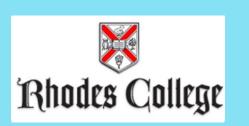


Sexual Attraction and Sexual Aversion in the Context of Mixed-Orientation Relationships

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Introduction

- •Sexual attraction is of innate and biological nature. It is resistant to change and can be in discord with sexual orientation identity.
 - SOCE doesn't change SSA (Beckstead, 2012)
 - Biological evidence for the experience of attraction (Semon et al., 2017)
- •Sexual aversion is of learned and psychological nature. It can be manipulated by external factors.
 - Cultural influence (Beckstead, 2012)
 - Westermarck and natural aversion (Fraley & Marks, 2010)
 - Sexual disgust can be primed (Campbell-Fuller & Craig, 2009)
- •MORs are a prime test case to explore how the experiences of attraction and arousal result in relationship behavior. Being in a MOR can be detrimental to mental health.
 - Sexual satisfaction (Legerski et al., 2016)
 - Self esteem (Hernandez et al., 2011)

Research Question

Q1: Are sexual attraction and aversion distinct?

Q2: Do people differentiate between sexual attraction and aversion? If, so, who does?

Q3: Are they related to outcome variables in mixed-orientation relationships (MORs)?

Methodology

Participants

- Data collected from Four Options Survey Database, 2016.
- Total of 1,499 participants met inclusion criteria

Measures

- Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) to measure depression
- Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7) scale to measure anxiety
- Heterosexual-Homosexual Rating Scale (HHRS) to measure sexual attraction
- 2 questions on the Four Options Survey dealing with sexual aversion to measure sexual aversion
- Flourishing Scale to measure flourishing
- Four Options Survey Question to measure relationship satisfaction

Methodology

Procedure

- Survey designed to obtain information about the lives and relationships of people who are currently or have ever experienced same-sex attraction
- Questions assess demographics, sexual identity, religious affiliation, mental health, depression, & anxiety
- Respondents were majority adult White, Mormon males who fit one of four relationship options: Single, Celibate (SC), Single, Not Celibate (SNC), Mixed-Orientation Relationship (MOR), and Same-Sex Relationship (SSR)

Statistical Analysis

- Correlations used to assess relationship between sexual attraction and aversion
- Pearson's Chi-Squared used to determine which demographics influence attraction & aversion
- Regression analyses used to measure impact of sexual attraction & aversion on MORs

Results

Table 2. Correlation between Attraction and Aversion

	M	SD	OS Attraction	SS Attraction	OS Aversion SS Aversion
OS Attraction	2.34	1.74			
SS Attraction	5.66	1.69	23**		
OS Aversion	3.96	2.29	54**	.25**	
SS Aversion	1.94	1.62	.20**	41**	15**

 p^* value < .05; p^* value < .01

Table 4. Regression Analyses

	Same S Attract		Same S Aversion		Other Attract		Other S Aversion			
Variable	β	t	β	t	β	t	β	t	F	R^2
Happiness of relationship	09	-1.51	0.07	1.15	0.04	0.69	-0.15	-2.45*	5.14**	.04
Depression	0.15	2.76**	-0.04	-0.64	0.03	0.62	0.11	1.78	4.55**	.03
Anxiety	0.16	2.78**	-0.02	-0.35	0.03	0.53	0.00	0.04	2.84*	.01
Flourishing	-0.13	-2.30*	0.03	0.54	-0.05	-0.82	-0.09	-1.41	3.01*	.01
Internalized Homonegativity	0.02	0.38	0.12	2.13*	-0.11	-1.82	0.03	0.48	2.75*	.01

^{*}p value < .05; **p value < .01

Results

Variable		% Discriminating	χ^2	V	
Gender			5.56*	07	
	Cisgender	59.9%			
	Transgender	52.4%			
Sexual Identity			62.51**	.22	
	Lesbian/Gay	41.7%			
	Bisexual	61.0%			
	Heterosexual	62.5%			
Four Option Status			20.61**	.13	
	Single, Not Celibate	45.2%			
	Single, Celibate	53.2%			
	Mixed-Orientation Relationship	62.4%			
	Same-Sex Relationship	54.9%			
Race/Ethnicity	1		3.87	.06	
•	Multi-Ethnic	55.0%			
	Asian/Asian-American	66.7%			
	Black/African-American	61.5%			
	Latino/Hispanic-American	52.4%			
	Middle-Eastern/Middle-Eastern	66.7%			
	American				
	Native American/Alaska Native	100%			
	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	50%			
	South Asian	100%			
	White/Caucasian/European-	54.1%			
	American				
Education			9.83*	.09	
	Less than High School Diploma	60.2%			
	High School Diploma	50.2%			
	Some College	51.4%			
	Bachelor's Degree	52.0%			
	Graduate Degree	60.4%			
Religion	-		5.02*	.06	
*p value < .05; **p	Religious	56.0%			
p value < .05; p	value < .01. Non-Religious	48.4%			

Discussion

- •Majority of sample differentiated between sexual attraction and aversion
 - Bisexual and label rejecters (heterosexual but SSA)
 - Women
 - Higher and lower education
 - MORs/religious
- •Inverse relationship between happiness of relationship in MOR and other sex aversion •Inverse relationship between same sex attraction and mental health (depression, anxiety, and flourishing) in MORs

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