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Exploring the Intersections of **Culture**, Religiousness, and Homosexual Identity in Latino and European Americans.

Review by Marianne Ayers 04/05/2013

A program was designed to look at homosexuality through a Latino cultural lens of identity. The program focused on the interconnectivity and intersections of Christianity, homosexuality, and culture within the Latino community. The 122 participants first completed a short form comprised of ten questions about attitudes on homosexuality. The group then watched one of two documentaries about gay, lesbian, and bi-sexual identities and family relations. The documentary was followed by a group share and discussion about the bible and religion. Finally the participants completed an appraisal form about the workshop.

The impetus for this study was that sexual minorities within a minority community are doubly stigmatized, and this can lead to psychological consequences. There is little research within the Latino Christian community, as much of the research is done with primarily Caucasian participants.

The findings were there was a negative relationship between age and political affiliation and homophobia. The majority of the attendees found the training useful and would recommend it to others, so the authors felt this was a good step in the right direction. There seemed to be positive trend in the changing of negative attitudes toward homosexuality in the Latino community. Religious and cultural factors are therefore not static, and change is possible when dialogue is opened up.