

LABELING “IN-BETWEEN” ORIENTATIONS: TESTING THE APPLICABILITY OF
THE MATCH-AND-MOTIVATION MODEL TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION LABELING

BY

TARA J. COLLINS

Submitted to the graduate degree program in Psychology and the Graduate Faculty of the
University of Kansas in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Chairperson Omri Gillath, Ph.D.

Charlene Muehlenhard, Ph.D.

Monica Biernat, Ph.D.

Sonya Satinsky, Ph.D.

Christian Crandall, Ph.D.

Date Defended: August, 8, 2012

The Dissertation Committee for TARA J. COLLINS
certifies that this is the approved version of the following dissertation:

LABELING “IN-BETWEEN” ORIENTATIONS: TESTING THE APPLICABILITY OF
THE MATCH-AND-MOTIVATION MODEL TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION LABELING

Chairperson Omri Gillath, Ph.D.

Date approved: August, 8, 2012

Abstract

The Match-and-Motivation framework (Peterson & Muehlenhard, 2011) was used to understand sexual orientation labeling processes among women with in-between sexual orientations (i.e., toward both same- and other-sex individuals). Both level of matching with a label and motivation to apply or reject a label predicted orientation label use. The factors of degree of same- vs. other-sex orientation and closeness/acceptance within communities were especially influential in the labeling process. For example, use of the bisexual label was often predicted by participants' distance from the center of the orientation continuum, such that the closer individuals were to the center (i.e., equal same- vs. other-sex orientation), the more likely they were to use the label. Use of nonheterosexual labels generally, and lesbian labels specifically, was predicted by more connection to the LGBTQ community. In addition, experiences of anti-bisexual prejudice from both the LGBTQ community and mainstream/heterosexual society affected label use. Match-and-Motivation factors were also found to have different degrees of importance across time points and to vary across different types of relationships. Specifically, orientation toward same- vs. other-sex individuals changed to be more in line with the sex of the relationship partner. Furthermore, connection to the LGBTQ community was stronger during a same-sex relationship. These differences may account for some of the changes in labeling that are often seen in response to romantic relationships (e.g., Diamond 2008). The implications of these findings as well as suggestions for future research are discussed.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my friends, family, and colleagues for all of their support throughout my education. In addition, I would like to thank my committee members for all of their assistance, thoughtful feedback, and support on this project and throughout my graduate career. This project was made possible through funding received through the Jack Brehm Basic Research in Social Psychology Award. I would like to thank Jack Brehm for his generous contribution to the advancement of social psychological research at the University of Kansas.

Table of Contents

Title Page	i
Acceptance Page	ii
Abstract	iii
Acknowledgments.....	iv
Table of Contents.....	v
List of Tables	vi
List of Figures	viii
General Introduction	1
Method	45
Results.....	58
Discussion	84
References.....	101
Tables.....	125
Figures	146
Appendix.....	150

List of Tables

Table A: Demographics: Ethnicity, Education, Relationship Status, and Geographical Region	125
Table B: Frequencies of Participant Generated Self-Labels and Corresponding Frequencies of Application of Researcher Generated Labels	126
Table C: Phi Coefficients Assessing the Associations between Labels Checkboxes and the Frequency of Each Label	127
Table D: Descriptive Statistics and Correlations for KSOG During Relationship with Male Partner	128
Table E: Descriptive Statistics and Correlations for KSOG During Relationship with Female Partner ..	129
Table F: Descriptive Statistics and Correlations for KSOG During General Past.....	130
Table G: Descriptive Statistics and Correlations for Current KSOG.....	131
Table H: Reliabilities and Correlations of Composite KSOG Scores Across Time periods	132
Table I: Correlations, Cronbach Alphas, and Descriptive Statistics for ABES, CC, and OGC Across Time periods	133
Table J: Frequencies of Label Use Across Time Periods	134
Table K: Predicting Use of Nonheterosexual Labels from Klein, Community (Lesbian and Gay) Connectedness, Other Group (Heterosexual) Connectedness, and Anti-Bisexual Experiences Scores ...	135
Table L: Predicting Use of the Bisexual Label from Klein, Community (Lesbian and Gay) Connectedness, Other Group (Heterosexual) Connectedness, and Anti-Bisexual Experiences Scores	136
Table M: Predicting Use of the Heterosexual Label during a Relationship with a Male Partner from Klein, Community (Lesbian and Gay) Connectedness, Other Group (Heterosexual) Connectedness, and Anti-Bisexual Experiences Scores	137
Table N: Predicting Use of the Bisexual Label from Current KSOG Scores	138
Table O: Predicting Use of the Lesbian Label from Past Klein Scores	139
Table P: Changes in orientation facets based on time frame reference	140
Table Q: Frequencies Associated with the Number of Researcher-generated Labels Checked by Each Participant	141
Table R: Frequencies Associated with the Number of Times Participants Reported Changing their Sexual Orientation Label	142
Table S: Changes in orientation facets, Community Connectedness (Lesbian and Gay), Other Group Connectedness (Heterosexual), Anti-Bisexual Experience across Relationship Time Period.....	143

Table T: Model Comparisons, Unstandardized Regression Coefficients, and Standard Errors for Multiple Groups Multilevel Analyses Predicting Closeness to Social Network Members (SNM) during Relationship Time periods	144
Table U: Frequencies Associated with the Use of a Different or the Same Label as the Current Label During Different Time periods	145

List of Figures

Figure 1: Match-and-Motivation Model	146
Figure 2: Exploration and the Match-and-Motivation Process	147
Figure 3: Multilevel Model Equation.....	148
Figure 4: Multilevel Model Mediation.....	149

Labeling “in-between” orientations: Testing the applicability of the Match-and-Motivation model to sexual orientation labeling

Most people who experience attractions to same-sex individuals also typically experience attractions to other-sex individuals, making non-exclusive (i.e., “in-between”) attractions the most common nonheterosexual orientation (Kirkpatrick, 2000; Laumann Gagnon, Michael, & Michaels, 1994). Despite non-exclusive attractions being nearly four times more common than exclusive same-sex attractions, there are half as many individuals who self-label as bisexual compared to lesbian or gay (Laumann et al., 1994). Although a great deal of research has reported discrepancies between the sexual orientation labels people use and their attractions and behaviors, little work has actually provided a framework for understanding these inconsistencies (e.g., Amestoy, 2001; Laumann et al., 1994; Rieger, Chivers, & Bailey, 2005). In addition, much of the work examining sexual orientation uses participant-generated sexual orientation labels as the primary measure of sexual orientation (e.g., Williams et al., 2000). These labels are often misinterpreted as clear indicators of sexual orientation or identity, despite the frequently observed discrepancies between orientation labels, identities, behaviors, attractions, and fantasies (e.g., Rothblum, 2000; Pathela et al., 2006). Additionally, the literature has not yet sufficiently addressed the meanings behind label use and the factors associated with changes in labeling (Savin-Williams, 2011).

After defining and differentiating the various facets of sexual orientation, especially focusing on identity and labeling, I discuss the extant work examining sexual orientation identity development and changes in identity and labeling. Next, I provide a model explaining the process of sexual orientation labeling that emphasizes the role of definitional matching and the motivations to apply or reject a label. Utilizing both qualitative and quantitative methods, I then

use the model as a framework for understanding the experiences of women with in-between orientations. Finally, I discuss the value of the match-and-motivation approach in examinations of sexual orientation and sexuality research in general, as well as some of the challenges associated with these areas of research.

Sexual Orientation, Identity, and Labels

Distinguishing between Sexual Orientation, Identity, and Labels

Of utmost importance to the current project is the distinction between sexual *orientation*, *identity*, and *labels*. Although these terms are often used interchangeably, they represent distinct yet related facets of sexuality (Diamond & Savin-Williams, 2000; Savin-Williams, 2011; Weinberg, Williams, & Pryor, 1994). The term sexual orientation typically refers to an individual's deeply rooted and enduring predisposition toward emotional, romantic, sexual, or affectional attractions to others (or no one) based on their sex and gender characteristics (American Psychological Association Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation, 2009; Savin-Williams, 2011). Individuals may use some or all aspects of their orientation (e.g., attractions to same- vs. other-sex) to help inform their identity.

Identity can be thought of as an individual's self-definition or as Vignoles and colleagues (Vignoles, Schwartz, and Luyckx, 2011) explained "people's explicit or implicit responses to the question: 'Who are you?'" (p. 2) Responses to this question can be at the personal (i.e., individual) or collective (i.e., group) level (Marcia, 1966; Tajfel & Turner, 1986; Waterman, 1999). *Personal* identity includes an individual's relevant trait-like characteristics, values, beliefs, and/or goals (Erikson, 1968). An individual's orientation toward same- and other-sex individuals may be included in one's personal identity. *Collective* identity consists of one's knowledge of social groups and categories with which she belongs, her feelings toward the

groups, and feelings associated with identifying as a group member (Ashmore, Deaux, & McLaughlin-Volpe, 2004; De Fina, 2007; Tajfel & Turner, 1986; van Zomeren, Postmes, & Spears, 2008). Therefore, an individual's orientation group membership (e.g., lesbian or heterosexual) can serve as her or his collective identity.

Labels are words through which individuals can communicate with others about themselves and, to some degree, affect who others think they are. Sexual orientation label(s) refers to the term(s) one uses to describe her or his sexual orientation to oneself or others (Savin-Williams, 2011). Labels are likely to change depending on the information an individual is trying to communicate to others. Individuals may use labels to communicate information regarding their personal identity and/or collective identity to others, some or none of this information (James, 1890/1950; Swann & Bosson, 2010). Labels can be used as a way of creating an alternative social-self that may differ from one's own self-definition (Bower, Gurevich, & Mathieson, 2002).

Associations between Labels, Orientation, and Identity

While labels, orientation, and identity are highly related, they are also distinct and often discordant (Chivers, Seto, Lalumière, Laan, & Grimbos, 2010; Rosen & Beck, 1988). For example, around 84% of women and 73% of men who report having same-sex attractions or behaviors also label their sexual orientation as heterosexual (Laumann et al., 1994; Pathela et al., 2006). Similarly, many individuals who have sex with both same- and other-sex partners do not label themselves as bisexual, but rather as gay, lesbian, or heterosexual (e.g., Diamond, 2000, 2003a; Diamond & Savin-Williams, 2000; Storms, 1980).

As mentioned earlier, sexual orientation labels may be reflective of an individual's orientation, orientation group membership, neither, or both. For example, an individual can

describe their attractions (e.g., “I like women”) or create a unique label to explain their orientation, which would reflect personal identity in the absence of collective identity. Conversely, an individual might adopt a label to reflect their membership within a group, despite having a personal identity that is inconsistent with the label (e.g., a woman who labels as a lesbian without experiencing same-sex attractions). Some people may reject labels altogether, thus having an “unlabeled” orientation that may not reflect their personal or social identity. Finally, most people will likely choose a label that is reflective of both their personal and social identity, in that it is in line with their orientation as well as their sexual orientation group membership (Worthington, Savoy, Dillon, & Vernaglia, 2002).

Consistency/match between label and orientation facets. Despite some of the previously mentioned inconsistencies between sexual orientation, labels, and identity, self-labels predict degrees of same- vs. other-sex attractions and behaviors fairly well (Weinrich, Snyder, Pillard, & Grant, 1993). Thus, gay and lesbian individuals express the highest levels of same-sex orientations, bisexual individuals indicate less, and heterosexual individuals report the least (Glover, Galliher, & Lamere, 2009). Similarly, Weinrich and colleagues (1993) identified sexual orientation self-label as the best predictor of multiple facets of sexual orientation (e.g., attractions and behaviors).

Thompson and Morgan (2008) examined sexual orientation labels and same-sex attractions, behavior, and fantasy among female college students. Orientation labels were associated with different degrees of same-sex orientation such that “mostly straight” labeled women indicated more same-sex attraction and fantasy than “exclusively straight” labeled women. Similarly, self-labeled bisexual women indicated more same-sex attraction, fantasy, and behavior than mostly-straight women, but not as much as lesbian women who indicated the

highest degrees of these same-sex orientation components. In summary, there is an association between orientation facets (e.g., behavior and attraction) and sexual orientation labels (Eskin, Kaynak-Demir, & Demir, 2005; Savin-Williams & Ream, 2007; van Griensven et al., 2004), however, this association may be unidirectional. In other words, labels predict facets but not vice versa (Remafedi, Resnick, Blum, & Harris, 1992).

Inconsistency/mismatch between label and orientation facets. Whereas labels predict orientation facets, sexual orientation facets are often found to be poor predictors of the actual labels people use (Remafedi et al., 1992). For example, the majority of individuals who self-label as nonheterosexual experience same-sex behaviors and attractions (e.g., Laumann et al., 1994). However, the converse is not true, of the people who have same-sex attractions and behaviors, only a minority self-label as nonheterosexual (e.g., Dunne, Bailey, Kirk, & Martin, 2000; DuRant, Krowchuk, & Sinal, 1998). Similarly, many of the men who have sex with men report not having attractions to men and not self-labeling as gay/bisexual (Pathela et al., 2006; Sandfort, 1997). Likewise, less than one-third of adolescents who reported predominately same-sex orientations in attraction, behaviors, or fantasies actually self-labeled as lesbian, gay, or bisexual, instead they assigned either heterosexual labels or used no label at all (Remafedi et al., 1992).

Some of the highest frequencies of mismatched individuals are seen in heterosexual self-labeled populations (Laumann et al., 1994). In a study looking at same- and other-sex attractions among heterosexual college students in the United States, as many as 32% of heterosexually self-labeled women and 19% of heterosexually self-labeled men reported having some degree of same-sex attractions (Hoburg, Konik, Williams, & Crawford, 2004). In a different sample, the majority of heterosexually self-labeled individuals indicated some degree of same-sex attractions, fantasies, and/or behaviors (84% of women and 51% of men; Vrangalova & Savin-

Williams, 2010). Whereas a great deal of empirical work has focused on differences between the facets of sexual orientation (e.g., Laumann et al., 1994), very little is known about the reasons for the discrepancies or the meaning behind them (Diamond, 2003b).

The Development of Sexual Orientation, Identity, and Labels

From birth, there is a societal expectation for every individual to be heterosexual, based on the presumption that heterosexuality is a universal norm and that men and women are innately attracted to one another (i.e., compulsory heterosexuality; Mohr, 2002; Rich, 1980). Thus, the initial adoption of a heterosexual label is socially imposed on individuals, regardless of their actual feelings or introspection about their sexual orientation (Rich, 1980; Dillon, Worthington, & Moradi, 2011). Compulsory heterosexuality is not seen as a deliberative process; rather it is a “default” category wherein the exploration of sexual orientation is not occurring or encouraged (Dillon et al., 2011; Rich, 1980; Worthington et al., 2002). Individuals do not leave the stage of compulsory heterosexuality until they begin to become aware of and actively explore their sexual preferences (Rich, 1980).

The process of sexual orientation labeling/identity development is dependent on the degree to which the individual is aware of her/his orientation toward sexual/romantic partners of a specific biological sex, multiple sexes, or the absence of such attractions to others (Dillon et al., 2011). This awareness and acknowledgement is thought to be dependent on a two factors: (1) the degree to which an individual explores his/her own sexuality and (2) her/his commitment to a particular label or identity (Kroger & Marcia, 2011).

When an individual begins to explore her or his sexual needs, values, and preferences, through behavioral and/or cognitive activities (e.g., fantasy), she or he is thought to enter the sexual orientation identity development process (i.e., the questioning, evaluation, and labeling of

one's sexual orientation; Thompson & Morgan, 2008; Worthington, Navarro, Savoy, & Hampton, 2008). Throughout this process of exploration, the individual seeks and gains information about her/himself by engaging in introspection and getting feedback from others.

Through the exploration process, an individual may begin to form personal and/or social identities related to their orientation and apply a label (or labels) to describe their orientation. Regardless of the specific sexual orientation label being applied, over time, commitment to the label increases. Specifically, an individual can become committed to an unquestioned socially prescribed heterosexual label (i.e., compulsory heterosexuality) or to a label that was applied following the thoughtful examination of one's personal preferences (Dillon et al., 2011). This commitment may prevent an individual from further exploring his/her orientation and may act as a barrier to adopting a new, better-fitting orientation label (Worthington et al., 2002).

Changes in Sexual Orientation, Identity, and Labels over Time

In the absence of commitment, sexual orientation labels are highly likely to change, since individuals can freely choose which labels to adopt (Ellis & Mitchell, 2000). Labels can be altered and adjusted over time, or even from one day to the next, and are greatly affected by social and relational cues (Diamond, 2003b; Savin-Williams, 2011). Longitudinal examinations have suggested that sexual orientation labeling tends to be more fluid and flexible than stable and fixed (Diamond, 2003b; 2008).

Changes in self-labeling often occur long after the initial "coming-out" or discovery of one's same-sex attractions (Diamond, 2008). Sexual questioning (i.e., self-reflection about sexuality or orientation) can be done multiple times, continuously, or at any point along the developmental process (Diamond & Savin-Williams, 2003). Changes in sexual orientation labels, however, are not necessarily indicative of changes in orientation, attractions, or behavior.

In a longitudinal examination of nonheterosexual women (Diamond, 2008), changes in self-labels did not correspond to changes in reported attractions. For example, women who changed from a bisexual label or unlabeled orientation to a monosexual label (i.e., heterosexual or lesbian) typically did not report any changes in their same- and other-sex attractions (Diamond, 2008).

When looking at the qualitative responses from Diamond's (2003b) study, two primary factors became apparent as the reasons behind women changing their labels in the absence of changes in attractions. First, relational or contextual changes (e.g., engaging in sexual behavior with members of only one sex) may make women unsure of whether their previous labels still apply to or *match* their experiences. Second, other factors, such as experiences of stigmatization based on their sexual orientation, may *motivate* them to use different (or often no) labels despite the fact that their attractions did not change.

Despite Diamond's (2003b) preliminary findings, little is known about the process of applying a label to one's sexual orientation (i.e., self-labeling) or the reasons behind changes in label use. To better understand sexual orientation, the process of self-labeling, and the discrepancies between attractions, behaviors, and labeling, I propose a new model of sexual orientation self-labeling. According to the model, self-labeling is determined not only by an individual's perceived *match* between a label and her or his experiences (e.g., attractions and behavior), but also by his/her *motivation* to apply or reject a label.

Match-and-Motivation Model

The majority of prior work examining sexual orientation development has looked at the development of sexual orientation identity or the factors involved in the initial coming-out process (e.g., Cass, 1979). In addition, existing models are often unable to explain the processes

underlying the adoption of sexual orientation labels and post-coming-out label changes (Horowitz & Newcomb, 2001; Morgan & Thompson, 2011; Sophie, 1985).

Proposed Model

Recent work by Peterson and Muehlenhard (2007; 2011) has explored the processes underlying the labeling of sexual experiences. The authors found that often times, individuals met scholars' and/or general society's definition for having experienced a specific sexual experience (e.g., "having sex" or "being raped"), but did not label the experience as such. Peterson and Muehlenhard suggested that the process of labeling a sexual experience is not only dependent on the individual's perception of how well his/her experience *matches* the label, but is also determined by the perceived consequences associated with using the label. These perceived consequences act as *motivations* to apply or reject a label. Here, I will use a similar Match-and-Motivation model to explain the process of labeling one's sexual orientation. Specifically, I will explore: (a) how an individual examines the *match* between her/his experiences and her/his definitional understandings of sexual orientation categories, and (b) the various factors that *motivate* the individual to apply or reject a sexual orientation label (see Figure 1). This model will shed light on the process of sexual orientation labeling and will account for common changes in label-use (see Diamond 2003b; 2008).

Exploration and the Match-and-Motivation Process

Prior to the assessment of the degree to which one's experiences match a given orientation label, the individual must first exit the compulsory heterosexual stage. As mentioned earlier, by default, individuals begin with a compulsory heterosexual label (i.e., this label is socially imposed at birth; Mohr, 2002; Rich, 1980). Until the individual begins to question the nature of compulsory heterosexuality as the "real" and "natural" way of being sexual and begin

to thoughtfully examine their sexual partner preferences, they will remain in the stage of compulsory heterosexuality (see Figure 2; Dillon et al., 2011; McCarn & Fassinger, 1996; Segal, 2010).

Once an individual begins to explore their preferences they are said to be in a stage of exploration (Dillon et al., 2010). During the exploration process, an individual will assess the degree to which various orientation labels *match* her/his experiences and preferences, while accounting for the consequences associated with label adoption (i.e., *motivations* to apply or reject the label). This match-and-motivation assessment should occur to some degree every time an individual is asked to label his/her sexual orientation (Diamond, 2008). Over time an individual may become committed to a particular label and no longer assess the degree to which the label fits his/her experiences (Worthington et al., 2002).

Some individuals may abandon the active exploration of their sexual preferences and base her or his orientation label solely on motivational factors (which will be discussed later), often this maintains a previously used label or disassociates from the labeling process (Cass, 1979; Dillon et al., 2011). Similarly, individuals in the compulsory heterosexual state will either label as heterosexual in the absence of any assessment of match or motivations or they will become committed to the heterosexual label, which will motivate them to use the label regardless of whether or not it fits their (unexplored) sexual preferences (Mohr, 2002; Rich, 1980; Worthington et al., 2002). Thus, the only route through which people will assess both the degree of match and the motivations associated with label use is if they leave the compulsory stage, enter, and then remain in the stage of active exploration (see Figure 2).

The Matching Component of the Match-and-Motivation Model

According to this Match-and-Motivation model, the process of labeling includes two major components – matching and motivation. In order to assess the degree to which individual's experiences match an orientation label, the individual must (a) find a label, (b) define the label, (c) elaborate on the label, and (d) compare the label to one's own experiences (Brown, 2002; Diamond, 2003a; 2008; Peterson & Muehlenhard, 2007; 2011).

Finding the label. In assessing the degree of match between any given orientation label and one's experiences, an individual must first be aware of the different labels (Herdt, 1997; Murray, 1995). If a person is not aware of a label then s/he cannot adopt the label (Brown, 2002). The availability of any given label is dependent on the sociocultural historical context and the relative (in)visibility of each label within one's context (e.g., Herdt, 1997; Murray, 1995; Weinberg et al., 1994).

Sociocultural historical context. What we say about ourselves and the words we use cannot be separated from the historical and social context (Edley, 2001). The labels used to describe sexuality and sexual orientation tend to vary across different contexts and eras (DeLuzio Chasin, 2011; Eliason, 1995). Therefore, sexual orientation must be understood within social and historical context (Sophie, 1985). Sexual orientation labels are socially constructed, which leads to differential use of labels across cultural contexts (DeLamater & Hyde, 1998; Herdt, 1997). For example, Anglo-American men consider anal intercourse with another man to be indicative of homosexuality, whereas Mexican-American men only consider the recipient of the anal intercourse to be homosexual (DeLamater & Hyde, 1998; Magaña & Carrier, 1991).

Examinations of sexual orientation become increasingly complicated as outdated labels are abandoned and new labels become popular (Worthington & Reynolds, 2009). Empirical work

has not been able to keep up with the ever-changing labels, often (albeit unintentionally) pre-selecting participants who only conform to the traditional category labels (Savin-Williams, 2011). Thus, very little is known about people who adopt less-traditional labels and the processes behind adopting such labels (Diamond, 2006a).

In recent years, there is an increasing trend for individuals (especially women) to label their sexual orientation as heteroflexible or mostly heterosexual (Thompson & Morgan, 2008; Vrangalova & Savin-Williams, 2010; Worthington & Reynolds, 2009). An additional trend is the rejection of labels all together. Not applying an orientation label has become especially popular in youth and young adults (Brooks & Quina, 2009; Savin-Williams, 2011). Unlabeled women tend to be similar to bisexual women in their attractions and experiences, but choose to not apply a label to themselves (Brooks & Quina, 2009). In general, there seems to be a social trend wherein more individuals are beginning to label outside of the traditional dichotomized categories of heterosexual or homosexual (Hillier et al., 1998; Savin-Williams, 2011). In turn, the number of in-between labels appears to be increasing, offering a more diverse set of labels for individuals to choose from (Thompson & Morgan, 2008).

Invisibility. Although there is a social trend showing increases in less traditional, non-dichotomized labels, many of these orientation groups are often underrepresented or made invisible in many aspects of society (Barker & Langdrige, 2008; Rich, 1980; Yoshino, 2000). Even in the empirical literature, individuals who express same-sex attractions or engage in same-sex sexual behaviors are sometimes categorized as gay or lesbian, despite the knowledge (or lack thereof) of their self-labeling, other-sex attractions, or sexual activity (Firestein, 1996). This misrepresentation or lack of acknowledgement of people with non-exclusive attractions

decreases the visibility of in-between labels and individuals (Barker & Langdrige, 2008; Weinberg et al., 1994).

Individuals who experience both same- and other-sex attractions, but do not have knowledge of sexual orientation labels other than heterosexual and homosexual, will find it especially difficult to find a good-fitting label (Weinberg et al., 1994). Weinberg and colleagues (1994) explained that the invisibility of bisexuality and in-between labels is caused by a lack of a bisexual community, role models, and social validation. This invisibility is likely to result in decreased rates of applying an in-between labels and uncertainty about the meaning behind such labels (Barker & Langdrige, 2008; Weinberg et al., 1994). Often times, individuals who adopt such labels experienced same- and other-sex attractions for years prior to the adoption of a bisexual or in-between label (Weinberg et al., 1994). Often in-between labels are also invisible within the gay and lesbian subculture, as they are frequently delegitimized as being a “phase” rather than a legitimate orientation (Brewster & Moradi, 2010; Yoshino, 2000).

One factor contributing to the invisibility of labels outside of the dichotomy (e.g., bisexual or asexual) involves assumptions of orientation based on partner gender (Bradford, 2004; Ochs, 1996). There are no clear public displays of bisexuality or other in-between orientations. For example, people are often assumed to have a monosexual orientation toward only individuals of the sex of their current partner, which contributes to in-between orientations’ invisibility and the incorrect labeling of others (Bradford, 2004; Ochs, 1996; Yoshino, 2000). Other sources that may affect the relative visibility of orientation labels is knowing individuals who self-label as a sexual minority (e.g., Kielwasser & Wolf 1992).

Knowing individuals who self-label as a sexual minority increases visibility of sexual orientation labels and also leads to more acceptance of sexual orientation diversity (Savin-

Williams, 2011; Savin-Williams, Pardo, Vrangalova, Mitchell, & Cohen, 2010). Morgan and colleagues (Morgan, Steiner, & Thompson, 2010) found that knowing more sexual minorities to be associated with more sexual orientation questioning and openness to being a sexual minority. Knowing a gay or lesbian individual can even counteract prior beliefs that homosexuality is wrong (Maher, Sever, & Pichler, 2008). In addition, having friends or acquaintances that self-label as sexual minorities may give the individual more information about what it means to be a sexual orientation minority group member and make them more aware of the diversity in sexual orientations (Morgan et al., 2010). With direct interaction, an individual may be less likely to seek information from less legitimate sources (e.g., media) to learn more about sexual orientation labels (Morgan et al., 2010).

Defining sexual orientation categories. Sexual orientation tends to be understood by the general public, as well as by some scholars, as a dichotomy, in that individuals are either heterosexual or homosexual (see Barker, 2007; Fox, 1996). This oversimplification has led to a general consensus regarding how to define heterosexuality and homosexuality, however, there is much less agreement about how to define sexual orientation categories that do not fall into one of these classifications (Berenson, 2002; Butler, 1990).

Despite the relatively high frequency of non-exclusive sexual orientations (i.e., sexual contact with or attractions to both same- and other-sex individuals), there is no consensus cultural or empirical definition for bisexuality or other in-between orientations (Dinno, 1997; Laumann et al., 1994). This lack of social consensus regarding the characteristics that define someone as bisexual, presents difficulties in the development and adoption of a bisexual identity or label (Dinno, 1997). The lack of consensus is apparent even among researchers, some doubting the existence of “true” bisexuality (e.g., Rieger, Chivers, & Bailey, 2005), and some

defining it quite differently than self-labeled bisexual individuals. One example of this is the definition of bisexuality, used by some scholars, as having “equal attractions to men and women” (Remafedi et al., 1992; p. 715). However, bisexually self-labeled individuals often discuss the label in terms of diversity in attractions (e.g., any degree of attractions to both same- and other-sex individuals) and/or the lack of emphasis on partner gender (Berenson, 2002).

In addition, orientation categories that appear to be clearly defined by society (e.g., heterosexual or gay/lesbian) may not be as clear-cut in practice. For example, some self-labeled lesbian women report being attracted to and engaging in sexual behavior with men (Diamond, 2003a; 2008). Similarly, the majority self-labeled heterosexual individuals report some degree of same-sex attractions, behaviors, or fantasies (Vrangalova & Savin-Williams, 2010). Thus, defining sexual orientation categories does not appear to be an easy task; in addition, different people are likely to come up with different understandings and definitions of each sexual orientation category (Berenson, 2002; Rust, 2000).

Scholars (Brotto, Knudson, Inskip, Rhodes, & Erskine, 2010; DeLuzio Casin, 2011) have suggested that distinguishing between the different facets of sexual orientation (e.g., attractions, behaviors, and fantasy) may be useful for understanding sexual orientation labeling. Individuals are likely to give preference to some of these factors over others when defining sexual orientation labels (Rust, 2000). Whereas some individuals may see sexual behavior as being the most defining feature of orientation, others may see emotional/romantic feelings as being the most important aspect (Diamond, 2003b; Sandfort, 1997). These differences will likely lead to different requirements across individuals as far as what facets are necessary and sufficient to apply a label. After an individual arrives at a basic understanding/definition of an orientation label, s/he will begin to elaborate on the label.

Elaboration of the label. After finding and defining a sexual orientation label, individuals will often gain (either intentionally or not) additional information regarding the meaning of the label and the characteristics of individuals associated with the label (Morgan et al., 2010; Phinney & Ong, 2007). Individuals will use this elaboration to determine whether or not a label applies to their experiences (Savin-Williams & Ream, 2007). One primary source of elaboration for the labels is through social feedback. In Diamond's (2003b) previously discussed study on the longitudinal changes in women's orientation labeling she found that many women changed their sexual orientation label based on feedback that they had received from others. For example, some women expressed changing their self-label based on discomfort with associating themselves with the stereotypes related to bisexuality (i.e., that bisexuals are not to be trusted and that it is an illegitimate label) or feedback based on their current relationship status. Some elaborations of sexual orientation labels may contain information regarding the stereotypes associated with the different labels, the gender and gender role associations with each label, and the perceived degree of flexibility built in to each label.

Stereotypes. Stereotypes associated with an orientation label/group may lead individuals feel that the label is not a good match (Savin-Williams & Ream, 2007). Researchers (e.g., Brewster & Moradi, 2010) have identified two main stereotypes of bisexual individuals: (a) orientation instability – that bisexuality is an illegitimate and unstable category/label; and (b) sexual irresponsibility – that bisexual individuals are more sexually active and irresponsible in their sexual practices. These stereotypes tend to be held by heterosexual individuals (Spalding & Peplau, 1997) as well as gay and lesbian individuals (Mohr & Rochlen, 1999).

Bisexuality is often viewed as a transitional label or a phase between heterosexuality and homosexuality (see Rust, 1997). Framing bisexuality as a transitional phase endorses the belief

that the orientation is an unstable label/identity (Rust, 2000). The framing of bisexuality as a transitional phase also leads to the conclusion that people who self-label as bisexual are actually gay, straight, confused, or lying (Dodge, Reece, & Gebhard, 2008). Beliefs regarding bisexuality as an illegitimate and unstable orientation lead to the assumption that individuals who maintain a bisexual label are in denial of their “true self” or hiding their true lesbian or gay orientation (Zinik, 1985). This assumption results in the stereotype that self-labeled bisexual individuals are confused, conflicted, and emotionally unstable (e.g., Brewster & Moradi, 2010). Longitudinal work, however, shows that these assumptions are incorrect, as more individuals switch to in-between labels over time than to monosexual orientation labels (Diamond, 2008).

Another incorrect assumption about bisexuality is that bisexuality means that someone is equally attracted to same- and other-sex partners (Brewster & Moradi, 2010). Such a belief is likely to be accompanied by the misconception that bisexuals *need* sexual encounters with both men and women to be sexually satisfied, and thus, are more promiscuous, more sexually active, sexually irresponsible, non-monogamous, swingers, sexual predators, unfaithful, and disease carriers (Brewster & Moradi, 2010; Ochs, 1996; Rust, 2000). In reality, bisexual individuals tend to show variability in their degrees of attractions to the same- and other-sex (Weinrich & Klein, 2002).

Sexual orientation and gender role expectations are commonly linked in many cultural understandings of sexuality (Frankel, 2004; Savin-Williams et al., 2010). Individuals who self-label as nonheterosexual are typically assumed to be gender atypical (Warren, 1974). Compared to heterosexual men, gay men are expected to have more feminine and less masculine traits, physical features, roles and occupations (Kite & Deaux, 1987; Page & Yee, 1985). Likewise, lesbian women are perceived to be more masculine and have more stereotypically masculine

traits (Geiger, Harwood, & Hummert, 2006). Therefore, an individual's gender identity may be in conflict with the belief that to be nonheterosexual one also must be gender atypical.

The stereotypes about members of sexual orientation groups are likely to lead an individual, who might have otherwise matched with the label, to perceive the stigmatized label as ill-fitting (Kielwasser & Wolf, 1992; Meyer, 2009). In essence, after elaborating on the characteristics associated with group members they may assert that the label does not describe them [as Savin-Williams & Ream (2007) put it "I'm not one of those!"]. This may lead to the adoption of more traditional labels that are not associated with negative assumptions (Herek, 2002).

Sexuality as fluid/fixed. Sexual orientation labels differ in the amount of flexibility that they allow for (Diamond, 2008; Rust, 1992). Monosexual orientation labels (i.e., heterosexual and lesbian/gay) allow for very little flexibility as they emphasize sexual and romantic attractions and behaviors that are directed toward only one sex (Garnets, 2002). Conversely, in-between labels allow for a greater range of sexual attractions and behaviors as well as discontinuity between facets of orientation (Rust, 1992).

Individuals may intentionally select a label that best fits their perceived potential for sexual orientation fluidity, flexibility, and change. For example, self-labeled lesbian women, compared to bisexual and unlabeled women, are more likely to endorse the idea that sexuality is fixed (Brooks & Quina, 2009). Unlabeled women report higher likelihoods of- and openness to- their sexual orientation labels changing in the future, compared to lesbian and bisexual women (Brooks & Quina, 2009; Diamond, 2005; Savin-Williams, 2005). Thus, an individual who believes that her/his orientation may change in the future may feel as though a monosexual label,

which definitionally might fit their current and past experiences, is not a good fit as it does not allow for flexibility.

Assessment of the match between label and experiences. Once an individual has found, defined, and elaborated on the various labels that are available to describe sexual orientation, s/he will assess the degree to which the labels map on to his/her feelings and experiences. A variety of factors will contribute to the degree to which an individual perceives her/his experiences to match with a given label. Specifically, below I will explore how an individual's perceived match may be affected by his/her degree of same- vs. other-sex attractions, current partner's sex, non-gender specific attractions, relational opportunities, and time frame reference (e.g., DeLamater & Hyde, 1998; Fingerhut, Peplau, & Ghavami, 2005; Pearl, 2006; Ponce, 1978).

Attractions: Distance from center. Exclusivity of attractions will be a primary consideration in determining the best-fitting label (Weinrich & Klein, 2002). Individuals with exclusive (i.e., one sex only) attractions, behaviors, fantasies, and emotions should find it fairly easy to determine which label best applies to their experiences (Morgan & Thompson, 2011; Weinberg et al., 1994). More specifically, these individuals should find that a monosexual label (i.e., heterosexual or gay/lesbian) best matches their experiences (Cass, 1979). However, individuals who experience non-exclusive attractions, behaviors, fantasies, or emotions tend to find it more difficult to determine the best-fitting label for themselves (Weinberg et al., 1994).

The degree with which an individual is attracted to same- vs. other-sex individuals may affect how well s/he perceives a label to fit (Pearl, 2006; Rust, 2000). If same- vs. other-sex attractions are operationalized as existing on a continuum ranging from *same-sex only* attractions to *other-sex only* attractions, with *equal attractions to same- and other-sex* in the center, then the

anchors could be characterized as gay/lesbian and heterosexual with the center-point best representing the socially understood definition of bisexuality (e.g., McConaghy, Buhrich, & Silove, 1994; Rieger et al., 2005).

While empirical findings support the variability of in-between orientations (i.e., falling in a variety of places along the continuum), social understandings of sexual orientation rarely include these distinctions (Barker & Langdrige, 2008; Weinrich & Klein, 2002). This, in turn, makes individuals more likely to choose a label at the anchors or the center-point of the continuum (i.e., lesbian/gay, bisexual, or heterosexual), even if this label is not a perfect match (Bower et al., 2002). The bigger the deviation from the center (i.e., equal attractions to same- and other-sex), the less likely an individual with non-exclusive attractions should be to adopt a *bisexual* or in-between label, and the more likely s/he should be to adopt the closest anchor label. In line with this suggestion, individuals who reported greater attraction to one sex over another and self-labeled as *bisexual* were found to be less certain about the applicability of the label to their experiences, and were more likely to further question the fit of the label after it was applied (Weinberg et al., 1994). Therefore, the further an individual is from one of the anchors or the center-point of the scale, the more difficulty they should have in finding a label that they perceive to be a good match.

Sex of relationship partner(s). Intimate relationships and the formation of pair bonds may be one of the most important contributors to the formation of sexual orientation and the process of orientation labeling (Peplau, Spaulding, Conley, & Veniegas, 1999). Likewise, current relationship status is likely to be especially influential in the labeling process of individuals with non-exclusive attractions (Diamond, 2003b; Weinberg et al., 1994). While in a relationship, an individual may think of her/his attractions, fantasies, behaviors, and emotions as directed only

toward her/his current partner. Thus, her/his sexual orientation will only be focused toward the sex of the current partner, which may lead him/her to question the applicability of an in-between orientation label. Indeed, Weinberg and colleagues (1994) found the commitment to a monogamous partner led to uncertainty regarding the retention of a bisexual orientation label.

The lack of success with specific relationship types (e.g., same-sex or other-sex) also affects orientation labeling (Weinberg et al., 1994). For example, some individuals report only having successful relationships with same-sex partners (Hutchins & Ka'ahumanu, 1991; Ochs, 1996). The lack of success in other-sex relationships, may lead these individuals to adopt gay or lesbian labels, regardless of potential other-sex attractions (Weinberg et al., 1994). Success or lack thereof with a specific relationship partner-type may affect the degree of perceived match between an orientation label and the individual's experiences, and in turn shape her or his labeling (Weinberg et al., 1994).

Person not the gender. Some individuals, however, do not perceive their attractions to be specific to their partner's biological sex characteristics or the gender of their partner(s) (Brooks & Quina, 2009; Diamond, 2003b; Rust, 2000). Instead they hold a more individualistic perception. A common expression used by individuals with non-exclusive attractions is that they are attracted to "the person not the gender" (Diamond, 2003a; 2003b; Rust, 2000). Endorsement of love being dependent on the person, rather than the gender, is associated with self-labeling as bisexual or the rejection of sexual orientation labels altogether (i.e., unlabeled; Brooks & Quina, 2009; Diamond, 2003b). Bisexuality is thought to involve the dissociation between gender and sexual preference (Weinberg et al., 1994). Thus, even if an individual has exclusive attractions to one sex, s/he may adopt an in-between label if s/he does not see his/her attractions as being a result of the sex and/or gender characteristics of others (Brooks & Quina, 2009).

Lack of opportunity. Another factor impacting an individual's perceived match with orientation labels is her/his behavioral experience with same- and other-sex attractions, relationships, and sexual encounters (Weinberg et al., 1994). The lack of experience or available partners affects an individual's orientation labeling, for example, an individual may not label her/himself as bisexual if s/he has not had any sexual or romantic encounters with a specific partner type (e.g., same-sex: Savin-Williams & Ream, 2007). Use of the mostly straight/heterosexual label is believed to be related to the lack of opportunity for some women, many of whom have not yet engaged in same-sex behavior, but would like to (Thompson & Morgan, 2008). Thus, the adoption of any sexual orientation label may be greatly affected by partner availability or accessibility.

The lack of opportunity may be more common for individuals with same-sex attractions (Weinberg et al., 1994). As the majority of individuals are assumed heterosexual at birth, and raised in a manner consistent with this assumption, many same-sex attracted individuals are unaware of how to initiate same-sex romantic relationships or where to find potential romantic partners (Rust, 2003). In addition, for same-sex oriented individuals, partner availability and visibility are likely to vary depending on location (e.g., urban vs. rural; Weinberg et al., 1994). If an individual has certain attractions, that have not yet been explored, s/he may not feel "qualified" to adopt a label that is consistent with such attractions (Thompson & Morgan, 2008).

Time frame. The lack of opportunity may also affect the frequencies in which individuals engage in certain behaviors. For example, both women and men who have non-exclusive attractions engage in sexual behavior more frequently with men than with women (Weinberg et al., 1994). These differences in frequencies may affect how people interpret their attractions and desires, with the more frequent behaviors being more accessible when assessing the degree of

match with orientation labels (Savin-Williams & Ream, 2007). In addition, individuals may be considering different time frames when examining their degree of fit with a given label. For example, when assessing one's own sexual feelings, an individual may be thinking about either her/his current feelings, her/his historical general feelings, or her/his feelings over a certain time period (e.g., past-year; Savin-Williams & Ream, 2007; Weinberg et al., 1994). The time frame s/he uses may affect her/his perceived fit with the label (Savin-Williams & Ream, 2007). For example, a person introspecting about whether s/he has *ever* had certain feelings may lead to a different label match than if s/he was considering only her/his *current* feelings. An individual's current feelings may be greatly affected by her/his current relationship status, social network, and cultural framework (e.g., Diamond, 2003a). This may make orientation labeling that is based only on current experiences and feelings highly variable and susceptible to change.

Lack of a good match. If an individual is unable to select a good-fitting label after finding, defining, and elaborating on all of the labels that are available to her/him, s/he may decide to either choose the *best-fitting* label, reject labels altogether, or create a new label (Bower et al., 2002; Hillier et al., 1998; Savin-Williams, 2011). Many women indicate uncertainty regarding their sexual orientation label, not because they are uncertain of their attractions, but rather due to their inability to describe their experiences in line with any existing, culturally defined, orientation categories (Rothblum, 2000; Thompson & Morgan, 2008). Similarly, adolescent girls are more likely to create their own label than select one that researchers offer (Hillier et al., 1998).

However, an individual who is able to identify a label that is a good match with his/her experiences may choose to not apply the label. Such individuals may self-label based more on

their motivations to apply or reject specific labels (Diamond, 2003b; 2006a; Morgan & Thompson, 2011; Rust, 1997).

In the current project, I focus primarily on the matching components of the degree of same- vs. other-sex orientation dimensions (e.g., attractions, behaviors) and the effects of partner gender on matching. It has been previously noted (e.g., Dillion et al., 2011) that measuring the factors involved in the early stages of label change and orientation identity development (i.e., when finding and elaborating on new labels) can be difficult in the absence of a large scale longitudinal study, thus in the current project I focused primarily on the factors that influence labeling after the initial discovery of the label. In the following section I explore the motivational factors that affect the process of sexual orientation labeling and the adoption or rejection of labels.

The Motivation Component of the Match-and-Motivation Model

In addition to the previously mentioned process of finding orientation labels, defining them, elaborating on them, and assessing the degree of match between the labels and experiences (Figure 1), the Match-and-Motivation model suggests that individuals also tend to assess the consequences of label adoption and may have specific goals in mind when applying a label. Various factors can lead to the rejection or adoption of a label (e.g., Brewster & Moradi, 2010; Brown, 2002). Here, I use Ford and Nichols' (1987; see also Austin & Vancouver, 1996) taxonomy of human goals (i.e., motives) as a framework for exploring the factors that may affect sexual orientation labeling. In their model, they distinguish between goals that are specific to the individual, which are referred to as *within person* goals and goals that are resulting from the individual's interactions with the social world, which are known as *person-environment* goals. People are motivated to act in ways that lead to the attainment of these goals.

Within person goals. Within person goals exist primarily at the individual level and include affective, cognitive, and subjective organization motives.

Affective. In general, people are motivated to maintain positive affect and avoid negative affect (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987). Thus, individuals will engage in activities that increase the likelihood of experiencing these emotional states. Affective goals may be related to the desire for optimal arousal, tranquility, happiness, bodily sensations, and physical well-being. Individuals will be motivated to choose a label that they believe will provide them with the greatest amount of positive affect compared to negative. Some factors that may influence the individual's affective state include: affective associations with labels (i.e., how you feel about the label/group) and associations with the experiences afforded by the labels (i.e., how you feel about what the label allows you to do).

Affective associations with the labels. The societal stigmatization of nonheterosexual individuals may lead same-sex oriented individuals to internalize heterosexist beliefs and nonheterosexual prejudice (Herek, 2007; Sophie, 1987; Szymanski, Kashubeck-West, & Meyer, 2008). Heterosexism is the societal belief that a sexual orientation only toward other-sex partners (with the exclusion of transgender individuals) is the natural, moral, and correct way of being sexual (Herek, 1990; 2004; Mohr, 2002). Nonheterosexuality, on the other hand, is portrayed in such a society as unnatural, immoral, and something that needs to be explained (Herek, 2007; Mohr, 2002). The internalization of these beliefs can be mild (e.g., self-doubt) or extreme (e.g., self-hatred; Gonsiorek & Rudolph, 1991). This internalization of negative feelings toward nonheterosexuality may lead individuals with same-sex attractions to reject, deny, or explain away their experiences as not being characteristic of their orientation and, as a result, not label in line with such experiences (Cass, 1990; Szymanski et al., 2008).

Conversely, if individuals have positive associations with certain orientation labels, they may be motivated to self-label in line with such labels. For example, some individuals may feel a sense of pride associated with labeling in-line with a specific collective identity (e.g., gay or lesbian; Cass, 1979; Phinney & Ong, 2007). Feelings of pride toward one's group are associated with increased levels of daily happiness (Kiang, Yip, Gonzales, Witkow, & Fuligni, 2006). These feelings of pride can also help in combating prior negative feelings, such as internalized heterosexism, that may have been previously associated with the group or label (Cass, 1979).

Affective responses to experiences afforded by the label. Individuals may also be motivated to label in a way that optimizes their likelihood of experiencing general positive affect or positive bodily sensations (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987). For example, self-disclosing one's feelings has many positive effects on an individual's well-being. This increase in well-being can potentially act as a motivation to self-disclose to others by labeling in line with one's orientation (see Smyth, 1998 for a review). Additionally, if an individual desires same-sex sexual contact, they may be motivated to self-label in a way that expresses such a desire to others to increase the likelihood of engaging in such an activity. Thus, individuals should be motivated to adopt labels that increase their positive affect and reject labels that increase their negative affect.

Cognitive. Individuals may be motivated to apply or reject labels based on a variety of cognitive goals including: exploration, understanding, intellectual creativity and positive self-evaluations (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987).

Exploration. Individuals are typically motivated to engage in self-exploration by examining their thoughts and feelings (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987). Therefore, individuals may be motivated to adopt a label that enables them to explore their

sexuality. Many individuals change their orientation labels during the exploration process (Cass, 1979). In fact, there is a label that is specifically used by some when individuals are engaged in active exploration of sexual preferences (i.e., questioning; Morgan & Thompson, 2006; Williams, Connolly, Pepler, & Craig, 2003).

Understanding. Individuals are generally motivated to make sense out of their experiences and avoid feelings of confusion (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987). Therefore, individuals may be motivated to label in ways that help them make sense out of their experiences (Morgan & Thompson, 2006). For example, one may change her/his label following a sexual experience or attraction to a new partner-type to gain an understanding of the experience and assign meaning to it (Pillemer, 1992). By assigning a new label to reflect the experience, the individual is likely to feel less confusion or inconsistency following the new experience (Morgan & Thompson, 2006; Savin-Williams, 1995).

Intellectual creativity. Individuals are generally motivated to engage in activities involving novel thinking or interesting ideas (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987). Some individuals may be motivated to label as a means of challenging their familiar ways of thinking (Berenson, 2002). Specifically, individuals may question the social constructions of gender and sexuality and label in ways that call these constructs into question (e.g., pansexual – oriented toward persons of all gender identities and biological sexes; pomosexual – post-modern sexuality; or unlabeled; Bower et al., 2002; Savin-Williams, 2011). In addition, individuals may be motivated to adopt a specific label as a way of expanding their limits, by choosing labels that open them up to the possibility of having new experiences/attractions (Berenson, 2002).

Positive self-evaluations. Often, individuals are motivated to perceive themselves in a positive light, in that they want to be confident of themselves and have a sense of self-worth

(Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987). Individuals may be motivated to label in ways that maintain or strengthen their self-image. For example, individuals who are aware of stereotypes associated with their best fitting label may intentionally reject the label as means of maintaining a positive self-image (Moradi, van den Berg, & Epting, 2006).

Other authors have argued (e.g., Swann & Bosson, 2010) that this self-evaluation motivation is more general than just positive self-evaluations, in that, individuals are motivated to gain confirmation of their self-image, despite the valence of such an evaluation. So, if an individual has a negative view of the self they may be motivated to label in ways that confirm their negative view (Swann & Bosson, 2010).

Subjective organization. The final within person motivation involves the desire to experience subjective organization of the self through the experience of psychological unity. Individuals experience psychological unity through a sense of continuity or congruence between the various aspects of the self (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987). Thus, if individuals feel as though there are aspects of themselves that are in conflict with their best-fitting orientation labels, they may be motivated to reject those labels to achieve unity (Brook, Garcia, & Fleming, 2008). For example, identification as a feminist may be inconsistent with a bisexual label, such that a bisexual feminist woman may feel as though her attraction to men may be due to her acculturation and that expressing such desires may be a sign of “giving in” to social pressures (Weinberg et al., 1994). Thus, some feminist ideologies may be in conflict with, and lead to the rejection of, attractions to men as well as in-between orientation labels (Golden, 1994).

Religious or other identities often provide a source of conflict with nonheterosexual labels (Davidson, Darling, & Norton, 1995; Robinson & Calhoun, 1982; Tozer & Hayes, 2004).

Endorsement of heterosexist beliefs and internalized heterosexism positively correlates with religiosity (e.g., Herek & Capitano, 1996; Johnson, Brems, & Alford-Keating, 1997; Worthington, Dillon, & Becker-Schutte, 2005). In line with this association, religiosity is also related to decreased self-labeling as nonheterosexual (Remafedi et al., 1992).

As previously mentioned, nonheterosexuality is often perceived to be associated with gender atypicality (e.g., Frankel, 2004). As such, a man who identifies as masculine may see a nonheterosexual label as being inconsistent with his gender identity and thus reject the label to maintain consistency (Dillon et al., 2011; Mahalik et al., 2003; Parent & Moradi, 2009).

Individuals may also maintain a previously used label as a way of avoiding the discomfort associated with dis-unity. The degree to which an individual has already committed to an ill-fitting label will affect his/her motivation to use that label (Dillon et al., 2011; Worthington et al., 2005). Even if an individual recognizes that another label better describes her/his orientation s/he may lack the motivation to socially acknowledge the new better fitting label over a label that s/he has already committed to and hence maintain the existing one (Dillon et al., 2011). People prefer to be or appear consistent in their attitudes and behavior; this desire to be consistent is likely to motivate individuals to maintain a previously used label rather than changing it (Festinger, 1957).

Person-environment. In addition to the previously mentioned within person motives, individuals may also be motivated to apply or reject labels due to social factors. Such social factors may include the desire to be self-assertive, to be integrated, or maintain safety in the environment (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987).

Self-assertive social relationship. Individuals may be motivated to remain distinct from specific social groups. To achieve this, individuals may emphasize individuality, self-

determination, superiority, or resource acquisition (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987).

Individuality. Individuals' desires to feel unique, special, or different may motivate them to reject or adopt certain labels (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987). One example of this is the potential motivation to maintain or adopt a non-fitting heterosexual label in order to avoid the nonheterosexual *master status* (Garnets & Kimmel, 2003). Sexual orientation often serves as a master status, whereby the labeling of oneself as a sexual orientation minority group member is perceived, especially by others, as the most important aspect of that individual's identity (Garnets & Kimmel, 2003). Thus, sexual orientation minority members may become defined and characterized solely by their sexual orientation. Other aspects of their identities, which may be more self-relevant, are often ignored by others. To avoid that and maintain individuality, people may decide to keep or adopt a non-fitting heterosexual label.

Conversely, individuals may be motivated to adopt a nonheterosexual label to be unique or distinct from mainstream/heterosexual society. In addition, individuals may create their own labels or reject labels altogether as a way of expressing their unique sexuality and creating a distinct identity (Hillier et al., 1998; Savin-Williams, 2011).

Self-determination. People are motivated to feel as though they are free to make their own choices and as such avoid constraints (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987). Some individuals choose to not apply labels to their sexual orientation because they find labels too restrictive in their prescriptions regarding feelings and behaviors (Sophie, 1985). Other individuals feel as though labels do not allow them the freedom to choose to have relationships with any partner they want (Sophie, 1985). The desire to be unrestricted by labels may lead an

individual to select a more flexible label or reject labels altogether, regardless of their orientation or the presence of a better-fitting label (Brooks & Quina, 2009; Diamond, 2005).

Superiority and resource acquisition. Another goal individuals may have involves the desire to compare favorably to other individuals in terms of status and success and avoid unfavorable comparisons (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987). In addition, individuals seek to receive support, advice, assistance, and validation from others and avoid social disapproval and rejection (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987). Therefore, an individual may decide to maintain or adopt an ill-fitting label based on the perceived rewards or status associated with the label. Different sexual orientation labels may be associated with higher social statuses and validation than others. For example, a heterosexual label is typically seen as a higher status and associated with more privilege than nonheterosexual labels (Worthington et al., 2002). Individuals who maintain heterosexual labels, despite engaging in sexual activity with same-sex partners, may do so to retain the privilege and rewards afforded by the label (Dillon et al., 2011; Vrangalova & Savin-Williams, 2009). In addition, heterosexist attitudes in a society lead to the justification of the stigmatization and discrimination of nonheterosexual individuals (Herek, 2007). People may be motivated to reject a nonheterosexual label to avoid this social rejection and disapproval.

Bisexual and other in-between individuals experience interpersonal hostility and intolerance as a result of their sexual orientation (Brewster & Moradi, 2010; Mohr & Rochlen, 1999). Such negative affect has been coined *biphobia*, which refers to prejudicial associations with bisexuality in general, as well as hostility toward bisexual individuals (Bennett, 1992; Eadie, 1997). Herek (2002) examined participants' negative affect for a number of minority groups including religious, ethnic, sexual, and social minority groups, finding that people

disliked bisexuals more than every other group, except injecting illegal drug users. Bisexuals are also considered “less acceptable” than gays and lesbians (Eliason, 1997).

Since bisexuality is associated with a lower social status, individuals with in-between orientations may be especially likely to reject a fitting orientation label, due to the social stigma associated with it. Bisexual oriented individuals report being less open about their orientation and experience more sexual orientation conflict (Weinberg et al., 1994). In addition, openly self-labeling as bisexual, was also found to be associated with more feelings of conflict about the label (Lewis, Derlega, Brown, Rose, & Henson, 2009). Thus, self-labeling as bisexual is socially costly, which may lead individuals to reject a bisexual or other in-between labels to avoid these costs (Diamond, 2003b).

Integrative social relationship. In addition to the above mentioned motivation to be self-assertive within the social groups, individuals are also motivated to integrate with their social groups. Individuals are motivated to feel as though they belong to their social group, to be socially responsible, to strive for equity, and to provide resources to others (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987).

Belongingness. Individuals are motivated to feel as though they belong, to achieve this they strive to build and maintain attachments, friendship, intimacy, and a sense of community, while avoiding social isolation and separateness (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987). Individuals may adopt or reject labels based on how the label is expected to affect one’s belongingness. Individuals may reject a label if they do not feel as though there is a community associated with the label or if they feel as though the label will distance them from their existing groups. Conversely, individuals may adopt a label to become a member of a desired group.

People may also be motivated to self-label in line with their orientation in order to increase the intimacy in their social interactions through self-disclosure.

An individual's immediate social group may also affect their motivations to label in a specific way. Increased social contact with members of one sexual orientation group (e.g., gay and lesbian or heterosexual) should increase the likelihood of adopting the label of that group, based on social pressure, the desire to belong, or conform (Savin-Williams & Ream, 2007).

Individuals who experience attractions to same- and other-sex partners may feel pressure to self-label in line with either the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) or the mainstream/heterosexual community (Ochs & Rowley, 2005). The more connected an in-between individual is to either of these communities, the more pressure s/he is likely to feel to label in-line with that community (Savin-Williams & Ream, 2007). Thus, in-between individuals may adopt a gay/lesbian label in order to be accepted in sexual orientation minority communities (Brown, 2002; Weinberg et al., 1994) or adopt a heterosexual label to fit into mainstream society (Morgan & Thompson, 2011).

Labels that are more in line with a community do seem to affect closeness. For instance, self-labeled lesbian women often have stronger sense of social connectedness to the LGBTQ community, whereas self-labeled bisexual or unlabeled women do not (Brooks & Quina, 2009; Rosario, Schrimshaw, Hunter, & Braun, 2006). In general, if an individual's social network is not supportive of the best-fitting label/orientation group; the individual is likely to reject the label and adopt a label that is reflective of the collective identity, in order to maintain closeness to others (Brown, 2002). The presence of a supportive community is associated with acceptance of one's sexual orientation and comfort with adopting a nonheterosexual self-label (Brown, 2002;

D'Augelli, 1994; Hammersmith & Weinberg, 1973; McDonald, 1982; Miranda & Storms, 1989; Schmitt & Kurdek, 1987).

Some individuals may use self-disclosure as a way of attaining community connectedness and feelings of belonging (Mohr & Fassinger, 2003). Despite the potential conflict arising from the desire to fully self-disclose and the desire to avoid negative repercussions associated with openly labeling sexual orientation, nonheterosexual individuals often perceive the benefits of self-disclosure to outweigh the costs, especially when they are disclosing to a close other (Garnets & Kimmel, 2003). Thus, individuals may be motivated to self-disclose to others regarding their orientation (and best fitting label) as a way to increase the intimacy and closeness in her/his relationships.

Similar to the motivation to self-disclose to achieve closeness, Fiske (2004) discussed one of the core social motives as being the need to create a mutual, accurate-enough understanding between the self and other(s) in order to belong. Thus, individuals may be motivated to use the label that will be most easily understood by others, while still communicating accurate-enough information regarding their orientations. For example, if someone identifies or self-labels as pansexual, they may not always use this specific label when communicating with others. Since the pansexual label is relatively invisible, they may instead use a label that is more known to the general population (e.g., bisexual; Bower et al., 2002). In this situation, the individual may be attempting to belong by creating a mutual understanding.

Social responsibility. Individuals may be motivated to use a label based on their desire to keep interpersonal commitments, meet social roles, conform to social rules, and avoid social transgressions (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987). If individuals feel as though a particular orientation label does not conform to the expectations of their social group, they may

be motivated to reject it. For example, individuals may reject a good-fitting label due to their commitment to political movement/groups (Brown, 2002). Bisexuality is sometimes perceived to be a threat to gay and lesbian political movements (Burlison, 2005; Hutchins & Ka'ahumanu, 1991; Rust, 1993). With the flexibility inherent in bisexuality, the very nature of essentialist view of sexual orientation, held by many individuals, is challenged (Eadie, 1997; Udis-Kessler, 1990). This is often in conflict with lesbian and gay movements, which tend to focus on the absence of choice and options in the expression of sexuality (Rust, 1992; Udis-Kessler, 1990). An individual who is devoted to lesbian and gay social movements may reject the adoption of a good-fitting bisexual or in-between label in support of the fight against heterosexism (Weinberg et al, 1994). Additionally, individuals sometimes reject orientation labels altogether for political reasons, such as the renunciation of categorization based on sexual preferences (Diamond, 2003b; 2006a; Rust, 1997; Savin-Williams, 2011).

Similarly, some individuals may be motivated to apply non-fitting labels for political reasons (Whisman, 1996). For example, some women self-label as lesbian, while refraining from sexual contact with women and potentially continuing sexual relationships with men (Ponse, 1978). These women are often referred to as political lesbians (Cass, 1990; Golden, 1994; Whisman, 1996). Typically, these women adopt the lesbian label for political reasons, such as advocating for consciousness-raising in support of feminist philosophies (Brown, 2002). In support of this idea, Weinberg and colleagues (1994) found changing from a bisexual to a lesbian self-label to be associated with involvement in feminist movements. Therefore some individuals are motivated to label in line with their political ideologies or social responsibilities.

Equity. The desire to promote fairness, justice, equality and avoid unjust or unfair actions may motivate an individual to apply a specific label (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford &

Nichols, 1987). For example, individuals may choose to adopt the best-fitting label as a way to increase visibility and equality for the orientation group associated with the label (Garnets & D'Augelli, 1994). Individuals with in-between or invisible orientations (e.g., bisexual) may openly self-label, despite their motivations to reject it or adopt an ill-fitting label, in an effort to increase the label's strength within political and social spheres (Bower et al., 2002; Garnets & D'Augelli, 1994). Associating with a disadvantaged collective identity is said to be an important precursor leading to collective empowerment of the group (Bernstein, 2005; Drury & Reicher, 2009).

Resource provision. Another person-environment motivation involves the desire to provide resources to others by giving approval, advice, support, or assistance to others while avoiding selfish or uncaring behavior (Austin & Vancouver, 1996; Ford & Nichols, 1987). Individuals may be motivated to self-label in ways that provide others with support or approval. For example, individuals may be motivated to use an orientation label that is specific to a current partner, rather than her/his general tendencies. When in a relationship, an individual may adopt or maintain a label to establish his/her commitment to the relationship or satisfy the partner (e.g., Diamond, 2003b). In their examination of bisexual labeling processes, Weinberg et al. (1994) found that some bisexual individuals were willing to relinquish their orientation label when in a monogamous relationship. These individuals would typically adopt a monosexual label consistent with their partner's gender. Individuals may be motivated to change their labels in such a way to provide their partner with support and assurance of their commitment to the relationship (Diamond 2003b).

Task. Finally, aspects of the actual task of labeling and the context in which the label is being solicited will motivate individuals to apply or reject specific labels. One motivation related

to the act of labeling is related to the desire to remain physically safe, secure, free from risk, and avoid threatening or harmful circumstances.

Nonheterosexual individuals are often the targets of hateful speech and violence (e.g., Eliason, 2001; Herek, 2002). Openly self-labeling as nonheterosexual may make the individual a target of such behaviors thereby threatening his/her well-being (Newcomb & Mustanski, 2010). Individuals may reject adopting a nonheterosexual label in order to avoid the potential risks associated with group membership (Moradi et al., 2006).

A final consideration when looking at the various motivations to apply or reject labels is that the motivations an individual has are likely to change from one situation to the next (Herdt, 1997; Murray, 1995; Savin-Williams, 2005). While the degree of match may be less likely to be affected by context, the relevant motivations behind labeling are often context specific (Bargh, Gollwitzer, & Oettingen, 2010). The relative strength of the motivators will also change depending on the context and solicitor of the label (Potter, 1996; Savin-Williams, 2011). For example, an individual might be much more concerned about her/his safety when applying a nonheterosexual label in a context where such expressions are met with prejudice. These highly contextual determinants of sexual orientation labeling are likely to account for a great deal of the observed inconsistencies in the labels people use and the frequently observed changes in label use (Diamond 2003b; 2008).

Relative strength of motivations. Not all goals are equal in terms of their effect on thoughts and behaviors. Certain goals tend to get higher priority and are more likely to influence behavior than others. Specifically, autonomy, competence, and social integration are more central goals than creativity, cognitive flexibility, deep processing of information, and effective coping with failure (Ryan, Sheldon, Kasser, & Deci, 1996). This is due to the intrinsic nature of

the former goals and their associations with individuals' interests or values rather than extrinsic pressures. Additionally, the achievement of intrinsic goals is associated with greater well-being compared to extrinsic goals (Deci & Ryan, 2000; Judge, Bono, Erez, & Locke, 2005). With this, not all of the aforementioned motivations will equally affect labeling; instead individuals' labels are likely to be more affected by goals that represent intrinsic rather than extrinsic pressures.

Based on the differences in the importance of the aforementioned motivations, in the current project I will focus primarily on some of the higher priority motivations. Specifically, I will focus a great deal on factors associated with interpersonal belonging (e.g., with romantic partners, friends, and family), as well as belonging and acceptance (or the lack thereof) in social groups. I am focusing on interpersonal motivations as orientation itself is an interpersonal phenomenon (i.e., as it is referring to one's orientation toward *others*).

Conscious vs. unconscious goals. It is important to note that not all motivational processes occur at the conscious level. Often, individuals are unaware of the reasons behind their behaviors and the factors influencing them (Bargh et al., 2010; Bargh & Ferguson, 2000; Higgins, 1996). Therefore, individuals may be less aware of many of the motivational factors that influence their labeling. When thinking about the reasons for their feelings and behaviors (e.g., labeling), individuals focus exclusively on the processes in which they are consciously aware (Bargh, 1997). Therefore, individuals may not be aware of all of the factors that motivate them to use the labels that they choose.

Interplay of Match and Motivation Factors

Match and motivational processes do not function entirely independent of one another. Due to the unconscious nature of many goals, there may be motivational processes at work when individuals assess the match between their labels and experiences. For example, an individual's

determination of the relevant orientation facets that define a label may be affected by their motivation to apply or reject that label. As I previously mentioned, different individuals consider different orientation facets (e.g., attractions, behaviors, emotions, identification) to be necessary and/or sufficient to apply a given label. An individual may be motivated to highlight specific facets in her/his definition to facilitate her/his match/mismatch with a desired/undesired label (Diamond, 2003b; Sandfort, 1997). Therefore, match and motivational components rather than being independent of one another are likely to influence each other.

The Current Project

The aim of the current project is to assess the utility of the Match-and-Motivation model and its ability to explain sexual orientation labeling and label change. To do this, I used a sample of women with in-between orientations (i.e., sexual and/or romantic attractions to both men and women). I chose this specific population for a few reasons: (a) sexual orientation fluidity appears to be especially common in same-sex attracted women (Diamond, 2003a; 2003b; 2008), (b) women's sexualities have been suggested to be more strongly affected by social environments (Diamond, 2003a; Peplau et al., 1999), and (c) in-between orientations allow for the most variability in labeling, based on the fact that monosexual orientations have more socially agreed upon labels (Thompson & Morgan, 2008; Weinberg et al., 1994). Therefore, this population was assumed to display the greatest variability in orientation labeling and to be the most likely to experience labeling changes, which was expected to provide more insight into the labeling process.

I applied both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to examine my research questions and hypotheses relevant to the Match-and-Motivation model. Specifically, I asked women quantitative questions exploring their general relationship experiences and experiences

during relationships with different partner types (e.g., male and female partners). In addition, I asked participants several open-ended questions related to their current and previously used orientation labels, their reasoning behind the label use, and their explanation for changing their labels (if applicable). I had three primary questions in this project (a) how well do the Match-and-Motivation factors predict the labels that women use, (b) how do Match-and-Motivational factors differ during different relationship types (i.e., same- vs. other-sex), and (c) are Match-and-Motivation factors represented in women's explanations for the labels they use and their reasons for changing labels.

Match and Motivation Factors Predicting Label Use- Quantitative

One primary aim of the quantitative items was to predict label use in women with in-between orientations. Women answered several items that examined their feelings and behaviors at various time periods. In addition, women provided information about their general experiences in relationships. Women were asked to report about their experiences during different time periods including: (a) during a relationship with a male partner, (b) during a relationship with a female partner, and (c) current day.

I created hypotheses based on the Match-and-Motivation model and specifically focused on the use of one group of labels and three specific labels. Some of the hypotheses examine participants' use or non-use of nonheterosexual labels (i.e., bisexual, lesbian, unlabeled, queer, or pansexual). Other hypotheses focus on the use of specific labels: (a) bisexual, (b) lesbian, and (c) straight/heterosexual. I used the Match-and-Motivation factors to predict the use of these labels.

Match factors. Several hypotheses addressed the relationships between matching factors and labeling.

H1: Knowing LGBTQ. The more people within the individual's social network who use an LGBTQ label, the more likely the participant will be to use a nonheterosexual label.

H2: Attractions: Distance from center. Sexual orientation facets were expected to predict label use, such that: (a) the closer an individual is to the same-sex only anchor of the continuum, the more likely they will be to use the lesbian label; (b) the closer an individual is to the other-sex only anchor of the continuum, the more likely they will be to use the heterosexual label; and (c) the closer an individual is to the center of the continuum (i.e., equal attractions to same- and other-sex), the more likely they will be to use the bisexual label.

H3: Current partner gender. An individual's current partner's gender was expected to affect labeling such that if she is currently involved in a relationship with one partner she will be more likely to self-label in line with that partner's gender. Specifically, women who are in relationships with men should be more likely to label as heterosexual and women who are in relationships with women should be more likely to label as lesbian.

H4: Lack of opportunity or experience. The lack of experience with a specific partner type was expected to affect labeling such that participants who did not have relationship experience (i.e., more than just sex or dating) with a man would be less likely to label as heterosexual and women who did not have relationship experience with a woman would be less likely to label as lesbian. Similarly, individuals who did not have relationship experience with both men and women were expected to use the bisexual label less frequently.

H5: Time frame. Participants' reports of their orientation were expected to change depending on the time frame that they were asked to report on. I expected that if participants were asked to report about their orientation across their general lifetime their reports would be reflective of their initial stage of compulsory heterosexuality, in that participants would report

more other-sex attractions, compared to their reports when asked to focus only on their current orientation. I anticipated that most of the participants would no longer be in the compulsory heterosexuality phase and thus be more likely to have already explored their same-sex attractions.

Motivational factors. Several hypotheses examined the role of motivational factors in label use.

H6: Subjective organization. Individuals who indicated that they were members of groups that were not open to LGBTQ people/issues were expected to self-label as nonheterosexual less often and as heterosexual more often than people who were not involved with non-open groups.

H7: Superiority and resource acquisition. Individuals were expected to reject labels that would lead to feelings of inferiority. Thus, individuals who experienced more orientation-related prejudice were expected to disassociate from labels related to the prejudice. The source of the prejudice was expected to affect labeling such that orientation-related prejudice from mainstream/heterosexual society should lead to the rejection of nonheterosexual labels in general and prejudice from the LGBTQ community should lead to the rejection of the bisexual label specifically.

H8: Belongingness. Individuals are motivated to label in ways that lead to feelings of inclusion within their social groups. Therefore, I expected closeness to the mainstream/heterosexual community to be related to increased labeling in line with that community (i.e., straight/heterosexual) and decreased labeling as nonheterosexual. Conversely, I expected that increased closeness to the LGBTQ community would be associated with increased labeling in line with the community (i.e., nonheterosexual) and decreased labeling as

straight/heterosexual. Closeness to either the mainstream/heterosexual or LGBTQ community should decrease labeling as bisexual, since bisexual individuals are not typically considered to be true members of either community (Weinberg, 1994).

Label Use and Change

H9: Number of labels. Since in-between labeling is often more difficult than the labeling of monosexual orientations—due to the lack of consensus regarding the use of in-between labels and the increasing number of available in-between labels—participants were expected to find multiple labels useful in explaining their orientation.

H10: Frequency of changes in labeling. All participants were expected to have changed their label at least once (i.e., initial coming-out). In addition, based on previous work with nonheterosexual female populations (e.g., Diamond 2003b; 2008), most participants were expected to report at least one post-coming-out label change.

Changes in Match and Motivation Facets across Time periods

Match and motivation factors were expected to display changes across relationship time periods (during a relationship with a male partner compared to during a relationship with a female partner).

H11: Match-sexual orientation. Sexual orientation facets were expected to change toward the direction of the partner's gender. Specifically, individuals were expected to express more same-sex (relative to other-sex) orientation when in a relationship with a woman compared to when they were with a man.

H12: Motivation-closeness/belonging. Due to assumptions based on partner gender, individuals were expected to feel closer to the LGBTQ community when in a relationship with a

woman and less close to the mainstream/heterosexual community compared to when they were in a relationship with a man.

H13: Motivation- anti-bisexual experiences. Women were expected to experience more anti-bisexual sentiments from the heterosexual community during a relationship with a woman compared to when they are in a relationship with a man. Similarly, women were expected to experience more anti-bisexual prejudice from the LGBTQ community when in a relationship with a man, compared to when they are with a woman.

Social network analyses

H14: Motivation- closeness/belonging based on group membership. Individuals were expected to feel closer to their LGBTQ social network members (SNMs) when in relationships with women, compared to their closeness to non-LGBTQ individuals. Similarly, participants were expected to feel closer to non-LGBTQ community members when in relationships with men, compared to LGBTQ SNMs.

H15: Motivation- closeness via self-disclosure. The relationship examined in hypothesis 14 was expected to be mediated by self-disclosure of one's orientation, or the degree to which an individual is "out" to the SNM. Specifically, participants were expected to be more out to members of the LGBTQ community, compared to non-LGBTQ SNM. This will lead them to feel closer to LGBTQ SNMs when in a relationship with a female partner as they will be more able to self-disclose regarding their relationship.

Qualitative

H16. Are Match-and-Motivation factors represented in women's descriptions of their label use and change?

Method

Participants

Participation was solicited through a call for participants, which was posted on: facebook, LGBTQ yahoo group listservs, and fliers at the University of Kansas. The call for participants informed individuals of the participation criteria. In addition, potential participants were informed through the call that they would receive a \$10 amazon.com gift card following successful completion of the survey, which would take approximately 60-90 minutes to complete.

Qualification questions. Prior to inclusion in the study, participants were asked questions, representing four criteria, to determine their participation eligibility. The criteria were: (a) identify as female, (b) be 18 years old or older, (c) have enduring (i.e., continuing/long-lasting) romantic and/or sexual attractions to men, and (d) have enduring (i.e., continuing/long-lasting) romantic and/or sexual attractions to women. Individuals who did not qualify were informed that they did not meet the qualifications, directed to the end of the survey, and did not receive monetary compensation.

Seventy seven participants were recruited through a variety of convenience sampling methods. Twenty three participants were excluded from the final sample for a variety of reasons including: (a) having more than 25% missing data ($n = 11$); (b) providing responses that did not reflect comprehension of the question (e.g., responding with numerical values instead of words) and/or poor understanding of English (e.g., one person's response to the self-labeling question: "The homosexuality can tell other people" $n = 11$); and (d) taking less than 20 minutes to complete the 60-90 minute questionnaire ($n = 8$). After excluding these participants, the final

sample included fifty four participants aged 18-61 ($Mdn = 25$; see Table A for demographic information).

Measures

Sexual orientation labels. The labels individuals used to describe their sexual orientation were assessed in a couple of ways: self-generated and research generated (see more below). The descriptive statistics and crosstabs for these measures are provided in Table B.

Self-labels. First, individuals were given the following instructions and asked to respond in an open-ended free response format: “How do you currently label your sexual identity to yourself, even if it's different from what you might tell other people, if you don't apply a label, please say so. Please type your response in the box below.” Similar instructions have been used in previous research (e.g., Diamond, 2003b). Only sexual orientation relevant responses were used in the analyses, however, some individuals responded to this item with information regarding non-orientation related identities (e.g., female, spanko). Participants orientation-related responses generally fit into six categories: bisexual, lesbian/gay (these two responses were combined into one category), queer, unlabeled, heterosexual/straight (these two responses were combined into one category), and pansexual. The frequencies of these labels can be found in Table B. Some individuals provided more than one label in response to this question or indicated that the term they use changes depending on the context. We coded these participants' primary labels based on the elaboration they provided in this open-ended response. For these individuals, either the first label used, the label they indicated that they used most often, or the label that they indicated as the best fitting was used for the self-label variable. Two individuals did not provide a text response, however, these individuals checked only one of the researcher generated checkboxes (see section below) which were used to replace the missing value. One other person

did not provide an orientation relevant text response (i.e., female) and also checked multiple researcher generated checkboxes, so her orientation label could not be inferred and was retained as a missing value.

Participants responded to this question at the beginning of the study and their text response was piped into three subsequent questions. These questions examined whether the participant used the same label during specific time periods, these items will be discussed in more detail later.

Researcher generated labels. A second measure of sexual orientation labels was gathered using a list of researcher-generated sexual orientation labels. Participants were asked to select (by clicking on a checkbox) the words that they use to describe their sexual identities. The following labels were included in the list: heterosexual, straight, bisexual, lesbian, unidentified/unlabeled, queer, pansexual, nonheterosexual, questioning, asexual, and pomosexual, participants could select as many (or none) of the labels to describe themselves. In addition, there was an “other” checkbox available for participants to select and a text box for them to indicate additional unlisted labels they use to describe their sexual identity. Seven individuals indicated an “other” label and provided the following labels: non-monogamous; polyamorous; fluid, genderqueer; transgender; femme; gay; and sovereign. Since there were no common orientation related groups written into this other category, these data were not used in further analyses (see Table C for descriptive statistics and correlations).

Social network members (SNM). Multiple questions were used to assess the individuals within one’s social network (i.e., social network members). First, participants were asked to indicate the number of close friends they currently have. If participants reported having more than five close friends, they were asked to report additional information about only their five

closest friends. If participants indicated five or less friends, they were asked to provide additional information (see below) about each of their close friends. Participants also indicated the number moms/stepmoms, dads/stepdads, sisters, and brothers that they have, and provided additional information about each of these individuals. Next, participants were asked to indicate if they had any LGBTQ (Lesbian/Gay/Transgender/Queer/Questioning) family members, participants were asked to provide additional information (see below) about these individuals if they were not already included in another category (e.g., mom). In addition, participants indicated what type of family member the individual was (e.g., aunt or cousin). The participants were then asked to indicate if there was anyone else close to them that they had not yet provided initials for (e.g., coworker, child, etc.). If they responded “yes,” they were asked to provide additional information for up to five people including the individual’s relationship to them (open-ended). Finally, participants were asked to indicate who their closest friends were during a relationship with a female partner and a relationship with a male partner. Participants responses from the initial close friend question were piped in as response options or the participant could indicate that the initials “were not listed” participants provided additional information for the individuals who were not listed.

Additional information collected about each SNM. Participants were asked to provide initials or a nickname for each SNM, which they would be presented with later (and as such should be able to identify). Participants were also asked how much contact they have with each of their SNMs on a 3-point scale ranging from 1 (*no contact*) to 3 (*a lot of contact*), their gender (1 = *female*, 2 = *male*, 3 = *something else*), and their sexual orientation (1 = *straight/heterosexual*, 2 = *gay/lesbian*, 3 = *bisexual*, 4 = *unknown*, 5 = *something else*). The sexual orientation variable was initially coded differently for LGBTQ family members (1 = *gay/lesbian*, 2 = *bisexual*, 3 =

transgender, 4 = *queer*, 5 = *questioning*, 6 = *something else*), and later was recoded to reflect the aforementioned five categories.

Groups. In addition to providing information about the specific individuals within one's network, participants also reported their membership within several types of groups. Specifically, individuals were asked to indicate whether they were members of any LGBTQ, religious, or other groups (participants were also asked to indicate in an open-ended response what type of group the "other" group was). Participants were asked to provide additional information about up to four LGBTQ groups, up to four religious groups, and up to seven other groups. Participants were asked to provide initials for each group and to indicate their level of involvement in the group on a three point scale ranging from 1 (*not involved*) to 3 (*very involved*). In addition, participants were asked to indicate how open the religious and other groups were to LGBTQ people and issues on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 (*not at all open*) to 5 (*very open*).

Relationship experience questions. Participants were asked several questions regarding their current and past relationship experience. Of primary interest, participants were asked to indicate if they ever had a romantic or sexual relationship with a female partner (1 = *yes*, 2 = *yes-transgender woman only*, 3 = *no*) and a male partner (1 = *yes*, 2 = *yes-transgender man only*, 3 = *no*). If participants answered "yes" or "yes-transgender only" to either of these items, then they were asked to provide additional information about each of these partner types. Specifically, participants were asked to provide initials for their most significant or important partner of each type. Then participants provided additional information about their most significant male and female partners. Participants were asked to indicate the gender identity of each partner (1 = *fe/male*, 2 = *transgender fe/male*, 3 = *something else [specify]*), their sexual orientation (1 = *lesbian/gay*, 2 = *bisexual*, 3 = *straight/heterosexual*, 4 = *asexual*, 5 = *something else [specify]*),

whether each individual was a current or a previous partner (1 = *current* and 2 = *previous*), the highest level of commitment in the relationship (1 = *single*, 2 = *dating*, 3 = *purely sexual [non-exclusive, not dating]*, 4 = *exclusive committed relationship*, 5 = *non-exclusive committed relationship*, 6 = *engaged*, 7 = *married/marriage-like union*, 8 = *other [explain]*), the level of satisfaction during the relationship on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 (*very dissatisfied*) to 5 (*very satisfied*), the level of commitment to the partner during the relationship on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 (*not at all committed*) to 5 (*extremely committed*), the level of investment in the relationship on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 (*not at all invested*) to 5 (*extremely invested*), the length of the relationship (in months and years, recoded to represent total number of months), and length of time since the end of the relationship (in months and years, recoded to represent total number of months). All items were worded to appropriately reflect whether the partner was a current or previous partner (i.e., present or past tense) and items were only displayed if they applied to the individual.

Time period blocks. Participants were asked the same block of questions either two or three times, depending on their responses to the relationship experience questions. The instructions for each question were altered slightly to reflect the time period that the participant was supposed to think about. These questions were presented in blocks such that participants were reporting about their experiences during a specific time period all at once. The specific time periods that were examined were: during the relationship with the previously reported most important male partner (Block 1), during the relationship with the previously reported most important female partner (Block 2), and their current experiences (Block 5). Participants who had never experienced a specific relationship type (i.e., with a female and/or male partner) were asked to report about how they think they would feel if they were in a relationship with that

partner type (i.e., hypothetical female [Block 3] and/or hypothetical male partner [Block 4]). Additionally, if participants reported that one of their most important relationship partners was a current relationship partner (e.g., current male partner), their responses for the current block were considered to reflect their experiences during that relationship, thus they were not asked to report about the current relationship in a separate block (e.g., did not complete the male partner relationship- Block 1). The following subsections describe the measures that were included in each of the time period blocks.

Dimensions of sexual orientation. Various dimensions of sexual orientation were assessed using the Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG; Klein, Sepekoff, & Wolf, 1985). The six dimensions of the KSOG were assessed at as many as three different time periods for each participant. For the current time period (Block 5) the participants were asked to report about their current experiences as well as their general past. All other blocks instructed participants to think about their experiences during a specific time period. At each time period the dimensions and scaling of the KSOG remained constant, only the instructions were slightly altered across time periods. For example, for the current/past KSOG scale participants were given the following instructions:

The next group of questions asks about your past experiences and your present experiences in six related, but different areas where sexual orientation is expressed or considered. Use the slider to mark the place on each scale that best represents your past and your present thoughts and feelings.

The dimensions of sexual orientation that were examined included: attraction, behavior, fantasy, emotional preference, social preference, and identification. For the first five of these dimensions, participants indicated the degree to which each of their feelings were directed

toward other- and same-sex individuals on a continuous sliding scale ranging from -50 (*other-sex only*) to +50 (*same-sex only*), with zero representing equal attractions to both. Responses were automatically rounded to the nearest whole number. For the identification dimension participants indicated the degree to which they self-identified as *straight only* (-50) to *lesbian only* (+50), with zero representing equally lesbian and straight.

In addition, I created a composite score for each of the time periods by averaging the values from the six KSOG dimensions. Descriptive statistics, correlations, and scale reliabilities for the KSOG measures across time periods are provided in Tables D-H.

Community (gay and lesbian) connectedness (CC). Connectedness to the LGBTQ community was measured using Frost and Meyer's (2012) Connectedness to the LGBTQ Community Scale, which was compiled using items from Herek and Glunt (1995) and from the Urban Men's Health Study (Barrett & Pollack, 2005; Stall et al., 2001; see Table I for descriptive statistics and reliabilities). Three subscales can be examined through the scale including (a) closeness (e.g., "I feel a bond with the LGBTQ community;" 3 items), (b) positivity (e.g., "Participating in the LGBTQ community is a positive thing for me;" 2 items), and (c) problem-focused (e.g., "It is important for me to be politically active in the LGBTQ community;" 3 items). All items were responded to on a 7-point Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (*disagree strongly*) to 7 (*agree strongly*). Additionally, the scale may be computed as a total score by computing the average of all items.

Other Group (Heterosexual) Connectedness (OGC). The *other group orientation* subscale (5 items; see Table I for descriptive statistics and reliabilities) of Phinney's (1992) Multi-group Identity Measure was used to examine participants' closeness to members of the mainstream/ heterosexual community. Items were reworded to reflect closeness to individuals

who *were not* part of the LGBTQ community (e.g., “I enjoy being around people who are not members of the LGBTQ community.” for a similar use of this scale see Fingerhut et al., 2005) Participants indicated the degree to which they agreed with each item on a 7-point scale ranging from 1 (*strongly disagree*) to 7 (*strongly disagree*).

Anti-bisexual experiences. The Anti-Bisexual Experiences Scale (ABES; Brewster & Moradi, 2010) was used to assess participants’ experiences of sexual orientation related prejudice. The ABES examines the extent to which individuals experience prejudice from both the gay and lesbian community as well as the mainstream/heterosexual society. The scale contains 17 unique items addressing three types of prejudice that may be experienced by bisexual people including: orientation instability (8 items; e.g., “People have acted as if my bisexuality is only a sexual curiosity, not a stable orientation”; see Table I for descriptive statistics and reliabilities), sexual irresponsibility (4 items; e.g., “People have stereotyped me as having many sexual partners without emotional commitments”), and interpersonal hostility (5 items; e.g., “Others have treated me negatively because I am bisexual”). Participants responded to each item twice, once regarding the extent to which they had the experience with heterosexual people and again regarding the extent to which they had the experience with lesbian or gay people, resulting in a total of 34 items. Participants indicated the frequency with which they had each experience on a 6-point scale ranging from 1 (*never*) to 6 (*almost all of the time*).

Social network variables across time periods. Participants were also asked a number of questions about their relationships with their SNMs during each time period. Each of these variables was assessed by piping the initials provided by the participant for each of the SNMs into the question. Participants were asked to respond to the question for each of the SNMs listed (see below for an example). The total number of items for each of the following measures was

equal to the number of individuals and groups indicated in the participant's social network assessment.

Closeness. Participants were asked to report their level of closeness to each of their social network members during the different time periods. For example, in Block 5 (current) participants received the following instructions: "Currently, how close are you to each of the following people? Try to respond to all of the items, please indicate that the question does not apply to you by clicking n/a." There was a single item for each SNM with the person/group type followed by the initials provided by the participant (which were bolded and underlined), for example "your sister **KAI**." Closeness was measured on a 7-point Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (*very distant*) to 7 (*very close*)¹.

Outness. A modified version of the Outness Inventory (OI; Mohr & Fassinger, 2000) was used to assess the degree to which the participant was "out" to each of their SNMs on a 7-point Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (*this person definitely did NOT know about my non-heterosexual orientation*) to 7 (*This person definitely knew about my non-heterosexual orientation, and it was talked about OPENLY*). For example, in Block 5 (current time period) participants received the following instructions: "Currently, how open are you about your non-heterosexual orientation to the people listed below. Try to respond to all of the items, please indicate that the question does not apply to you by clicking n/a." The original OI asks about typical family members in general (e.g., sisters), instead of using these general items participants were asked to report about every individual in their social network separately.

Awareness. Participants were asked to indicate the extent to which each SNM was aware of each relationship partner (female, male, and current-if not the partner was not listed in one of the two previous categories) on a 5-point Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (*This person definitely*

does NOT know about my relationship partner[s]) to 5 (*This person definitely knows about my relationship partner[s]*). For example, in Block 5 (current time period) participants received the following instructions “Please indicate whether or not each individual in your social network is aware of your current relationship partner(s). Try to respond to all of the items, please indicate that the question does not apply to you by clicking n/a.”

Open-ended items. Several open-ended questions were used to gain additional information regarding the participants’ sexual orientation labeling and their reasons behind label use. Open-ended items mirrored items previously used in studies examining the match-and-motivation processes involved in labeling (Peterson & Muehlenhard, 2007, 2011). Participants were asked during each relationship time period block (relationships with a male and female partner or hypothetical relationships with such partners) about the label they used during the relationship. If participants were currently involved with the male or female partner, they were not asked this question. Participants reporting about a past relationship partner were asked:

Previously in this survey, you said that you currently label your sexual identity as <their text response for their sexual orientation label was piped in here>. During your relationship with your fe/male partner, <fe/male partner initials inserted here>, did you use this same term? If the label has changed, please tell us about that. Explain the sexual orientation label you used during this relationship and your reasons for applying this different label.

Participants who were reporting about a hypothetical partner reported on the label that they think they would use.

Later in the survey participants were asked additional questions regarding their labeling. Specifically participants were asked (a) “When is someone bisexual? What are the characteristics

of someone who is bisexual? How would someone know if they are bisexual?” (b) “From your perspective, what would need to be different about yourself (or your experiences) to change your sexual orientation label (e.g., to heterosexual or lesbian)? Do you think there is a possibility that one day you will label your sexual orientation differently? Please explain.” (c) “Do you ever use a label other than < their text response for their sexual orientation label was piped in here> when talking about your sexual orientation with others? If yes, please explain. If no, would there be a situation in which you might define/label/explain your sexual orientation differently?”(d) “If someone consistently labeled your sexual orientation differently from how you self-identify, how would you feel? If you have experienced this, please tell us about that as well.” (e) “Have you ever changed the label that you use to identify/describe your sexual orientation (e.g., bisexual, straight)? If yes, how many times have you changed this label? What were your reasons for changing this label?”

Of the 53 (1 discontinued responding prior to this question) participants who responded to the checkbox item, 34 (64%) checked the bisexual box. The remaining 19 (36%) who did not check the bisexual box were asked additional questions regarding their reasons for not using the label. Specifically, these participants were asked (a) “From your perspective, what would need to be different about yourself or your experiences in order for you to label yourself as bisexual?” (b) “How would your feelings about yourself be different if you did label yourself bisexual? How would you feel if others consistently labeled you as "bisexual"?”

Demographics. Participants were asked additional information regarding their current relationship status and their history in relationships. Participants were asked in open-ended format to indicate the number of different types of relationships that they have had with male and female partners. The different relationship types assessed were: dating, purely sexual, exclusive

committed relationship (less than one year), exclusive committed relationship (over one year), non-exclusive committed relationship (less than one year), non-exclusive committed relationship (more than one year), and married/marriage-like union. Participants were also asked to indicate the age at which they: (a) became aware of their other-sex attractions, (b) became aware of their same-sex attractions, (c) acted upon their other-sex attractions, (d) acted upon their same-sex attractions, (e) told others about their other-sex attractions, and (f) told others about their same-sex attractions. Participants were also asked how many people they know who identify with the following labels: gay/lesbian, bisexual, asexual, transgender, unlabeled, and queer.

In addition, demographic information was collected including: education, ethnicity, and location (see Table A for descriptive statistics).

Procedure

Participants were recruited via postings online and fliers posted around a Midwestern college town. Online postings directed individuals to the survey, which was posted on the online host qualtrics.com. Fliers directed participants to contact the researcher via email to receive a participation link. Individuals, who met the participation criteria, were first asked several questions regarding the individuals and groups in their social networks (Social Network Members; SNM). Next, participants were asked about their experiences in relationship with different partner types (i.e., male and female partners). If participants indicated that they had experience in a relationship with a male partner and their most important male partner was a previous partner, they next answered questions about their experiences during that relationship (time period Block 1, $n = 24$). Next, if participants indicated that they had relationship experience with a female partner and their most significant female partner was a previous partner, they then answered questions about their experiences during that relationship (time

period Block 2, $n = 26$). If participants had never had a relationship with a female partner, then they completed a block of questions asking about how they think they would feel if they were in a relationship with a hypothetical female partner (time period Block 3, $n = 5$). Participants who never had a relationship with a male partner, completed a block of questions asking about how they think they would feel if they were in a relationship with a hypothetical male partner (time period Block 4, $n = 7$). Finally, all participants completed a block of questions examining their current experiences (Block 5). Participants who indicated that their most significant male ($n = 23$) or female ($n = 23$) partner was a current partner completed additional questions regarding their current relationship in this block. In this final block, participants also completed demographic, open-ended, and relationship experience questions.

Results

Time Period Block Responses

Participants' responses for the various time periods were reorganized to reflect individuals experiences during a *relationship with a female partner* and their experiences during a *relationship with a male partner*, regardless of whether the partners were current, past, or hypothetical. For all analyses, two dummy variables were created to control for whether each partner was a previous partner (D1: *yes* = 1; *no* = 0) or a hypothetical partner (D2: *yes* = 1; *no* = 0), with current partners as the reference group.

Predicting Label Use

Logistic regressions (for continuous predictors) and chi-square (for categorical predictors) analyses were used to predict sexual orientation self-labels. Four dichotomized dependent variables were created, and separately analyzed, to predict the use of various labels. Specifically, participants' responses were recoded to reflect self-labeling as: *nonheterosexual*

(i.e., bisexual, lesbian, queer, or pansexual; 1) or not (i.e., heterosexual or unlabeled; 0); *bisexual* (1) or not (0); *lesbian* (1) or not (0); and *straight/heterosexual* (1) or not (0). Self-labels were assessed at three different time periods including: current day, during a relationship with a male partner, and during a relationship with a female partner. Some of the measures were only assessed at the current time period, while others were assessed at all of the time periods. We were unable to measure every variable at every time period, due to concerns regarding the survey length. Some of the analyses predicting certain labels for certain time periods were not conducted, due to the infrequency of label use at certain time periods. Specifically, there were not enough participants who currently self-labeled as heterosexual or used this label during a relationship with a female partner to conduct logistic regressions. In addition, very few women used the lesbian label during a relationship with a male partner (see Table J for label use across time periods). Therefore the use of these labels was not examined for these time periods.

Match factors.

H1: Knowing other LGBTQ. I created a ratio score to represent the number of individuals in one's social network who self-label as a member of the LGBTQ community in relation to the total number of individuals within one's network. This variable was measured only during the current time period. In line with hypothesis 1, the ratio of individuals within one's social network who self-labeled as LGBTQ significantly predicted more self-labeling as nonheterosexual (i.e., bisexual, lesbian, queer, or pansexual), $b = 8.09$, $SE = 3.25$, $p = .01$.

H2: Attractions- distance from center. Participants' orientation toward other-sex vs. same-sex individuals were examined using the Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG). Orientation on this scale ranged from -50 (other-sex only) to +50 (same-sex only). This measure was assessed for multiple time periods including: current day, during a relationship with a male

partner, during a relationship with a female partner. Participants were also asked to report on their general orientation across their lifespan. In addition to the participants' raw scores, I also calculated quadratic values for each of the dimensions individually and for the composite scores by squaring these values, to examine the individuals' distance from the center of the continuum scale.

Composite KSOG scores during a relationship with a male partner significantly predicted labeling as nonheterosexual such that the closer the individual was to the *same-sex only* anchor of the scale, the more likely they were to self-label as nonheterosexual. However, this effect was qualified by a significant quadratic effect such that the closer the individual was to the center of the KSOG scale, the more likely they were to self-label as nonheterosexual (see Table K). Current and female relationship KSOG values did not predict self-labeling as nonheterosexual, $bs = |.001-.19|, ns$.

Similarly, composite squared KSOG scores predicted use of the bisexual label during a relationship with a male partner and current labeling, such that the closer the individual was to the center of the KSOG continuum, the more likely they were to self-label as bisexual. Interestingly, KSOG raw and squared scores did not predict labeling as bisexual when in a relationship with a woman (see Table L). Composite KSOG raw scores and squared scores were not predictive of current or female relationship use of the lesbian label, $bs = |.001-.18|, ns$. Nor did composite KSOG raw or squared scores predict labeling as heterosexual during a relationship with a male partner (see Table M).

Next, I examined the current KSOG orientation dimensions separately to identify the associations between the specific facets and labeling as bisexual or lesbian. Thus, for each of the six dimensions the raw values and the squared values were used to predict self-labeling as

bisexual and lesbian. In general, KSOG scores had a curvilinear predictive relationship with self-labeling as bisexual, such that people closer to the center of the KSOG continuums of same- vs. other-sex orientations (i.e., closer to equal orientation toward both) were more likely to use the label (see Table N). Squared attraction, emotional preference, identification, and social preference KSOG scores significantly negatively predicted self-labeling as bisexual. Interestingly, none of the general past KSOG values were predictive of use of the bisexual label $bs = |.00-.02|$, *ns*. None of the facets assessed through the KSOG were significantly related to the current use of the lesbian label, $bs = |.00-.15|$, *ns*. However, two of the general past KSOG orientation facets (attraction and behavior) marginally predicted current use of the lesbian label (see Table O).

Overall, these findings generally supported hypothesis 2 in that the closer individuals were to the center of the orientation continuums, the more likely they were to use the bisexual label. Interestingly though, the orientation facets were not good predictors of all of the labels across all time periods, these findings will be addressed in the general discussion.

H3: Current partner's gender. I conducted chi-square analyses to examine the associations between current partner's gender (male, female, or no current monogamous partner) and labeling. I examined if the frequency of use of the labels nonheterosexual, bisexual, lesbian, and straight/heterosexual differed depending on partner gender. Use of nonheterosexual labels in general did not differ between individuals currently in same- or other-sex relationships, $\chi^2(2, N = 53) = .05$, *ns*. Use of the bisexual self-label was marginally related to partner type, $\chi^2(2, N = 53) = 5.54$, $p = .06$. Specifically, women that currently had a monogamous relationship with a female partner were less likely to use the bisexual label, $z = -2.3$, $p < .05$. Having a male partner or no monogamous partner was not related to self-labeling as bisexual, $z = 1.8$, $.5$, respectively,

ns. Additionally, use of the lesbian label was related to partner type, $\chi^2 (2, N = 53) = 8.73, p = .01$. Women who were currently involved in a relationship with a male partner were less likely to use the lesbian label, $z = -2.9, p < .05$, being in a relationship with a female partner or not having a monogamous partner was not significantly related to using the lesbian self-label, $z = 1.8, 1.2$, respectively, *ns.* Current partner type was not related to labeling as heterosexual $\chi^2 (2, N = 53) = 2.80, ns$.

Overall, hypothesis 3 was partially supported in that current partner's gender only mattered for a few relationship types and labels. Specifically, women who were currently in relationships with female partners were less likely to use bisexual labels and those currently in relationships with male partners were less likely to use lesbian labels.

H4: Lack of opportunity or experience. Relationship experience with men did not significantly predict the use of nonheterosexual labels in general, $\chi^2 (2, N = 53) = .86, ns$. However, relationship experience with women did significantly predict use of nonheterosexual labels, in that women with such experience were more likely to use nonheterosexual labels, $\chi^2 (2, N = 53) = 5.43, p = .02$. Additionally, having relationship experience with both men and women was associated with greater use of nonheterosexual labels, $\chi^2 (2, N = 53) = 3.83, p = .05$. Having relationship experience with either men, women, or both did not predict use of the bisexual label, $\chi^2 (2, N = 53) = .02-.82, ns$.

Use of the lesbian label was not related to having relationship experience with either men or women, $\chi^2 (2, N = 53) = 2.46, 1.04$, respectively, *ns.* However, relationship experience with women was related to self-labeling as straight/heterosexual, $\chi^2 (2, N = 53) = 8.06, p < .01$, such that women without same-sex relationship experience were more likely to use the heterosexual

label than women with such experiences ($z = 2.8, p < .05$). Relationship experience with men was not related to use of the heterosexual label, $\chi^2 (2, N = 53) = 3.05, ns$.

In general, hypothesis 4 was partially supported such that relationship experience with women predicted greater use of nonheterosexual and less use of heterosexual labels. In addition, experience with both men and women was related to use of nonheterosexual labels in general, but not bisexual labels specifically.

H5: Time frame. I used repeated measures ANOVAs to examine the changes in reports of sexual orientation facets depending on the time frame the individual was thinking about. Most of the participants' reports of orientation facets showed changes depending on the time frame they were being asked to report on. Specifically, when participants were asked to report about their lifetime orientation their reports reflected more other-sex (vs. same-sex orientation) orientation relative to their reports of their current feelings/orientation (see Tables P). The only facet of orientation that individuals did not report differences on was social preference.

Overall, hypothesis 5 was supported, with orientation facets showing changes depending on the time period under consideration.

Motivation factors.

H6: Subjective organization. Individuals who indicated being a member of a group that was not open to LGBTQ people or issues were no more likely to self-label as heterosexual, $\chi^2 (2, N = 53) = .33, ns$, nor less likely to self-label as LGBTQ than individuals who were not members of such groups, $\chi^2 (2, N = 53) = .10, ns$. Therefore, hypothesis 6 was not supported, in that being a member of unsupportive groups was not associated with labeling.

H7: Superiority and resource acquisition. I used the Anti-Bisexual Experiences Scale to examine the degree to which participants have experienced prejudice related to their sexual

orientation from both the LGBTQ as well as the mainstream/heterosexual communities. Anti-bisexual experiences did not significantly predict labeling as nonheterosexual in general (i.e., lesbian, bisexual, queer, or pansexual), $bs = |.12- 1.39|$, *ns*. However, during a relationship with a female partner, anti-bisexual sentiments from the gay and lesbian community predicted less bisexual self-labeling (see Table L). Prejudice from the mainstream/heterosexual community during this relationship type was marginally related to an increase in self-labeling as bisexual (see Table L). During a relationship with a male partner, prejudice from the heterosexual community was related to an increase in labeling as heterosexual (see Table M).

Anti-bisexual prejudice from both the gay and lesbian community and the mainstream heterosexual community did not predict use of the nonheterosexual, bisexual, lesbian, or heterosexual labels during any of the remaining time periods, $bs = |.007- 1.39|$, *ns*.

Hypothesis 7 was partially supported; anti-bisexual prejudice from the LGBTQ community was associated with decreases in labeling as bisexual when in a relationship with a female partner and prejudice from mainstream/heterosexual society is associated with increases in the use of the heterosexual label when in a relationship with a male partner.

H8: *Belongingness*. Connection to the gay and lesbian community was measured using the Community Connectedness scale (Frost & Meyer; 2012) and closeness to the mainstream/heterosexual community was assessed using the Other Group Closeness scale (Phinney; 1992). Closeness to the LGBTQ community predicted greater use of nonheterosexual labels while in a relationship with a male partner (see Table K). Current connectedness to the LGBTQ community predicted more use of nonheterosexual labels (see Table K). Closeness to the gay and lesbian or mainstream heterosexual community did not predict labeling at any other time period, $bs = |.00- .58|$, *ns*. Therefore, hypothesis 8 was partially supported such that

closeness to the LGBTQ community predicted use of nonheterosexual labels. However, closeness to the mainstream/heterosexual community did not predict labeling during any time period; these results are addressed in the general discussion.

Label use and change.

H9: Use of multiple labels. Most (64.81%) individuals selected more than one of the researcher-generated labels, $M = 2.60$, $SD = 1.52$, $Mdn = 3$ (see Table Q). In addition, the labels selected did not always correspond to the self-label the participants provided in the open-ended response at the beginning of the study (see Table B). Thus, hypothesis 9 was supported finding that the majority of in-between women have multiple labels that they apply to their orientations.

H10: Frequency of changes in labeling. Interestingly, not all participants indicated having ever changed their label, nine participants reported that they have always used the same label. However, approximately eighty percent ($n = 37$) of participants indicated having changed their label at least once, and about thirty nine percent ($n = 18$) of participants indicated that they have changed their label more than once (see Table R). Therefore, hypothesis 10 was partially supported, finding that many, but not the majority of, women do experience post-coming-out label changes.

Changes in Match and Motivation Factors across Relationships

Changes in Match-and-Motivational factors over time and across relationship experiences may provide insight into the mechanisms behind changes in labeling. I used repeated measures ANOVA analyses to examine differences, while in a relationship with either a male or a female partner, in the orientation facets matching factors (i.e., KSOG dimensions), and the motivational factors of community connectedness/belonging (i.e., CC and OGC) and bisexual related

prejudice (i.e., ABES). In addition, I used the multi-level modeling framework to examine social network changes across these relationship types.

H11: Matching- sexual orientation. Most of the participants' reports of the facets of sexual orientation were different across the relationship types. Specifically, attraction, behavior, emotion, and identification differed across relationships in that they were closer to the partner's sex during each relationship type. Although some of the facets of orientation (i.e., fantasy and social preference), did not show differences between relationship types, when examined as a composite score, orientation overall showed changes in line with the relationship partner's sex (see Table S). In general, hypothesis 11 was supported, showing differences in orientation facets across different relationship types.

H12: Motivation- closeness/belonging. Closeness to the LGBTQ community was significantly different across relationship types, such that participants indicated feeling closer to this community when in a relationship with a female partner compared to a male partner (see Table S). Interestingly, closeness to the mainstream/heterosexual community did not change across these relationship types (see Table S).

H13: Motivation- anti-bisexual experiences. Contrary to what I expected, individuals did not report differences in sexuality related prejudice from the LGBTQ or mainstream/heterosexual communities across relationship types (see Table S).

Social Network Multilevel Analyses- Closeness/belonging across Relationships

To examine the closeness to members of one's social network across relationships, I used a two-level multigroup multilevel model with social network members (SNMs; Level 1) nested within individuals/participants (Level 2). The data was structured in such a way that allowed estimating closeness during a relationship with a male partner and closeness during a relationship

with a female partner simultaneously by “tricking” the software to only estimate specific parts of the equation while ignoring others (Preacher, 2010). This method enables estimation of cross-level interactions involving one or more dichotomous variable. I used this method to test SNM’s closeness during each relationship separately and determine the differences in closeness due to the SNM’s membership within the LGBTQ community or mainstream/heterosexual community. Therefore, the estimates during each relationship will be reported separately, but were estimated within the same model. The intraclass correlation (ICC) for closeness during a relationship with a female partner was .12, which is considered to be medium size and provides additional justification for the use of multilevel modeling. The ICC for closeness during the male relationship was similar in size (0.15) confirming the need to account for the nestedness of the data.

The primary interest in this multilevel model was to determine whether individuals feel closer to members of the LGBTQ community when involved in a relationship with a female partner and closer to mainstream/heterosexual social network members when they are in a relationship with a man. In addition, I hypothesized that individuals may feel closer to members of the LGBTQ community when in same-sex relationships because they may feel more able to self-disclose about their orientation and relationship to similarly oriented others.

Analytical approach. To examine these hypotheses I used the build-up strategy by examining the changes in model fit following the addition of estimates and removing parameters that do not add to the model (Hox, 2002). After assessing the null model (see Table T for all model statistics and parameter estimates), I examined whether SNM’s membership in the LGBTQ community (1 = *member* and 0 = *nonmember*) affected closeness during each of the relationships (H14). Next, I examined the contribution of the second Level 1 predictor of interest

(i.e., degree to which the participant was “out” to the SNM; H15). Then, all of the effects were allowed to randomly vary. Treating slopes as random allowed for a more broad generalization of the effects (Affleck et al., 2001, 1999). Finally, the nonsignificant random effects were removed as suggested by Hox (2002).

H14: Motivation- closeness/belonging based on group membership. First the main effect of the Level 1 predictor (i.e., LGBTQ community membership) was examined and found to significantly improve the predictive ability of the model (see Table T). As expected, when in a relationship with a female partner, participants felt closer to SNMs who were part of the LGBTQ community. Conversely, when in a relationship with a male partner, participants felt less close to LGBTQ SNMs. Next I added the Level 1 predictor of outness to the model. The addition of this main effect also significantly improved the fit of the model, suggesting that the more out an individual was to a SNM, the closer they felt to the SNM, this was the case in both relationship types.

Interestingly, the addition of outness as a main effect eliminated one of the previously identified main effects for LGTBQ membership, such that membership no longer predicted closeness during a relationship with a female partner. Finally, the slopes were allowed to randomly vary and I removed the nonsignificant random slopes, leading to the final model (see Figure 3 for the final multilevel model predicting closeness to SNMs).

H15: Motivation- closeness via self-disclosure. I next examined orientation outness as a mediator of the relationship between SNMs’ LGBTQ community membership and closeness during a relationship with a female partner. To test this, I used the procedure outlined by Bauer, Preacher, and Gil (2006) for evaluating indirect effects in multilevel models. This procedure is recommended when examining the indirect effect of a Level 1 variable (i.e., outness) on the

relationship between two other Level 1 variables (i.e., LGBTQ community membership and closeness), while allowing for all effects to randomly vary across the Level 2 units of the population (i.e., slopes and intercepts), to increase the generalizability of the effects. In addition, this procedure allows for all variables to be estimated in a single model.

I conducted this analysis using the SPSS syntax, created to accompany Bauer, Preacher, and Gil (2006), available at www.quantpsy.org. In addition to providing an estimate of the indirect and total effects, this procedure estimates the 95% Confidence interval for each effect using a non-normal sampling procedure. With this approach, the effects are considered to be significant at the $p < .05$ level if these confidence intervals do not contain zero. Both the indirect and the total effects were significant, such that SNM membership in the LGBTQ community significantly predicted closeness to the participant during a relationship with a female partner (see Figure 4). This effect was significantly mediated by the degree to which the participant was out to the SNM. Specifically, participants were more likely to be out to members of the LGBTQ community, which led to greater feelings of closeness to them.

H16: Assessing the Match-and-Motivation Model- Open-ended

Analytic approach. Participants' open-ended responses were content analyzed to examine the existence of Match-and-Motivation factors. Each response was coded by two independent readers. The first reader coded the responses for whether match or motivation factors were mentioned. The second coder examined responses for match and motivation content and categorized responses by the specific match or motivation factor (e.g., sex of relationship partner). Any disagreements were resolved through discussion between coders.

History of label use and change. Four open-ended questions assessed women's changes in labeling over time. Specifically, I examined whether women used the same label (that they

had indicated at the beginning of the survey) when they were in a relationship with a male partner and when in a relationship with a female partner. In addition, participants were asked a general question regarding their history of label use and whether or not they have ever changed their label, and if so, why and how many times did they change it, and whether they anticipated changing their label in the future. Responses to these items were examined together to determine the degree to which individuals use Match-and-Motivation factors in their discussions of label change. Only the participants who were not currently involved in the relationship of interest (i.e., not currently with the partner) responded to the question regarding their label during the past or hypothetical relationship ($n = 31$ for each). Around half (58.06% in the male relationship; 41.9% in the female relationship; see Table U) of the participants responding to these questions indicated that they had/would use a different label during the relationship.

All participants were asked the questions regarding their history of label changes and likelihood of changing the label in the future. Four of the 54 participants did not respond to the open-ended question addressing the participants' history of label use and change. In addition, two participants indicated "n/a" in response to this item, one participant provided a response that did not address the question ("nothing"), and one declined to answer. Of the remaining 46 participants, 37 (68.5%) indicated that they had changed their label at least once (see Table R for the frequencies of reported label change). Sixty one percent of participants reported changing their label never or only once. The remaining seventeen participants (31.5%) indicated having changed their label two times or more.

Thirty one (83.8%) of the women who reported at least one label change provided reasons for the change. In general, I found that women's reasons fit well with the factors described in the *Match-and-Motivation* model. Here I report some of the women's responses

regarding their changes in labels using the Match-and-Motivation model as a theoretical framework.

Exploration and the Match-and-Motivation process. Many participants indicated that their labels changed as their personal and/or social identities became more developed. The themes of compulsory heterosexuality, awareness, exploration, and commitment emerged in participants' responses. Several participants noted that compulsory, or socially mandated, heterosexuality informed their previously used labels. When discussing her use of the straight label during her relationship with a male partner one participant indicated having feelings of compulsory heterosexuality "I assumed I was straight...I applied the label 'straight' - if I applied any label at all, which I seldom did - because it was what I knew" (Participant #13). One participant indicated having continued struggles related to compulsory heterosexuality:

I believe my sexual orientation might be fully lesbian but have not been able to fully accept that identity yet because of the constraints society puts on individuals about liking the opposite sex. We are raised to be heterosexual so accepting our differences and different attractions can take a while to fully come to terms with and accept ourselves (Participant #27).

Another participant explained her lack of exploration and compulsory heterosexuality as a reason for initially adopting an ill-fitting label "...before [my initial label change] I was straight and had never thought about my sexual orientation due to a strict upbringing" (Participant #23).

Some participants explained how they became aware of their attractions and changed their labels accordingly. For example, one participant wrote "As I became more aware of my sexual orientation, I changed the label to reflect that awareness" (Participant #14). Another woman indicated that during her relationship with her male partner, she was beginning to

become aware of her same-sex orientation, but had not yet assigned the awareness personal meaning: “I had an inkling at the time that I was bisexual, but I was not totally out to myself” (Participant #16).

Several participants also indicated the role of exploration in their labeling. One participant described how her labels changed as she explored her sexual and romantic preferences:

[I] used ‘bisexual’ label, it was the beginning of exploring my sexual identity. [I] wanted to be honest with her that I was not sure if I was exclusively gay. I now feel that I am not interested in having a sexual or romantic relationship with a man (Participant #31).

Some women indicated that they experienced changes in the way they saw themselves, for example one woman wrote: “Each change is a reflection of my changing views of myself and I feel each label change was a better representation of myself” (Participant #43).

When asked about the possibility of changing their labels in the future, some women indicated that a change would be unlikely due to their commitment to their current identity. One woman wrote: “It took me a long time to find my identity labels, and I am proud of them. I do not think this will change” (Participant #14). Another indicated that motivational factors would be unlikely to influence her labeling, “I still identify and foresee myself as identifying as queer for a long time because my identity is larger than my relationship to my partner” (Participant #10).

Therefore the identity development factors of compulsory heterosexuality, awareness, exploration and commitment seem to play an important role in the process of label change.

The matching component of the Match-and-Motivation model.

Finding the label. Some women indicated that their prior label changes resulted from the discovery of a good-fitting label. Similarly, some indicated that their previous label use was due to not being aware of the best-fitting label at the time, one explained, “I felt pansexual well before I knew there was a label” (Participant #14). Another wrote: “I didn't know much about being gay, but I was curious about it. Until I was in my late 20's, I didn't know women could be gay” (Participant #13). Similarly, another participant wrote about her lack of knowledge or the relative invisibility regarding possible orientation labels “I guess I identified as ‘straight’ when I was younger and not politically educated, because I thought that Gay/Straight were the only options” (Participant #15). Another woman explained how her label change was a result of learning about a better fitting label “I used the label bisexual for 4-5 years until I discovered pansexual” (Participant #23).

Other participants indicated that meeting members of the LGBTQ community contributed to their understanding of the label and to their ultimate label change. For example, one participant explained:

I was the epitome of the white middle class heterosexual mother figure. I returned to college. There I met feminism - and queer studies. After every class, every essay, every conversation with people I liked a lot who kept turning out to be gay, queer, poly, trans, I realized something was amiss (Participant #22).

Defining sexual orientation categories.

Elaboration of the label. Some of the women indicated that aspects of a label do not fit well with their identity and/or apply to their experiences. For example, one woman explained

how her late awareness of her same-sex orientation prevented her from what she believed to be typical and necessary aspects for the adoption of a lesbian identity:

I desire women. I love sex with women. I now realize that my sexual experiences with males were pale in comparison. However, since I was so old (mid 40's) when I realized this and since I didn't 'pay my dues' as a lesbian in my cohort, I don't feel comfortable claiming that label" (Participant #13).

Another woman indicated that her elaboration of the label led her to feel as though it did not match with her experiences:

I had been told from my parents about bisexuals 'just kidding themselves' and from a girl that I had a crush on that 'bisexuals just want attention.' With this negative reinforcement, it wasn't hard for me to simply lump my attraction to girls to 'admiring the female form.' However, I eventually realized that that was simply not true (Participant #9).

A different participant described their feelings of uncertainty about labels based on the inconsistency between their gender identity and the gender prescriptions associated with the labels:

Early in my current relationship, I tried to convince myself I was a straight man. My style of lovemaking was not like a man though. As I became more aware of my gender identity and made steps to change my gender, I identified as bi (Participant #35).

*Sexuality as fluid/fixe*d. Several women expressed using labels that allowed for flexibility in sexual expression or change. For example, one participant explained:

I also identify as queer [as well as lesbian] because I have had relationship[s] with men and been in love with them and attracted to them-- and I am still attracted to them. I

believe in sexual fluidity and "queer" expresses that (although it is often ambiguous and can refer to an array of feelings/attractions/beliefs/etc.) (Participant #25).

Other participants expressed their feelings about labeling and changes in labels in terms of fluidity: "I don't believe sexuality is something you can simply label. Sexuality is fluid and if I change the "label" that [I] identify with I don't think that would be a problem" (Participant #6).

Assessment of the match between label and experiences.

Attractions: Distance from center. Many participants explained their labeling using all or at least some of the facets of sexual orientation. Since the sample consisted of women with in-between orientations, many explained that their attractions would need to be exclusive in order to change their label. One woman explained the factors that would lead her to change her label: "I'd have to permanently (or at least for several years) stop being attracted to people of a particular gender, and I don't think this would be possible" (Participant #11). Another woman expressed that shifts in her orientation toward one of the anchors of the continuum (same- or other-sex only) might cause her to change her label: "I would need to be more interested in men or more interested in only women in order for me to change my sexual orientation label. I do not foresee myself changing in this manner" (Participant #34).

Several women also emphasized the need for specific orientation facets to change in order for their labels to change. One woman explained how she would need to feel emotionally connected to men in order to change her label: "Maybe someday, if I did ever experience an intense emotional connection to a man, I could change my orientation, but right now, I only feel that connection with other women" (Participant #18). Another cited the need for a sexual relationship in order to change her label:

At the time, I waffled between identifying as queer or lesbian. I really was unclear whether or not I was actually interested in pursuing a sexual relationship with a guy, even though I knew I had some sexual attraction to men (Kinsey 4.5) (Participant #32).

This highlights the relative importance of the different facets to different individuals.

Additionally, many women indicated that such changes in orientation were unlikely to happen, suggesting that the common changes in labeling may not be due to changes in orientation facets.

Sex of relationship partner(s). Many participants indicated changing their labels as a result of the beginning or end of a romantic relationship. For example, one woman felt able to embrace a new label when she changed her relationship partner: “I began using the term lesbian when I left my husband and began dating [my female partner]” (Participant #20). Another woman indicated that her future label was dependent on the gender of a marital partner:

I would like to think I will always label myself bisexual, however I think the only circumstances that would change my orientation label would be getting married. If I married a man I would consider myself straight just to make things more simple and so that people would not view my relationship with my husband differently. However, if I married a woman I would still maintain my bisexual status because I don’t think people would be as uncomfortable” (Participant #5).

A different participant explained how her current partner’s gender affected her labeling:

If I were in a relationship with a cis-gendered [i.e., the individual’s gender identity is in line with the prescribed gender roles associated with his/her biological sex] woman, I would identify as a lesbian. I am currently in a relationship with a transgender male, who identifies as straight, so queer seems to be the most applicable term for me (Participant #1).

Person not the gender. Several women indicated endorsing person not the gender beliefs when describing their potential for later label change. “I believe in loving a person for who they are, not what genitals they happen to have” (Participant #1). Another wrote:

I would never pick one or the other because I don't see people for their gender. I see them as a human being regardless of their gender. I think I will always prefer women, but I don't think I will say that I never could be with a man again (Participant #7).

One woman indicated that her lack of labeling in line with her partner's gender was due to her person not the gender beliefs. “I still am primarily interested in men, but fell absolutely in love with this woman. The same is the case with her. It's the individual, not the gender” (Participant #19).

Lack of opportunity. Some women cited their lack of experience with specific types of relationships as the reason behind their label use. When speaking about her labeling during her relationship with a male partner, one woman wrote: “for some reason, I had it in my head that I couldn't self-identify on the LGBTQ spectrum until I was in a relationship [with a woman]” (Participant #30). Another woman explained how her lack of experience led to not only her own questioning of her label use, but also questioning from others:

I considered myself straight during my relationship with [my male partner] because whether or not I was attracted to girls I had never actually dated a girl and felt that I did not qualify as a bisexual. There was a point where I wanted to say I was bisexual even though I had not dated a girl, but I was met with doubt and defiance from the friends that I told about considering myself bisexual so I then doubted it myself (Participant #5).

When asked about the label she would use during a relationship with a hypothetical female partner, one woman explained how such a relationship would change her labeling:

I think that I would use a different label if this were the case. I would consider myself to be bisexual, since I would at that point have been in relationships with both men and women at one point or another (Participant #2).

Lack of a good match. Some women expressed uncertainty in the fit of the labels that were available to them. One woman explained: “I have not thought about dating in 37 years. I don't really know what my sexual orientation is - I just know I feel attraction to both men and women” (Participant #43). Another woman expressed the possibility of finding a new, better fitting, label in the future “Yes, there is a possibility that one day I might change the label I give to myself... Maybe if a newer and better label comes along for my attractions I would begin using it” (Participant #28).

The motivation component of the Match-and-Motivation model.

Within person goals.

Affective. None of the participants explicitly mentioned expected affectual change as a reason for their label use. However, it can be presumed that many individuals were motivated by affect in their labeling. For example, the individuals who indicated changing their label to allow them to engage in sexual or romantic activity with a specific partner type were probably assuming that such relations would increase their positive affect. In addition, some participants mentioned being afraid to adopt certain labels, such fear was potentially caused by internalized heterosexism or fear of negative affect related to the best-fitting label. For example, one participant explained: “Well I used to call myself straight, when I was scared to be otherwise” (Participant #16). The cause of her fear is unclear, however, her labeling resulted from her desire to avoid the negative feeling.

Cognitive. The ability to explore sexuality motivated some women's label use. One woman indicated that the label change allowed her to explore her attractions: "I said I didn't want a label because I...I mean I KNEW I liked girls but I was young so I didn't just want to limit or anything" (Participant #16). Another explained "I changed from straight to bisexual in high school so that I could experiment with my attractions to women" (Participant #13). In addition, some women believe there is a possibility that they may want to explore more in the future and acknowledge potential labels that may allow for such exploration, one wrote: "It's possible that I would one day identify more as queer, since the rigidity of categories of gender and sexuality are more fluid than has traditionally been understood (Participant #35)".

People are motivated to make sense out of their experiences. One woman explained her label change and the thought process involved in making sense of an experience:

I had sex with a woman at a party, and that opened up a lot of things for me. At that point I had to admit that yes, I did enjoy it, yes I would do it again, and yes, I do enjoy women in that manner. So 6 weeks later I came out to everyone as being bi (Participant #50).

Another woman spoke of her reconciliation between her sex and gender preferences and orientation by changing her label:

After 'bisexual,' I chose 'queer' because I don't actually believe there are only two sexes, nor do I believe I am attracted only to two, so 'bisexual' is not a very accurate term...the people I wanted to have sex with didn't all fit into the gender binary of male and female and that 'bisexual' really only covered two sexes. Queer pretty much holds it all (Participant #33).

Some participants inferred that their label use was motivated by the desire to not apply certain undesirable labels to the self, possibly to avoid the negative self-evaluation associated

with the label. For example, one woman wrote: “I then started to hear the label lesbian, but I don't like the connotation of that label, so I just don't go by any certain label now” (Participant #7).

Subjective organization. People are generally motivated to appear consistent and desire to have different aspects of the self be in union with one another. One participant indicated that the desire to be consistent in her label usage motivates her to maintain an ill-fitting label:

I don't know that I will ever label my orientation differently, as I am not totally open about my orientation with my family and friends, all of whom label me as heterosexual because I am currently with a male partner and have not been open about my experiences with female partners in the past. At this point, I don't foresee myself being totally committed to one or the other, but it is largely because I am still addressing my own issues of identity. Also, society seems to prohibit "changing" your sexual orientation, as many potential partners I have met are generally opposed to a relationship with someone who identifies as bisexual (Participant #8).

Person-environment.

Self-assertive social relationship. One participant indicated not wanting to apply a label because, in doing so, she felt as though she would appear to be following a trend. Therefore this participant used a label to maintain individuality: “At the time there was this emerging 'lesbian chic' in popular culture and I didn't want to seem like I was jumping on that bandwagon” (Participant #30).

Many individuals referred to the personal aspects associated with labeling and emphasized an agentic role in the process of applying a label. One participant clearly explained the self-determination involved in her labeling: “I may choose to be exclusive with a particular

person(s) but that does not define my sexual or gender orientation. Only I do that (Participant #14). Another explained how she changed her label in order to initiate other changes in herself: “I suspect that as my view of myself changed, myself also changed further to match better what I was seeing and wanting to see” (Participant #22).

No participants explicitly stated the desire to maintain or achieve status and privilege or avoid stigmatization and disadvantage as motivations involved in their labeling. However, as mentioned previously, several participants explained fear of applying certain labels, but were not clear about the source of the fear. It is possible that one of the fears was related to the potential loss of status or resources that would likely accompany labeling as LGBTQ.

Integrative social relationship. Multiple individuals indicated aspects of interpersonal closeness as motivations behind their labeling process. Individuals were motivated by their closeness to certain communities, their desire to increase the closeness, or desire to be less close, and their desire to gain closeness through mutual understanding.

One participant indicated greater feelings of closeness and inclusion within the LGBTQ community when she was involved in a relationship with a female partner, which motivated her to use a label more in line with the community: “I have shifted away from bisexual and towards queer, lesbian, & gay once I began a relationship with a woman and felt that I was more a part of the LGBTQ community” (Participant #51).

Some individuals rejected labels that they felt would not be accepted by the individuals within their social networks, for example, one participant wrote: “I think I would have to stop caring what other people think (lgbtq and hetero) before I could find a label that I am happy with” (Participant #31). Another participant indicated that her labeling was motivated by the

need for social approval: “I started identifying as a lesbian to fit in” (Participant #20). Similarly, this participant used a label that was common within her social group:

I used the term queer because that is the most common term used in the circles I am involved in and because I hadn't decided for sure yet whether I identified as bisexual. I still thought I might be straight and experimenting or possibly gay (Participant #33).

Conversely, one woman labeled in a way to increase distance between her and the LGBTQ community:

When I first came out in 1988, I identified solely as a lesbian and continued to use that identification until about 2007, after my most recent relationship ended and I made the decision to distance myself from the LGBTQ community and subculture. I use the term of "bisexual" to identify my truth, not necessarily who I am as a person, because I am so much more (Participant #24).

Some women were motivated to use labels that would most effectively communicate their orientation, while minimizing confusion. For example, one participant wrote: “It is just easier for myself and more comfortable to identify as gay or queer because it requires less questioning” (Participant #30) Similarly, another woman wrote: “I think I would adopt a "fluid" identity or "pansexual". I find "gay" helps avoid lengthy conversations about how I believe sexuality to be fluid, which very few people take seriously” (Participant #31).

Some participants were motivated to label due to political reasons or the desire to fight for the greater good of the group. For example, one participant explained: “Then, in college, because of political reasons, I began to identify as queer” (Participant #15). Another participant was motivated to ensure that bisexuality was more visible and did so by correcting incorrect assumptions based on her partner's gender:

I identified as bisexual then because I was dating a man but was aware of my attraction to women (without having had a relationship with a woman). I felt it was important to assert to myself and others that I was not straight even though I was in a relationship with a man (Participant #25).

Some participants indicated choosing a label based on their partner's desires and thus, labeled in a way to make their partner feel happy and supported. For example, one woman explained: "During the relationship I labeled myself as straight. My boyfriend, didn't agree with Pansexuality so he preferred calling and having me call myself straight" (Participant # 54).

Task. As I mentioned previously, several participants indicating rejecting labels due to their fear. No participants were specific about the source of their fear, but these individuals may have been motivated to remain safe and not threaten their personal safety by adopting specific labels. However, one participant expressed this fear writing: "... my outward labeling can change depending on my personal safety" (Participant #30).

Several participants also noted that the context or solicitor of the label greatly affects the labels that they apply. One participant explained:

Privately yes I would have labeled myself bisexual. In public spaces it would depend who I was with. With [my ex-boyfriend], I was straight. With my gay friends who didn't know about him, gay, with my gay friends who knew about him I was still bisexual. I had previously been in a relationship with a woman so if others knew about that relationship there was no need to explain. For friends who didn't know I was dating him they still thought I was just dating women so they would think I was just a lesbian. For those who only knew me as [my boyfriend's] partner than I just went by straight. I don't care about

labels all that much so however people wanted to identify me was fine. I didn't need to tell all my business to everyone if they didn't already know (Participant #12).

Labels unimportant. An interesting theme that emerged from the participants' responses was one of a lack of concern regarding the labeling process or the labels that they use. One participant explained, "I could care less about labels. I'm going to love whoever fits what I am looking for and need... I am who I am" (Participant #15). Another noted the lack of utility of labels "I feel that a label is unnecessary, and my friends/family seem to understand my situation" (Participant #19). In addition, this participant prefers a label-less community: "I'd be happier if we didn't need labels, feel a part of the LGBTQI2PA community without assigning ourselves a letter" (Participant #31).

In general, hypothesis 16 was supported, finding that women described both Match-and-Motivation factors when explaining the reasons behind their label use and change.

General Discussion

Quantitative Examination of Match-and-Motivation Factors

In general, Match-and-Motivation factors were found to be good predictors of sexual orientation self-labeling. The factors of degree of same- vs. other-sex attractions and closeness/acceptance within communities were especially influential in the labeling process. The relative contribution of match-and-motivation factors varied greatly depending on the label of interest and the time frame being assessed.

Nonheterosexual label use. The use of nonheterosexual labels (i.e., lesbian/gay, bisexual, pansexual, queer) were predicted by both match and motivation factors. Specifically, during a relationship with a male partner, more same- vs. other-sex orientation predicted the use of nonheterosexual labels. However, this effect was qualified by a quadratic relationship between

orientation and use of the label, such that the closer an individual was to the center of the continuum, the more likely they were to use nonheterosexual labels. Current and female partner relationship same- vs. other-sex orientations did not predict use of nonheterosexual labels in general, presumably due to the specific sample used in the study (i.e., women who all reported experiencing same-sex and other-sex attractions). Another matching factor associated with the use of nonheterosexual labels was the ratio of LGBTQ individuals within one's social network. Having more LGBTQ SNMs led to a greater likelihood of adopting a nonheterosexual label.

The lack of opportunity also predicted use of nonheterosexual labels such that women without relationship experience with other women were less likely to adopt nonheterosexual labels. In addition, experience with both partner types was associated with greater use of this label. Individuals reports of sexual orientation changed depending on the time frame they were considering. Specifically, when individuals were reporting about their current orientation (compared to their general past), they reported more same-sex/nonheterosexuality. Thus, use of nonheterosexual labels seems to differ depending on the time frame under consideration.

Another factor that predicted greater use of nonheterosexual labels was the level of connectedness to the LGBTQ community, which predicted current label use and label use during a relationship with a male partner. This factor, however, did not affect labeling during a relationship with a female partner. This may be due to the increased overall level of connectedness to this community during this relationship type.

In summary, the use of nonheterosexual labels was predicted by matching factors to a greater extent when in a relationship with a male partner, this was the only time when KSOG scores predicted the use of this label type. The use of nonheterosexual labels was predicted by closeness to the LGBTQ community during multiple time points. Similarly, more LGBTQ

individuals within one's social network predicted greater use of nonheterosexual labels.

Therefore, connection to the LGBTQ community seems to be a major factor in the adoption of nonheterosexual labels.

Bisexual label use. The matching component of distance from the center of the orientation continuum was found to be a good predictor of use of the bisexual label currently and during a relationship with a male partner, such that the closer individuals were to the center of the continuum, the more likely they were to apply the label. This factor, however, did not predict labeling as bisexual during a relationship with a female partner. Instead, during this relationship type, participant's labeling was more associated with the motivation of avoiding stigmatization from the LGBTQ community, in that, the more anti-bisexual experiences the individual had with this community, the less likely they were to apply the bisexual label. This finding is especially of interest due to the increased closeness that women felt to this community during this relationship type. All of this taken together, suggests that when in a relationship with a female partner, women may distance themselves from the bisexual label as a means of maintaining closeness with the LGBTQ community and avoiding stigmatization associated with the label. In line with this, currently having a female partner was related to less use of the bisexual label. Contrary to my expectations, none of the past same- vs. other-sex orientation facets were found to predict self-labeling as bisexual. These findings highlight the importance of the current context and subjective experience in decisions about self-labeling as bisexual.

Lesbian label use. Although past sexual orientation facets did not predict use of the bisexual label, past orientation was the only factor that predicted use of the lesbian label. Women who indicated a higher degree of same vs. other-sex attractions and behaviors in their general past were more likely to apply the lesbian label currently. Current and same-sex relationship

sexual orientation facets did not predict the use of this label. Finally, participants who currently were in a relationship with a male partner were less likely to use the lesbian label.

Taking these findings together, the primary predictors of the use of the lesbian label among in-between oriented women appear to be related to the individual's general past, rather than her current experiences. In general, many of the Match-and-Motivation facets were unable to predict the use of this label in this sample. A possible reason for this is that these women do not match with the general societal definition of a lesbian (based on the population that was sampled from). Thus, these women are likely labeling based on more motivational reasons. The relevant motivations affecting labeling may also be quite different for each of these women. This suggestion will be further explored in the discussion of quantitative vs. qualitative approaches.

Heterosexual label use. Use of the heterosexual label during a relationship with a male partner was predicted only by the amount of anti-bisexual prejudice expressed by heterosexual individuals during this relationship. More prejudice predicted more use of the label. Similar to the decreased frequency of use of the bisexual label in response to stigmatization during a relationship with a female partner, individuals may be attempting to maintain closeness to the mainstream/heterosexual community by rejecting a bisexual label.

Similar to the finding regarding the matching factor of lack of experience and labeling as nonheterosexual, current labeling as heterosexual was predicted by the lack of experience with a female relationship partner. Thus, use of the heterosexual label seemed to be more related to causes that were external, such that prejudice and lack of opportunity/experience predicted the use of this label, rather than intrinsic motivations and feelings.

Changes in Match-and-Motivation Factors Over Time

When comparing participants' experiences during a relationship with a female partner to their experiences in a relationship with a male partner, I found several changes in Match-and-Motivation factors. Specifically, nearly all of the same- vs. other-sex orientation facets changed across relationship types to be more in line with the partner's gender (e.g., more other-sex attraction when in a relationship with a male partner).

Additionally, the motivational factor of community connectedness changed across relationship types such that individuals felt closer to the LGBTQ community when in a relationship with a female partner. Similar changes were seen in the analysis of closeness to social network members across relationship types. Specifically, participants felt closer to their LGBTQ SNMs when they were in a relationship with a female partner and less close to such individuals when they were in a relationship with a male partner. Moreover, the relationship between closeness and LGBTQ membership during the relationship with a female partner was mediated by the degree to which the individual was out to each SNM. Participants reported being more open about their orientation with members of the LGBTQ community and this self-disclosure led to increased closeness to the members of this community.

In general, Match-and-Motivation factors differed across different relationship types. These differences may affect labeling such that if one is assessing their match during the current time only, they may perceive their fit differently from if they were considering their more general feelings. Additionally, the decreased closeness to the LGBTQ community when in a relationship with a male partner may prevent women from labeling in line with the community.

Qualitative Examination of Match-and-Motivation Factors and Reasons for Label Change

When participants were asked various questions about their label use and reasons behind the changes in the labels that they use, they mentioned several of the factors suggested in the

Match-and-Motivation model as the reasons for their changes. In addition, many participants discussed factors associated with sexual orientation identity development.

Many participants explained their prior label use as resulting from being in an early stage of their identity development. Specifically, individuals often mentioned feelings of compulsory heterosexuality as a cause of their early (or continued) use of the heterosexual label. These individuals had indicated feelings of prescribed heterosexuality or the lack of exploration in their discussions. Other individuals indicated that their previous label use was a result of being in the process of exploring and becoming aware of their orientation. Often, participants adopted labels that allowed for exploration. Other individuals discussed their commitment to a particular label. This was especially the case for individuals who did not foresee a label change in the future. Thus, commitment to their label is a likely buffer or obstacle from engaging in further exploration.

Most of the matching factors were discussed as reasons for changing labels. Some participants explained their label change as resulting from finding new, better fitting labels. Other individuals mentioned feelings of misfit with labels based on the elaborations (e.g., stereotypes) that they received from others. Many women mentioned fluidity in their discussions of labeling and label change. These women chose labels that allowed for flexibility in their sexual expression, or allowed them to switch labels in the future. The degree of same-sex relative to other-sex orientation was another factor that was frequently mentioned in determining labeling, especially when discussing the factors that would lead to future label changes. Individuals often cited a change in orientation as the only reason for future label change, which many thought would be unlikely. Other individuals highlighted specific aspects of orientation

that they have not yet (or not recently) experienced, but could foresee changing, leading to future label changes.

In line with previous work examining women's sexual orientation labeling (e.g., Diamond, 2003a, 2003b; Peplau et al., 1999), relationship experience was a central factor leading to label change. Close to half of the participants described their experience with a specific partner-type as a reason for changing their label. These findings may suggest also the feelings of not being "qualified" to adopt a label without relational experience with the partner-type(s) associated with the label. This lack of experience might make individuals feel as though they do not match the label definition, despite their attractions to others. Thus, relationships and relational experience appear to be one of the most important factors in label change. The differences in Match-and-Motivation factors across relationship types may help explain some of the label changes, however, future work should further explore the role of relationships in labeling and label change.

Individuals also mentioned various motivation factors as their reasons for changing their labels. In contrast to the matching factors, which were pretty well represented in participants' responses, many of the motivational factors were not explicitly articulated by participants. As discussed in the Match-and-Motivation model, individuals are often unaware of the motivational forces behind their behaviors. Thus, it can be expected that these factors may not be included as frequently in participants' explanations. For example, few participants gave explanations of being motivated by the desire for a specific affective state. However, a few participants did mention fear as a factor in their label use and change. While the source of this fear was not made explicit by participants, they were motivated to label in ways to avoid this negative state.

A few participants mentioned cognitive motivations as reasons behind their labeling. Specifically, participants expressed the desire to explore and gain an understanding of themselves. In addition, people were motivated to create an understanding that confirmed their (typically positive) self-views. Individuals also indicated the desire to maintain organization and consistency in their self-views as a reason for not changing their labels. Some participants indicated being motivated to label in ways that distinguished themselves from others or emphasized their agency in the process. No participants explicitly stated that they were motivated to label in ways that helped them gain personal resources or avoid disadvantage. This is inconsistent, however, with the quantitative findings linking anti-bisexual experiences and labeling, showing general tendencies for individuals to avoid stigma by rejecting labels.

Multiple participants indicated that they were motivated to label in ways that would increase their social acceptance or closeness to others. Additionally, individuals were motivated to label in ways that might improve the status of their social group or give resources to others (e.g., romantic partners). Finally, some individuals indicated that their label use was affected greatly by the situation and the solicitor of the label. Specifically, the motivations involved in labeling were highly variable across situations and, thus, were likely to lead to differences in labeling across contexts. One participant explained how the fear of threat to personal safety changed across different situations and such a motivator would greatly affect labeling.

Match-and-Motivation Factors that Did Not Predict Label Use

A couple of the Match-and-Motivation factors were not found to affect labeling. Specifically, closeness with the mainstream/heterosexual community did not predict the use of any labels at any of the time periods. Additionally, membership to groups that were not open to LGBTQ people and issues was not found to be associated with label use. These findings may be

due to the embeddedness of all participants in a heterosexual society that, to some degree, still endorses heterosexist attitudes. Thus, all participants are likely to be close to individuals who are heterosexual and all individuals are likely to be exposed to groups of individuals that are not open to LGBTQ individuals. Therefore there may be a lack of variability in these factors in the current social context for this population.

In line with the previously mentioned null results, anti-bisexual experiences did not differ across relationship time periods. This may reflect the lack of group membership for bisexual women, in that, even when they are in a relationship with a specific partner type (e.g., female partner), they may still be considered to be not a true member of the community (e.g., LGBTQ community).

The Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG), which is one of the most highly used and all-encompassing measures of sexual orientation, did not predict labeling at all time periods. For example, only past KSOG scores predicted use of the lesbian label and only current scores predicted use of the bisexual label. However, use of the lesbian label was not predicted by current KSOG scores nor was use of the heterosexual label. Thus, although the KSOG is one of the most comprehensive measures of sexual orientation, labels and identities cannot be inferred from its dimensions alone.

Quantitative vs. Qualitative Assessments of Labeling and Label Change

Some important distinctions between quantitative and qualitative approaches were highlighted through this project. Each methodological approach provided insight into the labeling process, while also presenting unique limitations. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches provided support for the Match-and-Motivation model, finding that both types of factors affect sexual orientation labeling.

There were some discrepancies between the findings based on the two approaches. Specifically, when assessed quantitatively, anti-bisexual experiences were found to affect labeling. However, in the qualitative responses, no participants indicated prejudice/social rejection as a factor that affected their labeling. As noted previously, individuals are often unable to access the motivations that guide their behavior. This is especially the case for situationally based motivations. Thus, quantitative examinations of the Match-and-Motivation model may be less susceptible to recall biases and more able to capture the effects of factors that are outside of individuals' awareness.

Similarly, there were many motivational aspects mentioned in the qualitative section that were unique to (i.e., mentioned by) only a few people. In addition, some of the same motivators affected participants very differently. For, example, while many people expressed the desire to belong as a reason behind their label use, one participant chose a label specifically in an effort to distance herself from the community. Moreover, since motivations hold different levels of importance and strength for different people, and are likely to change depending on context, finding significant quantitative results for each motivator may be a difficult task (as not all individuals have been exposed to the same situations and/or motivators). Thus, the qualitative responses can help guide future research examining the factors that affect labeling. Specifically, a factor that affects one individual's labeling may also affect others in similar ways if they were exposed to it in a similar context (e.g., through experimental studies).

Individuals are unaware of many of the situational and contextual motivators influencing their behavior, therefore experimental studies involving priming would be beneficial in identifying factors that may not be accessible via studies based on self-report measures. Work by Preciado and colleagues (Preciado, Peplau, & Johnson, 2012) has begun to explore the effects of

motivational factors on sexual orientation through experimental studies, finding that increasing the perceived social acceptance of nonheterosexuality increases reports of same-sex attraction from heterosexual self-labeled men and women. Such an approach allows for the examination of Match-and-Motivation factors that may affect sexual orientation labeling outside of people's awareness. Future work can utilize these methodologies to examine the various factors hypothesized in the Match-and-Motivation model.

Limitations of the Current Project

There were a few limitations of the current project. First, I was unable to ask questions to address each factor hypothesized in the Match-and-Motivation model, due to the survey length. Therefore the results are reflective only of the factors assessed, rather than all of the hypothesized factors. Future work should examine the factors that were hypothesized in the model but not examined in the current project. Additionally, due survey length restrictions, I did not ask participants to report on each variable measured for each time period (multiple variables were only assessed for the current day). Future work should explore different aspects of the Match-and-Motivation model and explore the differences in such factors across relationship types and over time.

Another limitation of the current project is that not all the participants were reporting about actual relationships/experiences. The participants that had not been involved in a specific relationship type (e.g., same-sex), were asked to report on how they think they would feel when in that type of relationship. While this factor was controlled for in the analyses, there are likely to be important differences between hypothetical reports and reports of actual experiences. However, having participants who had not experienced specific relationship types allowed me to

explore various predictions of the Match-and-Motivation model (e.g., lack of experience) and gain a better understanding of the use of different labels based on such factors.

Similarly, some participants' responses were based on retrospective recall, rather than in-the-moment labeling. Participants may have incorrectly remembered the labels that they have used in the past or their feelings during the time period of interest. Future work should longitudinally examine people's experiences when in different types of relationships (i.e., same- vs. other-sex) and how such experiences affect labeling.

An additional limitation of the current project is that not all participants completed the same number of time period blocks. Specifically, individuals who reported currently being in a relationship with one of their most significant partner-types (i.e., male or female) completed one less time period block than other participants. This likely led to differences in the amount of time necessary to complete the survey and may have made the participants reporting on three time periods more fatigued than the participants who only completed two. Additionally, participants may have become irritated with having to answer the same/similar questions multiple times (i.e., once for each time period). Future work can examine Match-and-Motivation factors separately from the difference in factors across relationships, in order to avoid fatigue and repetition effects.

An additional concern regarding the current project is related to the level of Type I error accumulated across the analyses. I conducted multiple analyses to examine the hypotheses in this study, which inflated the likelihood of committing a Type I error, in that the possibility of finding a significant result by chance was increased. I chose to favor the increased likelihood of committing a Type I error, over a Type II error, due to the exploratory nature of this work. The effects identified here need to be replicated to address this concern.

Sexual Identity vs. Labels

Some participants responded to the open-ended self-labeling item with non-orientation sexual identity information. This highlights the need to distinguish between general sexual identity and sexual orientation identity/labeling. This suggests the need for specificity in asking the question about the sexual orientation labels people use (rather than their sexual identity). Asking about labels, personal, and social identities separately will be useful for future work. Doing so is likely to provide a clearer picture of sexual orientation identity and the labels people use to describe themselves.

Another potential concern for future work on sexual orientation and identity is the finding that when the participants were asked to select the terms that they use to describe their sexual identity out of a researcher-generated orientation labels list, many individual selected more than one label. This further complicates the labeling process, but fits with the Match-and-Motivation approach to the understanding of the labeling process. Specifically, the Match-and-Motivation model suggests that individuals, and especially those with in-between orientations, are likely to have multiple labels that potentially fit with their experiences. Individuals then choose between these labels based on the goals that can be achieved through labeling and select their labels accordingly.

Impact of Labeling on Identity

Whereas some people may not initially place personal importance in the labels that they use, over time individuals are likely to become more committed and identified with the labels. People learn about who they are based on who others think they are. Therefore, identity can include not only aspects of self-definition, but also self-representation, or the way people act in social and interpersonal interactions (Baumeister, 1986; Butler, 1990; Reicher, 2000; Vignoles et al., 2011). Additionally, once you present yourself in a certain way, you may feel obligated to

maintain that social self or identity (Goffman, 1959). Therefore, it is likely that even if individuals are initially using a particular label to make communication with others easier (and do not consider the label to be consistent with their self-view), eventually with increased usage of the label, individuals are likely to incorporate the label within their self-view.

If They Don't Care Why Should We?

Several participants expressed a lack of concern about the labels that they use and highlighted the relative unimportance of their sexual orientation labels. With this, the following argument could be made: if they don't care why should we? In response to such a question, I would like to highlight the frequency of use of orientation labels within the existing empirical literature. Sexual orientation labels are often the primary or sole measure of orientation that is used. Therefore, if we continue to assess orientation using labels, then we must understand the meanings behind label use and the factors associated with adopting or rejecting labels. If we are not interested in labels (i.e., the ways individuals communicate their orientation to themselves or others) then the argument is valid, we do not care, and thus, should not use them as a primary measure of orientation. While I do believe that orientation labels are important and, as highlighted above, are likely to be associated with identity, I think one of the most important implications of this work involves the proper use of orientation factors within empirical work, which I elaborate on below.

Implications

The current work calls into question the meanings of sexual orientation labels and highlights them as primarily a tool for communicating with others. The variability in the labels used by this group of similarly oriented women and the women's flexibility in the labels they have applied over time, suggests the need to gain further understanding of label use and change.

Although same- vs. other-sex orientation was found to be predictive of label use during some time periods, it was not related to labeling during all time periods. In some instances motivational factors were more integral to the labeling process (e.g., when in a relationship with a female partner). Additionally, this work highlighted the importance of context, finding that women were sometimes limited by the labels that were available to them. Thus, sociocultural factors (e.g., available labels) sometimes determine the way individuals are able to communicate and understand their sexuality. Sociocultural and historical contexts also differ in their acceptance of same-sex sexuality, thus, the context, to a large extent, is likely to determine the relevant motivations in general. Similarly, Match-and-Motivation factors and labeling were found to change across different relational contexts. Such changes were often related to the desire to maintain closeness or avoid rejection from a community. In general, the labeling process is greatly affected by individuals' motivations and is sometimes not reflective of sexual orientation.

In the current project, the degree of individuals' match with their personal definitions of labels and their experiences was not directly assessed. A more ideal approach for examining the degree of match would be to identify each participant's definition of all of the labels of interest (e.g., bisexual) and then examine the degree of match between the personal definition and her experiences. Future work should use each individual's own definition when assessing her level of match with the label.

One primary implication of this work relates to future research examining the experiences of same-sex oriented individuals. First, scholars must take caution when recruiting samples to ensure that they are getting as representative of a sample as possible for the group of interest. Scholars must determine if they are only interested in individuals who *self-label* as a specific

orientation group, *personally identify* with a specific orientation, *collectively identify* with an orientation group, or have specific patterns of *orientations toward same- vs. other-sex partners* (e.g., attractions/behaviors/fantasies). These distinctions are very important, as individuals may be considered nonheterosexual according to one of these operationalizations but not with the others. For example, if a scholar is interested in examining the experiences of same-sex oriented individuals, they should recruit participants based on their reported orientations rather than their identification within the LGBTQ community or their self-label. If they recruited using only labels or identity then individuals who experience same-sex attractions, but do not use these labels or identify with the community, would be likely to be excluded from such examinations (see Dillon et al., 2011; Worthington et al., 2008).

The current work also suggests that sexual orientation labels may no longer be applicable to individuals' understandings of sexuality. Savin-Williams (2011) suggests that is a current shift away from the use of labels in youth and a trend away from the use of traditional terms in discussions of sexual orientation. More traditional terms limit sexuality and sexual expression and, as such, are often rejected by today's youth (Remafedi et al., 1992). Therefore, scholars must thoughtfully examine the aspect of sexual orientation that they are interested in when recruiting participants and the social understandings of sexuality within the group(s) of interest. In addition, scholars must measure sexual orientation in multiple ways (e.g., self-label, attractions, behaviors, etc.) to arrive at the best theoretical and conceptual understanding of sexual orientation and the meaning behind orientation label use and non-use.

Conclusion

Overall, the Match-and-Motivation model was found to be a useful tool to aid in the understanding of label use and changes in labeling for women with in-between orientations. This

model is one of the first to examine and provide an account for the often observed, but rarely understood, differences between facets of sexual orientation and provide a theoretical framework for understanding sexual orientation labeling, development, and change. The Match-and-Motivation model was created to help understand the use of a diverse set of orientation labels, identities, and orientations. Future empirical work should utilize the Match-and-Motivation model in the examination of the development and use of various orientation labels and identities, especially those that have remained invisible within the extant literature (e.g., asexual; DeLuzio-Chasin, 2011). In doing so, we can not only increase our knowledge of the labeling and identity processes, but also increase the visibility of groups and individuals that may not otherwise have a voice.

References

- Affleck, G., Tennen, H., Zautra, A., Urrows, S., Abeles, M., & Karoly, P. (2001). Women's pursuit of personal goals in daily life with fibromyalgia: A value-expectancy analysis. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 69*, 587–596.
- Affleck, G., Zautra, A. J., Tennen, H., & Armeli, S. (1999). Multilevel daily process designs for consulting and clinical psychology: A preface for the perplexed. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 67*, 746–754.
- American Psychological Association Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation (2009). *Report of the task force on appropriate therapeutic responses to sexual orientation*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Amestoy, M. M. (2001). Research on sexual orientation labels' relationship to behaviors and desires. *Journal of Bisexuality, 1*, 91-113. doi:10.1300/J159v01n04_09
- Ashmore, R., Deaux, K., & McLaughlin-Volpe, T. (2004). An organizing framework for collective identity: Articulation and significance of multidimensionality. *Psychological Bulletin, 130*, 80–114.
- Austin, J. T., & Vancouver, J. B. (1996). Goal constructs in psychology: Structure, process, and content. *Psychological Bulletin, 120*, 338–375.
- Bargh, J. A. (1997). The automaticity of everyday life. In R. S. Wyer, Jr. (Eds.), *The automaticity of everyday life: Advances in social cognition* (Vol. 10, pp. 1-61). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Bargh, J. A., & Ferguson, M. J. (2000). Beyond behaviorism: The automaticity of higher mental processes. *Psychological Bulletin, 126*, 925-945.

- Bargh, J. A., Gollwitzer, P. M. & Oettingen, G. (2010). Motivation. In S. T. Fiske, D. T. Gilbert, G. Lindzey (Eds.), *Handbook of social psychology* (5th ed., Vol. 1, pp. 268-316). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons Inc.
- Barker, M. (2007). Heteronormativity and the exclusion of bisexuality in psychology. In V. Clarke, E. Peel, V. Clarke & E. Peel (Eds.), *Out in psychology: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer perspectives*. (pp. 95-117). New York, NY, US: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.
- Barker, M., & Langdrige, D. (2008). II. bisexuality: Working with a silenced sexuality. *Feminism & Psychology, 18*(3), 389-394. doi:10.1177/0959353508092093
- Barrett, D. C., & Pollack, L. M. (2005). Whose gay community? Social class, sexual self-expression, and gay community involvement. *Sociological Quarterly, 46*, 437.
- Bauer, D. J., Preacher, K. J., & Gil, K. M. (2006). Conceptualizing and testing random indirect effects and moderated mediation in multilevel models: New procedures and recommendations. *Psychological Methods, 11*, 142-163. doi: 10.1037/1082-989X.11.2.142
- Baumeister, R. F. (Ed.). (1986). *Public self and private self*. New York: Springer.
- Bennett, K. (1992). Feminist Bisexuality: A Both/and Option in an Either/or World. In E. R. Weise (Ed.). *Closer to Home: Bisexuality and feminism* (pp. 207-231). Boston: The Seal Press.
- Berenson, C. (2002). What's in a name? bisexual women define their terms. *Journal of Bisexuality, 2*, 9-21. doi:10.1300/J159v02n02_02
- Bernstein, M. (2005). Identity politics. *Annual Review of Sociology, 31*, 47-74.
- Bower, J., Gurevich, M., & Mathieson, C. (2002). (Con)tested identities: Bisexual women reorient sexuality. *Journal of Bisexuality, 2*, 23-52. doi:10.1300/J159v02n02_03

- Bradford, M. (2004). The bisexual experience: Living in a dichotomous culture. In R. C. Fox (Ed.), *Current research on bisexuality* (pp. 7–23). New York, NY: Haworth.
- Brewster, M. E., & Moradi, B. (2010). Perceived experiences of anti-bisexual prejudice: Instrument development and evaluation. *Journal of Counseling Psychology, 57*, 451-468.
- Brook, A. T., Garcia, J., & Fleming, M. (2008). The effects of multiple identities on psychological well-being. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 34*, 1588-1600.
doi:10.1177/0146167208324629
- Brooks, K. D., & Quina, K. (2009). Women's sexual identity patterns: Differences among lesbians, bisexuals, and unlabeled women. *Journal of Homosexuality, 56*, 1030-1045.
doi:10.1080/00918360903275443
- Brotto, L. A., Knudson, G., Inskip, J., Rhodes, K., & Erskine, Y. (2010). Asexuality: A mixed-methods approach. *Archives of Sexual Behavior, 39*, 599-618. doi:10.1007/s10508-008-9434-x
- Brown, T. (2002). A proposed model of bisexual identity development that elaborates on experiential differences of women and men. *Journal of Bisexuality, 2*, 67-91.
doi:10.1300/J159v02n04_05
- Burleson, W. E. (2005). *Bi america: Myths, truths, and struggles of an invisible community*. Binghamton, NY, US: Harrington Park Press/The Haworth Press.
- Butler, J. (1990). *Gender trouble: Feminism and the subversion of identity*. New York: Routledge.
- Cass, V. C. (1979). Homosexual identity formation: A theoretical model. *Journal of Homosexuality, 4*, 219-235. doi:10.1300/J082v04n03_01

- Cass, V. C. (1990). The implications of homosexual identity formation for the Kinsey model and scale of sexual preference. In D. P. McWhirter, S. A. Sanders, J. M. Reinisch, D. P. McWhirter, S. A. Sanders & J. M. Reinisch (Eds.), *Homosexuality/heterosexuality: Concepts of sexual orientation*. (pp. 239-266). New York, NY, US: Oxford University Press.
- Chivers, M. L., Seto, M. C., Lalumière, M. L., Laan, E., & Grimbos, T. (2010). Agreement of self-reported and genital measures of sexual arousal in men and women: A meta-analysis. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, *39*, 5-56. doi:10.1007/s10508-009-9556-9
- D'Augelli, A. R. (1994). Identity development and sexual orientation: Toward a model of lesbian, gay, and bisexual development. In E. J. Trickett, R. J. Watts, D. Birman, E. J. Trickett, R. J. Watts & D. Birman (Eds.), *Human diversity: Perspectives on people in context*. (pp. 312-333). San Francisco, CA, US: Jossey-Bass.
- Davidson, J. K., Darling, C. A., & Norton, L. (1995). Religiosity and the sexuality of women: Sexual behavior and sexual satisfaction revisited. *Journal of Sex Research*, *32*, 235-243. doi:10.1080/00224499509551794
- De Fina, A. (2007). Code-switching and the construction of ethnic identity in a community of practice. *Language in Society*, *36*, 371-392.
- Deci, E. L., & Ryan, R. M. (1985). *Intrinsic motivation and self-determination in human behavior*. New York: Plenum.
- DeLamater, J. D., & Hyde, J. S. (1998). Essentialism vs. social constructionism in the study of human sexuality. *Journal of Sex Research*, *35*(1), 10-18. doi:10.1080/00224499809551913

- DeLuzio Chasin, C. J. (2011). Theoretical issues in the study of asexuality. *Archives of Sexual Behavior, 40*, 713-723. doi:10.1007/s10508-011-9757-x
- Diamond, L. M. (2000). Sexual identity, attractions, and behavior among young sexual-minority women over a 2-year period. *Developmental Psychology, 36*, 241-250. doi:10.1037/0012-1649.36.2.241
- Diamond, L. M. (2003a). What does sexual orientation orient? A biobehavioral model distinguishing romantic love and sexual desire. *Psychological Review, 110*, 173-192. doi:10.1037/0033-295X.110.1.173
- Diamond, L. M. (2003b). Was it a phase? Young women's relinquishment of lesbian/bisexual identities over a 5-year period. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 84*, 352-364. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.84.2.352.
- Diamond, L. M. (2005). A new view of lesbian subtypes: Stable versus fluid identity trajectories over an 8-year period. *Psychology of Women Quarterly, 29*(2), 119-128. doi:10.1111/j.1471-6402.2005.00174.x
- Diamond, L. M. (2006a). What we got wrong about sexual identity development: Unexpected findings from a longitudinal study of young women. In A. M. Omoto, & H. S. Kurtzman (Eds.), (pp. 73-94). Washington, DC, US: American Psychological Association. doi:10.1037/11261-004
- Diamond, L. M. (2006b). The evolution of plasticity in female-female desire. *Journal of Psychology & Human Sexuality, 18*, 245-274. doi:10.1300/J056v18n04_01
- Diamond, L. M. (2008). Female bisexuality from adolescence to adulthood: Results from a 10-year longitudinal study. *Developmental Psychology, 44*, 5-14. doi: 10.1037/0012-1649.44.1.5

- Diamond, L. M., & Savin-Williams, R. C. (2000). Explaining diversity in the development of same-sex sexuality among young women. *Journal of Social Issues, 56*, 297-313.
doi:10.1111/0022-4537.00167
- Diamond, L. M., & Savin-Williams, R. C. (2003). *Explaining diversity in the development of same-sex sexuality among young women*. New York, NY, US: Columbia University Press.
- Dillon, F. R., Worthington, R. L., & Moradi, B. (2011). In Schwartz S. J., Luyckx K. and Vignoles V. L. (Eds.), *Sexual identity as a universal process*. New York, NY, US: Springer Science + Business Media. doi:10.1007/978-1-4419-7988-9_27
- Dinno, A. B. (1997). From the perspective of a young transsexual. In G. E. Israel & D. E. Tarver II (Eds.), *Transgender care: Recommended guidelines, practical information, and personal accounts* (pp. 203–207). Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- Dodge, B., Reece, M., & Gebhard, P. H. (2008). Kinsey and beyond: Past, present, and future considerations for research on male bisexuality. *Journal of Bisexuality, 8*, 175–189.
- Drury, J., & Reicher, S. D. (2009). Collective psychological empowerment as a model of social change: Researching crowds and power. *Journal of Social Issues, 65*, 707–725.
- Dunne, M. P., Bailey, J. M., Kirk, K. M., & Martin, N. G. (2000). The subtlety of sex-atypicality. *Archives of Sexual Behavior, 29*, 549-565. doi:10.1023/A:1002002420159
- DuRant, R. H., Krowchuk, D. P., & Sinal, S. H. (1998). Victimization, use of violence, and drug use at school among male adolescents who engage in same-sex sexual behavior. *Journal of Pediatrics, 132*, 113–118.

- Eadie, J. (1997). That's why she is bisexual': Contexts for bisexual visibility. In P. Davidson, J. Eadie, C. Hemmings, A. Kaloski, M. Storr (Eds.), *The bisexual imaginary* (pp. 142-160). London : Cassel.
- Edley, N. (2001). Analysing masculinity: Interpretive repertoires, ideological dilemmas and subject positions. In M. Wetherell, S. Taylor, & S. J. Yates (Eds.), *Discourse as data* (pp. 189–228). Milton Keynes: Open University Press.
- Eliason, M. J. (1995). Accounts of sexual identity formation in heterosexual students. *Sex Roles*, 32(11-12), 821-834. doi:10.1007/BF01560191
- Eliason, M. J. (1997). The prevalence and nature of biphobia in heterosexual undergraduate students. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 26, 317–326.
- Eliason, M. J. (2001). Bi-negativity: The stigma facing bisexual men. *Journal of Bisexuality*, 1, 137–154.
- Ellis, A. L., & Mitchell, R. W. (2000). Sexual orientation. In L. T. Szuchman, F. Muscarella, L. T. Szuchman & F. Muscarella (Eds.), *Psychological perspectives on human sexuality*. (pp. 196-231). Hoboken, NJ, US: John Wiley & Sons Inc.
- Erikson, E. H. (1968). *Identity, youth and crisis*. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Eskin, M., Kaynak-Demir, H., & Demir, S. (2005). Same-sex sexual orientation, childhood sexual abuse, and suicidal behavior in university students in turkey. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 34, 185-195. doi:10.1007/s10508-005-1796-8
- Festinger, L. (1957). *A theory of cognitive dissonance*. Stanford University Press.
- Fingerhut, A. W., Peplau, L. A. & Ghavami, N. (2005). A dual-identity framework for understanding lesbian experience. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 29, 129-139
10.1111/j.1471-6402 .2005.00175.x.

- Firestein, B. A. (Ed.). (1996). *Bisexuality: The psychology and politics of an invisible minority*. Thousand Oaks, CA, US: Sage Publications, Inc.
- Fiske, S. T. (2004). *Social beings: A core motives approach to social psychology*. New York: Wiley.
- Ford, M. E., & Nichols, C.W. (1987). A taxonomy of human goals and some possible applications. In M. E. Ford & D. H. Ford (Eds.), *Humans as self-constructing systems: Putting the framework to work*. Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Fox, R. C. (1996). Bisexuality in perspective: A review of theory and research. In B. A. Firestein, & B. A. Firestein (Eds.), *Bisexuality: The psychology and politics of an invisible minority*. (pp. 3-50). Thousand Oaks, CA, US: Sage Publications, Inc.
- Frankel, L. (2004). An appeal for additional research about the development of heterosexual male sexual identity. *Journal of Psychology & Human Sexuality*, 16, 1-16.
doi:10.1300/J056v16n04_01
- Frost, D. M., & Meyer, I. H. (2012). Measuring community connectedness among diverse sexual minority populations. *Journal of Sex Research*, 49(1), 36-49.
doi:10.1080/00224499.2011.565427
- Garnets, L. D. (2002). Sexual orientations in perspective. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 8, 115-129. doi:10.1037/1099-9809.8.2.115
- Garnets, L. D., & D'Augelli, A. R. (1994). Empowering lesbian and gay communities: A call for collaboration with community psychology. *American Journal of Community Psychology*. Special Issue: *Empowering the Silent Ranks*, 22(4), 447-470.
doi:10.1007/BF02506889

- Garnets, L. D., & Kimmel, D. C. (2003). *Psychological perspectives on lesbian, gay, and bisexual experiences (2nd ed.)*. New York, NY, US: Columbia University Press.
- Geiger, W., Harwood, J., & Hummert, M. L. (2006). College students' multiple stereotypes of lesbians: A cognitive perspective. *Journal of Homosexuality, 51*, 165-182.
doi:10.1300/J082v51n03_08
- Glover, J. A., Galliher, R. V., & Lamere, T. G. (2009). Identity development and exploration among sexual minority adolescents: Examination of a multidimensional model. *Journal of Homosexuality, 56*(1), 77-101. doi:10.1080/00918360802551555
- Golden, C. (1994). Our politics and choices: The feminist movement and sexual orientation. In B. Greene, & G. M. Herek, (Eds.), *Lesbian and gay psychology: Theory, research, and clinical applications*. (pp. 54-70). Thousand Oaks, CA, US: Sage Publications, Inc.
- Gonsiorek, J. C., & Rudolph, J. R. (1991). Homosexual identity: Coming out and other developmental events. In J. C. Gonsiorek, J. D. Weinrich, J. C. Gonsiorek & J. D. Weinrich (Eds.), *Homosexuality: Research implications for public policy*. (pp. 161-176). Thousand Oaks, CA, US: Sage Publications, Inc.
- Hammersmith, S. K., & Weinberg, M. S. (1973). Homosexual identity: Commitment, adjustment, and significant others. *Sociometry, 36*(1), 56-79. doi:10.2307/2786282
- Herd, G. H. (1997). *Same sex, different cultures: Gays and lesbians across cultures*. Boulder, CO, US: Westview Press.
- Herek, G. M. (1990). The context of anti-gay violence: Notes on cultural and psychological heterosexism. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence. Special Issue: Violence Against Lesbians and Gay Men: Issues for Research, Practice, and Policy, 5*, 316-333.
doi:10.1177/088626090005003006

- Herek, G. M. (2002). Heterosexuals' attitudes toward bisexual men and women in the United States. *The Journal of Sex Research, 39*, 264–274.
- Herek, G. M. (2004). Beyond "homophobia": Thinking about sexual prejudice and stigma in the twenty-first century. *Sexuality Research & Social Policy: A Journal of the NSRC, 1*, 6-24.
doi:10.1525/srsp.2004.1.2.6
- Herek, G. M. (2007). Confronting sexual stigma and prejudice: Theory and practice. *Journal of Social Issues, 63*, 905-925.
- Herek, G. M., & Capitano, J. P. (1996). "Some of my best friends": Intergroup contact, concealable stigma, and heterosexuals' attitudes toward gay men and lesbians. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 22*, 412-424.
doi:10.1177/0146167296224007
- Herek, G. M., & Glunt, E. K. (1995). Identity and community among gay and bisexual men in the AIDS era: Preliminary findings from the Sacramento Men's Health Study. In G. M. Herek & B. Greene (Eds.), *Vol. 2: AIDS, identity, and community* (pp. 55–84). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Higgins, E. T. (1996). Knowledge activation: Accessibility, applicability, and salience. In E. T. Higgins & A.W. Kruglanski (Eds.), *Social psychology: Handbook of basic principles* (pp. 133-168). New York: Guilford Press.
- Hillier, L., Dempsey, D., Harrison, L., Beale, L., Matthews, L., & Rosenthal, D. (1998). Writing themselves in: A national report on the sexuality, health and well-being of same-sex attracted young people (Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, National Centre in HIV Social Research, La Trobe University) Carlton, Australia.

- Hoburg, R., Konik, J., Williams, M., & Crawford, M. (2004). Bisexuality among self-identified heterosexual college students. *Journal of Bisexuality, 4*, 25-36.
doi:10.1300/J159v04n01_03
- Horowitz, J. L., & Newcomb, M. D. (2001). A multidimensional approach to homosexual identity. *Journal of Homosexuality, 42*, 1-19. doi:10.1300/J082v42n02_01
- Hox, J. (2002). *Multilevel analysis techniques and applications*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Hutchins, L., & Ka'ahumanu, L. (Eds.). (1991). *Bi any other name: Bisexual people speak out*. Boston, MA: Alyson.
- James, W. (1890/1950). *The principles of psychology*. New York: Henry Holt and Co.
- Johnson, M. E., Brems, C., & Alford-Keating, P. (1997). Personality correlates of homophobia. *Journal of Homosexuality, 34*, 57-69. doi:10.1300/J082v34n01_05
- Judge, T. A., Bono, J. E., Erez, A., & Locke, E. A. (2005). Core self-evaluations and job life satisfaction: The role of self-concordance and goal attainment. *Journal of Applied Psychology, 90*, 257-268.
- Kiang, L., Yip, T., Gonzales, M., Witkow, M., & Fuligni, A. (2006). Ethnic identity and daily psychological well-being of adolescents from Mexican and Chinese backgrounds. *Child Development, 77*, 1338-1350
- Kielwasser, A. P., & Wolf, M. A. (1992). Mainstream television, adolescent homosexuality, and the significant silence. *Critical Studies in Mass Communication, 9*, 350-373.
- Kirkpatrick, R. C. (2000). The Evolution of Human Homosexual Behavior, *Current Anthropology, 41*, 385-413. doi: 10.1086/300145

- Kite, M. E., & Deaux, K. (1987). Gender belief systems: Homosexuality and the implicit inversion theory. *Psychology of Women Quarterly, 11*, 83-96. doi:10.1111/j.1471-6402.1987.tb00776.x
- Klein, F., Sepekoff, B., & Wolf, T. J. (1985). Sexual orientation: A multi-variable dynamic process. *Journal of Homosexuality, 11*, 35-49. doi:10.1300/J082v11n01_04
- Kroger, J., & Marcia, J. E. (2011). In Schwartz S. J., Luyckx K. and Vignoles V. L. (Eds.), *The identity statuses: Origins, meanings, and interpretations*. New York, NY, US: Springer Science + Business Media. doi:10.1007/978-1-4419-7988-9_2
- Laumann, E. O., Gagnon, J. H., Michael, R. T., & Michaels, F. (1994). *The social organization of sexuality: Sexual practices in the United States*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Lewis, R. J., Derlega, V. J., Brown, D., Rose, S., & Henson, J. M. (2009). Sexual minority stress, depressive symptoms, and sexual orientation conflict: Focus on the experiences of bisexuals. *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology, 28*, 971-992. doi:10.1521/jscp.2009.28.8.971
- Magaña, J. R., & Carrier, J. M. (1991). Mexican and mexican american male sexual behavior & spread of AIDS in california. *Journal of Sex Research, 28*, 425-441. doi:10.1080/00224499109551617
- Mahalik, J. R., Locke, B. D., Ludlow, L. H., Diemer, M. A., Scott, R. P. J., Gottfried, M., & Freitas, G. (2003). Development of the conformity to masculine norms inventory. *Psychology of Men & Masculinity, 4*, 3-25. doi:10.1037/1524-9220.4.1.3
- Maher, M. J., Sever, L. M., & Pichler, S. (2008). How catholic college students think about homosexuality: The connection between authority and sexuality. *Journal of Homosexuality, 55*, 325-349. doi:10.1080/00918360802345065

- Marcia, J. E. (1966). Development and validation of ego identity status. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 5*, 551–558.
- McCarn, S. R., & Fassinger, R. E. (1996). Revisioning sexual minority identity formation: A new model of lesbian identity and its implications for counseling and research. *The Counseling Psychologist, 24*, 508–534. doi:10.1177/0011000096243011
- McConaghy, N., Buhrich, N., & Silove, D. (1994). Opposite sex-linked behaviors and homosexual feelings in the predominantly heterosexual male majority. *Archives of Sexual Behavior, 23*, 565-577. doi:10.1007/BF01541498
- McDonald, G. J. (1982). Individual differences in the coming out process for gay men: Implications for theoretical models. *Journal of Homosexuality, 8*(1), 47-60. doi:10.1300/J082v08n01_05
- Meyer, M. D. E. (2009). “I’m just trying to find my way like most kids”: Bisexuality, adolescence and the drama of one tree hill. *Sexuality & Culture: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly, 13*, 237-251. doi:10.1007/s12119-009-9056-z
- Miranda, J., & Storms, M. (1989). Psychological adjustment of lesbians and gay men. *Journal of Counseling & Development. Special Issue: Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Counseling, 68*, 41-45. doi:10.1002/j.1556-6676.1989.tb02490.x
- Mohr, J. J. (2002). Heterosexual identity and the heterosexual therapist: An identity perspective on sexual orientation dynamics in psychotherapy. *The Counseling Psychologist, 30*, 532-566. doi:10.1177/001100002030004003
- Mohr, J. J., & Fassinger, R. E. (2000). Measuring dimensions of lesbian and gay male experience. *Measurement and Evaluation in Counseling and Development, 33*, 66-90.

- Mohr, J. J., & Fassinger, R. E. (2003). Self-acceptance and self-disclosure of sexual orientation in lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults: An attachment perspective. *Journal of Counseling Psychology, 50*, 482-495. doi:10.1037/0022-0167.50.4.482
- Mohr, J. J., & Rochlen, A. B. (1999). Measuring attitudes regarding bisexuality in lesbian, gay male, and heterosexual populations. *Journal of Counseling Psychology, 46*, 353–369.
- Moradi, B., van den Berg, J. J., & Epting, F. R. (2006). Intrapersonal and interpersonal manifestations of antilesbian and gay prejudice: An application of personal construct theory. *Journal of Counseling Psychology, 53*(1), 57-66. doi:10.1037/0022-0167.53.1.57
- Morgan, E. M., Steiner, M. G., & Thompson, E. M. (2010). Processes of sexual orientation questioning among heterosexual men. *Men and Masculinities, 12*(4), 425-443.
doi:10.1177/1097184X08322630
- Morgan, E. M., & Thompson, E. M. (2006). Young women's sexual experiences within same-sex friendships: Discovering and defining bisexual and bi-curious identity. *Journal of Bisexuality, 6* (3), 7-34.7
- Morgan, E. M., & Thompson, E. M. (2011). Processes of sexual orientation questioning among heterosexual women. *Journal of Sex Research, 48*, 16-28.
doi:10.1080/00224490903370594
- Murray, S. O. (1995). *American gay*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Newcomb, M. E., & Mustanski, B. (2010). Internalized homophobia and internalizing mental health problems: A meta-analytic review. *Clinical Psychology Review, 30*(8), 1019-1029.
doi:10.1016/j.cpr.2010.07.003

- Ochs, R. (1996). Biphobia: It goes more than two ways. In B. A. Firestein (Ed.), *Bisexuality: The psychology and politics of an invisible minority* (pp. 217–239). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Ochs, R., & Rowley, S. E. (2005). *Getting bi: Voices of bisexuals around the world*. Bisexual Resource Center: Boston, MA.
- Page, S., & Yee, M. (1985). Conception of male and female homosexual stereotypes among university undergraduates. *Journal of Homosexuality, 12*, 109-118.
doi:10.1300/J082v12n01_06
- Parent, M. C., & Moradi, B. (2009). Confirmatory factor analysis of the conformity to masculine norms inventory and development of the conformity to masculine norms inventory-46. *Psychology of Men & Masculinity, 10*, 175-189. doi:10.1037/a0015481
- Pathela, P., Hajat, A., Schillinger, J., Blank, S., Sell, R., & Mostashari, F. (2006). Discordance between sexual behavior and self-reported sexual identity: A population-based survey of New York City men. *Annals of Internal Medicine, 145*, 416–425.
- Pearl, M. L. (2006). Relating the Personal Experiences of Bisexual Friendship Literature. *Journal of Bisexuality, 6*, 115-127. doi:10.1300/J159v06n03_09
- Peplau, L. A., Spaulding, L. R., Conley, T. D., & Veniegas, R. C. (1999). The development of sexual orientation in women. *Annual Review of Sex Research, 10*, 70-99.
- Peterson, Z. D., & Muehlenhard, C. L. (2007). What is sex and why does it matter? A motivational approach to exploring individuals' definitions of sex. *Journal of Sex Research, 44*, 256-268. doi:10.1207/s15598519jsr4401_8

- Peterson, Z. D., & Muehlenhard, C. L. (2011). A match-and-motivation model of how women label their nonconsensual sexual experiences. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 35, 558-570. doi:10.1177/0361684311410210
- Phinney, J. S. (1992). The Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure: A new scale for use with adolescents and young adults from diverse groups. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 7, 156-176. doi:10.1177/074355489272003
- Phinney, J. S., & Ong, A. D. (2007). Conceptualization and measurement of ethnic identity: Current status and future directions. *Journal of Counseling Psychology. Special Issue: Racial and Ethnic Identity Theory, Measurement, and Research in Counseling Psychology: Present Status and Future Directions*, 54, 271-281. doi:10.1037/0022-0167.54.3.271
- Pillemer, D. B. (1992). Remembering personal circumstances: A functional analysis. In E. Winograd & U. Neisser (Eds.), *Affect and accuracy in recall: The problem of "flashbulb" memories* (pp. 236-254). New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Ponse, B. (1978). *Identities in the lesbian world: The social construction of self*. Westport, CN: Greenwood Press.
- Potter, J. (1996). Attitudes, social representations and discursive psychology. In M. Wetherell (Ed.), *Identities, groups and social issues* (pp. 119-174). Milton Keynes: Open University Press.
- Preacher, K. J. (March, 2010). Alternative error structures, time varying covariates, model assumptions. *Multilevel Modeling*. Lecture conducted during Multilevel Modeling Seminar, Lawrence, KS.

- Preciado, M. A., Peplau, L. A., & Johnson, K. L. (2012). *The impact of cues of stigma and support on sexual orientation cognitions among heterosexually identified men and women*. Manuscript submitted for publication.
- Reicher, S. (2000). Social identity definition and enactment: A broad SIDE against irrationalism and relativism. In T. Postmes, R. Spears, M. Lea, & S. Reicher (Eds.), *SIDE issues centre stage: Recent developments in studies of de-individuation in groups* (pp. 175–190). Amsterdam: Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- Remafedi, G., Resnick, M., Blum, R., & Harris, L. (1992). Demography of sexual orientation in adolescents. *Pediatrics*, *89*, 714–721.
- Rich, A. (1980). Compulsory heterosexuality and lesbian existence. *Signs: A Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, *5*, 631-660.
- Rieger, G., Chivers, M. L., & Bailey, J. M. (2005). Sexual arousal patterns of bisexual men. *Psychological Science*, *16*, 579–584.
- Robinson, W. L., & Calhoun, K. S. (1982). Sexual fantasies, attitudes and behavior as a function of race, gender and religiosity. *Imagination, Cognition and Personality*, *2*, 281-290.
- Rosario, M., Schrimshaw, E. W., Hunter, J. & Braun, L. (2006). Sexual identity development among lesbian, gay, and bisexual youths: Consistency and change over time. *Journal of Sex Research*, *43*, 1, 46-58.
- Rosen, R. C., & Beck, J. G. (1988). *Patterns of sexual arousal: Psychophysiological processes and clinical applications*. New York, NY, US: Guilford Press.
- Rothblum, E. D. (2000). Sexual orientation and sex in women's lives: Conceptual and methodological issues. *Journal of Social Issues*, *56*, 193-204. doi:10.1111/0022-4537.00160

- Rust, P. C. (1992). The politics of sexual identity: Sexual attraction and behavior among lesbian and bisexual women. *Social Problems*, 39, 366-386. doi:10.1525/sp.1992.39.4.03x0044r
- Rust, P. C. (1993). Neutralizing the political threat of the marginal woman: Lesbians' beliefs about bisexual women. *Journal of Sex Research*, 30, 214-228.
doi:10.1080/00224499309551705
- Rust, P. C. (1997). "Coming out" in the age of social constructionism: Sexual identity formation among lesbian and bisexual women. In E. D. Rothblum (Ed.), *Classics in lesbian studies* (pp. 25-54). New York: Harrington Park Press.
- Rust, P. C. R (2000). Bisexuality: A contemporary paradox for women. *Journal of Social Issues*, 56, 205-221.
- Rust, P. C. (2003), Finding a sexual identity and community: Therapeutic implications and cultural assumptions in scientific models of coming out. In: *Psychological Perspectives on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Experiences* (2nd ed.) eds. L. D. Garnets & D. C. Kimmel. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 227-269.
- Ryan, R. M., Sheldon, K. M., Kasser, T., Deci, E. L. (1996). All goals are not created equal: An organismic perspective on the nature of goals and their regulation. In R. M. Ryan, K. M. Sheldon, T. Kasser, E. L. Deci (Eds.), *The psychology of action: Linking cognition and motivation to behavior* (pp. 7-26). New York, NY: Guilford Press.
- Sandfort, T. G. M. (1997). Sampling male homosexuality. In J. Bancroft (Ed.), *Researching sexual behavior: Methodological issues* (pp. 261-275). Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

- Savin-Williams, R. C. (1995). Dating and romantic relationships among gay, lesbian, and bisexual youths. In R. C. Savin-Williams and K. M. Cohen (Eds.), *The lives of lesbians, gays and bisexuals: Children to adults* (pp. 166-180). New York: Harcourt Brace.
- Savin-Williams, R. C. (2005). *The new gay teenager*. Cambridge, MA, US: Harvard University Press.
- Savin-Williams, R. C. (2011). Identity development among sexual-minority youth. In S. J. Schwartz, K. Luyckx, & V. L. Vignoles (Eds.), *Handbook of identity theory and research* (pp. 671-689). New York, NY: Springer Science + Business Media. doi:10.1007/978-1-4419-7988-9_28
- Savin-Williams, R. C., & Ream, G. L. (2007). Prevalence and stability of sexual orientation components during adolescence and young adulthood. *Archives of Sexual Behavior, 36*(3), 385-394. doi:10.1007/s10508-006-9088-5
- Savin-Williams, R. C., Pardo, S. T., Vrangalova, Z., Mitchell, R. S., & Cohen, K. M. (2010). Sexual and gender prejudice. In Chrisler J. C., McCreary D. R. (Eds.), *Handbook of gender research in Psychology*. New York, NY, US: Springer Science + Business Media. doi:10.1007/978-1-4419-1467-5_15
- Schmitt, J. P., & Kurdek, L. A. (1987). Personality correlates of positive identity and relationship involvement in gay men. *Journal of Homosexuality, 13*, 101-109. doi:10.1300/J082v13n04_06
- Segal, L. (2010). Genders: Deconstructed, reconstructed, still on the move. In M. Wetherell & C. T. Mohanty (Eds.), *The Sage handbook of identities* (pp. 321–338). London: Sage.

- Smyth, J. M. (1998). Written emotional expression: Effect sizes, outcome types, and moderating variables. *Journal of Consulting & Clinical Psychology, 66*, 174-184. doi:10.1037//0022-006X.66.1.174.
- Sophie, J. (1985). A critical examination of stage theories of lesbian identity development. *Journal of Homosexuality, 12*, 39-51. doi:10.1300/J082v12n02_03
- Sophie, J. (1987). Internalized homophobia and lesbian identity. *Journal of Homosexuality, 14*, 53-65. doi:10.1300/J082v14n01_05
- Spalding, L. R., & Peplau, L. A. (1997). The unfaithful lover: Heterosexuals' perceptions of bisexuals and their relationships. *Psychology of Women Quarterly, 21*, 611-625. doi:10.1111/j.1471-6402.1997.tb00134.x
- Stall, R., Pollack, L., Mills, T. C., Martin, J. N., Osmond, D., Paul, J., . . . Catania, J. A. (2001). Use of antiretroviral therapies among HIV-infected men who have sex with men: A household-based sample of 4 major American cities. *American Journal of Public Health, 91*(5), 767-773. doi:10.2105/AJPH.91.5.767
- Storms, M. D. (1980). Theories of sexual orientation. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 38*, 783-792. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.38.5.783
- Swann, W. B., & Bosson, J. K. (2010). Self and identity. In S. T. Fiske, D. T. Gilbert, G. Lindzey (Eds.), *Handbook of social psychology* (5th ed., Vol. 1, pp. 589-328). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons Inc.
- Szymanski, D. M., Kashubeck-West, S., & Meyer, J. (2008). Internalized heterosexism: Measurement, psychosocial correlates, and research directions. *The Counseling Psychologist, 36*, 525-574. doi:10.1177/0011000007309489

- Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1986). The social identity theory of intergroup behavior. In S. Worchel & W. G. Austin (Eds.), *The psychology of intergroup behavior* (pp. 7–24). Chicago: Nelson Hall.
- Thompson, E. M., & Morgan, E. M. (2008). "Mostly straight" young women: Variations in sexual behavior and identity development. *Developmental Psychology, 44*, 15-21. doi:10.1037/0012-1649.44.1.15
- Tozer, E. E., & Hayes, J. A. (2004). Why do individuals seek conversion therapy?: The role of religiosity, internalized homonegativity, and identity development. *The Counseling Psychologist, 32*(5), 716-740. doi:10.1177/0011000004267563
- Udis-Kessler, A. (1990). Bisexuality in an essentialist world: Toward an understanding of biphobia. In T. Geller (Ed.), *Bisexuality: A reader and sourcebook* (pp. 51-63). Ojai, CA: Times Change Press.
- van Griensven, F., Kilmarx, P. H., Jeeyapant, S., Manopaiboon, C., Korattana, S., Jenkins, R. A., . . . Mastro, T. D. (2004). The prevalence of bisexual and homosexual orientation and related health risks among adolescents in northern Thailand. *Archives of Sexual Behavior, 33*, 137-147. doi:10.1023/B:ASEB.0000014328.49070.8c
- Van Zomeren, M., Postmes, T., & Spears, R. (2008). Toward an integrative social identity model of collective action: A quantitative research synthesis of three socio-psychological perspectives. *Psychological Bulletin, 134*, 504–535.
- Vignoles, V. L., Schwartz, S. J., Luyckx, K. (2011). Introduction: Toward an integrative view of identity. In V. L. Vivian, S. J. Schwartz, & K. Luyckx (Eds.), *Handbook of identity theory and research* (pp. 1-27). New York, NY: Springer Science.

- Vrangalova, Z., & Savin-Williams, R. C. (2010). Correlates of same-sex sexuality in heterosexually identified young adults. *Journal of Sex Research, 47*, 92-102. doi:10.1080/00224490902954307
- Warren, C. (1974). *Identity and community in the gay world*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.
- Waterman, A. S. (1999). Identity, the identity statuses, and identity status development: A contemporary statement. *Developmental Review, 19*, 591-621.
- Weinberg, M. S., Williams, C. J., & Pryor, D. W. (1994). *Dual attraction: Understanding bisexuality*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Weinrich, J. D., & Klein, F. (2002). Bi-gay, bi-straight, and bi-bi: Three bisexual subgroups identified using cluster analysis of the Klein sexual orientation grid. *Journal of Bisexuality, 2*, 109-139. doi:10.1300/J159v02n04_07
- Weinrich, J. D., Snyder, P. J., Pillard, R. C., & Grant, I. (1993). A factor analysis of the Klein sexual orientation grid in two disparate samples. *Archives of Sexual Behavior, 22*(2), 157-168. doi:10.1007/BF01542364
- Whisman, V. (1996). *Queer by choice: Lesbians, gay men, and the politics of identity*. New York: Routledge.
- Williams, T., Connolly, J., Pepler, D., & Craig, W. (2003). Questioning and sexual minority adolescents: High school experiences of bullying, sexual harassment and physical abuse. *Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health, 22*(2), 47-58.
- Worthington, R. L., Dillon, F. R., & Becker-Schutte, A. M. (2005). Development, reliability, and validity of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual knowledge and attitudes scale for heterosexuals (LGB-KASH). *Journal of Counseling Psychology, 52*, 104-118. doi:10.1037/0022-0167.52.1.104

- Worthington, R. L., & Reynolds, A. L. (2009). Within-group differences in sexual orientation and identity. *Journal of Counseling Psychology, 56*, 44-55. doi:10.1037/a0013498
- Worthington, R. L., Navarro, R. L., Savoy, H. B., & Hampton, D. (2008). Development, reliability, and validity of the measure of sexual identity exploration and commitment (MOSIEC). *Developmental Psychology, 44*, 22-33. doi:10.1037/0012-1649.44.1.22
- Worthington, R. L., Savoy, H. B., Dillon, F. R., & Vernaglia, E. R. (2002). Heterosexual identity development: A multidimensional model of individual and social identity. *The Counseling Psychologist, 30*, 496-531. doi:10.1177/00100002030004002
- Yoshino, K. (2000). The epistemic contract of bisexual erasure. *Stanford Law Review, 52*, 353–461.
- Zinik, G. (1985). Identify conflict or adaptive flexibility? Bisexuality reconsidered. *Journal of Homosexuality, 11*, 7–20.

Footnotes

¹ This scale was recoded from its automatic codes assigned by qualtrics to aid in interpretation. Participants were not presented with numeric values on this question, so this recoding was not considered to be a meaningful change in terms of interpretation.

Table A

Demographics: Ethnicity, Education, Relationship Status, and Geographical Region

Demographic	<i>n</i>	%
Ethnicity		
White/Caucasian	43	79.63%
Black/African American	2	3.70%
Multiple Ethnicities	4	7.41%
Asian	1	1.85%
Hispanic/Latina	2	3.70%
Missing	2	3.70%
Education		
Some College	17	31.48%
Bachelor's Degree	18	33.33%
Master's Degree	14	25.93%
Doctoral Degree	5	9.26%
Relationship Status		
Single	13	24.10%
Dating/Sexual relationship	14	26.00%
Exclusive Committed Relationship	16	29.60%
Non-exclusive Committed Relationship	5	9.30%
Engaged	1	1.90%
Married/Marriage-like Union	5	9.30%
Geographic Region ^a		
USA-West	9	16.67%
USA-Midwest	12	22.22%
USA-South	6	11.11%
USA-Northeast	7	12.96%
Canada	5	9.26%
Missing	15	27.78%

Note. ^aGeographic regions were determined using the US census classifications.

Table B

Frequencies of Participant Generated Self-Labels and Corresponding Frequencies of Application of Researcher Generated Labels

Self-Label	Researcher Generated Orientation Labels- Check Boxes																								
	B		LG		Q		U		H		S		PA		N		QS		A		PO		O		
	n	f	% ^a	f	% ^a	f	% ^a	f	% ^a	f	% ^a	f	% ^a	f	% ^a	f	% ^a	f	% ^a	f	% ^a	f	% ^a	f	% ^a
B	22	21	95%	2	10%	8	38%	2	10%	2	10%	2	10%	3	14%	4	19%	3	14%	1	5%	2	10%	3	14%
LG	12	1	9%	11	92%	7	64%	1	9%	0	0%	0	0%	1	9%	4	36%	1	9%	1	9%	0	0%	2	18%
QR	7	2	29%	2	29%	7	100%	0	0%	1	14%	0	0%	0	0%	1	14%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	14%
U	5	4	80%	3	60%	0	0%	4	80%	3	60%	2	40%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
H/S	3	3	100%	0	0%	1	33%	0	0%	2	67%	2	67%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	33%	0	0%
PA	3	2	67%	1	33%	2	67%	2	67%	0	0%	0	0%	3	100%	1	33%	1	33%	0	0%	1	33%	1	33%
Total	52	33	19	19	25	9	9	8	8	6	6	7	7	10	5	10	5	5	2	2	4	4	4	7	7

Note. B = Bisexual; LG = Lesbian/Gay; QR = Queer; U = Unlabeled; H = Heterosexual; S = Straight; PA = Pansexual; N = Nonheterosexual; QS = Questioning; A = Asexual; PO = Pomosexual; O = Other. The frequencies for the checkmarks and the self-labels slightly differ from other reports as missing data (3 missing self-labels and 1 missing checkboxes) are not accounted for in this table.

^a Percentages represent the percent of individuals in each self-label category (rows) who applied each label.

Table C

Phi Coefficients Assessing the Associations between Labels Checkboxes and the Frequency of Each Label

Label	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	f	% ^a
1. Heterosexual	-												9	17%
2. Straight	.63***	-											6	11%
3. Bisexual	.23	.27*	-										34	64%
4. Lesbian	.06	-.03	-.39***	-									20	38%
5. Unlabeled	.06	.00	.02	.17	-								9	17%
6. Queer	-.33*	-.22	-.32***	.04	-.23	-							25	47%
7. Pansexual	-.18	-.14	.06	-.07	.27*	.30*	-						7	13%
8. Nonheterosexual	-.09	-.02	-.14	.22	.04	.32*	.24	-					10	19%
9. Questioning	-.15	-.12	.11	.02	.37***	.08	.26	.17	-				5	9%
10. Asexual	-.09	-.07	-.06	.05	-.09	.01	-.08	-.10	.28*	-			2	4%
11. Pomosexual	-.13	.12	.21	.07	.06	.16	.31*	.05	.15	-.06	-		4	8%
12. Other	-.18	-.14	-.06	.04	-.18	.41***	.18	.38***	-.13	-.08	.10	-	7	13%

Note. Variables were coded 0 = no check (label not applied to oneself) and 1 = check (label is applied to oneself). * $p \leq .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .01$.

^a Percentages represent the percent of respondents who checked each box ($n = 53$).

Table D

Descriptive Statistics and Correlations for KSOG During Relationship with Male Partner

Variable	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	<i>M</i>	(<i>SD</i>)
1. Attraction	-							7.10	(20.01)
2. Behavior	.459**	-						-3.88	(34.22)
3. Fantasy	.797**	.402**	-					9.54	(21.83)
4. Emotion	.739**	.543**	.682**	-				9.70	(21.58)
5. Identity	.636**	.742**	.543**	.654**	-			-2.59	(22.88)
6. Social preference	.352**	.252	.172	.423**	.327*	-		11.86	(19.65)
7. Composite	.834**	.791**	.756**	.858**	.860**	.51**	-	5.29	(18.09)

Note. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$

Table E

Descriptive Statistics and Correlations for KSOG During Relationship with Female Partner

Variable	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	<i>M</i>	(<i>SD</i>)
1. Attraction	-							15.42	(21.11)
2. Behavior	.527**	-						25.85	(25.88)
3. Fantasy	.699**	.465**	-					15.62	(21.42)
4. Emotion	.563**	.662**	.540**	-				19.43	(20.32)
5. Identity	.759**	.476**	.586**	.514**	-			10.04	(20.00)
6. Social preference	.362**	.354**	.359**	.254	.518**	-		14.87	(17.77)
7. Composite	.847**	.780**	.791**	.774**	.824**	.591**	-	16.87	(16.29)

Note. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$

Table F

Descriptive Statistics and Correlations for KSOG During General Past

Variable	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1. Attraction	-						
2. Behavior	.598**	-					
3. Fantasy	.610**	.475**	-				
4. Emotion	.516**	.411**	.231	-			
5. Identity	.729**	.639**	.502**	.425**	-		
6. Social preference	.038	.140	.065	.305*	.180	-	
7. Composite	.831**	.794**	.675**	.679**	.833**	.394**	-

Note. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$

Table G

Descriptive Statistics and Correlations for Current KSOG

Variable	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1. Attraction	-						
2. Behavior	.660**	-					
3. Fantasy	.727**	.609**	-				
4. Emotion	.719**	.666**	.623**	-			
5. Identity	.845**	.719**	.709**	.763**	-		
6. Social preference	.509**	.600**	.596**	.527**	.532**	-	
7. Composite	.876**	.865**	.837**	.847**	.900**	.729**	-

Note. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$

Table H

Reliabilities and Correlations of Composite KSOG Scores Across Time periods

Variable	1.	2.	3.	4.	α
1. M composite	-				.85
2. F composite	-.23	-			.86
3. P composite	.37**	.24	-		.80
4. C composite	-.39**	.75**	.17	-	.91

Note. M = during relationship with male partner, F = during relationship with female partner, P = overall past feelings, C = current feelings. Correlations between male relationship and current and female relationship and current are inflated by individuals who are currently in a relationship with their most important male or female partner (as the current scores were used to represent both the relationship and current feelings).

Table I

Correlations, Cronbach Alphas, and Descriptive Statistics for ABES, CC, and OGC Across Time periods

Variable	<i>n</i> items	Current			Male Partner			Female Partner		
		α	<i>M</i>	(<i>SD</i>)	α	<i>M</i>	(<i>SD</i>)	α	<i>M</i>	(<i>SD</i>)
ABES_OI_LG	8	0.97	2.60	(1.35)	0.96	2.59	(1.35)	0.96	2.65	(1.41)
ABES_OI_H	8	0.96	2.83	(1.27)	0.94	2.82	(1.33)	0.94	2.84	(1.24)
ABES_SI_LG	4	0.89	2.08	(1.27)	0.89	2.04	(1.26)	0.88	2.04	(1.25)
ABES_SI_H	4	0.89	2.20	(1.28)	0.89	2.24	(1.34)	0.87	2.25	(1.32)
ABES_IH_LG	5	0.96	1.94	(1.22)	0.93	2.08	(1.25)	0.96	1.98	(1.19)
ABES_IH_H	5	0.96	2.23	(1.34)	0.93	2.24	(1.34)	0.97	2.24	(1.34)
ABES_T_LG	17	0.98	2.28	(1.22)	0.97	2.31	(1.23)	0.97	2.31	(1.21)
ABES_T_H	17	0.97	2.50	(1.20)	0.97	2.52	(1.24)	0.96	2.53	(1.18)
CC_Close	3	0.90	5.23	(1.54)	0.84	4.45	(1.62)	0.91	5.39	(1.49)
CC_Positive	2	0.89	5.29	(1.56)	0.84	4.71	(1.66)	0.88	5.38	(1.48)
CC_problems	3	0.90	5.36	(1.46)	0.88	4.63	(1.58)	0.93	5.35	(1.56)
CC_T	8	0.96	5.29	(1.45)	0.94	4.58	(1.52)	0.96	5.37	(1.42)
OGC	6	0.81	5.67	(1.12)	0.80	5.57	(1.07)	0.84	5.61	(1.19)

Note. ABES = Anti-bisexual Experiences Scale, CC = Community Connectedness, OGC = Other Group (heterosexual) Closeness, OI = Orientation Instability, SI = Sexual Irresponsibility, IH = Interpersonal Hostility, T = Total, LG = from Lesbian and Gay community, H = from Heterosexual community.

Table J

Frequencies of Label Use Across Time Periods

Time Period	Bisexual	Lesbian/Gay	Queer	Unlabeled	Straight	Pansexual/ Fluid			Total
						Questioning	Missing	Total	
Male Partner	21 (1)	2	5 (1)	2 (1)	12 (1)	1 (2)	2	3	54
Female Partner	22 (3)	11 (1)	5 (1)	2	2	2	1	4	54
Current	22	12	8	5	3	3	0	1 ^a	54

Note. Number in the parentheses represents the responses from the individuals who were reporting on the label they think they would use if they were in a hypothetical relationship with the partner type.

^aTwo additional participants had missing values, however these individuals checked only one box in the researcher generated labels and thus were placed in the corresponding category.

Table K

Predicting Use of Nonheterosexual Labels from Klein, Community (Lesbian and Gay) Connectedness, Other Group (Heterosexual) Connectedness, and Anti-Bisexual Experiences Scores

Predictor	B (SE)	OR [95% CI]	Wald	χ^2	df	R^2	% predicted
Model- Male Partner							
Constant	-0.03 (2.44)	0.97	0.00	24.11**	8	.52	86.3
Past partner (D1)	-1.31 (1.19)	0.27 [0.03, 2.76]	1.22				
Hypothetical partner (D2)	-0.12 (1.36)	0.89 [0.06, 12.78]	0.01				
Klein-composite	0.09 (0.04)	1.09 [1.01, 1.18]	4.95*				
Klein-composite ²	-0.03 (2.44)	1.00 [0.995, 1.00]	3.92*				
ABES-LG	-0.43 (0.80)	0.65 [0.14, 3.11]	0.29				
ABES-H	-0.12 (0.72)	0.89 [0.22, 3.63]	0.03				
CC	0.78 (0.38)	2.19 [1.05, 4.58]	4.32*				
OGC	-0.10 (0.41)	0.91 [0.40, 2.03]	0.06				
Model- Current							
Constant	-1.25 (3.45)	0.29	.13	18.73*	8	.53	88.5
Current female partner (D1)	-4.18 (2.18)	0.02 [0.00, 1.09]	3.69 ⁺				
Current relationship ^a (D2)	1.85 (2.00)	6.36 [0.13, 321.64]	0.85				
Klein-composite	0.03 (0.06)	1.03 [0.92, 1.14]	0.25				
Klein-composite ²	-0.001 (0.001)	1.00 [0.996, 1.00]	0.43				
ABES-LG	0.85 (1.20)	2.35 [0.23, 24.45]	0.51				
ABES-H	-1.17 (1.29)	0.31 [0.03, 3.85]	0.83				
CC	1.76 (0.76)	5.83 [1.32, 25.77]	5.39*				
OGC	-0.42 (0.62)	0.29 [0.19, 2.22]	0.46				

Note. CC = Community (Lesbian and Gay) Connectedness; OGC = Other Group (Heterosexual) Connectedness; ABES = Anti-Bisexual Experiences Scale; LG = Lesbian and Gay Community; H = Heterosexual. ⁺ $p < .10$. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

^aThe currently relationship variable represents whether the individual is currently involved in a monogamous relationship (1) or not (0).

The model predicting use of nonheterosexual labels during a relationship with a female partner was non-significant, $\chi^2(8, N = 50) = 7.99, ns$, and therefore the regression coefficients are not reported.

Table L

Predicting Use of the Bisexual Label from Klein, Community (Lesbian and Gay) Connectedness, Other Group (Heterosexual) Connectedness, and Anti-Bisexual Experiences Scores

Predictor	B (SE)	OR [95% CI]	Wald	χ^2	df	R ²	% predicted
Model- Male partner				13.08+	8	.29	68.5
Constant	0.39 (0.58)	1.47	.44				
Past partner (D1)	-0.33 (0.80)	0.72 [0.15, 3.41]	.17				
Hypothetical partner (D2)	-1.35 (1.25)	0.26 [0.02, 3.00]	1.17				
Klein-composite	0.04 (0.03)	1.04 [0.98, 1.12]	1.54				
Klein-composite ²	-0.003 (0.001)	1.00 [0.995, 1.00]	4.36*				
ABES-LG	0.04 (0.60)	1.04 [0.32, 3.40]	0.004				
ABES-H	-0.36 (0.60)	0.70 [0.22, 2.26]	0.36				
CC	0.17 (0.28)	1.19 [0.68, 2.06]	0.37				
OGC	0.23 (0.36)	1.26 [0.63, 2.53]	0.42				
Model- Female partner				15.72*	8	.34	68.5
Constant	-0.33 (0.64)	0.72	0.26				
Past partner (D1)	1.76 (0.77)	5.80 [1.29, 26.16]	5.23*				
Hypothetical partner (D2)	0.39 (1.17)	1.48 [0.15, 14.75]	0.11				
Klein-composite	0.01 (0.04)	1.01 [0.94, 1.09]	0.04				
Klein-composite ²	-0.002 (0.001)	1.00 [0.996, 1.00]	2.02				
ABES-LG	-1.53 (0.75)	0.22 [0.05, 0.94]	4.15*				
ABES-H	1.42 (0.78)	4.15 [0.90, 19.16]	3.32 ⁺				
CC	0.00 (0.29)	1.00 [0.67, 1.77]	0.00				
OGC	0.16 (0.35)	1.17 [0.59, 2.31]	0.20				
Model- Current				20.52**	8	.44	82.7
Constant	-1.22 (2.30)	0.30	0.28				
Current female partner (D1)	-1.17 (0.84)	0.31 [0.06, 1.60]	1.95				
Current relationship ^a (D2)	0.59 (0.84)	1.81 [0.35, 9.44]	0.49				
Klein-composite	0.00 (0.03)	1.00 [0.94, 1.07]	0.00				
Klein-composite ²	-0.003 (0.001)	1.00 [0.995, 1.00]	5.72*				
ABES-LG	-0.60 (0.90)	0.55 [0.09, 3.21]	0.44				
ABES-H	0.41 (0.93)	1.51 [0.24, 9.41]	0.19				
CC	0.34 (0.36)	1.41 [0.69, 2.86]	0.89				
OGC	0.19 (0.36)	1.21 [0.59, 2.45]	0.27				

Note. CC = Community (Lesbian and Gay) Connectedness; OGC = Other Group (Heterosexual) Connectedness; ABES = Anti-Bisexual Experiences Scale; LG = Lesbian and Gay Community; H = Heterosexual. ⁺ $p < .10$. * $p < .05$.

Table M

Predicting Use of the Heterosexual Label during a Relationship with a Male Partner from Klein, Community (Lesbian and Gay) Connectedness, Other Group (Heterosexual) Connectedness, and Anti-Bisexual Experiences Scores

Predictor	B (SE)	OR [95% CI]	Wald	χ^2	df	R^2	% predicted
Model- Male Partner				25.15***	8	.57	84.3
Constant	-3.52 (3.30)	0.03	1.14				
Past partner (D1)	1.84 (1.68)	6.30 [0.24, 167.98]	1.21				
Hypothetical partner (D2)	-1.14 (2.22)	0.32 [0.004, 24.62]	1.58				
Klein-composite	-0.11 (0.05)	0.90 [0.82, 0.98]	0.20				
Klein-composite ²	0.001 (0.002)	1.00 [0.997, 1.00]	1.14				
ABES-LG	0.78 (1.00)	2.19 [0.31, 15.65]	0.45				
ABES-H	0.54 (0.81)	1.72 [0.35, 8.41]	5.33*				
CC	-0.58 (0.46)	0.56 [0.23, 1.38]	0.11				
OGC	0.16 (0.49)	1.17 [0.45, 3.04]	0.61				

Note. CC = Community (Lesbian and Gay) Connectedness; OGC = Other Group (Heterosexual) Connectedness; ABES = Anti-Bisexual Experiences Scale; LG = Lesbian and Gay Community; H = Heterosexual. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

There was not enough participants who currently self-label as heterosexual ($n = 3$) or labeled as heterosexual during a relationship with a female partner ($n = 3$) to conduct analyses predicting the use of this label during these time periods.

Table N

Predicting Use of the Bisexual Label from Current KSOG Scores

Predictor	B (SE)	OR [95% CI]	Wald	Chi-square	df	Nagelkerke R^2	% predicted
Null Model							57.7
Model				19.41***	2	.42	78.8
Attraction	.02 (.03)	1.02 [.97, 1.08]	.48				
Attraction ²	-.003 (.001)	.997 [.995, .999]	7.79***				
Model				9.11**	2	.22	65.4
Behavior	-.02 (.01)	.98 [.96, 1.00]	3.04 ⁺				
Behavior ²	-.001 (.00)	.999 [.999, 1.00]	3.63 ⁺				
Model				9.38**	2	.22	69.2
Fantasy	-.02 (.02)	.98 [.95, 1.01]	1.57				
Fantasy ²	-.001 (.001)	.999 [.998, 1.00]	2.71 ⁺				
Model				7.21*	2	.17	65.4
Emotional	.01 (.02)	1.01 [.97, 1.05]	.01				
Emotional ²	-.001 (.001)	.999 [.998, 1.00]	3.92*				
Model				18.08***	2	.40	76.9
Identification	-.01 (.03)	.99 [.94, 1.04]	.13				
Identification ²	-.003 (.001)	.997 [.995, 1.00]	5.53*				
Model				15.72***	2	.35	75.0
Social preference	-.05 (.02)	.96 [.92, .99]	5.75**				
Social preference ²	-.001 (.001)	.999 [.997, 1.00]	3.65 ⁺				
Model				16.68***	2	.37	76.9
Composite	-.01 (.02)	.995 [.95, 1.04]	.05				
Composite ²	-.002 (.001)	.998 [.995, 1.00]	5.64*				

Note. Higher KSOG scores indicate greater tendency towards same-sex only (or lesbian for the identification variable). Lower values on the squared KSOG scores represent proximity to the center of the KSOG scale (e.g., attracted to same- and other-sex equally). ⁺ $p < .10$. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .01$.

Table O

Predicting Use of the Lesbian Label from Past Klein Scores

Predictor	B (SE)	OR [95% CI]	Wald	χ^2	df	R^2	% predicted
Model				5.47 ⁺	2	.16	80.8
Attraction	.04 (.02)	1.04 [1.00,1.08]	4.07*				
Attraction ²	.00 (.001)	1.00 [.99, 1.00]	.28				
Model				4.66 ⁺	2	.13	78.8
Behavior	.03 (.02)	1.03 [1.00, 1.07]	4.00*				
Behavior ²	.00 (.00)	1.00 [.999, 1.00]	.00				
Model-Fantasy				3.96	2	.11	78.8
Model- Emotional Preference				3.80	2	.11	78.8
Model-Identification				3.17	2	.09	76.9
Model-Social Preference				0.17	2	.01	78.8

Note. Higher Klein scores indicate greater tendency towards same-sex only (or lesbian for the identification variable). Lower values on the squared Klein scores represent proximity to the center of the Klein scale (e.g., attracted to same- and other-sex equally). ⁺ $p < .10$. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .01$.

Table P
Changes in orientation facets based on time frame reference

Variable	General Past		Current		$F(1,53)$	η_p^2
	M	(SD)	M	(SD)		
Klein-						
composite	-1.90	(15.02)	11.72	(20.58)	6.78**	.12
Attraction	-1.61	(21.21)	10.57	(22.48)	11.17**	.18
Behavior	-9.20	(24.54)	11.88	(33.59)	15.65***	.23
Fantasy	-2.12	(19.21)	11.47	(24.41)	11.33***	.18
Emotion	2.64	(20.32)	14.61	(23.30)	10.83**	.17
Identification	-9.41	(22.05)	8.65	(22.50)	17.83***	.26
Social						
Preference	8.27	(19.87)	13.15	(19.65)	2.49	.05

Note. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Table Q

Frequencies Associated with the Number of Researcher-generated Labels Checked by Each Participant

Number of labels	<i>f</i>	%
1	18	33.33%
2	6	11.11%
3	18	33.33%
4	5	9.26%
5	3	5.56%
6	2	3.70%
7	1	1.85%
Missing	1	1.85%
Total	54	100%

Table R

Frequencies Associated with the Number of Times Participants Reported Changing their Sexual Orientation Label

Number of changes	<i>f</i>	%
0	9	19.6%
1	19	41.30%
2	10	21.73%
3	3	6.5%
A few times ^a	3	6.5%
Many times ^a	2	4.3%
Missing	8	17.39%
Total	54	100%

Note. ^a no specific number of changes was provided by these participants, however, their responses were coded to reflect whether they inferred that they changed the label many times or only a few times.

Table S

Changes in orientation facets, Community Connectedness (Lesbian and Gay), Other Group Connectedness (Heterosexual), Anti-Bisexual Experience across Relationship Time Period

Variable	Male Partner		Female Partner		$F(1,53)$	η_p^2
	M	(SD)	M	(SD)		
KSOG-						
composite	5.29	(18.13)	16.87	(16.29)	9.98**	.16
Attraction	7.10	(20.01)	15.42	(21.11)	5.17*	.09
Behavior	-3.88	(34.22)	25.85	(25.88)	20.68***	.28
Fantasy	9.54	(21.83)	15.62	(21.42)	2.09	.04
Emotion	9.70	(21.58)	19.43	(20.32)	5.39*	.09
Identification	-2.59	(22.88)	10.04	(20.00)	6.92*	.12
Social						
Preference	11.86	(19.65)	14.87	(17.77)	0.90	.02
CC	4.58	(1.53)	5.37	(1.48)	13.04***	.20
OGC	5.57	(1.13)	5.60	(1.18)	.04	.00
ABES_LGB	2.31	(1.23)	2.31	(1.21)	.00	.00
ABES_H	2.52	(1.23)	2.54	(1.18)	.04	.00

Note. KSOG = Klein Sexual Orientation Grid; CC = Community (Lesbian and Gay) Connectedness; OGC = Other Group (Heterosexual) Connectedness; ABES = Anti-Bisexual Experiences Scale; LG = Lesbian and Gay Community; H = Heterosexual. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Table T

Model Comparisons, Unstandardized Regression Coefficients, and Standard Errors for Multiple Groups Multilevel Analyses Predicting Closeness to Social Network Members (SNM) during Relationship Time periods

Model	Model comparison		Predictor						
	df	$\Delta \chi^2$	D1:F	D2:M	F_LGBT	M_LGBT	F_OUT	M_OUT	
1. Null			4.99 (.10)***	5.09 (.11)***					
2. Main effects- LGBT	2	75.27***	4.87 (.11)***	5.20 (.11)***	0.35 (.13)**	-.30 (.13)*			
3. Main effects- OUT	2	245.78***	2.50 (.21)***	4.34 (.18)***	-.07 (.12) ^{ns}	-.60 (.13)***	.50 (.03)***	.22 (.03)***	
4. All slopes random	10	122.58***	2.49 (.36)***	4.31 (.28)***	-.07 (.13) ^{ns}	-.58 (.14)***	.47 (.06)***	.19 (.06)**	
5. Final model	6	26.50***	2.48 (.36)***	4.33 (.28)***	-.05 (.11) ^{ns}	-.57 (.13)***	.47 (.06)***	.18 (.06)**	

Note. D1:F = dummy code representing female relationship intercept; D2:M = dummy code representing male relationship; F_LGBTQ = dummy code representing the SNM's membership within the LGBTQ community during female relationship; M_LGBTQ = dummy code representing the SNM's membership within the LGBTQ community during male relationship (1 = member and 0 = nonmember); F_OUT = participants' level of "outness" to SNM during female relationship; M_OUT = participants' level of "outness" to SNM during male relationship (1 = person definitely does not know about your sexual orientation to 7 = person definitely knows about your sexual orientation and it is openly talked about). Each model is compared to the one immediately preceding it. The final model represents the effects following the removal of the nonsignificant random slopes.

* $p < .05$. *** $p < .01$. **** $p < .001$.

Table U

Frequencies Associated with the Use of a Different or the Same Label as the Current Label During Different Time periods

Time period	Different Label		Same Label		Missing		<i>n</i> ^a
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	
Male Partner Relationship	18	58.06%	10	32.26%	3	9.68%	31
Female Partner Relationship	13	41.94%	17	54.84%	1	3.23%	31

Note. ^aThis total represents the number of participants who were reporting about either a past ($n_{\text{Male}} = 24$; $n_{\text{Female}} = 26$) or hypothetical ($n_{\text{Male}} = 7$; $n_{\text{Female}} = 5$) partner.

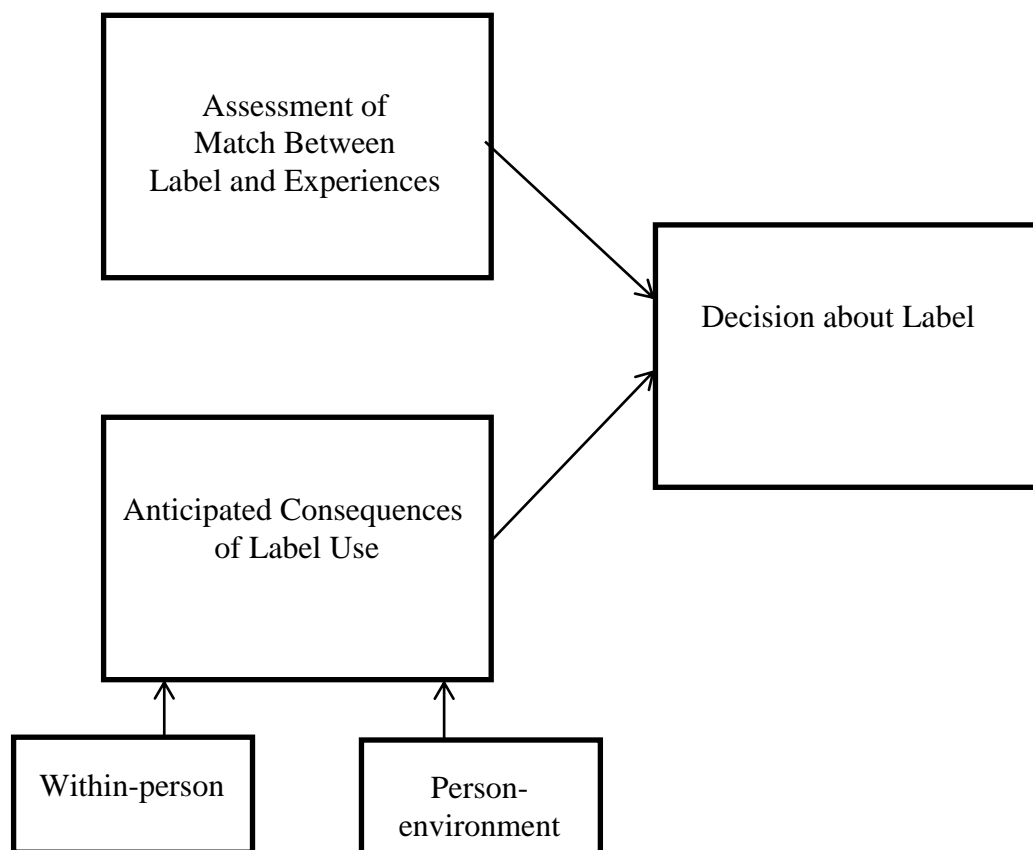


Figure 1. The role of the match between a label and one's experiences and an individual's motivations in determining the label used to describe one's own sexual orientation.

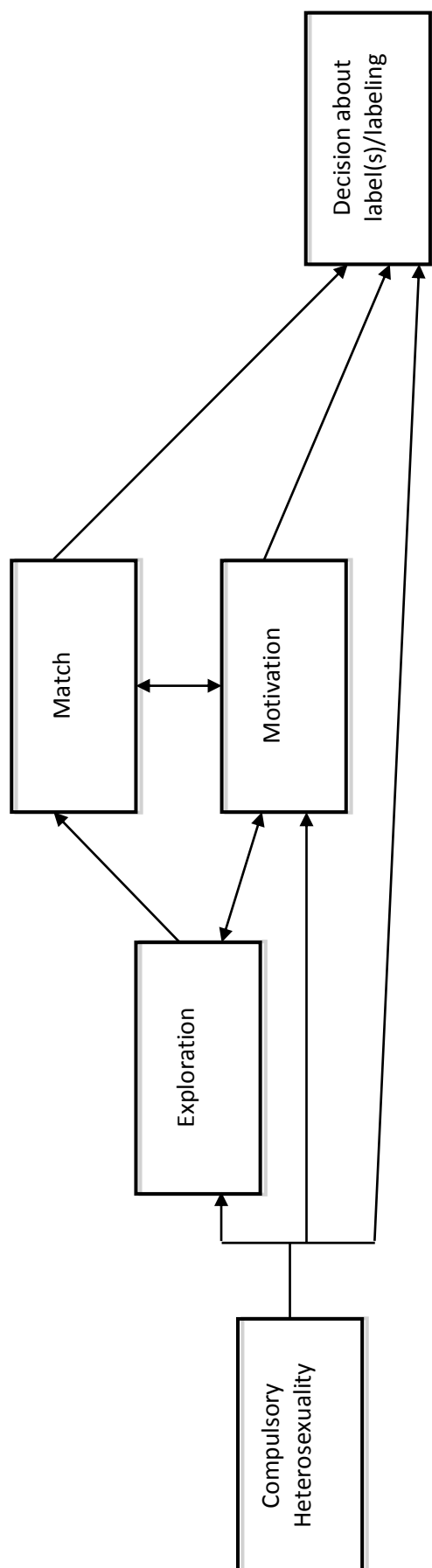


Figure 2. The developmental process involved in labeling sexual orientation.

$$y_{ij} = \delta^a (\beta^a_{0j} + \beta^a_{1j}LGBT^a_{ij} + \beta^a_{2j}OUT^a_{ij}) + \delta^b (\beta^b_{0j} + \beta^b_{1j}LGBT^b_{ij} + \beta^b_{2j}OUT^b_{ij})$$

$$\beta^a_{0j} = \gamma^a_{00} + u^a_{0j}$$

$$\beta^a_{1j} = \gamma^a_{10}$$

$$\beta^a_{2j} = \gamma^a_{20} + u^a_{2j}$$

$$\beta^b_{0j} = \gamma^b_{00} + u^b_{0j}$$

$$\beta^b_{1j} = \gamma^b_{10}$$

$$\beta^b_{2j} = \gamma^b_{20} + u^b_{2j}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} u^a_{0j} \\ u^a_{2j} \\ u^b_{0j} \\ u^b_{2j} \end{bmatrix} \sim N \left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \tau^a_{00} & & & \\ \tau^a_{20} & \tau^a_{22} & & \\ 0 & 0 & \tau^b_{00} & \\ 0 & 0 & \tau^b_{20} & \tau^b_{22} \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

Figure 3. Final multiple groups multilevel model predicting closeness (y_{ij}) to social network member (SNM) from the SNM's membership in the LGBTQ community (LGBT) and the degree to which the participant is "out" to the SNM (OUT).

^aduring a relationship with a female partner (group 1)

^bduring a relationship with a male partner (group 2).

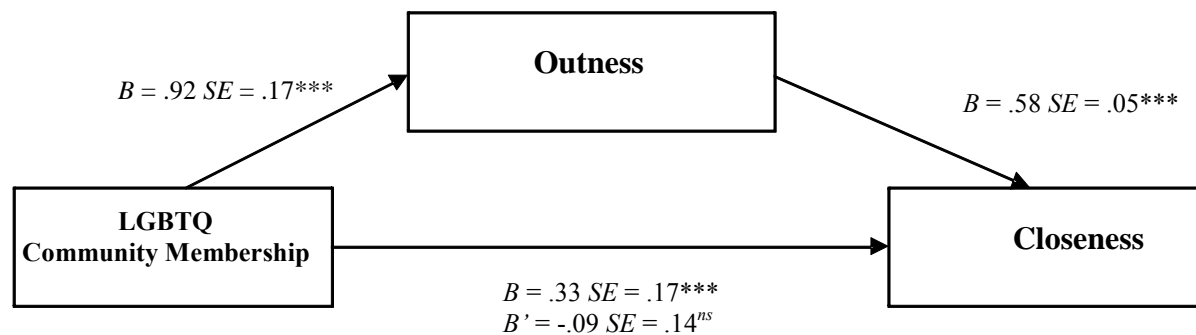


Figure 4. Multilevel mediational model examining the indirect effect of the social network members' (SNM) LGBTQ community membership (1 = member; 0 = non-member) on closeness during a relationship with a female partner through outness (i.e., the extent to which the SNM is aware of the participant's orientation). 95% CI for indirect effect [.19-.66]. 95% CI for total effect [.00-.66].

Appendix

Qualification Questions:**1. Gender**

- Female (1)
- Male (2)
- something else (please specify) (3) _____

2. Age (please type a numeric value in the box below) _____**3. Have you experienced relatively enduring (i.e., continuing/ long-lasting) attractions (romantic and/or physical) to men?**

- Yes (1)
- Yes- transgender men only (2)
- No (3)

4. Have you experienced relatively enduring (i.e., continuing/ long-lasting) attractions (romantic and/or physical) to women?

- Yes (1)
- Yes- transgender women only (2)
- No (3)

5. How do you currently label your sexual identity to yourself, even if it's different from what you might tell other people? If you don't apply a label, please say so. Please type your response in the box below.

Skip logic: To qualify participants must have met all of the following criteria:

1. female
2. Numeric value must be ≥ 18
3. yes
4. yes

If participants did not meet the above criteria, they were taken to the end of the survey, informed that they did not qualify for the study, and encouraged to contact me if they had any questions.

Qualified participants received the following instructions:

We would like to know a little bit about your social networks. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. If you are asked to indicate a number, please enter a numeric value. If you are unsure of the exact number, please estimate. Please only include numerical values in the response box. Do not type text or characters other than numbers in the response box (e.g., one). In addition, do not include ranges of numbers (e.g., 1-2). These will be considered invalid responses. For example, if you are asked how many family members you have, and your response is 1 family member, here are examples of valid and invalid responses: Example of a valid response: 1 Examples of invalid responses: one -or- 1-2

6. How many close friends do you currently have? (Please type a numeric value in the response box below. For example, if your response is zero, please enter 0 in the box below)

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with as many as five rows, corresponding to the number of friends they indicated in question 6, if participants indicated zero friends they did not see this question.

Social Network Questions

7. Currently, who are your closest friends? Please give initials or nicknames for the people that are currently your closest friends. You will later be presented with these initials/nicknames, so be sure to type in something that you will be able to identify. If you have multiple people in this group, make sure that all of the initials/nicknames are different for each person. Also, indicate how much contact you have with your closest friend(s), their sexual orientation and their gender.

Friend	Initials	Amount of contact			What is this person's sexual orientation? Drop down options: straight/heterosexual, gay/lesbian, bisexual, unknown, something else	What is this person's gender? Drop down options: female, male, something else
		No Contact (1)	Some Contact (2)	A lot of contact (3)		
Friend 1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Friend 2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Friend 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Friend 4		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Friend 5		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		

8. Please indicate the number of family members you have. Please enter a number for each family member type. (Please type a numeric value in the response box below. For example, if your response is zero, please enter 0 in the box below.)

	Number in Family (please type a number)
Mother/Stepmother(s)	
Father/Stepfather(s)	
Sisters	
Brothers	

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with as many as four rows for moms and dads and up to seven rows for both sisters and brothers, corresponding to the number of family members they indicated in question 8, if participants indicated zero of any family member type they did not see this question.

9. Please give initials or nicknames for your mom/step-mom(s), you will later be presented with these initials/nicknames, so be sure to type in something that you will be able to identify later. If you have multiple people in this group make sure that all of the initials/nicknames are different for each person. Also, indicate how much contact you have with your mom/step-mom(s) and her/their sexual orientation.

	Initials	Amount of contact			What is this person's sexual orientation?
		No Contact (1)	Some Contact (2)	A lot of contact (3)	Drop down options: straight/heterosexual, gay/lesbian, bisexual, unknown, something else
Mother/Stepmother 1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Mother/Stepmother 2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Mother/Stepmother 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Mother/Stepmother 4		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

10. Please give initials or nicknames for your dad/step-dad(s), you will later be presented with these initials/nicknames, so be sure to type in something that you will be able to identify later. If you have multiple people in this group, make sure that all of the initials/nicknames are different for each person. Also, indicate how much contact you have with your dad/step-dad(s) and his/their sexual orientation.

	Initials	Amount of contact			What is this person's sexual orientation?
		No Contact (1)	Some Contact (2)	A lot of contact (3)	Drop down options: straight/heterosexual, gay/lesbian, bisexual, unknown, something else
Father/Stepfather 1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Father/Stepfather 2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Father/Stepfather 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Father/Stepfather 4		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

11. Please give initials or nicknames for your sister(s), you will later be presented with these initials/nicknames, so be sure to type in something that you will be able to identify later. If you have multiple people in this group, make sure that all of the initials/nicknames are different for each person. Also, indicate how much contact you have with your sister(s) and her/their sexual orientation.

	Initials	Amount of contact			What is this person's sexual orientation?
		No Contact (1)	Some Contact (2)	A lot of contact (3)	Drop down options: straight/heterosexual, gay/lesbian, bisexual, unknown, something else
Sister 1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Sister 2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Sister 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Sister 4		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Sister 5		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Sister 6		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Sister 7		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

12. Please give initials or nicknames for your brother(s), you will later be presented with these initials/nicknames, so be sure to type in something that you will be able to identify later. If you have multiple people in this group, make sure that all of the initials/nicknames are different for each person. Also, indicate how much contact you have with your brother(s) and his/their sexual orientation.

	Initials	Amount of contact			What is this person's sexual orientation?
		No Contact (1)	Some Contact (2)	A lot of contact (3)	Drop down options: straight/heterosexual, gay/lesbian, bisexual, unknown, something else
Brother 1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Brother 2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Brother 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Brother 4		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Brother 5		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Brother 6		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Brother 7		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

13. Is anyone else in your family lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer/questioning (LGBTQQ) (that you know of)?

- Yes (1)
 No (2)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “yes” to question 13, then they continued to question 14. If they answered no, then they skipped ahead to question 27.

14. How many people in your family (not including yourself) are lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer/questioning (LGBTQQ) ?

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with up to five rows for LGBTQQ family members, corresponding to the number of LGBTQQ family members they indicated in question 14.

15. Please write relationship to you of your LGBTQQ family member(s).

	Type of family member
	Drop down options: Mom, Dad, Sister, Brother, Aunt, Uncle, Cousin, other
LGBTQQ family member 1	
LGBTQQ family member 2	
LGBTQQ family member 3	
LGBTQQ family member 4	
LGBTQQ family member 5	

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with up to five rows for LGBTQQ moms/stepmoms, corresponding to the number of LGBTQQ moms/stepmoms they indicated in question 15, if they did not indicate any moms in question 15 they did not see this question.

16. Indicate the initials of your LGBTQQ mom(s).

	Initials	Which of the following best describes this individual's sexual orientation or gender identity
	(the initials of the moms provided in question 9 were included as drop down options as well as an "initials not listed" option)	Drop down options: lesbian/gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, something else
LGBTQQ Mom/Stepmom 1		
LGBTQQ Mom/Stepmom2		
LGBTQQ Mom/Stepmom 3		
LGBTQQ Mom/Stepmom 4		
LGBTQQ Mom/Stepmom 5		

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with as many as five rows for LGBTQQ moms/stepmoms whose initials were not listed, corresponding to the number of "initials not listed" they indicated in question 16, if they did not indicate any moms in question 15 they did not see this question.

17. Indicate the initials/nickname of your LGBTQQ mom(s) that you indicated as "not listed" in the previous question.

	Initials
	(type response)
Not listed LGBTQQ Mom/Stepmom 1	
Not listed LGBTQQ Mom/Stepmom2	
Not listed LGBTQQ Mom/Stepmom 3	
Not listed LGBTQQ Mom/Stepmom 4	
Not listed LGBTQQ Mom/Stepmom 5	

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with as many as five rows for LGBTQQ dads/stepdads, corresponding to the number of LGBTQQ dads/stepdads they indicated in question 15, if they did not indicate any dads in question 15 they did not see this question.

18. Indicate the initials of your LGBTQQ dad(s).

	Initials	Which of the following best describes this individual's sexual orientation or gender identity
	(the initials of the dads provided in question 10 were included as drop down options as well as an "initials not listed" option)	Drop down options: lesbian/gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, something else
LGBTQQ Dad/Stepdad 1		
LGBTQQ Dad/Stepdad2		
LGBTQQ Dad/Stepdad 3		
LGBTQQ Dad/Stepdad 4		
LGBTQQ Dad/Stepdad 5		

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with as many as five rows for LGBTQQ dads/stepdads whose initials were not listed, corresponding to the number of "initials not listed" they indicated in question 18, if they did not indicate any dads in question 15 they did not see this question.

19. Indicate the initials/nickname of your LGBTQQ dad(s) that you indicated as "not listed" in the previous question.

	Initials
	(type response)
Not listed LGBTQQ Dad/Stepdad 1	
Not listed LGBTQQ Dad/Stepdad2	
Not listed LGBTQQ Dad/Stepdad 3	
Not listed LGBTQQ Dad/Stepdad 4	
Not listed LGBTQQ Dad/Stepdad 5	

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with as many as five rows for LGBTQQ brothers, corresponding to the number of LGBTQQ brothers they indicated in question 15, if they did not indicate any brothers in question 15 they did not see this question.

20. Indicate the initials of your LGBTQQ brothers(s).

	Initials	Which of the following best describes this individual's sexual orientation or gender identity
	(the initials of the brothers provided in question 12 were included as drop down options as well as an "initials not listed" option)	Drop down options: lesbian/gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, something else
LGBTQQ Brother 1		
LGBTQQ Brother2		
LGBTQQ Brother 3		
LGBTQQ Brother 4		
LGBTQQ Brother 5		

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with as many as five rows for LGBTQQ brothers whose initials were not listed, corresponding to the number of "initials not listed" they indicated in question 20, if they did not indicate any brothers in question 15 they did not see this question.

21. Indicate the initials/nickname of your LGBTQQ brother(s) that you indicated as "not listed" in the previous question.

	Initials
	(type response)
Not listed LGBTQQ Brother 1	
Not listed LGBTQQ Brother2	
Not listed LGBTQQ Brother 3	
Not listed LGBTQQ Brother 4	
Not listed LGBTQQ Brother 5	

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with as many as five rows for LGBTQQ sisters, corresponding to the number of LGBTQQ sisters they indicated in question 15, if they did not indicate any sisters in question 15 they did not see this question.

22. Indicate the initials of your LGBTQQ sister(s).

	Initials	Which of the following best describes this individual's sexual orientation or gender identity
	(the initials of the sisters provided in question 11 were included as drop down options as well as an "initials not listed" option)	Drop down options: lesbian/gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, something else
LGBTQQ Sister 1		
LGBTQQ Sister2		
LGBTQQ Sister 3		
LGBTQQ Sister 4		
LGBTQQ Sister 5		

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with as many as five rows for LGBTQQ sisters whose initials were not listed, corresponding to the number of "initials not listed" they indicated in question 22, if they did not indicate any sisters in question 15 they did not see this question.

23. Indicate the initials/nickname of your LGBTQQ sister(s) that you indicated as "not listed" in the previous question.

	Initials
	(type response)
Not listed LGBTQQ Sister 1	
Not listed LGBTQQ Sister2	
Not listed LGBTQQ Sister 3	
Not listed LGBTQQ Sister 4	
Not listed LGBTQQ Sister 5	

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with as many as five rows for LGBTQQ Aunts and Uncles, corresponding to the number LGBTQQ Aunts and Uncles they indicated in question 15, if they did not indicate any Aunts and Uncles in question 15 they did not see this question.

24. Please give initials or nicknames for your Aunt(s) and/or Uncle(s), you will later be presented with these initials/nicknames, so be sure to type in something that you will be able to identify later. If you have multiple people in this group, make sure that all of the initials/nicknames are different for each person. Also, indicate how much contact you have with your Aunt(s) and/or Uncle(s).

	Initials	Amount of contact			Which of the following best describes this individual's sexual orientation or gender identity
		(Type Response)	No Contact (1)	Some Contact (2)	A lot of contact (3)
LGBTQQ Aunt 1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
LGBTQQ Aunt 2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
LGBTQQ Aunt 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
LGBTQQ Aunt 4		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
LGBTQQ Aunt 5		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
LGBTQQ Uncle 1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
LGBTQQ Uncle 2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
LGBTQQ Uncle 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
LGBTQQ Uncle 4		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
LGBTQQ Uncle 5		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with as many as five rows for LGBTQQ cousins, corresponding to the number LGBTQQ cousins they indicated in question 15, if they did not indicate any cousins in question 15 they did not see this question.

25. Please give initials or nicknames for your cousin(s), you will later be presented with these initials/nicknames, so be sure to type in something that you will be able to identify later. If you have multiple people in this group, make sure that all of the initials/nicknames are different for each person. Also, indicate how much contact you have with your cousin(s) and their gender(s). Please indicate which label best describes your cousin's sexual orientation or gender identity.

	Initials	Amount of contact			Which of the following best describes this individual's sexual orientation or gender identity	Indicate the gender of this person
		No Contact (1)	Some Contact (2)	A lot of contact (3)		
	(Type Response)				Drop down options: lesbian/gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, something else	Drop down options: female, male, something else
LGBTQQ Cousin 1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
LGBTQQ Cousin 2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
LGBTQQ Cousin 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
LGBTQQ Cousin 4		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
LGBTQQ Cousin 5		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with as many as five rows for other LGBTQQ family members, corresponding to the number of other LGBTQQ family members they indicated in question 15, if they did not indicate any other LGBTQQ family members in question 15 they did not see this question.

26. Please give initials or nicknames for your other LGBTQQ family member(s), you will later be presented with these initials/nicknames, so be sure to type in something that you will be able to identify later. If you have multiple people in this group, make sure that all of the initials/nicknames are different for each person. Also, indicate this person's gender, their relationship to you, and how much contact you have with your LGBTQQ family member(s). Please indicate what label best describes your LGBTQQ family member.

	Initials	Amount of contact			Which of the following best describes this individual's sexual orientation or gender identity	Indicate the gender of this person	Relationship to you
		No Contact (1)	Some Contact (2)	A lot of contact (3)			
	(Type Response)				Drop down options: lesbian/gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, something else	Drop down options: female, male, something else	(Type response)
Other LGBTQQ family member 1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Other LGBTQQ family member 2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Other LGBTQQ family member 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Other LGBTQQ family member 4		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Other LGBTQQ family member 5		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			

27. Are you close to other people that have NOT been included in any of the previous questions? Can you think of anyone else you are close to that you did not list as a friend or family member?

- Yes (1)
 No (2)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “no” to question 27 they skipped to question 30. If they answered “yes” then they continued to question 28.

28. How many other people are you close to that have not been listed in any of the previous questions? Type a number in the box below:

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with as many as five rows for other close people, corresponding to the number of other close people they indicated in question 28.

29. Please give initials or nicknames for your other people you are close to, you will later be presented with these initials/nicknames, so be sure to type in something that you will be able to identify later. If you have multiple people in this group, make sure that all of the initials/nicknames are different for each person. Also, indicate this person's gender and how much contact you have with each person. Describe each person's relationship to you (e.g., coworker, therapist, etc.) type your response in the text box.

	Initials	Amount of contact			Which of the following best describes this individual's sexual orientation	Indicate the gender of this person	Relationship to you
		No Contact (1)	Some Contact (2)	A lot of contact (3)			
	(Type Response)				Drop down options: straight/heterosexual, gay/lesbian, bisexual, unknown, something else	Drop down options: female, male, something else	(Type response)
Other close person 1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Other close person 2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Other close person 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Other close person 4		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Other close person 5		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			

30. Are you a member of any lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer/questioning (LGBTQQ) groups?

- Yes (1)
 No (2)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “no” to question 30 they skipped to question 33. If they answered “yes” then they continued to question 31.

31. How many lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer/questioning (LGBTQQ) groups are you involved in?

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with up to four rows for LGBTQQ groups, corresponding to the number of LGBTQQ groups they indicated in question 31.

32. Please give initials or nicknames for your lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer/questioning (LGBTQQ) groups, you will later be presented with these initials/nicknames, so be sure to type in something that you will be able to identify later. If you have multiple groups make sure that all of the initials/nicknames are different for each group. Also, indicate how involved you are in each group.

	Initials	Amount of involvement		
		Not involved (1)	Somewhat involved (2)	Very involved (3)
LGBTQQ group 1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
LGBTQQ group 2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
LGBTQQ group 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
LGBTQQ group 4		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

33. Are you a member of any religious groups or churches?

- Yes (1)
 No (2)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “no” to question 33 they skipped to question 36. If they answered “yes” then they continued to question 34.

34. How many religious groups or churches are you involved in?

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with up to four rows for religious groups/churches, corresponding to the number of for religious groups/churches they indicated in question 34.

35. Please give initials or nicknames for your religious groups/ churches. You will later be presented with these initials/nicknames, so be sure to type in something that you will be able to identify later. If you have multiple groups, make sure that all of the initials/nicknames are different for each group. Also, indicate how involved you are in each group.

	Initials	Amount of involvement			How open is this group to LGBTQ people and issues?
		Not involved (1)	Somewhat involved (2)	Very involved (3)	5-point Likert button responses ranging from 1 = <i>not at all open</i> to 5 = <i>very open</i>
Religious group1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Religious group2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Religious group3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Religious group4		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

36. Are you a member of any other groups?

- Yes (1)
 No (2)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “no” to question 36 they skipped to question 39. If they answered “yes” then they continued to question 37.

37. How many other groups?

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with up to seven rows for other groups, corresponding to the number of for other groups they indicated in question 37.

38. Please give initials or nicknames for your other groups. You will later be presented with these initials/nicknames, so be sure to type in something that you will be able to identify later. If you have multiple groups, make sure that all of the initials/nicknames are different for each group. Also, indicate how involved you are in each group, the group type, and about the members of the group.

	Initials	Amount of involvement			What type of group is this? (type response)	How open is this group to LGBTQ people and issues? 5-point Likert button responses ranging from 1 = <i>not at all</i> open to 5 = <i>very open</i>
		Not involved (1)	Somewhat involved (2)	Very involved (3)		
Other group1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Other group2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Other group3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Other group 4		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Other group 5		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Other group 6		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Other group 7		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		

Relationship Experience Questions

Instructions: Now, we would like to know about your experiences in romantic relationships. Please answer the following questions about your experiences.

39. Current Relationship Status (please check one).

- Single (1)
- Dating (2)
- Purely Sexual Relationship (non-exclusive not dating) (3)
- Exclusive Committed Relationship (4)
- Non-exclusive Committed Relationship (5)
- Engaged (6)
- Married/ Marriage-like union (7)
- Other (please explain) (8) _____

40. Have you ever had a romantic or sexual relationship with a woman?

- Yes (1)
- Yes- transgender woman only (2)
- No (3)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “no” to question 40 they skipped to question 58. If they answered “yes” or “Yes- transgender woman only” then they continued to question 41.

41. Please provide initials or a nickname for your most significant or important female relationship partner. If your previous partners do not differ in significance, please report your most recent female partner. (You will be provided with these initials/nickname later in the questionnaire, so pick something that you will remember). This can be a current or previous partner.

42. What best describes your female partner <text response from Q41-female partner initials inserted here>'s gender identity?

- Female (1)
- transgender female (2)
- Something else (please specify) (3) _____

43. What best describes your female partner, <text response from Q41-female partner initials inserted here>'s, sexual orientation?

- Lesbian (1)
- Bisexual (2)
- Straight/ Heterosexual (3)
- Asexual (4)
- Something else (please specify) (5) _____

44. Is your female partner, <text response from Q41-female partner initials inserted here>, a current or previous partner?

- current partner (1)
- previous partner (2)

45. How would you characterize your relationship with your female partner, <text response from Q41-female partner initials inserted here>? Please select the highest level of commitment in this relationship.

- Single (1)
- Dating (2)
- Purely Sexual Relationship (non-exclusive not dating) (3)
- Exclusive Committed Relationship (4)
- Non-exclusive Committed Relationship (5)
- Engaged (6)
- Married/ Marriage-like union (7)
- Other (please explain) (8) _____

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “current partner” to question 44 they skipped to question 47. If they answered “past partner” then they continued to question 46.

46. How would you characterize the quality of your relationship with your female partner, <text response from Q41-female partner initials inserted here>?

- I was very dissatisfied. (1)
- I was dissatisfied. (2)
- I had mixed feelings about it; was both satisfied and dissatisfied. (3)
- I was satisfied. (4)
- I was very satisfied. (5)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “past partner” to question 44 they skipped to question 48. If they answered “current partner” then they continued to question 47.

47. How would you characterize the quality of your relationship with your female partner, <text response from Q41-female partner initials inserted here>?

- I am very dissatisfied. (1)
- I am dissatisfied. (2)
- I have mixed feelings about it; am both satisfied and dissatisfied. (3)
- I am satisfied. (4)
- I am very satisfied. (5)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “current partner” to question 44 they skipped to question 49. If they answered “past partner” then they continued to question 48.

48. Overall, how committed were you to maintaining your relationship with your female partner, <text response from Q41-female partner initials inserted here>?

- I was not at all committed. (1)
- I was slightly committed. (2)
- I was moderately committed. (3)
- I was very committed. (4)
- I was extremely committed. (5)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “past partner” to question 44 they skipped to question 50. If they answered “current partner” then they continued to question 49.

49. Overall, how committed are you to maintaining your relationship with your female partner, <text response from Q41-female partner initials inserted here>?

- I am not at all committed. (1)
- I am slightly committed. (2)
- I am moderately committed. (3)
- I am very committed. (4)
- I am extremely committed. (5)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “current partner” to question 44 they skipped to question 51. If they answered “past partner” then they continued to question 50.

50. Overall, how invested were you in your relationship with your female partner, <text response from Q41-female partner initials inserted here>? (i.e., how much did you put into the relationship?)

- I was not at all invested. (1)
- I was slightly invested. (2)
- I was moderately invested. (3)
- I was very invested. (4)
- I was extremely invested. (5)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “past partner” to question 44 they skipped to question 52. If they answered “current partner” then they continued to question 51.

51. Overall, how invested are you in your relationship with your female partner, <text response from Q41-female partner initials inserted here>? (i.e., how much have you put into the relationship?)

- I am not at all invested. (1)
- I am slightly invested. (2)
- I am moderately invested. (3)
- I am very invested. (4)
- I am extremely invested. (5)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “current partner” to question 44 they skipped to question 54. If they answered “past partner” then they continued to question 52.

52. How long were you in a relationship with your female partner, <text response from Q41-female partner initials inserted here>? Please type a numeric value in each of the boxes below, if the value is 0 please indicate this.

Years _____

Months _____

53. How long ago was your relationship with your female partner, <text response from Q41-female partner initials inserted here>? Indicate how long it has been since the relationship ended by typing a numeric value in each of the boxes below. If the value is 0 please indicate this.

Years _____

Months _____

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “past partner” to question 44 they skipped to question 55. If they answered “current partner” then they continued to question 54.

54. How long have you been in a relationship with your female partner, <text response from Q41-female partner initials inserted here>? Please type a numeric value in each of the boxes below; if the value is 0 please indicate this.

Years _____

Months _____

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “current partner” to question 44 they skipped to question 58. If they answered “past partner” then they continued to question 55.

55. How many close friends did you have during your relationship with your female partner, <text response from Q41-female partner initials inserted here>? Please type a number in the box.

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with as many as five rows, corresponding to the number of friends they indicated in question 55, if participants indicated zero friends they skipped to question 58.

56. Indicate the initials of your closest friends during your relationship with your most significant female partner, <text response from Q41-female partner initials inserted here>.

	Initials
	(the initials of the friends provided in question 7 were included as drop down options as well as an “initials not listed” option)
Friend 1	
Friend 2	
Friend 3	
Friend 4	
Friend 5	

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with as many as five rows for friends whose initials were not listed, corresponding to the number of “initials not listed” they indicated in question 56.

57. Enter the initials/nickname of your closest friends that you indicated as “not listed” in the previous question. Also, indicate how much contact you had with your closest friend(s) during your relationship with <text response from Q41-female partner initials inserted here>, their sexual orientation, and their gender.

	Initials	Amount of contact			What is this person's sexual orientation?	What is this person's gender?
		No Contact (1)	Some Contact (2)	A lot of contact (3)		
					Drop down options: straight/heterosexual, gay/lesbian, bisexual, unknown, something else	Drop down options: female, male, something else
Not listed friend 1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Not listed friend 2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Not listed friend 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Not listed friend 4		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Not listed friend 5		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		

58. Have you ever had a romantic or sexual relationship with a man?

- Yes (1)
- Yes- transgender man only (2)
- No (3)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “no” to question 58 they skipped to question 76 (time period blocks). If they answered “yes” or “Yes- transgender man only” then they continued to question 59.

59. Please provide initials or a nickname for your most significant or important male relationship partner. If your previous partners do not differ in significance, please report your most recent male partner. You will be provided with these initials/nickname later in the questionnaire, so pick something that you will remember. This can be a current or previous partner.

60. What best describes your male partner, <text response from Q59-male partner initials inserted here>'s, gender identity?

- Male (1)
- Yes- transgender man only (2)
- Other (please specify) (3) _____

61. What best describes your male partner, <text response from Q59-male partner initials inserted here>'s, sexual orientation identity?

- Gay (1)
- Bisexual (2)
- Straight/ Heterosexual (3)
- Asexual (4)
- Other (please specify) (5) _____

62. Is your male partner, <text response from Q59-male partner initials inserted here>, a current or previous partner?

- current partner (1)
- previous partner (2)

63. How would you characterize your relationship with your male partner, <text response from Q59-male partner initials inserted here>? Please select the highest level of commitment in this relationship.

- Single (1)
- Dating (2)
- Purely Sexual Relationship (non-exclusive not dating) (3)
- Exclusive Committed Relationship (4)
- Non-exclusive Committed Relationship (5)
- Engaged (6)
- Married/ Marriage-like union (7)
- Other (please explain) (8) _____

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “current partner” to question 62 they skipped to question 65. If they answered “past partner” then they continued to question 64.

64. How would you characterize the quality of your relationship with your male partner, <text response from Q59-male partner initials inserted here>?

- I was very dissatisfied. (1)
- I was dissatisfied. (2)
- I had mixed feelings about it; was both satisfied and dissatisfied. (3)
- I was satisfied. (4)
- I was very satisfied. (5)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “past partner” to question 62 they skipped to question 66. If they answered “current partner” then they continued to question 65.

65. How would you characterize the quality of your relationship with your male partner, <text response from Q59-male partner initials inserted here>?

- I am very dissatisfied. (1)
- I am dissatisfied. (2)
- I have mixed feelings about it; am both satisfied and dissatisfied. (3)
- I am satisfied. (4)
- I am very satisfied. (5)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “current partner” to question 62 they skipped to question 67. If they answered “past partner” then they continued to question 66.

66. Overall, how committed were you to maintaining your relationship with your male partner, <text response from Q59-male partner initials inserted here>?

- I was not at all committed. (1)
- I was slightly committed. (2)
- I was moderately committed. (3)
- I was very committed. (4)
- I was extremely committed. (5)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “past partner” to question 62 they skipped to question 68. If they answered “current partner” then they continued to question 67.

67. Overall, how committed are you to maintaining your relationship with your male partner, <text response from Q59-male partner initials inserted here>?

- I am not at all committed. (1)
- I am slightly committed. (2)
- I am moderately committed. (3)
- I am very committed. (4)
- I am extremely committed. (5)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “current partner” to question 62 they skipped to question 69. If they answered “past partner” then they continued to question 68.

68. Overall, how invested were you in your relationship with your male partner, <text response from Q59-male partner initials inserted here>? (i.e., how much did you put into the relationship?)

- I was not at all invested. (1)
- I was slightly invested. (2)
- I was moderately invested. (3)
- I was very invested. (4)
- I was extremely invested. (5)

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “past partner” to question 62 they skipped to question 70. If they answered “current partner” then they continued to question 69.

69. Overall, how invested are you in your relationship with your male partner, <text response from Q59-male partner initials inserted here>? (i.e., how much have you put into the relationship?)

- I am not at all invested. (1)
- I am slightly invested. (2)
- I am moderately invested. (3)
- I am very invested. (4)
- I am extremely invested. (5)

***Skip/display logic:* If participants answered “current partner” to question 62 they skipped to question 72. If they answered “past partner” then they continued to question 70.**

70. How long were you in a relationship with your male partner, <text response from Q59-male partner initials inserted here>? Please type a numeric value in each of the boxes below; if the value is 0 please indicate this.

Years _____

Months _____

71. How long ago was your relationship with your male partner, <text response from Q59-male partner initials inserted here>? (Indicate how long it has been since the relationship ended). Please type a numeric value in each of the boxes below; if the value is 0 please indicate this.

Years _____

Months _____

***Skip/display logic:* If participants answered “past partner” to question 62 they skipped to question 73. If they answered “current partner” then they continued to question 72.**

72. How long have you been in a relationship with your male partner, <text response from Q59-male partner initials inserted here>?

Years _____

Months _____

***Skip/display logic:* If participants answered “current partner” to question 62 they skipped to question 76 (time period blocks). If they answered “past partner” then they continued to question 73.**

73. How many close friends did you have during your relationship with your male partner, <text response from Q59-male partner initials inserted here>? Please type a number in the box.

***Skip/display logic:* Participants were presented with as many as five rows, corresponding to the number of friends they indicated in question 73, if participants indicated zero friends they skipped to question 76 (time period blocks).**

74. Indicate the initials of your closest friends during your relationship with your most significant male partner, <text response from Q59-male partner initials inserted here>.

	Initials (the initials of the friends provided in question 7 were included as drop down options as well as an "initials not listed" option)
Friend 1	
Friend2	
Friend 3	
Friend 4	
Friend 5	

Skip/display logic: Participants were presented with as many as five rows for friends whose initials were not listed, corresponding to the number of "initials not listed" they indicated in question 74.

75. Indicate the initials/nickname of your closest friends that you indicated as "not listed" in the previous question. Also, indicate how much contact you have with your closest friend(s) during your relationship with your male partner, <text response from Q59-male partner initials inserted here>, their sexual orientation and their gender.

	Initials	Amount of contact			What is this person's sexual orientation?	What is this person's gender?
		No Contact (1)	Some Contact (2)	A lot of contact (3)	Drop down options: straight/heterosexual, gay/lesbian, bisexual, unknown, something else	Drop down options: female, male, something else
Not listed friend 1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Not listed friend 2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Not listed friend 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Not listed friend 4		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Not listed friend 5		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		

Skip/display logic: Participants were asked Q76- Q117 either two or three times. The instructions for each question was altered slightly to reflect the time period in which the participant was supposed to think about. These questions were presented in blocks such that participants were reporting about their experiences during a specific time period all at once. Participants completed 2-3 blocks of these same questions depending on their responses to previous questions. These blocks asked about the participant's experiences during:

Skip/display logic for Blocks:

- B1: A relationship with a male partner
 - o if they responded "yes" or "yes-transgender men only" to Q58
 - o –and- "past partner" to Q62
- B2: A relationship with a female partner
 - o if they responded "yes" or "yes-transgender women only" to Q40
 - o –and- "past partner" to Q44
- B3: A relationship with a hypothetical female partner
 - o if they responded "no" to Q40
- B4: A relationship with a hypothetical male partner
 - o if they responded "no" to Q58
- B5: Current experiences
 - o All participants completed this block

[beginning of time period block]

To be more concise, the block is only presented once in this appendix, however, based on participants earlier responses they would have completed these same questions up to three times, each time reporting on their experiences during a specific time period.

Participants received the following instructions at the beginning of each block:

For B1 and B2: The next group of questions ask about your experiences during your relationship with your fe/male partner, <text response from Q49-female/ Q59-male partner initials inserted here>. For the following questions please try to think back and respond according to how you felt then, not how you are currently feeling.

For B3 and B4: For the next group of questions, try to imagine how you would feel if you were currently involved in a long-term committed relationship with a wo/man. For the following questions please try to imagine how you would feel if you were in a relationship with a wo/man, not how you are currently feeling.

For B5: The following questions ask about your current and/or past feelings and experiences. Please read all instructions carefully and respond according to how you feel/felt at the specified time.

Label change during relationship

76.

B1 and B2: Previously in this survey, you said that you currently label your sexual identity as <the text response from Q5- sexual orientation label was piped in here>. During your relationship with your fe/male partner, <text response from Q49-female/ Q59- male partner initials inserted here>, did you use this same term? If the label has changed, tell about that. Explain the sexual orientation label you used during this relationship and your reasons for applying this label.

B3 and B4: Previously in this survey, you said that you currently label your sexual identity as <the text response from Q5- sexual orientation label was piped in here>. Do you think you would still use this label if you were in serious, committed relationship with a fe/male partner? If the label would change, tell about that. Explain the sexual orientation label you would use if you were involved in this type of relationship and your reasons for applying this label.

Closeness during time periods

77.

B1 and B2: Think about your relationship with your fe/male partner, <text response from Q49-female/ Q59- male partner initials inserted here>. During this relationship, how close were you to each of the following people? Try to respond to all of the items, please indicate that the question does not apply to you by clicking n/a.

B3 and B4: Try to imagine how close you would be to the following people if you were in a long term committed relationship with a wo/man. If you were currently involved in a relationship with a fe/male partner, how close do you think you would be to each of the following people? Try to respond to all of the items, please indicate that the question does not apply to you by clicking n/a.

B5: Currently, how close are you to each of the following people? Try to respond to all of the items, please indicate that the question does not apply to you by clicking n/a.

Person/group	Very close	Close	Somewhat close	Neither close nor distant	Somewhat distant	Distant	Very distant	n/a- does not apply
<Every individual/group recorded in Qs7-38, 56, and 74 was piped in here with a separate row for each person/group. The number of rows corresponded to the total number of people included in the individual's network>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

KSOG Instructions:

B1 and B2: The next group of questions ask about your experiences during your relationship with your fe/male partner, <text response from Q49-female/ Q59- male partner initials inserted here>, in six related, but different areas where sexual orientation is expressed or considered. Use the slider to mark the place on each scale that best represents your feelings and experiences at the time. Think back to how you felt then, not how you are currently feeling.

B3 and B4: The next group of questions ask about how you would feel if you were involved in a long term committed relationship with a female partner, in six related, but different areas where sexual orientation is expressed or considered. Use the slider to mark the place on each scale that best represents how you think you would feel. Try to imagine how you would feel if you were in a long term committed relationship with a female partner, not how you are currently feeling.

B5: The next group of questions ask about your past experiences and your present experiences in six related, but different areas where sexual orientation is expressed or considered. Use the slider to mark the place on each scale that best represents your past and your present.

78. KSOG-Sexual Attraction

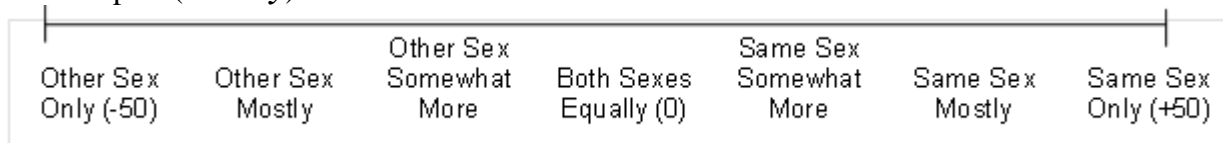
Sexual attraction is about the feeling you have inside yourself. It doesn't have to be noticed by anyone else unless you make it known.

B1 and B2: During your relationship with your fe/male partner <text response from Q49-female/ Q59- male partner initials inserted here> , who were you sexually attracted to? Slide the button on the scale to indicate what best describes how you felt then.

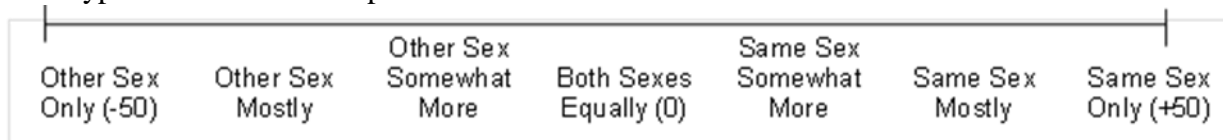
B3 and B4: If you were in a long term committed relationship with a fe/male partner , who do you think you would be sexually attracted to? Slide the button on the scale to indicate what best describes how you would feel.

B5: Begin with your past. In the past, who were you sexually attracted to? Slide the button to the number on the scale that best describes you in the past. 2. Then use the slider to mark your present sexual attraction on the scale. For some people this rating will be the same as the past rating; for others it is different.

General past (**B5 only**):



Past/hypothetical relationships/Current:



79. KSOG- Sexual Behavior

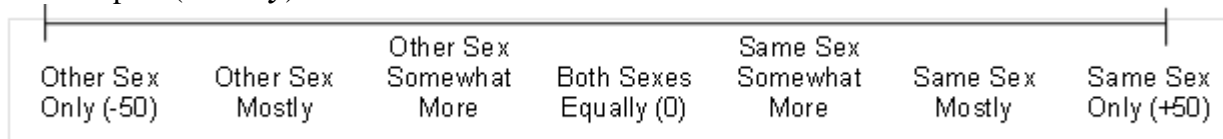
Here we look at actual sexual behavior as opposed to sexual attraction.

B1 and B2: With whom did have sex during your relationship with your fe/male partner <text response from Q49-female/ Q59- male partner initials inserted here>? Slide the button on the grid to represent your sexual behavior during your past relationship.

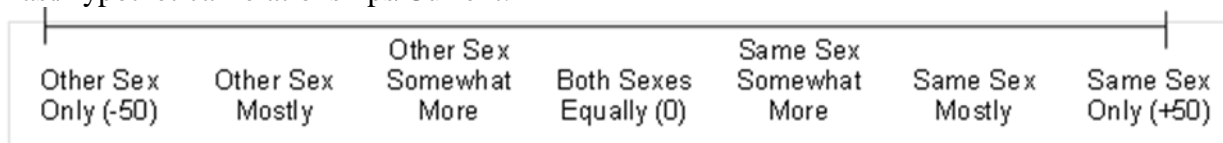
B3 and B4: With whom do you think you would have sex if you were in a long term committed relationship with a fe/male partner? Slide the button on the grid to represent your sexual behavior if you were in this type of relationship.

B5: With whom have you and do you have sex? As with the previous scale, choose a number for your past and for your present. Slide the button on the grid to represent your assessment of each. Check "Not Applicable" if did not have sex with anyone during the specified time.

General past (**B5 only**):



Past/hypothetical relationships/Current:



80. KSOG-Sexual Fantasies

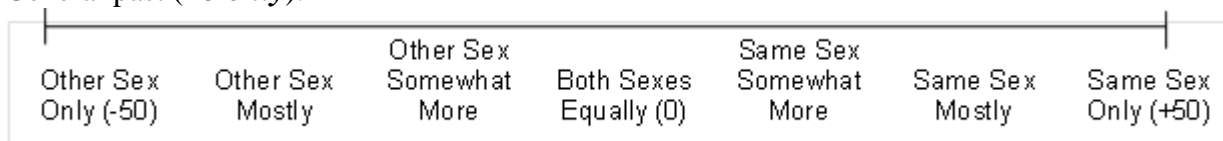
The third variable is Sexual Fantasies. Whether they occur or occurred during masturbation, while daydreaming, as a part of our real lives or purely in our imaginations, fantasies provide insight.

B1 and B2: Think about your fantasies during your relationship with your fe/male partner, <text response from Q49-female/ Q59- male partner initials inserted here>, then move the slider to reflect your sexual fantasy life at that time.

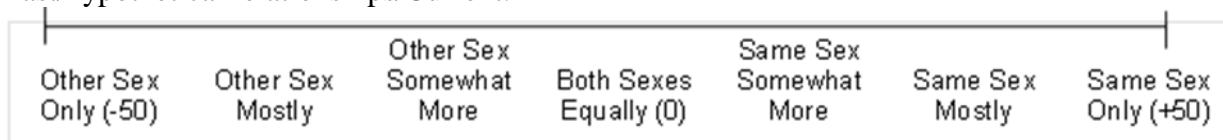
B3 and B4: Think about the fantasies you would have if you were in a long term committed relationship with a female partner, then move the slider to reflect the fantasies you think you would have if you were in a relationship with a female partner.

B5: Rate yourself on the past and present scales.

General past (**B5 only**):



Past/hypothetical relationships/Current:



81. KSOG- Emotional Preference

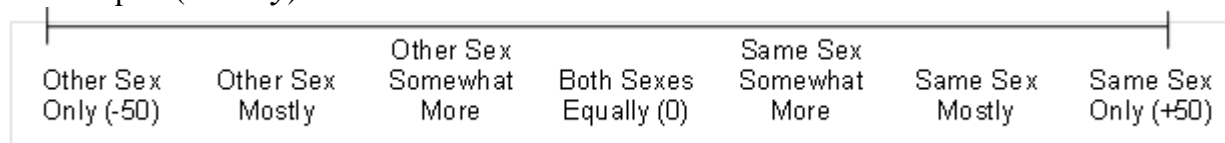
Our emotions directly influence, if not define, the actual physical act of love.

B1 and B2: During your relationship with your fe/male partner, <text response from Q49-female/ Q59- male partner initials inserted here>, did you love and like only members of the other sex, only members of the same sex, or both? Think about where you fit on the scale at that time, then move the slider as with the other scales.

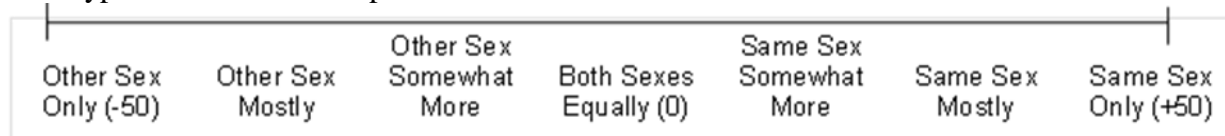
B3 and B4: If you were in a long term committed relationship with a fe/male partner, do you think you would love and like only members of the other sex, only members of the same sex, or both? Think about where you fit on the scale if you were in a relationship with a female partner, then move the slider as with the other scales.

B5: Ask yourself if you love and like only opposite sex individuals, only same sex individuals, or both. Find out where you fit on the scale; rate yourself as with the other scales.

General past (**B5 only**):



Past/hypothetical relationships/Current:



82. KSOG-Self Identification

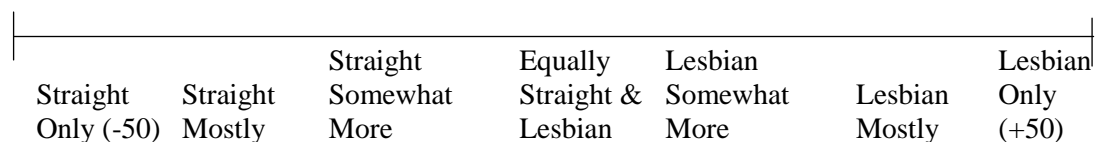
Your sexual orientation, self-definition, is a strong variable since self-image strongly affects our thoughts and actions.

B1 and B2: During your relationship with your fe/male partner, <text response from Q49- female/ Q59- male partner initials inserted here>, how did you self-identify? Slide the bar on the scale to rate how your self-identification then.

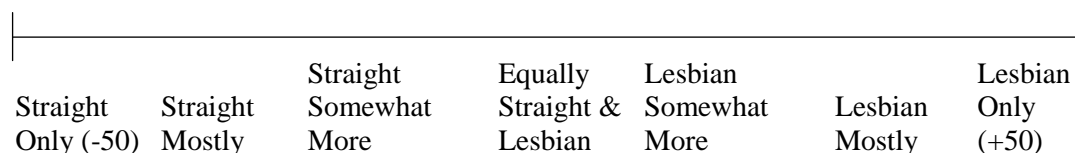
B3 and B4: If you were in a long term committed relationship with a fe/male partner, how do you think you would self-identify? Slide the bar on the scale to rate how you would identify.

B5: A person's past and present self-identification could differ or they may be the same. Slide the bar on the scale to rate your past and present self-identification .

General past (**B5 only**):



Past/hypothetical relationships/Current:



83. KSOG- Social Preference

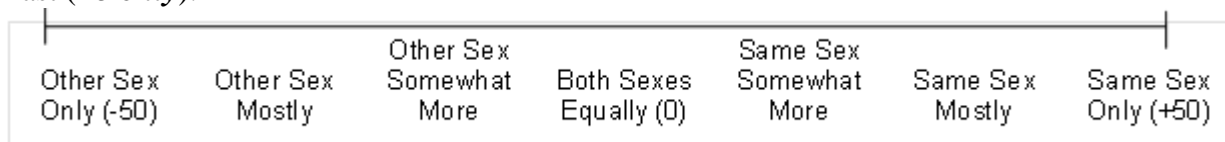
Though closely allied to emotional preference, social preference is often different. You may love only women but spend most of your social life with men. Some people, of all orientations, only socialize with members of their own sex, while others socialize with members of the other sex exclusively.

B1 and B2: Think about the people you socialized with during your relationship with your fe/male partner, <text response from Q49-female/ Q59- male partner initials inserted here>, then move the slider to that position.

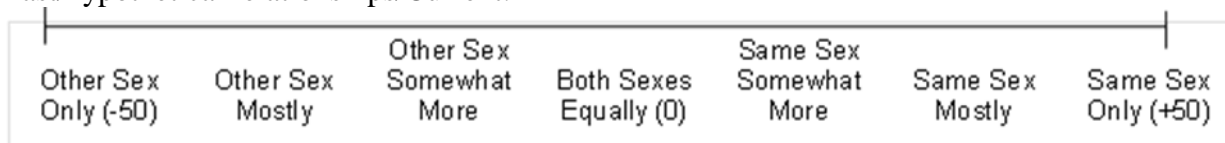
B3 and B4: Think about the people you would socialize with if you were in a long term committed relationship with a fe/male partner, then move the slider to that position.

B5: Where are you on the past and present scales?

Past (**B5 only**):



Past/hypothetical relationships/Current:



Outness

84.

B1 and B2: Think about your relationship with your fe/male partner, <text response from Q49-female/ Q59- male partner initials inserted here>. During this relationship, how open were you are about your non-heterosexual orientation to the people listed below. Try to respond to all of the items, please indicate that the question does not apply to you by clicking n/a.

B3 and B4: Imagine how you would feel if you were currently involved in a long term committed relationship with a fe/male partner. During this relationship, how open would you be about your non-heterosexual orientation to the people listed below. Try to respond to all of the items, please indicate that the question does not apply to you by clicking n/a.

B5. Currently, how open are you about your non-heterosexual orientation to the people listed below. Try to respond to all of the items, please indicate that the question does not apply to you by clicking n/a.

Person/group	This person definitely did NOT	This person might have	This person probably knew	This person probably knew	This person definitely knew	This person definitely knew about my non-	This person definitely knew	n/a- this does not
--------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------	---	-----------------------------	--------------------

	know about my non-heterosexual orientation	known about my non-heterosexual orientation, but it was NEVER talked about	about my non-heterosexual orientation, but it was NEVER talked about	about my non-heterosexual orientation, but it was RARELY talked about	about my non-heterosexual orientation, but it was RARELY talked about	heterosexual orientation, and it was SOMETIMES talked about	about my non-heterosexual orientation, and it was talked about OPENLY	apply to my situation
<Every individual/group recorded in Qs7-38, 56, and 74 was piped in here with a separate row for each person/group. The number of rows corresponded to the total number of people included in the individual's network>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Awareness

85.

B1 and B2: Please indicate whether or not each individual in your social network was aware of your relationship with your fe/male partner, <text response from Q49-female/ Q59- male partner initials inserted here>. Try to respond to all of the items, please indicate that the question does not apply to you by clicking n/a.

B3 and B4: If you were in a long term committed relationship with a fe/male partner, do you think you would tell the following people about this relationship? Try to respond to all of the items, please indicate that the question does not apply to you by clicking n/a.

Skip/display logic: participants only completed this item in B5 if they indicated being currently involved in a relationship.

B5: Please indicate whether or not each individual in your social network is aware of your current relationship partner(s). Try to respond to all of the items, please indicate that the question does not apply to you by clicking n/a.

Person/group	This person	This person probably	This person might	This person probably	This person definitely	n/a- this does not
--------------	-------------	----------------------	-------------------	----------------------	------------------------	--------------------

Community/ Other-group Connectedness instructions (CC, OGC)**103-117.**

B1 and B2: These are questions about your interactions/experiences with the general LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) community during your relationship with your fe/male partner <text response from Q49-female/ Q59- male partner initials inserted here>. By LGBT community, I don't mean any particular neighborhood or social group, but in general, groups of gay men, bisexual men and women, lesbians, and transgender individuals. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement.

B3 and B4: These are questions about the interactions/experiences you think that you would have with the general LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans-gender) community if you were in a long term committed relationship with a fe/male partner. By LGBT community, I don't mean any particular neighborhood or social group, but in general, groups of gay men, bisexual men and women, lesbians, and transgender individuals. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement. (items worded in future tense)

B5: These are questions about the general LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans-gender) community. By LGBT community, I don't mean any particular neighborhood or social group, but in general, groups of gay men, bisexual men and women, lesbians, and transgender individuals. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement. (items worded in present tense)

	Disagree strongly						Agree strongly
I would feel that I was a part of the LGB community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participating in the LGB community would be a positive thing for me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would feel a bond with the LGB community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would be proud of the LGB community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It would be important for me to be politically active in the LGB community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would feel that if we worked together, gay, bisexual, and lesbian people could solve problems faced by the LGB community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would really feel that any problems faced by the LGB community were also my own problems.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would feel a strong bond with other non-heterosexual women.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would often spend time with people who are not part of the LGB community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would like meeting and getting to know people who are not members of the LGB community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would be involved in activities with people who are not members of the LGB community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would enjoy being around people who are not members of the LGB community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I might feel that it would be better if members of the LGB community and heterosexual individuals didn't try to mix together.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I wouldn't try to become friends with people who are not part of the LGB community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would feel that I was a part of the LGB community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[End of time period block]

Demographics and Open-ended Questions

118-124. How many of the following types of romantic relationships have you had with a male partner? Please count each relationship in only one category.

Dating (non-exclusive, not committed) _____

Purely Sexual/Physical (not exclusive or dating) _____

Exclusive (less than one year) _____

Exclusive (over one year) _____

Non-exclusive committed relationship (less than one year) _____

Non-exclusive committed relationship (over one year) _____

Married/ Marriage-like partnership _____

125-131. How many of the following relationships have you had with a female partner? Please count each relationship in only one category.

Dating (non-exclusive, not committed) _____

Purely Sexual/Physical (not exclusive or dating) _____

Exclusive (less than one year) _____

Exclusive (over one year) _____

Non-exclusive committed relationship (less than one year) _____

Non-exclusive committed relationship (over one year) _____

Married/ Marriage-like partnership _____

132. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Less than High School (1)
- High School / GED (2)
- Some College (3)
- 2-year College Degree (4)
- 4-year College Degree (5)
- Masters Degree (6)
- Doctoral Degree (7)
- Professional Degree (JD, MD) (8)

133. What is your ethnicity? (Please type response)

134. Select all that describe you/ your sexual identity. Choose as many as you need to fully describe yourself and check all that apply:

- Heterosexual
- Straight
- Bisexual
- Lesbian
- Unidentified/unlabeled
- Queer
- Pansexual
- Non-heterosexual
- Questioning
- Asexual
- Pomosexual
- Other (specify) _____

Open-ended response instructions: The next set of questions are open ended. Please describe as best you can what you think about the topic. Use your own words.

135. When is someone bisexual? What are the characteristics of someone who is bisexual? How would someone know if they are bisexual?

136. From your perspective, what would need to be different about yourself (or your experiences) to change your sexual orientation label (e.g., to heterosexual or lesbian)? Do you think there is a possibility that one day you will label your sexual orientation differently? Please explain.

137. Do you ever use a label other than <the text response from Q5- sexual orientation label was piped in here> when talking about your sexual orientation with others? If yes, please explain. If no, would there be a situation in which you might define/label/explain your sexual orientation differently?

138. If someone consistently labeled your sexual orientation differently from how you self-identify, how would you feel? If you have experienced this, please tell us about that as well.

139. Have you ever changed the label that you use to identify/describe your sexual orientation (e.g., bisexual, straight)? If yes, how many times have you changed this label? What were your reasons for changing this label?

Skip/display logic: If participants did not check the “bisexual” checkbox on Q134, then they completed Q140, if they did, then they skipped to Q142.

140. From your perspective, what would need to be different about yourself or your experiences in order for you to label yourself as bisexual?

141. How would your feelings about yourself be different if you did label yourself bisexual? How would you feel if others consistently labeled you as "bisexual"?

142. How many romantic and/or sexual partners do you currently have (including exclusive and non-exclusive)?

Skip/display logic: If participants answered “1” to Q142, then they completed Q143. If they typed a number greater than one, then they skipped to Q146. If they entered “0” then they skipped to Q150.

143. How long have you been involved with your current romantic and/or sexual partner?

Years _____

Months _____

144. What is the gender of your current romantic and/or sexual partner?

- Female (1)
- Male (2)
- something else (explain) (3) _____

145. What is the sexual orientation of your current romantic and/or sexual partner?

- Straight/ heterosexual (1)
- Gay/ lesbian (2)
- Bisexual (3)
- unknown (4)
- something else (explain) (5) _____

Skip/display logic: If participants typed in a number greater than 1 for Q142, then they completed Q146. Participants were presented with up to four rows, corresponding to the number they provided in Q142.

146. What are the genders of your current partners? How long have you been involved with each partner? And do most people in your life (e.g., friends and family) know about each partner?

Partner	Partner's gender	length of relationship		Do most people know about the relationship? (drop down options: no one knows, a few people know, many people know, everyone knows)
		Years (enter number)	Months (enter number)	
	(drop down options: female, male, something else)			
Partner 1				
Partner 2				
Partner 3				
Partner 4				

147. What are your partners' sexual orientations? Please use the same partner order as you did in the previous question.

Partner	Partner's sexual orientation	If you indicated "something else" in the column to the left, please explain here (type answer)
	(drop down options: straight/heterosexual, gay/lesbian, bisexual, unknown, something else)	
Partner 1		
Partner 2		
Partner 3		
Partner 4		

Skip/display logic: If participants answered "1" or greater on Q142, then they completed Q148.

148. How would you characterize the quality of your relationship with your current romantic/sexual partner(s)?

- I am very dissatisfied. (1)
- I am dissatisfied. (2)
- I have mixed feelings about it; am both satisfied and dissatisfied. (3)
- I am satisfied. (4)
- I am very satisfied. (5)

149. Overall, how committed are you to maintaining your relationship with your current romantic/sexual partner(s)?

- I am not at all committed. (1)
- I am slightly committed. (2)
- I am moderately committed. (3)
- I am very committed. (4)
- I am extremely committed. (5)

150. Overall, how invested are you in your relationship with your current romantic/sexual partner(s)? (i.e., how much have you put into the relationship?)

- I am not at all invested. (1)
- I am slightly invested. (2)
- I am moderately invested. (3)
- I am very invested. (4)
- I am extremely invested. (5)

151-156. Approximately how many people do you know that identify with each of the following labels? Please provide a whole number, estimate if you are unsure of the exact number.

Gay/lesbian _____

Bisexual _____

Asexual _____

Transgender _____

Unlabeled (they choose to not use a label) _____

Queer _____

157-162. Please indicate the age at which each of the following events occurred. (please type your age in years in the box)

You first became aware of your attractions to other-sex individuals _____

You first became aware of your attractions to same-sex individuals _____

You acted upon your attractions to other-sex individuals _____

You acted upon your attractions to same-sex individuals _____

You told others (e.g., friends) about your attractions to other-sex individuals _____

You told others (e.g., friends) about your attractions to same-sex individuals _____

163. Is there anything else about your romantic relationships or sexual identity that we did not ask about that you think we should know? Or do you have any general comments about your responses to any portion of this questionnaire? (Please type your response in the text box below).

164. What is your current location? (City, State, Country)
