

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the findings of this study indicate that although Eminem and Tom MacDonald experience reverse discrimination for the same fundamental reason, namely their identity as white individuals within a hip hop industry that is historically and culturally rooted in the African American community, the forms and manifestations of that discrimination differ significantly. Eminem's experience of reverse discrimination is largely tied to his physical appearance and racial identity as a white rapper entering a genre that, during his rise, was almost exclusively associated with African-American artists. This position generated skepticism, bias, and heightened scrutiny regarding his legitimacy, authenticity, and success, which became a recurring source of tension throughout his career.

In contrast, Tom MacDonald's portrayal of reverse discrimination is framed more explicitly around accusations of cultural appropriation. While MacDonald entered the industry during a period when white rappers were more common, his racial identity still positioned him as an outsider within a genre closely linked to African American history and struggle. His experience reflects a different manifestation of reverse discrimination, one shaped by contemporary cultural debates, historical racial power dynamics, and increased sensitivity toward cultural ownership. As a result, MacDonald's perceived marginalization is not focused solely on physical appearance, but on claims that white artists benefit from and exploit a culture that is not originally theirs.

Despite originating from different eras in the hip hop industry, the experiences of Eminem and Tom MacDonald demonstrate that reverse discrimination against white artists has persisted over time. Eminem faced this phenomenon during a period when he stood out as one of the very few white rappers, while MacDonald encounters it in an era where white participation in hip hop is more visible and normalized. Nevertheless, the continued presence of reverse discrimination suggests that racial boundaries within the genre remain influential. Even as hip hop has evolved and public awareness of discrimination has increased, white musicians continue to face challenges rooted in the genre's strong association with African American identity. This persistence highlights that reverse discrimination toward white artists has not diminished alongside the genre's development, but has instead transformed in form and expression.