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To: The Editor

Date: 24/10/16

Re: Revisions on manuscript titled: **Top or Bottom? Varsity youth talk about gay sexuality in a Stepping Stones Workshop: implications for sexual health.**

Dear Prof

Thank you for the opportunity and invitation to revise our manuscript entitled: “Top or Bottom? Varsty youth talk about gay sexuality in a Stepping Stones Workshop: implications for sexual health” for the Special Issue on Destabilizing Heteronormativity in Higher Education for the SAJHE. We have revised and clarified the reviewers’ comments as follows:

1. Firstly, the title refers to ‘heteronormative spaces on campus, but the study is focused on the living experiences of gay students in a university residence. This discrepancy is extended into the author’s reference to ‘academic space’, even though academic spaces are not actually explored.

The title has been revised to clarify the focus of the paper. We are looking at the students residence spaces as an example of heteronormative space. The revised title now reads as: “So I decided not to invade straight black men’s space”: exploring students’ residences as heteronormative spaces on campus”.

The reference to “academic spaces” has been removed and replaced with “university spaces” to avoid ambiguity in meaning.

1. The author states that he/she intends to use ‘performative theory’. Yet, this theory is neither unpacked nor used in the analysis of the research findings.

The theoretical framework of Performative theory has been unpacked in the theoretical and conceptual section. The analyses sections have also been revised to highlight this approach to reading the data.

1. Thirdly, the author refers to ‘sexuality’s intersection with other identities’. What other identities are being referred to, and how do these intersect with the sexuality of gay male students?

The reference to intersection with other identities has been elaborated on to reflect that gay male students’ identities may intersect with their academic/intellectual identities.

We hope that these changes meet with your approval.

Kind regards



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