due to the surge in anxiety and suicidal ideation. I had not considered the mental impact of the added racial tension in the country at that time.

**Works Cited**

Bor, J. Tsai. A. et el .(2018). Police killings and their spillover effects on the mental health

of the black community: A population based, quasi-experimental study. The Lancet,

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