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# The Masc We Wear: Masculinity Contingency and Sexual Bystander Attitudes

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# The Mascos We Wear: Masculinity Contingency and Sexual Bystander Attitudes

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## 1) Introduction

### Campus Sexual Assault: (Krebs et al., 2016)

- 1 in 5 female students are sexually assaulted in college
- There is a bystander present at 1 in 3 sexual assaults – but too often they don't intervene

### Sexual Bystander Intervention: (Burn, 2008)

- Potentially primary tool in prevention of sexual assault
- Women are more likely to intervene than men
- Men tend to reference **peer social norms** to decide whether or not to intervene – frequently **inaccurately**

### Bystander Attitudes: (Banyard & Cross, 2008)

- The likeliness that an individual will engage in various bystander behaviors
- **Example:** “Confront a male friend who is hooking up with someone who was passed out”

### Masculinity Contingency: (Burkley, Wong, & Bell, 2015)

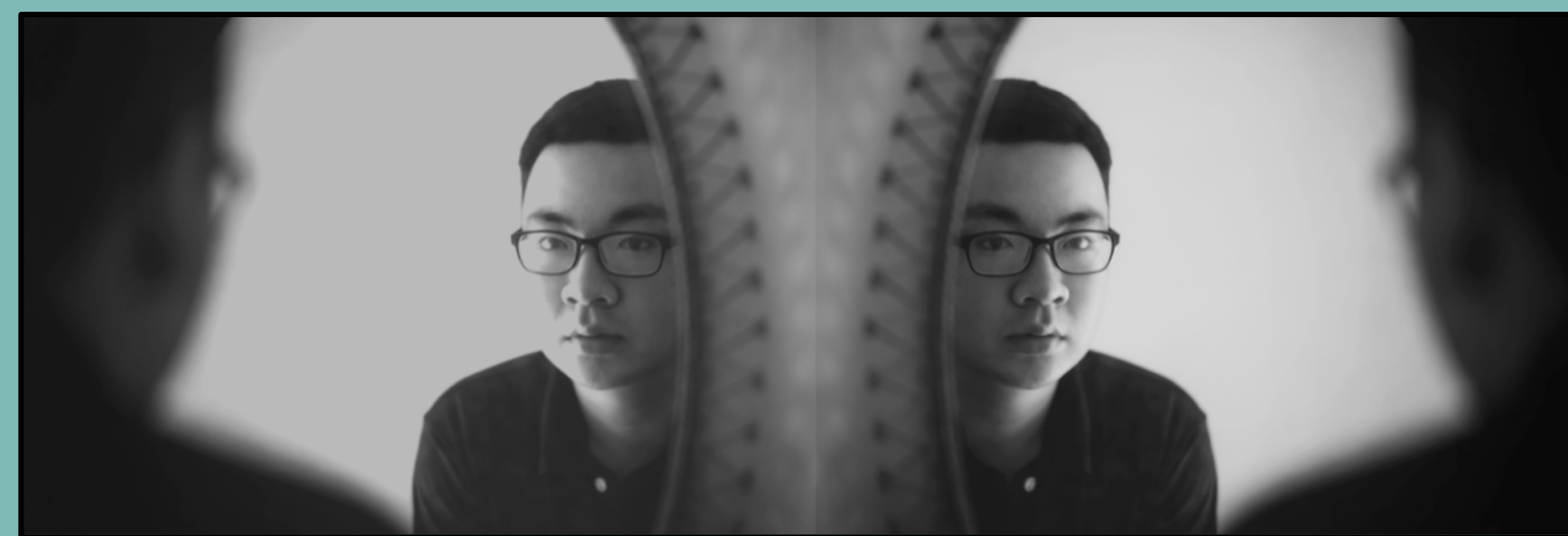
- The degree to which a man's self worth is derived from his masculine identity
- **Example:** “I can't respect myself if I don't live up to what it means to be a 'real man'”

## 2) Research Question

*Is there an association between masculinity contingency and how likely a man is to engage in bystander behaviors?*

### Hypothesis:

Men high in masculinity contingency will be less likely to engage in bystander behaviors.



## 3) Method

### Participants:

- Male students at a large Midwestern university (N=85)
- Age range: 17 to 25 years ( $\bar{x}$  =19)
- Racial Diversity: White 77.6%, Asian 14.1%, Black/African American 3.5%, Native American 1.2%, Pacific Islander 1.2%, Other 5.9%

### Materials:

- **Masculinity Contingency Scale** (Burkley, Wong, & Bell, 2015)
  - Asks how much one agrees/disagrees with statements
  - Higher scores indicate more masculinity contingency
- **Bystander Attitudes Scale** – short form (Banyard & Cross, 2008)
  - Asks how likely one is to engage in a behavior
  - Higher scores indicate more likely to engage in behavior
- **Demographics questionnaire**

### Procedure:

- The survey was administered via computer in a campus research lab. All data were collected using Qualtrics.

## 4) Results

- Simple linear regression was used to predict bystander attitudes
- Results:  $R^2(84) = .101, p = .003$ 
  - **Masculinity Contingency:**  $\bar{x} = 39.5, \sigma = 10.75$
  - **Bystander Attitudes:**  $\bar{x} = 38.8, \sigma = 7.03$
- **Figure 1** depicts the regression line for the data

Consistent with the research hypothesis, **men high in masculinity contingency were less likely to engage in bystander behaviors**

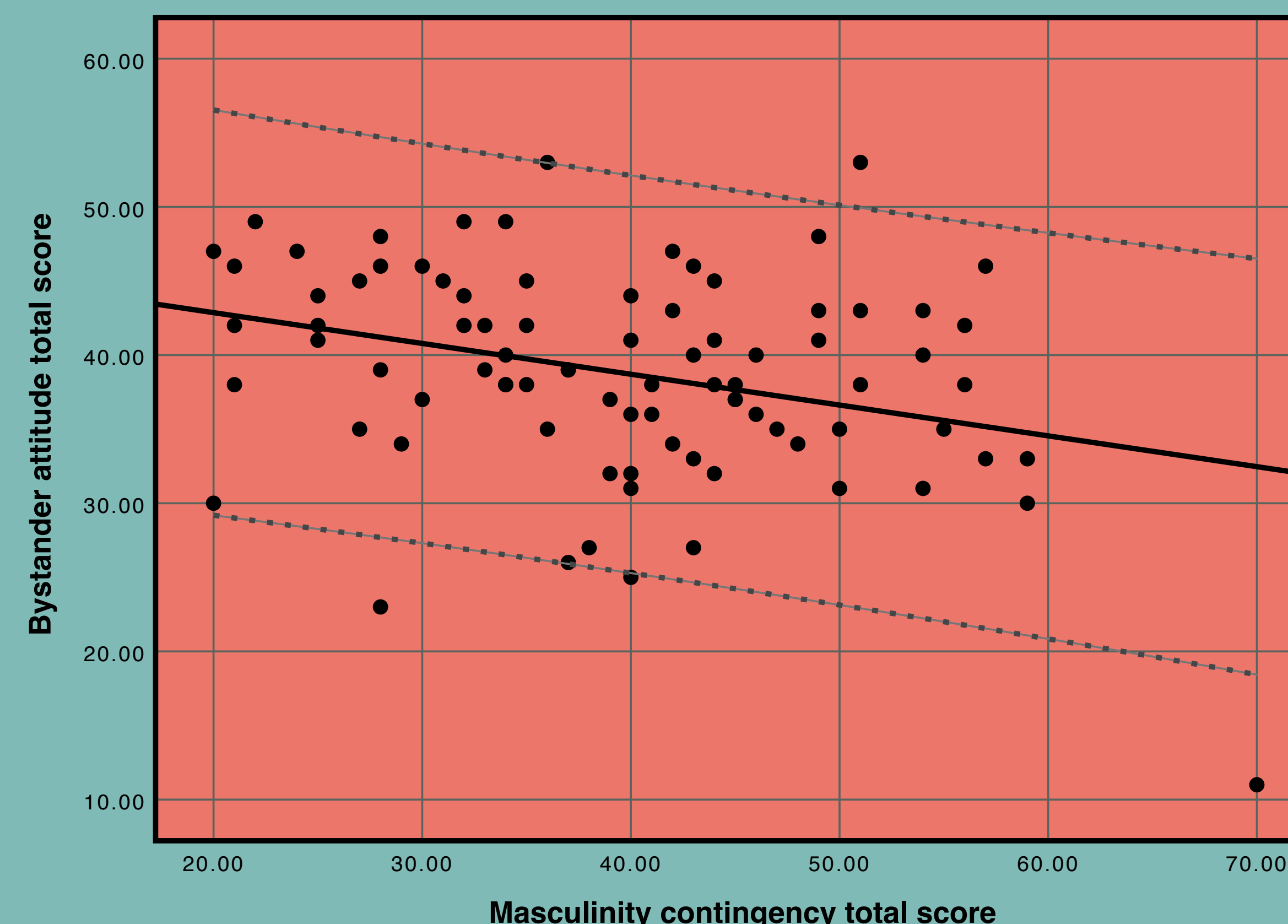


Figure 1. Relationship between masculinity contingency scores and bystander attitude scores for college men. R-squared =.101.

## 5) Discussion

- This study found that men whose **masculinity is central to their self-worth** are less likely to engage in bystander behaviors
- Further suggests that **gender socialization** might predict bystander behaviors in men

### Future Research:

- If this effect is a function of gender, does it still occur within queer, trans, and/or genderqueer populations?
- Is there a more ecologically valid way to test these questions? (Virtual Reality Technology?)