

***CONSTRUCTING SEXUAL IDENTITIES WITHIN ‘SUGAR
DADDY’ RELATIONSHIPS: A CASE STUDY OF SEXUALITY
CONSTRUCTS AMONG STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
THE WITWATERSRAND***

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DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

I hereby declare that this thesis, unless specifically indicated to the contrary in the text, is my own original work, and that it has not been submitted for any degree at another university

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ABSTRACT

This research investigates self-constructs of female sexuality among students at the University of the Witwatersrand who are engaging in ‘sugar daddy’ relationships (SDRs). I shall focus on how young women understand and enact their sexuality within these relationships and how they navigate the social, cultural and economic structures in which these relationships take place. Insights into how individuals conceptualize sex, sexuality, their given meanings and how they situate their sexual selves in these transactional relationships is sought. Further, sexuality is placed in a theoretical framework of structure and agency. How power is being exerted and inhibited on various levels will be explored within a context of vulnerability to HIV/AIDS infection. This research is critical given the high HIV prevalence rate amongst young black women in South Africa. Critical realist discourse analysis will be utilized to analyze narratives. The development of a rapport with young women in SDR has given me an ‘insider’ perspective and privilege to conduct this research.

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