

May 2021

Microaggression: My Story as a Higher Education Professional

Osaro Airen
Editor, oairen@vt.edu

James Gambrell
Kennesaw State University, jgambre2@kennesaw.edu

Janet Isbell
Tennessee Tech University, jisbell@tntech.edu

Lakia M. Scott
Baylor University, lakia_scott@baylor.edu

Nina M. Ellis-Hervey
Stephen F Austin State University, ellishernm@sfasu.edu

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/jma>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

[Tell us](#) how this article helped you.

Recommended Citation

Airen, Osaro; Gambrell, James; Isbell, Janet; Scott, Lakia M.; Ellis-Hervey, Nina M.; and McParker, Matthew (2021) "Microaggression: My Story as a Higher Education Professional," *Journal of Multicultural Affairs*: Vol. 6 : Iss. 1 , Article 8.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/jma/vol6/iss1/8>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SFA ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Multicultural Affairs by an authorized editor of SFA ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact cdsscholarworks@sfasu.edu.

Microaggression: My Story as a Higher Education Professional

Authors

Osaro Airen, James Gambrell, Janet Isbell, Lokia M. Scott, Nina M. Ellis-Hervey, and Matthew McParker

Microaggression: My Story as a Higher Education Professional

Osaro Airen, Editor

James Gambrell, Kennesaw State University

Janet Kesterson Isbell, Tennessee Tech University

Lakia M. Scott, Baylor University

Nina M. Ellis-Hervey, Stephen F. Austin State University

Matthew McParker, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse

The purpose of the Special Issue, *Microaggression: My Story as a Higher Education Professional*, is to share the personal microaggression experiences of higher education professionals (i.e. faculty, administrators, and staff). Microaggressions are negative, unintentional or intentional, statements and/or actions towards a member or members of a historically underrepresented group (Sue, 2010). The statement or action may be unintentional but nonetheless causes a negative emotional reaction by the recipient of the statement/action.

The Special Issue focuses directly on these experiences, which are told through the personal lens of the professional. Many higher education professionals share their stories of microaggression privately due to feelings of isolation and/or fear of retaliation. In addition, some professionals believe that they are alone in such experiences. In fact, microaggression occurs throughout higher education and in various forms. Learning about others' stories

and journeys can be educational, enlightening, inspiring, awareness raising, and, for some, empowering.

The focus of the *Journal of Multicultural Affairs (JMA)* is to promote cross-disciplinary, multiculturally based work. *JMA* defines multicultural affairs as the affairs that affect the many faces of society, disrupt homogeneous thinking, fight for social equity, and seek social justice. *JMA* is focused on bridging the gap between all settings and seeks to provide a platform for our audience to share their work in multicultural affairs and to engage in vital multicultural dialogue.

Dr. Airen would like to thank all *JMA* Editors, Guest Editor, Authors, and Reviewers for assisting in making this Special Issue a reality. He would also like to take a moment to highlight the bravery of each author who shared their (counter)stories. The authors of this Special Issue took the time to share their experiences around a very sensitive topic so that others can learn from them and, most importantly, ensure that those who share similar experiences know that they are not alone.

References

Sue, D. W. (2010). *Microaggressions in everyday life: Race, gender, and sexual orientation*. Wiley.