The Experience of Microaggressions within Cross-Racial Videoconferencing Supervision: A Case Study

My name is Jamie Hedin, and I’m a doctoral student in counselor education and supervision in the Counseling and Student Personnel department at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

I am writing to extend the invitation for you to participate in a qualitative research study on the experience of racial microaggressions within cross-racial, videoconferencing supervision. Within clinical supervision for mental health practitioners, the use of videoconferencing to provide supervision is a burgeoning area of research. Concurrently, research within culturally competent supervision, specifically cross-racial supervision, is similarly receiving scholarly attention. The identified gap for this research to fill is the role of power and the potential misuse of power within supervision, specifically with the experience of microaggressions, which manifest within cross-racial videoconferencing supervision.

In order to gain an understanding of the experience of supervisees in cross-racial, videoconferencing supervision, I am conducting a case study examining how supervisees experience racial microaggressions within cross-racial videoconferencing supervision when the supervisee identifies as a racial minority and the supervisor is a racial majority.

To be considered for participation in this study, you must meet the following inclusion criteria:

(1) be a mental health practitioner who is receiving post-graduate supervision for the pursuit of licensure as a professional counselor in your state; (2) receive videoconferencing supervision for 10% - 25% of total supervision hours; (3) identify as a racial minority and receiving supervision from a White supervisor; and (4) the acknowledgment that subtle forms of racism exist; and (5) have personal experiences with racial microaggressions in videoconferencing supervision sessions.

For the purposes of this study, subtle forms of racism will be classified as racial microaggressions and defined as, “brief everyday exchanges that send denigrating messages to people of color because they belong to a racial minority group” (Sue et al., 2007, p. 273).”

If you agree to participate in the study, you will be asked to participate in one in-person or videoconference interview (using a HIPAA-compliant web conferencing program) that will take approximately 60 minutes to complete. Also, you will be asked to complete a demographic questionnaire and the Racial Microaggressions in Supervision Checklist (Constantine & Sue, 2007). Following transcription and coding of the interviews, you will be asked to provide feedback on the themes and categories determined from the interviews.

It is important that you know that your participation in this study is completely voluntary, and your decision you can choose to discontinue participation at any time.

Potential participants who are interested in participation can reach me by email or telephone:

Jamie.hedin@mnsu.edu; 651-331-8059.

I genuinely appreciate your time and consideration, and am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Jamie Hedin

MSU IRBnet ID#: 1014812