

# Intersections of Race/Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Gender Expression

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When people are both persons of color and LGBTIQA+ identified or same-gender loving they may feel that they have to “choose” between the conflicting identities. Often, LGBTIQA+ identified or same gender loving people of color feel pulled by each of their cultures to primarily identify with one culture (e.g., sexual orientation or racial/ethnic identity). Because LGBTIQA+ identity is often not visible to others, it is sometimes easier to deny or ignore that aspect of self. For many it is difficult to strike a balance that allows them to be empowered and liberated in all of their identities. Multiple oppressions affect their lives because:

- They may have increased difficulties as a result of the multiple marginalized identities.
- They may feel like one aspect of their identity conflicts with another aspect of their identity
- They may find it challenging to find a community where all aspects of their identities are affirmed and celebrated

The experience of each racial/ethnic group is different depending on cultural values and beliefs about LGBTIQA+ people. Each person has a unique experience of having multiple identities.

## **Books:**

1. Margaret Anderson and Patricia Hill Collins (eds.), *Race, Class, and Gender (8<sup>th</sup> Ed)* (2008).
2. Delroy Constantine-Simms (ed), *The Greatest Taboo: Homosexuality in Black Communities* (2000).
3. David Eng and Alice Hom (eds.), *Q&A: Queer in Asian America* (1998).
4. Kevin Mumford, *Not Straight, Not White: Black Gay Men from the March on Washington to the AIDS Crisis* (2016).
5. Brian Joseph Gilley, *Becoming Two-Spirit: Gay Identity and Social Acceptance in Indian Country* (2006).
6. E. Patrick Johnson and Mae G. Henderson (eds.), *Black Queer Studies: A Critical Anthology* (2005).

7. Russell Leong (ed.), *Asian American Sexualities: Dimensions of the Gay & Lesbian Experience* (1996).
8. Lisa Moore, *Does Your Mama Know? An Anthology of Black Lesbian Coming Out Stories* (1997).
9. Jaime Cortez (ed.), *Virgins, Guerrillas, and Locas: Gay Latinos Writing about Love* (2002).
10. Siobhan Somerville, *Queering the Color Line: Race and the Invention of Homosexuality in American Culture* (2000).
11. Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (1987).

### **Websites:**

1. National Black Justice Coalition [<http://www.nbjcoalition.org/>] The National Black Justice Coalition is a civil rights organization dedicated to empowering Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.
2. Desi LGBTQ Helpline for South Asians [<http://www.deqh.org/>] 100% confidential support for South Asian / Desi lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, questioning individuals, families, and friends
3. The National Center for Black Equity [<http://centerforblackequity.org/>] The mission of the National Center for Black Equity is to promote a multinational LGBT network dedicated to improving health and wellness opportunities, economic empowerment, and equal rights while promoting individual and collective work, responsibility, and self-determination.
4. National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) [<http://www.nqapia.org/>] The National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) is a federation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Asian American, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) organizations.
5. XQsí Magazine [<http://xqsimagazine.com/>] An LGBTQ Latin@ multimedia publication that reexamines identity, guides critical dialogue, and inspires political action through content that reflects the diversity and dignity of our community.