

Lindsay Anton
Oral Presentation
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Abstract: Undergraduate Oral Presentation

Title – A Case Study Analysis of Medical Gaslighting Among Female Patients

Program of Study – Communication Studies

Presentation Type – Oral Presentation

Subtype – Applied

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Abstract

This study attempts to answer the research question: To what extent does bias affect female patients' experiences in the medical field? To answer this question, case studies were investigated. Medical gaslighting stories were compared to common literature on the topic to find any correlation. Medical gaslighting is the downplaying of a patient's physical symptoms. This study captured a diverse range of experiences across different medical illnesses and patient demographics. Data was collected through in-depth interviews, medical records, literature reviews, and other relevant documentation. Qualitative data analysis, including narrative

analysis, was utilized to identify critical patterns and conclusions. Two causes were identified based on the case studies: systemic bias and lack of research. There is a long, deeply ingrained pattern that has disregarded the medical needs of women. This past ignorance limits the understanding and consideration of the unique biology of women today. The research also identified two effects: minimization of pain and misdiagnosis. Ultimately this study provides potential solutions to tackle the causes and effects of this real-world problem. The research provides a comprehensive understanding of medical gaslighting, and it identifies solutions that can limit bias in healthcare. Four different solutions have been placed in this study. Specifically, the research focused on the inherent blind spots in the medical field and how they are communicated to female patients.