INTRODUCTION

• MAs are subtle forms of discrimination (Sue et al., 2010)
• People who perceive more LGBTQ MAs typically report higher levels of stress, lower levels of self-esteem, and more difficulty accepting their sexuality (Nadal et al., 2011; Wright & Wegner, 2012).
• People of color (PoC) who perceive more racial-ethnic MAs experience higher levels of depression and anxiety (Nadal et al., 2014).
• Queer PoC are more vulnerable to the psychological effects of MAs due to their membership in multiple marginalized communities (Sutter & Perrin, 2016).
• Most research concerning queer discrimination and MAs was conducted with fairly racially non-diverse samples; with our study, we intend to bring more PoC voices into the research.
• Our first hypothesis was that the more MAs participants perceived, the more psychological distress they would experience.
• Our second hypothesis was that queer PoC would experience more psychological distress than white queer participants.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

• We used a secondary data set from a study conducted during the 2015/16 school year at a West Coast university.
• The research team for the aforementioned study recruited university students to—over the course of a year—take multiple surveys about their experiences with MAs and report microaggressions they would witness or experience via smartphone app.
• We used data from the second survey and only looked at data from queer-identified students (see Figure 1).
• To measure perceived MAs, we used the Racial and Ethnic Microaggressions Scale (REMS) and the LGBTQ Microaggressions Scale (LGBQMS).
• To measure psychological distress, we used the Perceived Stress Scale (PSS), the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSE), the Center for Epidemiological Studies–Depression Scale (CESD), and the Oxford Happiness Questionnaire (OHQ).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

• Regarding our first hypothesis, please refer to Tables 2 and 3.
• Regarding our second hypothesis, there was no significant difference found between how white students and students of color were affected by either racial-ethnic or LGBTQ microaggressions.
• Our study was conducted in part to give queer people of color a greater presence in MA research; we succeeded in finding a racially diverse sample.
• With a more diverse sample, higher levels of stress and depression were predicted by more perceived MAs of both types, thereby supporting prior research conducted with less diverse samples.
• In addition, while unrelated to our hypotheses, we found a strong positive relationship between racial-ethnic and LGBTQ MAs, showing a link between race and queerness in the perception of MAs.
• No significant difference was found between how queer white people and queer PoC perceived MAs, though a small sample size may be to blame for that.
• In addition, the sample was heavily skewed toward female participants; a full future study should avoid.
• MA research is still a burgeoning field, so this study is hopefully the first of many to include more PoC in queer discrimination and MA research.

REFERENCES