

Black/Gay/Power/Liberation – Coalition and Co-operation between Black Power and Gay Liberation movements in the 1970s and -80s

This dissertation provides an examination of social movement coalition and co-operation attempts between Black Power and Gay Liberation organizations and activists in the 1970s. Gloria Fears-Heinzel argues that members of these groups, formerly assumed to have little or no contact, at times built coalitions at a micro-level, offering a sound basis for Black LGBTQ+ organizations that increasingly developed in the early 1980s.

All too often only a footnote in the history of the Black Freedom struggle, this project expands the current historiography on inter-movement activities by example of early intersectional activism across racial, sexual, and gender identities. Case studies, that trace scattered activities and communications of various individuals from the two groups, commonly involved with local Gay Liberation Front or Black Panther Party chapters in urban centers across the United States, indicate a broad rhetorical proximity concerning common issues and goals such as an end to police violence, civil rights violations, and other injustices.

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