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Sexual Fluidity And Women's Bisexual Identity Development

Julijana Draganic

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SEXUAL FLUIDITY AND WOMEN'S BISEXUAL IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT

by

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This dissertation, submitted by Julijana Draganic in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of North Dakota, has been read by the Faculty Advisory Committee under whom the work has been done, and is hereby approved.



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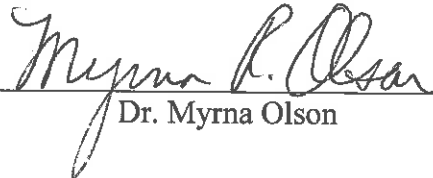
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April 22, 2013

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Degree Doctor of Philosophy

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Julijana Draganic

July 18, 2012

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ABSTRACT

Experiences of bisexual and sexual fluid women are poorly explored and understood in the current literature. While there is a need and interest in the exploration of bisexual experiences in the current literature, these experiences are usually lumped together with the experiences of lesbian women, who are vastly overrepresented in the participant samples. Data was collected from LGBT centers, women's centers, bisexual interest listservs, and sexual minority internet groups. This study examined: the relationship between a measure of fluidity in attractions, the Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG) and a measure of sexual orientation, the Klein Sexual Orientation Grid; the relationship between varying levels of sexual orientation and negative sexual identity on the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Development scale (LGBIS); the relationships between fluidity in attraction and perceived social and community support on the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS) and the Connectedness to the LGBT Community Scale; the goodness of fit of fluidity in attractions with the Bradford Bisexual Identity Development model; and the participants' qualitatively reported definitions of bisexuality. The results indicated two significant relationships between attractions on the SFG and the sexual orientation on the KSOG, and between fluidity in attraction and the significant-other subscale on the MSPSS. Women in this study were generally comfortable with their sexual orientation

labels and were active in their sexual minority communities. No other significant relationships were found.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Recent research has documented flexibility in sexual desires or behaviors as a more normative experience of women's sexuality than previously conceptualized. This flexibility in sexual desires leads to difficulties in defining bisexuality within either construct or identity (Diamond, 2008; Fahs, 2009). Generally speaking, sexual fluidity is an inherent feature of bisexuality (Diamond, 2008) and brings into question the stability of bisexual participants self-identities. Additionally, researchers struggle to understand and express the experiences of bisexual individuals apart from lesbian and gay experiences. For example, research on sexual minorities often includes small samples of bisexual individuals and results are often generalized to "LGB" populations (Reynolds & Hanjorgiris, 2000; Dube & Savin-Williams, 1999; Anhalt & Morris, 1998). Inclusiveness of bisexuals within LGB research categories may produce misleading information about the unique experiences of individuals who self-identify as bisexual. Furthermore, the literature often assumes an essentialist viewpoint, assuming that sexual orientation and sexual identity are fixed) and may not accurately describe the populations being studied (Moradi, et al., 2009).

Generally speaking, identity development of LGB individuals has generalized to a final state of a stable identity and a resolution of identity so that individuals can participate in communities of similar sexual minorities. Finally, a self-labeling process

may exclude from research bisexual individuals who are not open or disclosing about their identities or orientation, thus gleaning information only from those who have achieved some level of comfort with disclosure.

Models, stages, and processes of bisexual identity development lack agreement in differentiating between orientation and identity, a key issue in bisexual research. Perhaps, this is the case because the existing models of bisexual identity development have not received adequate attention in the literature and possess limited empirical support (Bradford, 2004). It is clear that there is a need for a more in-depth understanding and exploration of both the bisexual label and the unique stages of identity development for bisexual women in particular.

The component of community support is important to explore because research has found that involvement in LG communities may be a strategy which helps in reconciliation of one's sexual identity (D'Augelli, Hershberger, & Pilkington, 1998). However, no empirical evidence exists that suggests this is the case for bisexual individuals.

This study sought to clarify aspects of influence of sexual fluidity in women's identification with bisexuality. The response of women with varying degrees of attraction to both sexes will be compared with a model of bisexual identity development. A specific focus will be on the notion of resolution of identity, a stage typically characterized in LGB identity models by participation in giving and receiving community support.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This review presented four sections: terminologies relevant to bisexual research, reviews of research on sexual fluidity in women, identity development models, and identity resolution and community support. Basic definitional concepts utilized within the bisexual literature were included in the terminologies section. Diamond's (2008) concepts of female sexual fluidity and the stability of female bisexual identity were included in the sexual fluidity section. Lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) identity development models, and two bisexual identity development models, one of which is the primary focus of this study (Bradford Model), were outlined in the bisexual identity development models section. Lastly, the description of biphobia as it obstructs attainment of community support, along with the resulting obscurity in defining a clearer final stage of female bisexual identity development, concluded the section on identity resolution and community support.

Terminology Relevant to Bisexual Research

Basic terms with important conceptual distinctions that are used in the following literature review were briefly defined in this section. These terms include: sexual orientation, sexual identity, bisexuality, categories of bisexuality, and biphobia. Other concepts and terms were introduced within their relevant headings.

Bisexuality refers to a pattern of erotic attractions towards both the female and male sex (Rust, 2002; Morrow & Messinger, 2006). There are three components of bisexuality including: sexual arousal by both men and women, sexual desire or activity with both men and women, and the adoption of a “bisexual” identity label (Zinki, 1985). Rust (2001) noted that individuals fitting a bisexual label may also identify as straight, lesbian, pansexual, etc.

Guidry (1999) identified four forms of bisexuality including: historical bisexuality, transitional bisexuality, sequential bisexuality, and concurrent bisexuality. *Historical bisexuals* are individuals who presently identify as heterosexual or gay with prior experiences of same sex or other sex attractions. *Transitional bisexuals* are individuals who used the label of bisexuality in order to transition to a homosexual identity. *Sequential bisexuals* have had relationships with members of both sexes, but not during same periods of time. Lastly, *concurrent bisexuals* are defined by presence of relationships with both sexes during the same periods of time. Although these categories are not used for purposes of this study, they are present in the bisexual literature.

Sexual minority is a term that characterizes individuals who possess same sex attractions, and may include gay, lesbian, and bisexual persons. These individuals are considered to be sexual minorities since they make up only 4 to 17 percent of the population in the United States (Anhalt & Morris, 1998). By extension, heterosexual individuals, who are attracted to individuals of the other sex, are characterized as *sexual majorities*.

Sexual orientation has traditionally referred to one's feelings of attraction towards men, women, or both sexes (Morales, 1996). *Sexual orientation identity* is a new concept that refers to the realization and acknowledgement of being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or heterosexual (Morales, 1996; Moradi et al., 2009). *Sexual identity* encompasses sexual orientation and factors related to a broader spectrum of orientation including: biological sex (genetically determined), gender identity (identifying as male or female), gender role behavior (conforming to masculine or feminine norms), gender identity constancy (permanent perception of oneself as female or male), and sexual behavior (with same gender, other gender, or both) (Morales, 1996).

Biphobia is a fear or dislike of individuals who are not exclusively homosexual or heterosexual (Dworkin, 2001). However, this term implies fear of bisexual persons due to the suffix "phobia" and is losing popularity in the literature. Terms, binegativity and homonegativity are used instead to denote negative attitudes towards homosexuality and bisexuality and individuals who identify as such. Internalized homonegativity and internalized binegativity occur when a lesbian, gay, or bisexual person develops negative attitudes about him or herself as a result of his or her sexual identity or orientation (Guidry, 1999). Lastly, *heteronormativity* assumes that people fall into two discrete categories, male and female, that heterosexuality is the only normal orientation, and that sexual and marital relations should only exist between a man and a woman (Hash & Ceperich, 2006). Heterosexual individuals often use this belief to marginalize and exclude bisexual persons from their communities.

Sexual Fluidity in Women

Information related to sexual fluidity research and the intersection between sexual fluidity and definitional issues related to bisexuality were briefly defined in this section. Diamond's (2008) description of female sexual fluidity and relevant research about the stability of bisexual identity were also included.

According to Diamond (2008), a fundamental feature of female sexuality is fluidity. The sexual fluidity model defines sexual orientation as existing on a continuum and not in a heterosexual-bisexual dichotomy. Diamond (2008) defined female fluidity as "flexibility in women's sexual responsiveness" (p.3). Therefore, women may experience desire toward both sexes, regardless of their preferred sexual orientation. Diamond (2008) acknowledged that the idea of sexual fluidity is not her invention, but spans at least four decades. She contended that some researchers view female sexual fluidity and bisexuality as an "artifact of socialization (Diamond, 2008, p.9). Because female sexuality is no longer deeply suppressed by societal mores, the model postulates that women are now able to reflect on their desires and experiment with sexual behaviors. This hypothesis is also cited to explain possible differences in male and female bisexual development and expression, a phenomenon which is poorly explored in the literature.

Diamond (2008) noted that all women have different levels of sexual fluidity, including bisexual women. Therefore, fluidity is considered to be a component of sexual orientation, and not an orientation in itself. Most women, including bisexual women, appear to be more fluid in their sexual orientation than men (Diamond, 2008). However, this may be explained by women's greater willingness to report attractions

which are inconsistent with their primary sexual orientation (Diamond, 2008). Additionally, in her qualitative study of 40 women, Fahs (2009) found that younger women of diverse backgrounds had a tendency to engage in performative bisexuality, or public displays of bisexual behavior, regardless of their sexual orientations.

In Diamond's (2008b) decade-long study of female bisexuality from adolescence to adulthood, she found that bisexual and unlabeled women were more likely to change their identity labels than their lesbian counterparts. However, these women shifted between bisexual and unlabeled identities and did not make drastic leaps toward lesbian or heterosexual identities, confirming the influence of sexual fluidity. These results also confirmed that bisexuality is not a transitional stage toward the binary model of sexuality, but a stable third trait. Interestingly enough, Diamond (2008be) found that many women changed their sexual identity labels to closely describe their current relationship involvements, which could help to explain the identity shifts. Since Diamond's (2008b) sample consisted of only 79 lesbian, bisexual, and unlabeled women between the ages of 18 and 25 from New York, the results may not be generalizable to women not fitting the aforementioned criteria. Furthermore, White women were overrepresented in this study, which may lead to lack of applicability to women who are racially or ethnically diverse.

With improved understanding of bisexuality and accompanying terminology, the concept of sexual fluidity in relation to female bisexuality can begin to be explored. What remains unclear is an understanding of the extent to which women who exhibit fluidity in sexual attractions adopt a bisexual orientation or identity label.

Bisexuality: Orientation and Identity

Prior to the exploration of a bisexual label, it is imperative to differentiate between bisexual orientation and bisexual identity. However, the lack of clarity about these labels lends difficulty to studying bisexual identity. This type of identification may complicate the definition of bisexuality, which often leads to exclusion of bisexual individuals from research (Rust, 2002b). Furthermore, a vast majority of bisexual researchers utilized self-identified bisexual participants, while failing to provide a clear definition of how they conceptualize bisexuality (Phillips, Ingram, Smith & Mindes, 2003). For the purpose of this study, women who report past or current sexual attractions toward both sexes were included for participation.

Bisexual Orientation

According to Morales (1996), sexual orientation refers to feelings of attraction towards men, women or both sexes. According to Moradi et al., (2009), sexual orientation is a manifestation of sexuality “as expressed through thought, sexual, affectional, and relational predisposition towards other persons on the basis of their gender.” Furthermore, the literature lacks consensus about a most effective way to measure sexual orientation, and often relies on self-identification of participants as inclusion criteria in bisexual research (Chung & Katayama, 1996; Phillips, Ingram, Smith, & Mindes, 2003). Therefore, such self-labeling fails to compute the relationship and the differences between bisexual orientation and bisexual identity (Moradi, et.al., 2009). However, a more complete picture may emerge if sexual attractions are distinguished and assigned separate labels, including MWE (attracted to men and

women equally), PMSM (attracted to primarily men, some women), and PWSM (attracted to primarily women, some men).

Bisexual Identity

Different types of identity development models exist, including racial identity development models, psychosocial identity models, sexual identity models, gender identity models, etc. Cote and Levin (2002), defined *identity formation* as the process of developing an individual personality during particular stages of life to others and to self. Moradi et. al., (2009) contended that sexual identity consists of recognition, acceptance, and self-labeling in terms of sexual activities, needs, preferences, and values.

George (1993) viewed bisexual identity as more open than most and viewed identity labeling in general as restrictive. Furthermore, George (1993) contended that identity labeling presumed a fixed identity, which may not accurately represent an individual across time. Diamond's (2008) research of sexual fluidity supported the notion of flexibility in female bisexual attractions, but did not extend this view to bisexual identity.

Rust (2001) found that some individuals who identified as bisexual concurrently adopt other identity labels, including: lesbian, gay, straight, queer, etc. This further complicates the understanding of the concept of bisexual identity and warrants questions as to the definition's universality or individual uniqueness. According to Cohen and Savin-Williams (1996), an individual who adopted a sexual identity often disclosed his or her sexual orientation to others. Therefore, bisexual

orientation disclosure was examined in the current study, as it intersected with bisexual identity development.

Orientation vs. Identity

The fluidity of bisexual orientation may cause difficulty in conceptualizing this orientation as an identity through a developmental stage model (Diamond, 2008). In a five-year study of 762 gay, lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual participants, bisexual individuals were more likely than any other group to report changing their sexual orientations (from gay to bisexual or from bisexual to straight) over the course of the study (Kinnish, Strassberg, & Turner, 2005). However, another longitudinal study of 78 lesbian, bisexual, and unlabeled women found that more women ultimately embraced their bisexual identities than renounced this label (Diamond, 2008b). Therefore, although bisexual orientation appears to contain fluidity, bisexual identity may possess the trait of stability.

Brief Summary of Issues related to Sexual Fluidity and Bisexual Orientation and Identity

The literature lacks consensus and clarification as to the definition of identity development (Cote & Levin, 2002). The lack of explicitness around the definition of identity development extends to the sexual identity development literature. Bisexual literature inadequately explores the difference between bisexual orientation and bisexual identity. Some researchers rely on both same sex and other sex behaviors to define bisexuality (Beres, Herold, & Mairland, 2004). Due to lack of clarity and agreement in defining bisexuality, the current study relied on participants' reported

sexual behaviors, attractions, fantasies, emotional preference, social preference, and lifestyle preference.

Bisexual Identity Models

This section presented discussion of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual (LGB) identity development models and then presented two models of bisexual identity development and research related to each. Since bisexual individuals are attracted to both men and women, their developmental sequence was proposed to differ from that of gay and lesbian individuals who possess same sex attractions (D'Augelli, 1994). Unlike the lesbian and gay identity development models, specific research focusing on bisexual development is severely lacking (Rivers, 1997). Most cited models of bisexual identity development in the literature include the Weinberg model (1994) and the Bradford model (2004). The similarities and differences between the two models were explored, along with a thorough comparison of the Bradford model to the lesbian, gay, and bisexual identity models. An overall criticism of all bisexual identity development models was provided along with an elaboration of Bradford model's superiority to existing bisexual identity development models.

Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Development Models

Contrary to the existence and exploration of few bisexual identity development models, multiple identity development and sexual orientation disclosure models delineate lesbian and gay identity development and coming out. Some of those models attempt to classify bisexual identity development under the lesbian, gay, and bisexual identity development, while others maintain sole focus on lesbian and gay identity development (Cass, 1989; D'Augelli, 1994; Strommen, 1989; Muller, 1987).

D'Augelli (1994) introduced a model of identity development for sexual minority individuals, including bisexual persons. He contended that LGB individuals progress through five stages of development including: exiting heterosexual identity, developing a LGB identity status, developing a LGB social identity, becoming a LGB offspring, developing LGB intimacy status, and entering a LGB community. However, his model is criticized for its strict applicability to gay and lesbian persons due to its proposed trajectory from heterosexuality to homosexuality (Rivers, 1997). Since bisexual orientation appears to possess fluidity, this model may be limited in describing the development of bisexual persons who eventually settle into homosexual relationships. Thus, D'Augelli's (1994) model of bisexual identity development is marginally useful with a specific subset of bisexual persons and not all self-identifying bisexuals.

Unlike D'Augelli's lesbian, gay, and bisexual identity model, Cass's (1989) model is primarily focused on lesbian and gay identity development. Cass's (1989) model is a six stage model including the following stages: identity confusion, identity comparison, identity tolerance, identity acceptance, identity pride, and identity synthesis. Since Cass's (1989) model is solely aimed at describing lesbian and gay identity development, the literature fails to elaborate on its applicability to bisexual identity development.

Bisexual Identity Model: Weinberg

One model which frequently reappears in bisexual development research is Weinberg's model. From a qualitative study of 100 bisexual men and women (25-44 years of age), from mostly White, college educated backgrounds, Weinberg, Williams, and Pryor (2004), developed a four-stage model of bisexual development. These stages

include: initial confusion, finding and applying the label, settling into the identity, and continued uncertainty.

During *initial confusion*, individuals may struggle with dissonance due to an inability to declare themselves as primarily homosexual or heterosexual. As they proceed to *find and apply the bisexual label*, individuals experience validation in their sexual identity and no longer feel the pressure to choose between same sex and other sex attractions. As they enter the third stage of identity development, bisexual individuals *settle into their identities*. At this time, they become increasingly comfortable with the bisexual label and less concerned about negative reactions from others. In the fourth and final stage, bisexual individuals experience *continued uncertainty*. This uncertainty is manifested in continual reassessment of one's sexual orientation, which according to Weinberg et.al (1994), may be a result of societal pressure to choose an exclusive heterosexual or homosexual label. The author also cautioned against applying these labels to individuals who eventually settle into long term homosexual or heterosexual relationships and articulated that bisexual identity should not be mistaken for a mere transitional stage that leads to fixed sexual identity.

The final stage of Weinberg's (1994) model has received criticism in the literature for its lack of closure. In Brown's (2002) study, 75% of male and female bisexual participants continued to identify as bisexual at the time of follow-up, indicating a possible end point to the bisexual development trajectory. Brown (2002) also suggested that bisexual men and women's development may differ. Women may experience coming out as bisexual with ambiguity and fluidity, while men may undergo a more abrupt process, marked by sexual experimentation (Gonsiorek, 1988, as cited in

Brown, 2002). Therefore, literature disagrees with the final stage of the Weinberg et al., (1994) model and proposes an endpoint to the bisexual identity development process (Brown, 2002; Diamond, 2008).

Bisexual Identity Model: Bradford

From a qualitative study of 20 bisexual men and women (22-54 years of age), from diverse racial and educational backgrounds, Bradford (2004), developed her stage theory of bisexuality. Bradford (2004) suggested that bisexual identity develops through four stages: *questioning one's own reality*, *inventing one's own identity*, *maintaining identity*, and *transforming adversity*. During the first stage, bisexual persons doubt the existence of bisexuality and feel pressured to identify as either homosexual or heterosexual. In order to proceed to the second stage, *inventing one's own identity*, individuals must develop belief in legitimacy of their experience and create their own definition of sexual attractions.

Once individuals identify with bisexuality, they must *maintain their identities*. At this point in their development, feeling of invisibility and isolation may develop. However, these feelings can be countered with increased self-reliance and establishment of sense of community. Some bisexual persons move on to the fourth stage, *transforming adversity*, by participating in formation of bisexual communities and acting as role models for other bisexual individuals. Thus, this model proposes a potential end point in the developmental sequence of bisexual identity. However, because this model was based on the experiences of only 20 bisexual men and women, it may not be representative of the larger bisexual population.

The Bradford Model of Bisexual Identity Development was examined in the current study of women's bisexual identity development and sexual fluidity. Unlike other bisexual identity models, Bradford (2004) did not assume that bisexuality followed a trajectory from heterosexuality towards bisexuality. Furthermore, she viewed bisexuality as a third sexual orientation and identity, and did not attempt to reconcile bisexual behavior with sexual experimentation that ultimately leads to a binary model of sexuality.

Although Bradford's model is not empirically supported in literature, aside from her own study, neither are the remaining models. This is due to general lack of research on the topic of bisexual identity development. Bisexual identity development has often been included within lesbian and gay identity models, which included negligible samples of bisexual persons and failed to make sex distinctions between bisexual men and women.

A limitation of Bradford's theory is its assumption that bisexual identity development is linear and occurs in four stages: questioning one's own reality, inventing one's own identity, maintaining identity, and transforming adversity. Furthermore, the small sample size (n=20) of openly bisexual individuals may not represent less open, ethnically diverse bisexual women. Lastly, Bradford's model is a stage model and assumes linearity, thus failing to address aspects of sexual fluidity in women.

Comparison of the Models

Bradford's (2004) model differs from Weinberg's (1994) model in that bisexuality is seen as a fixed identity, and not an existence plagued by continued

uncertainty in one's sexual identity. Bradford further criticized Weinberg's (1994) model for its assumption that bisexual individuals begin their identity development trajectory from a heterosexual standpoint. Bradford (2004) found that over 30% of individuals in her study initially identified as homosexual. Participants in Bradford's (2004) study expressed certainty in their identities, despite struggling with the lack of acknowledgment and societal prejudice. Although Weinberg (1994) failed to identify social support as a precondition to bisexual identity development, the Bradford (2004) model identified and emphasized the importance of sexual minority community involvement. Furthermore, Bradford (2004) attempted to consider racial and cultural variables in her bisexual identity development model and reported that participants in her study experienced multiple levels of oppression as a result of their dual minority identity statuses. Therefore, the current study viewed the Bradford model as the most complete, albeit under researched, model of bisexual identity development. The current study also attempted to include a larger and more diverse sample of bisexual women.

Overall Criticisms of the Bisexual Identity Models

An overall criticism of the bisexual identity development models is the lack of clarity as to their applicability to all bisexual individuals. According to Rivers (1997), participants utilized for most of lesbian, gay, and bisexual identity development research are young adolescents (15 years old and older) who are open about their sexual orientations, which may limit the external validity of these models. Thus, it is difficult to say whether bisexual people who are not open about their sexual orientations undergo the same stages described by Cass (1989), D'Augelli (1994), Weinberg (1994), and Bradford (2004).

Other researchers argued that development is dynamic and determined by the interactions of an individual with her or her social environment (Horowitz & Newcomb, 2001; Lerner, 1991; Baltes, 1987). The life-span human development perspective argued that transition from childhood to adulthood is not fixed, but plastic and subject to change (Rivers, 1997). Therefore, sexual identity stage models were rejected due to their linear natures. This view also proposed that sexual orientation did not exist within a homosexual/ heterosexual dichotomy, but on a continuum, meaning that people are attracted to members of both sexes in varying degrees (Glover, Galliher, & Lamere, 2009; Kinsey, 1941). Therefore, this argument invalidated the possibility of a universal bisexual identity development model.

Literature describing the intersection of racial and bisexual identity development is nearly nonexistent (Collins, 2004). Dube and Savin-Williams (1999) contended that type of research is lacking due to inherent difficulties of studying ethnic and racial minorities. Guidry (1999) added that bisexuality was often ignored due to the presumption that sexual orientation exists within a heterosexual-homosexual dichotomy. Bohan (1995) proposed that bisexual persons of color experience marginality and struggle between competing identities. Furthermore, any research that does exist on the topic discusses gay and lesbian development of people of color, while bisexual development of racial minorities is largely ignored (Collins, 2004).

Summary

Bisexual Identity Development models were introduced and compared to the lesbian and gay identity development models. Furthermore, a thorough criticism of the Weinberg (1994) and the Bradford (2004) models was provided, along with a rationale

for utilizing the Bradford model in the current study. Lastly, identity development models were critically analyzed, with exploration of limitations that can be found in the current bisexual identity development literature.

Identity Resolution and Support

A discussion of the role of social support and community in bisexual identity models, along with the issues unique to the final stages of identity development models for bisexual women, was presented in this section. Discrimination and rejection of individuals who identify as sexual minorities may affect the process of their sexual identity development (D'Augelli et al, 1998). Bradford (2004) found that bisexual women in her study experienced biphobia from both the heterosexual and the homosexual communities. The consequences of such biphobia may extend to negative mental health outcomes. However, these negative outcomes and achievement of a bisexual identity can take place if women are able to connect to and participate within a supportive community (Bradford, 2004).

Social Support

Social support and LGB identification appear to have a reciprocal relationship. Individuals who were openly gay, lesbian or bisexual reported feeling more comfortable about their sexual identities and having more LGB friends as compared to individuals who were less open or less comfortable about their sexual identities (D'Augelli et al., 1998). Lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons who may lack family and peer support often seek to increase social support by affiliating with lesbian, gay, and bisexual peers and groups (Herdt & Boxer, 1993). Therefore, lesbian, gay, and bisexual people's involvement in LGB communities is essential in development of coping

strategies, one of which may be the reconciliation of one's lesbian, gay, or bisexual identities (D'Augelli et al., 1998).

Biphobia and Community Support

Unlike gay and lesbian persons, bisexual individuals experience a unique form of discrimination, termed biphobia. According to Dworkin (2001), biphobia is a fear or dislike of individuals who are not exclusively homosexual or heterosexual. Moreover, individuals who exhibit biphobia may deny the existence of bisexuality and criticize bisexual individuals.

Biphobia can be particularly painful if both the heterosexual and homosexual communities ostracize bisexual persons for prejudicial reasons. According to Ochs (1996), bisexual people are sometimes excluded from homosexual communities due to the assumption that they possess heterosexual privilege. Bisexuals also tend to be excluded from heterosexual communities who may view them as amoral, hedonistic, and detrimental to conservative family values. Thus, bisexual individuals may experience greater isolation than their gay and lesbian counterparts, due to lacking community support (Morrow & Messinger, 2006).

As a result of biphobia, bisexual individuals may find themselves in a disadvantaged position when compared to both homosexual and heterosexual individuals who possess separate communities. Bisexual participants (N=10) in Hegembourg and Brallier's (2009) qualitative study reported that they were judged to be promiscuous and untrustworthy by the heterosexual, gay, and lesbian communities. They described feeling misunderstood and invisible along with possessing a poor sense of community, seemingly related to a lack of bisexual-oriented groups and events.

Bisexual women recounted difficulties in forming relationships with lesbian women who were reluctant to date them because of their bisexual attractions. These reactions have led some of the participants to conceal their bisexual identities from friends and partners and assimilate into whichever community their current romantic partners belonged to. Additionally, once a bisexual person decided to date someone of the other sex, they experienced negative reactions and lack of approval by his or her homosexual friends. Hegembourg and Brallier's (2009) sample included White and Black participants (18-35 years of age), with a high school education or greater and most were single or never married. Therefore, the small sample size, relationship status, and lack of racial diversity may limit generalization of results.

Bradford (2004), whose bisexual identity development study was discussed in an earlier section, also outlined difficulties of bisexual persons in obtaining recognition and social support from heterosexual and homosexual communities. Many of the 20 bisexual, multiracial participants, aged 22-54, who were interviewed about their experiences, reported feeling isolated and unsupported by their family, friends, and community. They reported feeling invalidated and attacked by the homosexual community for possessing heterosexual privilege, along with experiencing homophobia from the heterosexual community. Some described losing friends and being accused of spreading AIDS throughout the gay and lesbian community. Other participants reported coping with isolation through formation of their own communities. Being that all of the participants in Bradford's study were open about their sexual orientations, these results may not represent experiences of bisexual persons who are not open about their orientation.

Rust (1995) suggested that bisexual person's experienced rejection by the gay and lesbian community may be attributed to political reasons instead of biphobia. A portion of the gay community, who are actively seeking civil rights, may perceive bisexuality as a threat to this goal. Since the gay community emphasizes the genetic nature of homosexuality, individuals who identify as bisexual may provide leverage to conservative policymakers who can chose to view homosexuality as a choice, not "an immutable trait." These presumptions may be perceived as being used to hinder anti-discriminatory laws that intend to promote equal treatment with regard to sexual orientation. Furthermore, bisexuals' political allegiance to the gay or heterosexual communities may be questioned, thereby leading to mistrust by both gay and straight communities (Israel & Mohr, 2004).

Impacts of Biphobia

Compared to the gay, lesbian, and heterosexual persons, individuals who identify as bisexual appear to be at a higher risk of poor mental health and victimization, a possible result of biphobia (Burgard, Cochran & Mays, 2005; Koh & Ross, 2006, Scheer, et al., 2003). According to Israel and Mohr (2004), biphobia has an adverse impact on a bisexual individual's mental health and well-being. Substance abuse, risky sexual behaviors, and suicidality are a few consequences of biphobia (Thompson & Johnston, 2003). Furthermore, if negative attitudes are internalized, a bisexual person may struggle to develop a positive bisexual identity. Thus, bisexual individuals may have difficulty obtaining social support, which is available to their gay and lesbian counterparts, whose identities are recognized and accepted by the general

society (Guidry, 1999). The impact of biphobia on bisexual identity development has not been acknowledged or explored in bisexual identity development models.

Women who identify as bisexual may struggle to obtain social support and form bisexual communities which may contribute to women's feelings of isolation or rejection by lesbian and heterosexual communities, along with adverse mental health outcomes (Morrow & Messinger, 2006). Bradford (2004) suggested that in order to achieve and claim full bisexual identity, bisexual women need to connect to and participate within a sexual minority community. The importance of community support appears to be an indispensable step towards resolution of the final stage of bisexual identity development and formation of a bisexual identity.

Summary

An individual's sexual fluidity, as defined by changes in sexual attraction, has not been explored in the context of bisexual identity development (Diamond, 2008). Defining bisexuality has also remained a practical problem, often leading researchers to recruit participants who self-identify as bisexual. Furthermore, many studies that explored bisexuality did so peripherally and included a small sample of bisexual individuals with larger gay and lesbian samples (Moradi et al., 2009).

The impact of sexual fluidity on perceived community social support is poorly understood at present, but because of factors like biphobia, may impact women's bisexual identity development (Bradford, 2004). Research that included the operationalization of social support within a community for bisexual individuals only is a frequent, but untested, assumption within the current literature.

The Current Study

The current study attempted to clarify relationships between fluidity and sexual attraction, bisexual identity and social support, and stages of bisexual identity development. Bisexual women's self-reported changes in attractions over a period of 11 years were examined in order to identify levels of sexual fluidity. Based on three levels of attraction: men and women equally, primarily men and some women, and primarily women and some men, comparisons were made to self-reported sexual identities as measured by heterosexual, homosexual, and bisexual labels. These categories were used to examine reported levels of perceived social support, bisexual identity, and a fit with a model of bisexual identity development.

Benefit of the Current Study

Research that acknowledges diversity and adds to the understanding of the richness of human experience can assist in advancing psychological research in general (Moradi, et. al., 2009). The results of this study may have implications for future research that uses bisexuality as a variable of analysis; a topic which is poorly explored in the literature. Specifically, an exploration of the fit between a model of sexual identity development and the utility of bisexual identity models may encourage further development or refinement of the variable of bisexuality.

Additionally, an improved understanding of the relationship between sexual fluidity and perceived social support may allow clinicians to treat women who identify as bisexual as unique individuals whose needs may differ from women identifying as lesbian or heterosexual. Most importantly, the current study is the first of its kind to differentiate between various forms of bisexual attraction (men and women equally,

primarily men and some women, and primarily women and some men) in an attempt to understand women's bisexual orientation, identity, and experience.

CHAPTER III

METHOD

In order to better understand the relationship between sexual fluidity, bisexual identity development, and perceived social and community support, the current study utilized the following instruments: a demographic questionnaire, Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG), Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG; Klein, Sepekoff, & Wolf, 1985), Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale (LGBIS; Mohr & Fassinger, 2000), Connectedness to the LGBT Community Scale (Frost & Meyer, 2011), and the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPPS; Zimet, Dahlem, Zimet, & Farley, 1988).

The demographic form obtained information about participant's characteristics and life experiences. The Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG) obtained information about female sexual fluidity over an 11 year period and derived five categories of sexuality and bisexuality MWE (sexual attractions to men and women equally), WO (sexual attractions towards women only), PWSM (sexual attractions primarily to women, some sexual attractions to men), PMSW (sexual attractions primarily to men, some sexual attractions to women), and MO (sexual attraction toward men only). The Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG, Klein, Sepekoff, & Wolf, 1985) assessed sexual affiliation on a seven point range from "heterosexual only" to "homosexual only." Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale (LGBIS; Mohr & Fassinger, 2000) examined negative and

positive sexual identity development. Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Community Scale (Frost & Meyer, 2011), and the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPPS; Zimet, Dahlem, Zimet, & Farley, 1988) measured the participants' levels of social and community support.

Participants and Procedures

Prior to beginning data collection, this study was approved by the University of North Dakota Institutional Review Board (See Appendix G). The study was uploaded to a www.surveygizmo.com website and pilot tested to fix technological difficulties associated with completion of internet research. Technical issues were quickly resolved and the pre-tested survey was ready for administration. Approximate survey completion time ranged from 20-35 minutes. The participants were recruited from Facebook special interest groups, LGBT community centers, lesbian and bisexual interest listservs, and university women's centers across the United States.

The aforementioned means of recruitment were utilized to ensure maximum diversity in terms of age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, religious preference, ability status, relationship status, educational level, and geographical location. Organizations, groups, and individual participants were contacted via an electronic message requesting voluntary participation.

Upon recruitment, the participants were directed to a web page where they could complete the survey consisting of an informed consent, demographic questionnaire form, Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG), Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG), Connectedness to the LGBT Community Scale, Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS), and the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale

(LGBIS) (See Appendix H for survey template). Each scale was presented on a separate web page to improve the clarity and aesthetic appeal of the survey. To ensure eligibility to participate, potential participants needed to acknowledge that they were women aged 30 or older who had experienced attraction to both men and women at some point in their lives. In the informed consent, potential participants learned that they would have an opportunity to enter their e-mail addresses for a chance to win one of two fifty dollar gift cards. A question was inserted within the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity scale which instructed “Please do not respond to this item” as a validity check. By clicking on “I have read this page and I would like to take the survey”, the participants provided consent. A sample of the consent form is included in Appendix H.

No identifying information, including the participants’ computer IP addresses, was collected. The participants were debriefed by learning the general purpose of the study (i.e., to examine the experiences of women with attraction to both men and women) and were provided with e-mail addresses and phone numbers from the following sources: the researcher, Dr. Dorlene Walker (dissertation chair), and the University of North Dakota Institutional Review Board (IRB). If the participants wished to learn the result of the study, they were allowed to click on the prompt on the final page of the survey which stated “I wish to know the results of the study when they become available.” The participants who clicked on the prompt were redirected to a second survey, where they entered their e-mail addresses. A second survey was created to maintain anonymity between participants’ responses and e-mail addresses. Upon the study’s completion, the researcher created a web page outlining the results and e-mailed the link to this web page to participants who inquired about the findings of the

current. The data collection ceased after four months, at which time, 128 completed surveys were collected.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Internet Data Collection

According to Heppner and Heppner (2004), internet research has substantially grown since 1995. This type of data collection has specific advantages and disadvantage. Some of the advantages of internet sampling include: access to special populations which would be difficult to access otherwise, access to a large and diverse pool of individuals throughout the world, ease of collection, and greater response rates compared to traditional paper surveys.

Some disadvantages of internet data-collection include: self- selection of participants, multiple submissions, attempts at sabotaging the study, and inclusion of persons ineligible for the study. In order to control for some of these disadvantages, the research checked the dates and times of submission in order to eliminate duplicate surveys. The study was advertised in lesbian and bisexual friendly environments in order to avoid sabotage of the study. Although self-selection bias was impossible to control in this type of study, the researchers believe that the vast array of possible participants compensated for this shortcoming. According to www.compete.com, Facebook is the second most visited website in the United States, thus providing a large and diverse sample of lesbian and bisexual women which would be difficult to obtain through any other medium.

Instruments

Demographic Questionnaire Form

The demographic information form collected the following data: biological sex, current age, racial identity, relationship status, highest level of education completed, personal income, and country and state of residence. Participants were also asked questions relating to their sexual orientations, types of relationships, and the extent of involvement in their LGBT communities. The questions pertaining to the participants' sexual orientations inquired about disclosure of sexual orientations, level of comfort with sexual orientation labels, experience of isolation due to sexual attractions, and feelings of pressure to identify exclusively as heterosexual or homosexual. The questions pertaining to the participants' types of relationships inquired about the number of dating and sexual relationships with both men and women. The questions pertaining to the involvement in a LGBT community inquired about the length and type of participation in a LGBT community, belief in the existence of a bisexual community, and the length of participation in a bisexual community. Participants were also asked to respond to an open ended statement "Please briefly describe what "bisexuality" means to you." (See Appendix A).

Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG)

The researcher developed the Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG) to assess the degree of change in attractions across an 11 year time span. Table 1 represents an abbreviated version of the grid.

Table 1

Sexual Fluidity Grid: Sample

We are interested in the patterns of sexual attraction that you experienced from ages 20-30. Please indicate your sexual attractions over the 10 year time span. If you are unable to recall a specific age/year, please make your best guess.

	Age 20	Age 21 etc.	Age 30
Sexual attractions to men and women equally			
Sexual attractions primarily to women; some sexual attraction to men			
Sexual attractions to women only			
Sexual attractions primarily to men; some sexual attraction to women			
Sexual attractions to men only			

The Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG) was utilized to derive three categories of bisexuality (PMSW, PWMS, and MWE). PMSW represents bisexual women who prefer men, PWMS represents bisexual women who prefer women, and MWE represents bisexual women who prefer men and women equally. The participants were asked to complete a grid that recorded the assessment of sexual attractions they have assigned to themselves over yearly time periods from ages 20 to 30, and in the future. Women who changed sexual attraction labels four to five times were classified as highly (significantly) fluid in labels they self-assigned (SF). Women who changed attractions two to three times were classified as moderately fluid (MF). Women who changed their attractions label only one time were classified as possessing minimal or weak fluidity (WF). Women who had no change in descriptors across time were classified as possessing no fluidity or stability in attraction (S). The SFG also contained an auxiliary question inquiring if the participants anticipated that their sexual attractions will change in the future.

Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG)

Sexual Affiliation was measured by the Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG, Klein, Sepekoff, & Wolf, 1985). The KSOG is a 21 item grid, measuring seven dimensions of sexual orientation: sexual attraction, sexual behavior, sexual fantasies, emotional preference, social preference, heterosexual-homosexual lifestyle, and self-identification. The seven dimensions are assessed across an individual's past, present, and ideal situation on a scale from Other Gender Only (0) to Same Gender Only (6). Social preference, lifestyle preference, and self-identification are rated from Heterosexual Only (0) to Homosexual Only (6). In order to understand these dimensions, the participants were provided with instructions such as "to whom are you sexually attracted" and "with whom do you like to socialize." A summary of ratings, of the seven dimensions of sexual orientation, with higher scores denotes greater same-sex attractions (homosexual), while lower scores denote other-sex attractions (heterosexual).

A notable strength of the Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG, Klein, Sepekoff, & Wolf, 1985) is its emphasis on sexual fluidity and rejection of sexual binaries. Therefore, this scale measures sexual orientation on a continuum and encompasses aspect of attractions above and beyond sexual behavior (i.e., emotional preference, social preference, lifestyle preference, sexual fantasies, sexual attractions, and self-identification). Furthermore, the scale allows the comparison of these dimensions across time and inadvertently implying that sexual attractions are fluid, and not stable. Although alpha reliabilities were not reported, they were described as "excellent" by the creators of the instrument (Klein, Sepekoff, & Wolf, 1985, pg. 43).

Although Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG, Klein, Sepekoff, & Wolf, 1985) is the most extensively used measure of sexual orientation, little research exists to support the reliability and validity of this instrument (Moradi et. al., 2009; Diamond, 2008; Worthington & Reynolds, 2009). Accord to Klein (1993), the KSOG does not account for sexual disclosure, preference for love and friendship, measure of sexual frequency, and bisexual community involvement. Furthermore, although the KSOG is capable of assessing sexual fluidity over time by assessing participants' attractions in the past and present, it does not measure the amount of fluidity, a variable central to this study.

Connectedness to the LGBT Community Scale

Community connectedness was measured by Connectedness to the LGBT Community Scale (Frost & Meyer, 2011). This seven item scale measures community affiliation of LGBT individuals. The participants were asked to indicate agreement with the seven items ranging from Agree Strongly (1) to Disagree Strongly (4). Sample statements include "You feel a bond with your local LGBT community" and "You are proud of your local LGBT community." A summary of ratings with lower scores denotes greater degree of community connectedness.

The total internal reliability of the Connectedness to the LGBT Community scale, as measured by Cronbach's alpha, is .81. Corrected item-total correlations ranged from .32 to .68 for all items. Test-retest reliability at a one year mark was .73. These values demonstrate good internal reliability and stability over time. Frost and Meyer (2011) further stated that the scale demonstrated good convergent validity with the following scales: Collective Self-Esteem Scale (Luhtanen & Crocker, 1992), measure

of strength of one's gay group identity (Williams et al., 1999), measure of internalized homophobia (Herek & Glunt, 1995; Meyer, 1995) and behavioral connectedness to the LGBT community (Martin & Dean (1987). The scale demonstrated discriminant validity from the measure of general sociability that was developed by the Frost and Meyer (2011).

Notable strengths of the Connectedness to the LGBT Community scale include: good internal reliability, good convergent validity, and good divergent validity (Frost & Meyer, 2011). The scale is brief, self-explanatory, and simple to use. A limitation of the scale includes a lack of variability within the sample, being that the majority of participants were Latino, White, and African American men and women, Furthermore, the participants were recruited with the incentive that the study would help to "understand problems in the gay community" (Frost & Meyer, 2011). Finally, according to Moradi et al. (2009), it is a common practice for sexual minority researchers to modify language in an instrument to increase applicability to a particular population they are studying (i.e., bisexual). In order to increase alignment with the purposes of the current study, the LGBT language was altered to more closely reflect bisexual experiences.

Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale (LGBIS)

The Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity scale is the only sexual minority scale that directly measures aspects of bisexual identity (LGBIS; Mohr & Fassinger, 2000). For the purposes of this study, the scale was used to assess the extent to which the participants experienced negative sexual identity development. The LGBIS can also be used to assess the identity and outness of individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, and

bisexual. The participants in the current study were asked to indicate agreement with 27 items ranging from Disagree Strongly (1) to Agree Strongly (7). Sample statements include “I am glad to be an LGB” person” and “I keep changing my mind about my sexual orientation.”

A limitation of the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity scale (LGBIS) is its lack of published psychometric properties (Mohr & Fassinger, 2000). However an earlier version, the Lesbian and Gay Identity Scale (LGIS) has been reported to have good psychometric properties. A caveat of the LGIS includes non-random use of gay and lesbian participants who were predominantly White, college educated, in relationships, and possessed high levels of self-esteem (Mohr & Fassinger, 2000). However, this LGBIS appears to be the sole instrument in existence which had the capacity to measure bisexual identity, a primary focus of the current study.

The Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity scale consists of seven subscales, including: internalized homonegativity/ binegativity, need for privacy, need for acceptance, identity confusion, difficult process, superiority, and negative identity. Because this scale does not produce a total score of all subscale, the negative identity subscale score was utilized to assess for negative or positive identity development experienced by participants of varying types of attractions (i.e. PMSW, PWSM, MWE).

Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS)

Perceived social support was measured by the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPPS; Zimet, Dahlem, Zimet, & Farley, 1988). MSPPS consists of 12 items measuring three subscales of perceived social support: friends, family, and significant others. Each subscale is represented by four items. All items are

rated on a seven point Likert-type scale ranging from *very strongly disagree* (1) to *very strongly agree* (7). Higher scores indicate higher levels of perceived social support. A summary of three subscales produces a Global Satisfaction Scale with perceived social support score (Clara, Cox, Enns, Murray, & Torgude, 2003).

The total internal reliability of the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS), measured by Cronbach's alpha, is between .88 and .93, with each individual subscale as follows: friends (.85 to .89), family (.87 to .94), and significant other (.91 to .95). The test-retest reliability for the whole scale is .85, with each individual scale as follows: friends (.75), family (.85), and significant other (.72). These values demonstrate good internal reliability and stability over time for the whole scale and its subscales (Zimet et al., 1988; Canty-Mitchell & Zimet, 2000; Clara et al., 2003). The MSPSS further exhibits strong factorial validity.

The family subscale of the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS) has demonstrated discriminant validity from the Adolescent Family Caring Scale and the Beck Depression Inventory (Canty-Mitchell & Zimet, 2000; Kazarian & McCabe, 1991). The construct validity is also high and demonstrated by the individuals' ability to differentiate among three different sources of support friends, family, and significant other (Dahlem, Zimet, & Walker, 1991). Because the MSPSS correlates inversely with BDI ($r = -.25$), this further confirms the scale's construct validity. The MSPSS also correlates well with the Social Support Behaviors scale, indicating concurrent validity (Kazarian, & McCabe, 1991).

Notable strengths of the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS) include: good reliability, factorial validity, and adequate construct validity

(Zimet et al., 1988). The scale is brief, self-explanatory, and simple to use. The MSPSS was tested with a wide range of populations including: college students, urban high school students, pregnant women, inpatient adolescents, psychiatric outpatients, elderly, and adolescents living abroad. According to Canty-Mitchell and Zimet (2000), the MSPSS can be reliably utilized with populations diverse in race, socioeconomic status, gender, nationality, and age. The MSPSS was poorly correlation with the Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability scale, indicating that social desirability does not play a significant role in reported social support (Dahlem et al., 1991).The scale also utilizes a *significant other* subscale, which may be particularly important to adolescents and young adults who may place great emphasis on dating relationships as a source of social support (Canty-Mitchell & Zimet, 2000). Furthermore, the MSPSS is sensitive to between group differences in the perception of social support (Kazarian & McCabe, 1991).

Notable limitations of the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS) include the fact that the scale was primarily tested with undergraduate college students, and fails to consider co-worker support as a possible fourth dimension. Since the scale has not been used extensively with the lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations, it may lead to limited validity with these populations (Appendix F).

Statistical Analyses

The preliminary analysis was performed to obtain descriptive statistics of the demographic information. Results are presented in Chapter IV. A table of key variables was included to facilitate the conceptualization of variables and how they were

measured (Table 2). All data analyses were conducted with SPSS (Chicago IL) Version 19 software.

Table 2

Key Variables

<i>SEXUAL FLUIDITY</i>	<i>BISEXUAL IDENTITY</i>	<i>COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SUPPORT</i>
<i>Measure/s</i>	<i>Measure/s</i>	<i>Measure/s</i>
Sexual Fluidity Grid	LGB Identity Scale (LGBIS)	Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS)
Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG)	<i>Stages of the Bradford Model</i>	Connectedness to the LGBT Community Scale
<i>Attractions</i>	Demographic Questionnaire	Demographic Questionnaire
MWE		<i>Level of Community</i>
PMSM		<i>Connectedness/ Social Support</i>
PWSM		HC /HC
		MC/ MC
		PC /PC
<i>Identity Stability</i>		
S (Stable)		
W (Minimal Fluidity)		
MF (Moderate Fluidity)		
SF (Significant Fluidity)		

For research question I, a simple correlation was performed to establish the presence of a relationship between the Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG; total score) and three types of sexual attractions, as identified by the Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG; MWE, PMSW, and PWSM).

For research question II, a one-way ANOVA analysis was performed to establish the difference in means on the negative identity subscale (total score) of the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale (LGBIS) for three types of sexual attraction (heterosexual somewhat more, equally heterosexual and homosexual, and homosexual somewhat more), as reported on the Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG; total score).

For research question III, a simple correlation was performed to establish the presence of a relationship between the level of stability in attraction on the Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG; stable/ no fluidity, minimal fluidity, moderate fluidity, significant fluidity) and perceived social support on the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social support (MSPSS total score) and community support on the Connectedness to the LGBT Community Scale (total score).

For research question IV, a chi-square goodness of fit test was performed to assess the degree to which women with different levels of stability in attraction on the Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG; stable/ no fluidity, minimal fluidity, moderate fluidity, significant fluidity) aligned with the four theoretical stages of the Bradford Model (pressure to identify exclusively as heterosexual or homosexual, comfort with sexual orientation label, participation in the LGB community, and identification as an advocate or activist to other sexual minority individuals), as reported on the demographic questionnaire form.

For research question V, a phenomenological approach was used to identify and categorize themes which were reported in response to an open ended question, inquiring about participants' definitions of bisexuality. The open ended question was included in the demographic questionnaire form.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

The purpose of the current study was to contribute to the growing body of knowledge about sexual fluidity, bisexual identity development, and bisexual social and community support. Data analysis for demographic information was presented, followed by the results of four research questions, and qualitative examination of the meaning of bisexuality.

Participants were described in terms of age, racial identity, education, personal income, and a place or residence. Information was then provided about participants' relationship status, dating and sexual histories, and comfort with their sexual orientation labels. Finally, statistical analyses and the results of the four research questions were presented, including the qualitative analysis of the participants' descriptions of bisexuality.

Participants

Age

Women aged 30 and older who reported experiencing sexual attraction to men and women were included as participants in this study. The minimum age of 30 was identified in order to capture possible histories of varied sexual attraction as well as stability in sexual identity. The complete sample included 128 women, ranging in age

from 30 to 73 years old (Median=38; Mode=32). The majority of participants were between the ages of 30-44 years old (n=91; 71.1%). (Table 3)

Table 3

Description of Demographic Information

	#	% Total
<i>Country</i>		
No Response	2	1.6%
United States	117	91.4%
Canada	7	5.5%
Australia	1	0.8%
New Zealand	1	0.8%
<i>Age</i>		
30-39 years old	70	54.7%
40-49 years old	34	26.6%
50-59 years old	20	15.6%
60-69 years old	3	2.4%
70-79 years old	1	0.8%
<i>Racial Identity</i>		
African American		
Arab Descent	4	3.1%
Asian American	1	0.8%
European American	2	1.6%
Hispanic/ Latino-a	107	83.6%
Native American	2	1.6%
Native Hawaiian	3	2.3%
Other	1	0.8%
<i>Highest Education Completed</i>		
	8	6.3%
High school or Some College	19	14.9%
Advanced Degree	84	65.7%
Doctoral/ Professional Degree	25	19.5%
<i>Personal Income</i>		
\$0- \$30,000	47	36.7%
\$30,001-\$60,000	48	37.5%
\$60,001-\$90,000	23	18%
\$90,001-\$150,000	7	5.5%
\$150,001 and above	3	2.4%

Racial Identity

The study sample was predominantly White (n=107; 83.6%). The remaining racial distribution of the sample included: African American (n=4; 3.1%), Native American/ Indigenous (n=3; 2.3%), Hispanic/ Latina (o) (n=2; 1.6%), Asian American/ Asian/ South Asian/ Pacific Islander Descent (n=2, 1.6%), Arab Descent (n=1; 0.8%), Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander (n=1; 0.8%), and Other (n=8; 6.3%). (see Table 3)

Education and Personal Income

The majority of women reported having completed a college degree or higher (n= 109; 85.1%). Only two participants reported completing high school or GED (1.6%). The most frequently reported level of education was a Master's degree. Additionally, the majority of participants reported annual incomes between \$30,001-\$60,000 (n=48; 37.5%), with nearly three quarters of the sample earning between \$0-\$60,000. (see Table 3)

Place of Residence

The participants reported having lived in 88 different cities across four countries and 30 different states within the United States. The majority of participants reported living in the United States (n=117; 91.4%). Wisconsin was the state with the largest number of participants (n=13). (Table A.3)

A Brief Summary of the Information in the Demographic Section is Presented Below

In Tables 4 and Table 5 information related to relationship history, comfort level, and disclosure of sexual orientation is presented. Information related to sexual minority community involvement, including the length and type of participation, and beliefs around the existence of a bisexual community is presented in Table 6.

Table 4

Description of Comfort Level and Disclosure of Sexual Orientation

	<i>% Total</i>
<i>Sexual Orientation (SO) Disclosed</i>	
Yes	96.9%
No	3.1%
<i>Comfort with SO</i>	
Yes	90.7%
No	9.3%
<i>Felt isolated due to SO</i>	
Yes	74.2%
No	25.8%
<i>Felt pressure to identify as heterosexual/ homosexual</i>	
Yes	84.4%
No	15.6%
<i>Relationship Status</i>	
Divorced	9.4%
Long-term committed/ Married	62.5%
Single	23.4%
Polyamorous	4.7%

Demographic Questionnaire Form

A demographic questionnaire form collected information regarding the components of participants’ sexual orientations, relationship status, and community involvement. Almost all women reported having disclosed their sexual orientation labels (homosexual, heterosexual, bisexual, etc.) to someone in their lives (96.9%).

Additionally, most participants reported feeling either *very comfortable* or *somewhat comfortable* with their sexual orientation labels (90.6%). A vast majority of women (74.2%) reported having experienced isolation or invisibility due to their current or past sexual attractions, along with having felt the pressure to identify as exclusively heterosexual or homosexual (84.4%). (Table 4)

Sixty-two percent of participants reported being married or in a long-term committed relationship. Nearly a quarter of participants reported their relationship status as single (23.4%) (see Table 4). Ninety-seven percent of participants reported having had a sexual relationship with a man and 92% reported having had a sexual relationship with women at some point in their lives. Generally, the participants reported having histories of more dating relationships with men than with women (see Table 5).

Table 5

Description of Relationship History

	Sexual Patterns		# of Dating Relationships	Dating Patterns		
	%Men	%Women		%Men	%Women	
Sexual Relationships	Yes	98	93	1-3	15	65
	No	2	7	4-5	23	17
				6-8	19	6
				9+	43	12

Eighty-two percent of women reported awareness and affiliation in a lesbian, gay, and bisexual community (LGB). Almost half of the women reported having participated in a bisexual community for a period of 0-6 months (45.6%), with roughly a quarter of the women reporting participation of over a decade (23.6%). Sixty-eight percent of the women considered themselves to be advocates, activists, or role models to other lesbian, gay, or bisexual individuals. (Table 6)

Table 6

Description of Community Involvement

	% Total
<i>Participated in LGB Community</i>	
Yes	82%
No	18%
<i>Believe in existence of Bisexual Community</i>	
Yes	82%
No	18%
<i>How long participated in LGB Community</i>	
No Response	10.9%
0-6 months	40.6%
7-11 months	3.1%
1-2 years	6.3%
3-5 years	11.7%
6-9 years	6.3%
10+ years	21.1%
<i>Consider self to be activist/role model to LGB Community</i>	
Yes	68%
No	32%

The following profile emerged about the women in who reported having experienced attraction to both men and women at some point in their lives. In general, the women in this sample have disclosed their orientation to someone and feel comfortable with their sexual orientation labels. However, the results also indicated

that most of these women also experienced isolation/ invisibility due to their sexual orientations and the pressure to identify as exclusively homosexual or heterosexual. With regard to their relationship histories, a vast majority of women have had sexual relationships with both men and women; however, they reported having had more dating relationships with men than with women. Finally, in terms of community involvement, the women were generally active in their LGB/T communities, with two thirds considering themselves to be advocates or role models to other LGB/T individuals. Improved understanding of the participants' descriptive information contextualizes the interpretation of statistical and qualitative analyses of the five research questions presented below.

Research Question I

One of the primary tasks of this research was to examine the relationship between sexual affiliation placement on the Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG) and the pattern of sexual attractions assigned on the Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG). The KSOG measured six levels of sexual orientation, three of which were of interest to this study (heterosexual somewhat more; equally heterosexual and homosexual; and homosexual somewhat more). The SFG measured five levels of sexual attractions, three of which were of primary interest to this study (primarily attracted to men, some women; equally attracted to men and women; and primarily attracted to women, some men). Research Question I examined the relationship between the KSOG and the SFG to determine if the three level of sexual orientations on the KSOG correspond to the three levels of sexual attraction on the SFG.

Table 7 represents correlations between sexual orientations on the KSOG and the three categories of attractions on the SFG.

Table 7

Correlations: KSOG and SFG

		<i>PWSM</i>	<i>MWE</i>	<i>PMSW</i>
KLEIN TOTAL	Pearson	.288**	-.051	-.307**
	Correlation			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.566	.000
	N	127	127	127

*Correlation is significant at a 0.01 level (two-tailed)

**Correlation is significant at a 0.05 level (two-tailed)

The KSOG total score had a small positive relationship with the PWSM (attracted primarily to women and some men) variable on the SFG ($r=.288$; $p<.001$). Women who identified as “homosexual somewhat more” on the KSOG reported greater levels of primary sexual attraction toward women and some men on the SFG.

The KSOG total score did not have a significant relationship with MWE (attracted to men and women equally) variable on the SFG ($r=-0.051$; $p<.566$). Women who identified as “equally heterosexual and homosexual” on the KSOG did not report greater levels of primary sexual attraction toward men and women equally on the SFG.

The KSOG total score had a small inverse relationship with the PMSW (attracted primarily to men and some women) variable on the SFG ($r=-.307$; $p<.000$). In other words, women who identified as “heterosexual somewhat more” on the

KSOG also reported greater levels of primary sexual attraction toward men and some women on the SFG.

Research Question II

A second purpose of this study was an examination of the relationship between sexual orientations on the KSOG and the negative identity on the Negative Identity subscale on the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale (LGBIS). The Negative Identity subscale was derived by averaging the scores of Homonegativity, Need for Privacy, Need for Acceptance, and Difficult Process subscales on the LGBIS. The Negative Identity subscale reflects the degree to which lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons have overall difficulties that are related to their sexual orientation identities. Research Question II examined the difference among women of different sexual orientations (heterosexual somewhat more, equally heterosexual and homosexual, and homosexual somewhat more) and the extent to which they experienced negative identities.

In Tables 8 and 9 a comparison of means between sexual orientations on the KSOG and the Negative Identity Subscale on the LGBIS is presented.

A one-way ANOVA was computed, comparing the negative identity of individuals who reported three of the six sexual orientations on the KSOG (heterosexual somewhat more, equally heterosexual and homosexual, homosexual somewhat more). No significant difference was found among the sexual orientations ($F(4, 116) = 2.146, p < .01$). The women of different sexual orientations did not differ significantly in regard to negative identity. Women who reported having “heterosexual somewhat more” sexual orientations had a mean negative identity score

of 3.36 (sd=1.05). Women who reported having “equally heterosexual and homosexual” sexual orientations had a mean negative identity score of 3.26 (sd=0.94). Women who reported having “homosexual somewhat more” sexual orientation had a mean negative identity score of 2.88 (sd=0.84).

Table 8

One-way ANOVA: KSOG

	<i>N</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Std. Error</i>	95% Confidence Interval for Mean			<i>Max</i>
					<i>Lower Bound</i>	<i>Upper Bound</i>	<i>Min</i>	
Heterosexual somewhat more	20	3.367	1.054	.235	2.874	3.861	1.83	5.96
Equally heterosexual and homosexual	47	3.266	.945	.137	2.988	3.544	1.37	6.21
Homosexual somewhat more	43	2.883	.841	.128	2.625	3.142	1.40	5.03
Total	122	3.112	.944	.085	2.943	3.281	1.37	6.21

Table 9

One-way ANOVA: Negative Identity

	<i>Sum of Squares</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Mean Square</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
Between Groups	7.011	4	1.753	2.146	.080
Within Groups	94.748	116	.817		
Total	101.759	120			

The negative identity subscale scores ranged from 1-7, with higher scores indicating higher negative identity. Women with the three levels of bisexual attractions (heterosexual somewhat more, equally heterosexual and homosexual, and homosexual somewhat more) scored in the low to midrange of the negative identity scale.

Research Question III

A third purpose of this study was concerned with understanding the relationship between levels of perceived social and community support and women's differing levels of stability in attraction. The stability in attraction, over an 11 year period from age 20-30, consists of four types of sexual fluidity (Stable/No Fluidity, Minimal Fluidity, Moderate Fluidity, and Significant Fluidity), as measured by the Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG). The Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS) consists of three subscales (family support, friend support, and significant other support) and measured perceived social support. Connectedness to the LGBT Community Scale measured perceived sexual minority community support. Research Question III examined the relationship between perceived support and sexual fluidity to determine if women with differing stability in attraction reported varying levels of perceived social and community support.

Correlations between stability in attraction and MSPSS, stability in attraction and Connectedness to the LGBT Community scale, and stability in attraction and three subscales of the MSPSS are presented in Table 10.

Table 10

Correlations: Fluidity, MSPSS, and Community Connection

		<i>MSPSS Total</i>	<i>Significant other support</i>	<i>Family support</i>	<i>Friends support</i>	<i>Connectedness to LGBT community</i>
Stability/ Change in labels	Pearson Correlation	.114	.215*	-.010	.162	-.067
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.202	.015	.914	.069	.450
	N	127	127	127	127	128

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The level of stability/ fluidity of sexual attraction on the SFG did not have a significant relationships with varying levels of perceived social support on the MSPSS ($r=.114$; $p<.202$). In other words, the women's stability in attraction did not seem to be related to the amount of perceived social support that they perceived to possess.

Due to lack of a significant relationship between the level of stability/ fluidity of sexual attraction and perceived social support (MSPSS total score), the researcher was curious if this lack of a relationship would extend to each of the three subscales of the MSPSS (significant other support, family support, and friends support). A simple correlation analysis found a small, positive significant relationship between the level of stability in sexual attraction and the perceived social support on the significant other subscale ($r=.215$; $p<.05$). In other words, women with greater level of stability in sexual attraction perceived to have greater significant other support. No significant relationships were found for the family support and friend support subscales.

The level of stability/ fluidity of sexual attraction on the SFG did not have a significant relationship with different levels of community support on the Connectedness to the LGBT Community Scale ($r=-.067$; $p<.450$). In other words, the women's stability in attraction did not seem to be related to the degree of LGBT community support that they perceived to possess.

Research Question IV

A fourth purpose of this research study was concerned with understanding the goodness of fit in experiences reported on the demographic questionnaire form on the

basis of face validity to the four stages of Bradford's Bisexual Identity Development Model and the varying levels of stability in attraction (Stable/ No Fluidity, Minimal Fluidity, Moderate Fluidity, and Significant Fluidity) on the Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG). The four stages of Bradford's model include: questioning reality, inventing identity, maintaining identity, and transforming adversity. Four factors, representing the stages suggested by Bradford's qualitative model of identity development, were identified from demographic questions and examined in the context of sexual fluidity. Research Question IV hypothesized that varying levels of stability in attraction, or the distribution of participants across the three levels of sexual fluidity, would not predict group membership on the theoretical stages of Bradford's model.

In Table 11 the four theoretical stages of Bradford's model, as conceptualized by the demographic questions are represented. Abbreviated chi-square values are also reported.

A chi-square goodness of fit test was calculated, comparing the degree to which women who reported greater stability in attractions on the SFG experienced alignment with the four theoretical stages of the Bradford Model. Because the expected frequency for each category should be at least one and no more than 20 percent of the categories should have expected frequencies of less than 5, the participants who reported significant fluidity in attraction (N=2) were excluded from further analysis. No significant deviations from the hypothesized values were found for each of the four stages of the Bradford model, with results as follows: Stage 1 ($\chi^2(2) = 2.507, p > .05$); Stage 2 ($\chi^2(2) = .214, p > .05$); Stage 3 ($\chi^2(2) = 3.332, p > .05$); and Stage 4 ($\chi^2(2) = 1.264, p > .05$). In other words, the degree of sexual fluidity

(Stable/ No Fluidity, Minimal Fluidity, or Moderate Fluidity) did not predict the women' reported group membership in four stages of the Bradford Model. (See Appendix A for a complete list of chi-square tables)

Table 11

Bradford's Theoretical Stages x Fluidity

	STAGE I <i>Felt the pressure to identify exclusively as heterosexual or homosexual</i>	STAGE II <i>Comfortable with current sexual orientation label</i>	STAGE III <i>Participated in the LGB community</i>	STAGE IV <i>Considered an advocate, activist, or a role model to other LGB individuals</i>
Stable/ No Fluidity (N=46)	36 (78.2%)	40 (86.9%)	39 (84.7%)	28 (60.8%)
Minimal Fluidity (N= 38)	32 (84.2%)	35 (92.1%)	33 (86.8%)	26 (68.4%)
Moderate fluidity (N=42)	38 (90.4%)	39 (92.8%)	32 (76.1%)	32 (76.1%)
Chi-square (x ²)	x ² (2) = 2.507, p>.05	x ² (2) =.214, p>.05	x ² (2) =3.332, p>.05	x ² (2) = 1.264, p>.05

Qualitative Findings

The fifth and final purpose of this research study was concerned with understanding the participants' qualitatively reported definitions of bisexuality. Participants were asked to voluntarily respond to an open ended question "Please briefly describe what "bisexuality" means to you."

Responses were collected from 126 out of 128 possible participants and coded into eight distinct themes including: attraction to men and women, attraction to

person, non-restrictive attraction, physical and sexual attraction, emotional and relational attraction, identity and labeling, monogamy and polyamory, and degree of attraction or preference. The researcher identified and color coded eight themes that emerged from the participants' responses. The themes were cross-validated by an independent rater. Some participants identified multiple themes in their responses. The themes were further examined for women reporting varying levels of fluidity in sexual attraction (Stable/ No Fluidity, Minimal Fluidity, Moderate Fluidity, and Significant Fluidity) (see Table 12).

In Table 12 eight identified bisexuality themes and the accompanying frequencies, reported by level of stability of attractions, are presented.

Table 12

Bisexuality Themes: Level of Fluidity

	<i>Stable/ No Fluidity</i>	<i>Minimal Fluidity</i>	<i>Moderate Fluidity</i>	<i>Significant Fluidity</i>
1. Attraction to Men and Women	10 (27.7%)	13 (36.1%)	(30.5%)	2 (0.5%)
2. Attraction to Person	7 (36.8%)	9 (47.3%)	2 (10.5%)	1 (0.5%)
3. Non-Restrictive Sexuality	3 (30%)	3 (30%)	3 (30%)	1(10%)
4. Physical and Sexual Attraction	18 (36.7%)	15 (30.6%)	16 (32.6%)	0 (0 %)
5. Emotional/ Relational Attraction	18 (39.1%)	11 (23.9%)	17 (36.9%)	0 (0%)
6. Identity and Labeling	4 (33.3%)	2 (16.6%)	7 (58.3%)	0 (0%)
7. Monogamy and Polyamory	3 (33.3%)	3 (33.3%)	3(33.3%)	0 (0%)
8. Degree of Attraction/ Preference	1 (23.5%)	5 (62.5%)	3 (37.5%)	0 (0%)
Total Themes	64	61	62	4
N	46	37	41	2

The participants were somewhat evenly distributed across three of the four levels of stability in sexual attraction: Stable/ No Fluidity (S; n=46), Minimal Fluidity

(MF; n=37), and Moderate/ Weak Fluidity (WF; n=41). Only two out of 126 participants who completed the Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG) possessed Significant Fluidity in their attractions. Meaningful conclusions cannot be drawn on the experiences of two participants with Significant Fluidity, and their results were not included in the following qualitative analysis of themes.

Attraction to Men and Women

Overall, women of stable, minimal, and moderate sexual fluidity did not appear to differ in their report of bisexuality as representing an *attraction to both men and women*. In other words, all women identified this theme in their definition of bisexuality to a similar degree: S (27.7%), MF (30.5%), and WF (36.1%). Sample responses describing this theme included: “attraction to both genders/sexes” and “men and women who have the capacity to be attracted to/ involved with men and women.”

Attraction to Person

Women with Stability/ No Fluidity and Weak Fluidity similarly identified *attraction to person* theme in their definitions of bisexuality (36.8% and 47.3%). However, women with Moderate Fluidity only accounted for 10.5% of total respondents who identified this theme in their definitions of bisexuality. Sample responses describing this theme included: “I am attracted to the person as an individual, not for his or her body or assumed biology or social stereotypes,” “I am not so much concerned with a person's gender as I am with who they are,” and “To be attracted to people of all genders. When I cross the street I look both ways. My attractions to both men and women are deeply heartfelt and intense.”

Non-Restrictive Sexuality

Women with all three levels of sexual fluidity equally reported (30% each) the non-restrictive sexuality theme in their definitions of bisexuality. Sample responses describing this theme included: “It means that you don't necessarily feel that you have to be attracted to only men or women,” “I also feel that being bisexual means that I shouldn't have to make a choice between men and women, but have the option to say 'Yes, both/and',” and “Bisexuality covers a range of different sexual orientations that are neither exclusively heterosexual nor exclusively same-sex oriented.”

Physical and Sexual Attraction

Overall, women of stable, minimal, and moderate sexual fluidity did not appear to differ in their report of bisexuality as inclusive of *physical or sexual attraction*. In other words, all women identified this theme in their definitions of bisexuality to a similar degree: S (36.7%), MF (32.6%), and WF (30.6%). Sample responses describing this theme included: “Bisexuality means being attracted sexually to either sex-meaning that you can have sex with either sex” and “That both male and female arouse me.”

Emotional and Relational Attraction

Women of Stable and Moderate fluidity similarly identified the *emotional/relational attraction* theme in their definitions of bisexuality (39.1% and 36.9%). However, women with Minimal fluidity only accounted for 23.9% of total respondents who identified this theme in their definitions of bisexuality. Sample responses describing this theme included: “Affectional attraction to both men and women,” “Deep feelings of love and devotion to both sexes,” and “I often say 'I am

attracted to the person's soul, and their body is simply the packaging. Different packages mean different gifts.”

Identity and Labeling

Women of Moderate fluidity accounted for majority of respondents who identified the *identity and labeling* theme in their definitions of bisexuality (58.3%), followed by women with Stable/ no fluidity (33.3%), and women with Minimal fluidity (16.6%). Sample responses describing this theme included: “I don't identify as bisexual, I identify as queer. To me being queer means attraction isn't defined by the gender of the person I am attracted to,” “Bisexual people remain bisexual. They do not suddenly switch orientation as if by magic when they enter into a relationship,” “Bisexuality is the root of my sexual identity. I have identified this way for as long as I can remember. While I have not explored relationships with the same sex often in my life, it is an important part of who I am,” and “I use it very randomly since I don't believe in dualisms so I don't think there are only two genders to which I feel attractive. I rather identify myself as queer, fluid and polyamorous.”

Monogamy and Polyamory

Women with all three levels of sexual fluidity equally reported (33.3% each) the *monogamy/ polyamory* theme in their definitions of bisexuality. Example responses describing this theme include: “I am not Polyamorous; I do not need to be in a sexual relationship with a man and a woman simultaneously to feel fulfilled. I am faithful, loyal and committed to one individual at a time and do not have to be in a sexual relationship to have a sexuality, i.e., straight while with a man, lesbian while with a woman,” “I specifically distinguish between bisexuality and polyamory, since

they do not necessarily overlap, despite widespread notions,” and “It's complicated now, (because) I am in a long term monogamous relationship with a man.”

Degree of Attraction and Preference

Women with Minimal fluidity accounted for a majority of respondents who identified *Degree of Attraction or Preference* theme in their definitions of bisexuality (62.5%), followed by women with Moderate fluidity (37.5%), and women with Stable/ No fluidity (23.5%). Sample responses describing this theme included: “I generally find men more appealing, but I have found a number of women sexually appealing and have taken it a step further with them,” “Bisexuality means that one is equally attracted to (sic) both men and women,” and “I like sex with both, although I am more attracted to women.”

Summary

A small significant relationship between sexual orientation on the Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG) and the corresponding attractions on the Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG) was found in Research Question I. No significant difference in negative identity on the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale (LGBIS) for women of different sexual orientations on the KSOG was found in Research Question II. No significant relationship between varying levels of stability in attraction on the SFG and overall perceived social support on the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support and community support on the Connectedness to the LGBT Community Scale was found in Research Question III. However, a small positive relationship was found between the significant other subscale on the MSPSS and stability in attraction.

Varying levels of stability in attraction on the Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG) did not predict group membership in the four theoretical stages of Bradford's Bisexual Identity Development model, as proposed in Research Question IV. Qualitative Analysis of participants' definitions of bisexuality found eight distinct bisexual themes pertaining to: attraction to men and women, attraction to person, non-restrictive attraction, physical and sexual attraction, emotional and relational attraction, identity and labeling, monogamy and polyamory, and degree of attraction or preference.

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION

This dissertation research study examined various qualitative and quantitative aspects of 128 bisexual women's life experiences. The participants were asked to describe the types of sexual attraction experienced over an eleven year span and to identify orientation labels that were relevant to them in that time frame. The results placed participants on a grid that assessed the fluidity (on a continuum from heterosexual to homosexual) of the attractions. A standardized measure of sexual orientation identity was obtained from the Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG) and relationships between the grid and the measure were compared. Secondly, the various participants' self-reported sexual orientations were examined on a standardized measure of negative sexual identity to assess for differences based on sexual orientation labels. The relationship between participants' fluidity in attractions and support was further examined with two measures of perceived social and community support.

The participants' responses on the demographic questionnaire were translated into four factors, each representing one of four stages of Bradford's (2006) theoretical model of bisexual identity development. Varying levels of fluidity in attraction (Stable/ No fluidity, Minimal Fluidity, Moderate Fluidity, and Significant Fluidity) were utilized to assess the goodness of fit with the Bradford model. Finally, the

participants' qualitatively reported definitions of bisexuality were examined and compared across the four levels of fluidity in attractions. A discussion of participants' experiences is presented below.

Quantitative Analysis

Disclosure of Sexual Orientation

Ninety-seven percent of women in this study reported having disclosed their sexual orientation labels to someone in their lives. A possible explanation for the high level of revelation may be related to participants' age, with majority of women being between 30-44 years old. Disclosure of one's sexual orientation label may be a much more common element in women over the age of 30, as compared to their younger counterparts. The average age of participants was between 30 and 39, so these results may be due to maturation and adaptation to life experience. Additionally, most women reported feeling comfortable with their sexual orientation labels, which is consistent with previous research linking comfort and disclosure (D'Augelli et al., 1998; Rust, 2003). However, the relationship between the two variables is unclear. This research study did not determine if women who have disclosed their sexual orientation labels become more comfortable with their sexual orientations over time, or if women who are already comfortable with their sexual orientations, are more likely to disclose their orientations to others.

Invisibility and Isolation

Feelings of invisibility and isolation are common experiences of sexual minority women that have been reported in previous research (Bradford, 2004; Morrow; 2006). Three-fourths of the women in this population sample reported

experiencing those feelings, which is consistent with the existing literature. Two thirds of the women in the study reported being currently involved in a committed relationship and this brings into question the status of these feelings at the time of answering the questionnaire.

Pressure to Identify Exclusively

Nearly 85 percent of women in the current study reported having experienced the pressure to identify exclusively as heterosexual or homosexual, which is consistent with previous research (Hegembourg & Brallier, 2009; Bradford, 2006). The participants in these studies reported feeling invalidated and verbally attacked by their dating partners, as a result of their attractions to both men and women. However, the personal and social context and timeframe in which this occurred was unclear and the degree to which bisexual women currently experience this pressure is not specifically identified. The juncture between the pressure to identify exclusively as heterosexual or homosexual and the sources of the pressure (e.g., family, partner, friends, sexual minority community, society, etc.) has yet to be explored.

LGBT Community Involvement

Eighty-two percent of women in the current study reported being involved in a sexual minority (LGB/T) community, with two thirds considering themselves to be advocates or role models to other LGB individuals. The result of high community involvement may be partially explained by one of the recruitment methods, which requested participation in this study from lesbian, gay, and bisexual centers across the United States. This finding is in contrast to the current literature, which states that sexual minority women, and particularly bisexual women, may experience difficulty

obtaining social and community support (Hegembourg & Brallier, 2009; Morrow, 2006; Bradford, 2004; Guidry, 1999; Ochs, 1996; Rust, 1995). According to D'Augelli et al., (1998), individuals who are open about and comfortable with their sexual orientation tend to experience greater social support, which may further explain the high community involvement reported by the women in the current study, who generally reported being open and comfortable with their sexual orientation labels. An interesting direction for future exploration may be in distinguishing among community awareness (i.e., awareness that a sexual minority (LGBT) community exists and is accessible) from community involvement (i.e., active participation in the LGBT community) and community advocacy (i.e., involvement in advocacy and leadership in the LGBT community), particularly for bisexual women in both LGBT and exclusively bisexual communities.

Research Questions

The first research question found a small but significant relationship between sexual affiliation placement on the Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG) and the pattern of sexual attractions assigned on the Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG). Women who identified having “homosexual somewhat more” attractions, as labeled by the KSOG, also identified having experienced “primary attraction to women and some men” on the SFG. Additionally, women who identified having “heterosexual somewhat more attractions” on the KSOG also identified having experienced “primary attractions to men and some women.” These results were expected because women with primarily heterosexual orientations were expected to report heterosexual attractions, while women with primarily homosexual orientations were expected to report homosexual

attractions. However, no significant relationship was found between bisexual orientation on the KSOG and bisexual attractions on the SFG. This result was unexpected, but may have occurred due to lack of differentiation of “bisexual” attractions on the KSOG, an instruments that is more sensitive in measuring shades of heterosexuality and homosexuality (e.g., heterosexual mostly; heterosexual somewhat more) versus bisexuality (e.g., equally heterosexual and homosexual). Therefore, women who score in the midrange of the KSOG may not have a positive or negative relationship with higher or lower scores (indicating homosexual or heterosexual attractions) on the SFG. Future research should focus on examining the relationship between the KSOG and SFG to ascertain if the significant relationships found in this study would hold up with a different sample of sexual minority women and particularly bisexual women.

The second research question examined negative sexual identity development and found no relationship between five sexual orientations on the Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (KSOG; heterosexual somewhat more, equally heterosexual and homosexual, and homosexual somewhat more,) and the negative identity on the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale (LGBIS). This result was unexpected, because the literature suggests that women with bisexual orientation (i.e., equally heterosexual and homosexual) may experience greater difficulties related to their sexual orientation identities compared to their heterosexual or homosexual counterparts (Bradford, 2004; Weinberg et.al, 1994). However, the lack of significant difference in negative identity between the three sexual orientations may be explained by the high levels of social and community support reported by the women in this

study. The literature identifies community support as an essential element of positive bisexual identity development, and the women in this sample appeared to be well supported and involved in their sexual minority communities (Bradford, 2004; Guidry, 1999; D'Augelli et al., 1998). Furthermore, the majority of women in the current study were between the ages of 30-44, which may indicate that women reach sexual identity resolution by this point in their lives. Because bisexual identity development is poorly explored in the current literature, future research should focus on examining the phenomenon of negative identity in relation to social and community support in bisexual women (Rivers, 1997). Furthermore, it may be important to examine other variables, besides age and community support, that could contribute to positive sexual identity development in bisexual women.

The third research question explored the relationship between levels of sexual fluidity over an 11 year period (from ages 20-30) and perceived social and community support. No significant relationships were found between four levels of stability in attraction on the Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG; No Fluidity/Stable, Minimal Fluidity, Moderate Fluidity, and Significant Fluidity) and social and community support on the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS) and the Connectedness to the LGBT Community Scale. The literature suggests that women with more fluid attractions (i.e., bisexual women) experience greater difficulty obtaining social and community support (Hegembourg & Brallier, 2009; Morrow, 2006; Bradford, 2004) ; in contrast, the majority of the women in this sample reported high levels of social and community support. Being that the participants in the current study were primarily recruited from lesbian, gay, and bisexual centers,

this could help to explain the lack of significant relationships between sexual fluidity and support. Future research should expand the recruitment efforts beyond LGBT centers, LGBT related listservs, and on-line communities, in order to obtain a more diverse sample of women who may not be connected to a sexual minority community.

Of note, a small significant relationship was found between sexual fluidity and Significant Other Support Subscale of the MSPSS. In other words, women who reported greater stability in attractions from ages 20-30, reported experiencing greater support from their partners. This result can be explained intuitively in that the women's partners may have a tendency to feel less threatened by stable attractions (e.g., heterosexual or homosexual) and may feel more secure and thus supportive in a relationship in which they are not concerned about the women leaving the relationship for someone of the opposite (other) sex. Although the participants in this study reported having histories of more dating relationships with men than with women, it is unclear if the women in this study are currently partnered with a man or a woman. Therefore, future research may want to examine the differences in perceived significant other support in bisexual women who are currently partnered with women versus men.

The fourth research question was an exploratory examination of the goodness of fit in experiences representing the four stages of Bradford's Bisexual Identity Development Model and fluidity in attraction (Stable/ No Fluidity, Minimal Fluidity, Moderate Fluidity, and Significant Fluidity). The results indicate that the degree of sexual fluidity did not predict the women's reported group membership in the four

stages of the Bradford Model (questioning reality, inventing identity, maintaining identity, and transforming adversity). This result may be explained in that the majority of women, regardless of sexual fluidity, have experienced full identity formation as indicated by the Bradford model. The final theoretical stage of the Bradford model, transforming adversity, is related to participation and leadership in a sexual minority community. Because majority of women in this sample were either involved with or assumed an advocacy role in the LGBT community, it follows that the level of fluidity would not predict group membership in the final stages of the model.

Qualitative Analysis

A Qualitative analysis of the participants' reported definitions of bisexuality provided eight distinct themes. A second level of analysis identified responses by varying levels of fluidity in sexual attraction (Stable/No Fluidity, Minimal Fluidity, and Moderate Fluidity). It is important to consider that some women of all fluidity levels reported each of the eight themes; thus the themes appeared to be universal across participants. Women of all fluidity levels reported the following themes to a similar degree: attraction to men and women, non-restrictive attraction, physical and sexual attraction, and monogamy and polyamory. The remaining themes that were reported to a different degree by level of fluidity include: attraction to person, emotional and relational attraction, identity and labeling, and degree of attraction or preference. These differences may be explained by the sample size (N=127) and may disappear if sample size is increased. Because the current study recruited only two women with Significant Fluidity, future research should examine if these themes

would hold up for women with Significant Fluidity in attractions. Additionally, it may be interesting to examine if bisexual men or women younger than 30 would report similar themes in their definitions of bisexuality.

Study Limitations and Recommendations for Future Research

According to Moradi, et. al (2009), sexual minority research possess many challenges, including difficulty in recruitment. Because the participants consisted of only 128 women who were self-selected, the sample may not be representative of all women who have experienced attraction to men and women, do not participate in LGBT community centers, or do not have access to networking sites, such as Facebook. The majority of participants were White, college-educated women between the ages of 30-44 and their experiences may not be representative of sexually fluid women who do not meet these demographic criteria. Additionally, women who are not comfortable with and open about their sexual orientations, fluidity, or have more conservative views, may not have participated in this study or may have reported socially acceptable experiences.

Moreover, the majority of women reported involvement in their sexual minority communities, with two-thirds identifying themselves as activists or advocates, further limiting generalizability of results to all women with attractions to both sexes (Moradi, et. al., 2009). It would be useful to replicate the study with sexually fluid women who may not be affiliated with a sexual minority community, in order to better understand if their experiences differ from those of women who are well-connected to LGBT and bisexual communities. Future research should also

explore the social and community support of bisexual and sexually fluid women under the age of 30.

Upon completion of the study, certain procedural limitations were revealed. The Sexual Fluidity Grid (SFG) required that participants be able to recall the types of sexual attraction that they had experienced over an 11 year period. The accuracy of participants' memories may vary and affect the results of this study. Furthermore, with regard to relationship status, the participants were unable to choose multiple labels (e.g., in a relationship and polyamory), but were asked to choose a label which most accurately represented their relationship experiences. Therefore, future research may want to compare the experiences of women with various relationship statuses who also identify as monogamous or polyamorous.

With regard to the number of dating relationships with men and women, the categories included (1-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-10, 11+), and participants were unable to choose zero (0) as an option. However, this did not appear to significantly impact the richness of the results and meaningful dating patterns were evident despite this procedural error. Additionally, because the participants were asked to indicate their sexual orientations, types of attractions, and fluidity of attractions, the results primarily addressed these aspects of bisexual experience. Future researchers may want to explore the role of sexual identity labeling as it relates to positive or negative bisexual identity development.

The Sexual Fluidity Grid, an instrument which was created by the researcher to measure sexual fluidity, has limited empirical support. Future researchers, who may be interested in examining sexual fluidity, may contribute to the literature by

validating the scale through exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis, with different populations, including bisexual men.

The current study contributed to the poorly understood experiences of bisexual and sexually fluid women. Additionally, this study helped to increase awareness of the importance of understanding the unique experiences of bisexual women and forgoing the current assumption that these experiences are similar to those of lesbian women. Improved understanding of the challenges faced by sexually fluid women, particularly women over the age of 30, will inform clinical treatment by educating clinicians about sexual identity development concerns of women of different ages and stages of social support and community involvement. Future research on bisexuality should continue to extend its focus on conceptualizing bisexual identity and orientation beyond self-reported label and consider a broad range of attractions, fluidity of attractions, and community involvement as it pertains to sexual self-identification and identity development. Moreover, it may be important to examine the fit between women's reported sexual identities (e.g., bisexual, queer, lesbian, etc.) and the stages of Bradford's Bisexual Identity Development model in order to better understand the intersection between sexual fluidity and identity development of bisexual women.

APPENDICES

**APPENDIX A
CHI-SQUARE TABLES**

Table 13

Crosstab: Stage I

		<i>Have you ever felt the pressure to identify exclusively as heterosexual or homosexual?</i>			
			Yes	No	Total
Sexual Fluidity	Stable/ No Fluidity	Count	40	6	46
		Expected Count	38.7	7.3	46.0
		% within Sexual Fluidity	87.0%	13.0%	100.0%
	Minimal Fluidity	Count	29	9	38
		Expected Count	32.0	6.0	38.0
		% within Sexual Fluidity	76.3%	23.7%	100.0%
	Moderate Fluidity	Count	37	5	42
		Expected Count	35.3	6.7	42.0
		% within Sexual Fluidity	88.1%	11.9%	100.0%
Total	Count	106	20	126	
	Expected Count	106.0	20.0	126.0	
	% within Sexual Fluidity	84.1%	15.9%	100.0%	

Table 14

Chi-Square Tests: Stage I

	<i>Value</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)</i>
Pearson Chi-Square	2.507 ^a	2	.285
Likelihood Ratio	2.376	2	.305
Linear-by-Linear Association	.011	1	.915
N of Valid Cases	126		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 6.03.

Table 15

Crosstab: Stage II

		<i>Comfortable with</i>			
		<i>SO label</i>			
		Yes	No	Total	
Sexual Fluidity	Stable/ No Fluidity	Count	41	5	46
		Expected Count	41.6	4.4	46.0
		% within Sexual Fluidity	89.1%	10.9%	100.0%
	Minimal Fluidity	Count	35	3	38
		Expected Count	34.4	3.6	38.0
		% within Sexual Fluidity	92.1%	7.9%	100.0%
	Moderate Fluidity	Count	38	4	42
		Expected Count	38.0	4.0	42.0
		% within Sexual Fluidity	90.5%	9.5%	100.0%
Total	Count	114	12	126	
	Expected Count	114.0	12.0	126.0	
	% within Sexual Fluidity	90.5%	9.5%	100.0%	

Table 16

Chi-Square Tests: Stage II

	<i>Value</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)</i>
Pearson Chi-Square	.214 ^a	2	.899
Likelihood Ratio	.216	2	.897
Linear-by-Linear Association	.050	1	.823
N of Valid Cases	126		

a. 3 cells (50.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.62.

Table 17

Crosstab: Stage III

			<i>Have you ever participated in a LGB (lesbian, gay, and bisexual) community?</i>		
			Yes	No	Total
Sexual Fluidity	Stable/ No Fluidity	Count	35	11	46
		Expected Count	37.6	8.4	46.0
		% within Sexual Fluidity	76.1%	23.9%	100.0%
	Minimal Fluidity	Count	30	8	38
		Expected Count	31.1	6.9	38.0
		% within Sexual Fluidity	78.9%	21.1%	100.0%
	Moderate Fluidity	Count	38	4	42
		Expected Count	34.3	7.7	42.0
		% within Sexual Fluidity	90.5%	9.5%	100.0%
Total	Count	103	23	126	
	Expected Count	103.0	23.0	126.0	
	% within Sexual Fluidity	81.7%	18.3%	100.0%	

Table 18

Chi-Square Tests: Stage III

	<i>Value</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)</i>
Pearson Chi-Square	3.332 ^a	2	.189
Likelihood Ratio	3.618	2	.164
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.974	1	.085
N of Valid Cases	126		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 6.94.

Table 19

Crosstab: Stage IV

		<i>Do you currently consider yourself or do others consider you an advocate, activist, or a role model to other lesbian, gay, or bisexual individuals?</i>			
		Yes	No	Total	
Sexual Fluidity	Stable/ No Fluidity	Count	33	13	46
		Expected Count	31.0	15.0	46.0
		% within Sexual Fluidity	71.7%	28.3%	100.0%
	Minimal Fluidity	Count	23	15	38
		Expected Count	25.6	12.4	38.0
		% within Sexual Fluidity	60.5%	39.5%	100.0%
	Moderate Fluidity	Count	29	13	42
		Expected Count	28.3	13.7	42.0
		% within Sexual Fluidity	69.0%	31.0%	100.0%
Total	Count	85	41	126	
	Expected Count	85.0	41.0	126.0	
	% within Sexual Fluidity	67.5%	32.5%	100.0%	

Table 20

Chi-Square Test: Stage IV

	<i>Value</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)</i>
Pearson Chi-Square	1.264 ^a	2	.531
Likelihood Ratio	1.248	2	.536
Linear-by-Linear Association	.087	1	.768
N of Valid Cases	126		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 12.37.

APPENDIX B DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONS: Check the answer that most closely reflects your identity. When longer responses are called for, please enter information in the appropriate space.

Sex

- Female
- Male
- Other Identity: _____

Current Age: _____

State of Residence (Country, if not USA): _____

Racial Identity:

- African American/Black/Caribbean/African descent
- Arab Descent
- Asian American/Asian/South Asian/Pacific Islander descent
- European American/Caucasian/White
- Hispanic or Latina/o
- Native American/Indigenous
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Other, including biracial or multiracial

Current relationship status:

- Divorced
- Long-term Committed Relationship (Not legally recognized)
- Married/Legal Union
- Single
- Polyamorous

Highest level of education completed:

- no high school
- high school graduate or GED
- some college
- college degree
- master's degree
- doctoral or other professional degree

Current *personal* income:

- \$0 to \$10,000
- \$10,001 to \$30,000
- \$30,001 to \$60,000
- \$60,001 to \$90,000
- \$90,001 to \$150,000

- o \$150,001 to \$250,000
- o \$250,001 and above

Have you disclosed your sexual orientation label to anyone?

- o Yes
- o No

Have you ever doubted the existence of Bisexuality or felt the pressure to identify as heterosexual or homosexual?

- o Yes
- o No

Have you ever felt isolated or invisible because of your current or past sexual attractions?

- o Yes
- o No

How comfortable do you feel with your sexual label (If applicable)?

- o Very comfortable
- o Somewhat comfortable
- o Not at all comfortable
- o Not applicable

How many heterosexual dating relationships have you been involved in?

- o 1-3
- o 4-5
- o 6-8
- o 9-10
- o 11+

How many lesbian relationships have you been involved in?

- o 1-3
- o 4-5
- o 6-8
- o 9-10
- o 11+

Have you ever had a sexual relationship with a man?

- o Yes
- o No

Have you ever had a sexual relationship with a woman?

- o Yes
- o No

Do you believe that a Bisexual Community exists?

- o Yes
- o No

Do you or have you ever participated in a LGB community (If yes, please specify)?

- o Yes _____
- o No

How long have you participated in a Bisexual community?

- 0-6 months
- 7-11 months
- 1-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 6-9 years
- 10+ years

Do you currently consider yourself or do others consider you an advocate, activist, or a role model to other individuals (heterosexual, bisexual, or homosexual)?

- Yes
- No

Please briefly describe what bisexuality means to you:

APPENDIX C
SEXUAL FLUIDITY GRID (SFG)

We are interested in the patterns of sexual attraction that you experienced from ages 20-30. Please indicate your sexual attractions over the 10 year time span. If you are unable to recall a specific age/year, please make your best guess.

	Age 20	Age 21	Age 22	Age 23	Age 24	Age 25	Age 26	Age 27	Age 28	Age 29	Age 30
Sexual attractions to men and women equally											
Sexual attractions primarily to women; some sexual attraction to men											
Sexual attractions to women only											
Sexual attractions primarily to men; some sexual attraction to women											
Sexual attractions to men only											

Stable (S):	No change in descriptor across time units (1)	MWE:	Sexual attractions to men and women equally (3)
Weak Fluidity (W):	Change of 1 descriptor across time units (2)	PWSM:	Sexual attractions primarily to women; some sexual attraction to men (5)
Moderate Fluidity (MF):	Change of 2-3 descriptors across time units (3)	WO:	Sexual attractions to women only (6)
Significant Fluidity (SF):	Change of 4-5 or more descriptors across time units (4)	PMSW:	Sexual attractions primarily to men; some sexual attraction to women (1)
MO:	Sexual attractions men only (0)		

APPENDIX D
KLEIN SEXUAL ORIENTATION GRID (KSOG)

Please respond to each item according to your experience in the past, present, and a future ideal. For items A-E and F-G, use the corresponding scale below. This scale asks you to indicate your affinity for same and other gender partners, friends, and community members.

	Past (Your entire life up until a year ago)	Present (The last 12 months)	Ideal (If you could order your life any way you wanted, what would it be like?)
A. Sexual Attraction (To whom are you sexually attracted?)			
B. Sexual Behavior (With whom do you actually have sex?)			
C. Sexual Fantasies (Who do you fantasize about?)			
D. Emotional Preference (Who do you feel more drawn to or close to emotionally?)			
E. Social Preference (With whom do you like to socialize?)			
F. Lifestyle Preference (In which community do you prefer to spend your time? In which do you feel most comfortable?)			
G. Self-Identification (How do you label or identify yourself?)			

Scale for A-E

- 0 other gender only
- 1 other gender mostly
- 2 other gender somewhat more
- 3 both genders equally
- 4 same gender somewhat more
- 5 same gender mostly
- 6 same gender only

Scale for F-G

- 0 heterosexual only (**Heterosexual**)
- 1 heterosexual mostly
- 2 heterosexual somewhat more
- 3 equally heterosexual and homosexual (**Bisexual**)
- 4 homosexual somewhat more
- 5 homosexual mostly
- 6 homosexual only (**Homosexual**)

APPENDIX E
CONNECTEDNESS TO THE LGBT COMMUNITY SCALE

1	2	3	4
Agree Strongly			Disagree Strongly

	Agree Strongly 1	2	3	Disagree Strongly 4
1. You feel you're a part of your local LGBT community.				
2. Participating in your local LGBT community is a positive thing for you.				
3. You feel a bond with your local LGBT community.				
4. You are proud of your local LGBT community.				
5. It is important for you to be politically active in your local LGBT community.				
6. If we work together, gay, bisexual and lesbian people can solve problems in your local LGBT community.				
7. You really feel that any problems faced by your local LGBT community are also your own problems.				
8. You feel a bond with other [same gender similar others].				

APPENDIX F
LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL IDENTITY SCALE (LGBIS)

For each of the following statements, mark the response that best indicates your experience as a lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) person. Please be as honest as possible in your responses.

	1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7		Disagree Strongly	Agree Strongly
1. <input type="checkbox"/>		I prefer to keep my same-sex romantic relationships rather private.		
2. <input type="checkbox"/>		I will never be able to accept my sexual orientation until all of the people in my life have accepted me.		
3. <input type="checkbox"/>		I would rather be straight if I could.		
4. <input type="checkbox"/>		Coming out to my friends and family has been a very lengthy process.		
5. <input type="checkbox"/>		I'm not totally sure what my sexual orientation is.		
6. <input type="checkbox"/>		I keep careful control over who knows about my same-sex romantic relationships.		
7. <input type="checkbox"/>		I often wonder whether others judge me for my sexual orientation.		
8. <input type="checkbox"/>		I am glad to be an LGB person.		
9. <input type="checkbox"/>		I look down on heterosexuals.		
10. <input type="checkbox"/>		I keep changing my mind about my sexual orientation.		
11. <input type="checkbox"/>		My private sexual behavior is nobody's business.		
12. <input type="checkbox"/>		I can't feel comfortable knowing that others judge me negatively for my sexual orientation.		
13. <input type="checkbox"/>		Homosexual lifestyles are not as fulfilling as heterosexual lifestyles.		
14. <input type="checkbox"/>		Admitting to myself that I'm an LGB person has been a very painful process.		
15. <input type="checkbox"/>		If you are not careful about whom you come out to, you can get very hurt.		
16. <input type="checkbox"/>		Being an LGB person makes me feel insecure around straight people.		
17. <input type="checkbox"/>		I'm proud to be part of the LGB community.		
18. <input type="checkbox"/>		Developing as an LGB person has been a fairly natural process for me.		
19. <input type="checkbox"/>		I can't decide whether I am bisexual or homosexual.		
20. <input type="checkbox"/>		I think very carefully before coming out to someone.		
21. <input type="checkbox"/>		I think a lot about how my sexual orientation affects the way people see me.		
22. <input type="checkbox"/>		Admitting to myself that I'm an LGB person has been a very slow process.		
23. <input type="checkbox"/>		Straight people have boring lives compared with LGB people.		
24. <input type="checkbox"/>		My sexual orientation is a very personal and private matter.		
25. <input type="checkbox"/>		Please do not respond to this item		
26. <input type="checkbox"/>		I wish I were heterosexual.		
27. <input type="checkbox"/>		I get very confused when I try to figure out my sexual orientation.		
28. <input type="checkbox"/>		I have felt comfortable with my sexual identity just about from the start.		

APPENDIX G
MULTIDIMENSIONAL SCALE OF PERCEIVED SOCIAL SUPPORT (MSPSS)

Instructions: We are interested in how you feel about the following statements. Read each statement carefully. Indicate how you feel about each statement.

Circle the “1” if you **Very Strongly Disagree**

Circle the “2” if you **Strongly Disagree**

Circle the “3” if you **Mildly Disagree**

Circle the “4” if you are **Neutral**

Circle the “5” if you **Mildly Agree**

Circle the “6” if you **Strongly Agree**

Circle the “7” if you **Very Strongly Agree**

- | | | |
|--|---------------|-----|
| 1. There is no special person who is around when I am in need | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | SO |
| 2. There is a special person with whom I can share my joys and sorrows | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | SO |
| 3. My family really tries to help me | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Fam |
| 4. I get the emotional help and support I need from my family | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Fam |
| 5. I have a special person who is a real source of comfort to me | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | SO |
| 6. My friends really try to help me | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Fri |
| 7. I can count on my friends when things go wrong | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Fri |
| 8. I can talk about my problems with my family | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Fam |
| 9. I have friends with whom I can share my joys and sorrows | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Fri |
| 10. There is a special person in my life who cares about my feelings | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | SO |
| 11. My family is willing to help me make decisions | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Fam |
| 12. I can talk about my problems with my friends | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Fri |

APPENDIX H SURVEYGIZMO STUDY

SEXUAL FLUIDITY RESEARCHS STUDY AS PRESENTED IN SURVEYGIZMO.COM

Sexual Attractions Study PAGE 1 Informed Consent

1. My name is Julijana Draganic, and I am a doctoral student in the Counseling Psychology doctoral program at the University of North Dakota. My dissertation study is investigating women's sexual fluidity and identity development. This study has been reviewed and approved by the University of North Dakota Institutional Review Board (IRB), and is supervised by Dr. Dorlene Walker, PhD. I am contacting you to request your participation in my study.

To be eligible to take part, a research participant must be: 1. a women 30 years of age or older, 2. have experienced sexual attraction towards both men and women, and 3. voluntarily consent to participate. Research participants will complete an online survey which is expected to take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. There is a minimal risk of harm or distress to you as a result of answering the survey. If you experience distress, you may discontinue taking this survey at any time. There may be no direct benefit to you for participating in this study; however, you may benefit from the opportunity to reflect on your own experience.

Participation is anonymous and no IP addresses will be linked with responses. Data will be downloaded and stored for a period of 5 years in a locked file cabinet within the University of North Dakota Department of Counseling Psychology and Community Services. On-line survey responses will be deleted. The researcher, her dissertation committee, and the University of North Dakota IRB will have access to the data for a period of 5 years. At that time, all data will be destroyed by shredding.

Once completed, you can elect to register for a drawing to win one of two VISA gift cards valued at \$50 each. Any contact information provided for this drawing will be collected by means of a second survey, and will not be connected in any way to the responses of the first.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at the following e-mail address:
julijana.draganic.1@und.edu
612-850-4079

Dorlene Walker, PhD; Dissertation Chairperson
dorlene.walker@email.und.edu
701-777-3737
The University of North Dakota IRB study approval number: IRB-201105-336
701-777-4279

Please answer as HONESTLY and COMPLETELY as you can. Thank you for your participation!

I have read this statement and agree to take this survey:

- Yes
 No

Next

0%

Sexual Attractions Study PAGE 2

2. Biological Sex:

- Female
 Male
 Other

3. Current Age:

SEXUAL FLUIDITY RESEARCHS STUDY AS PRESENTED IN SURVEYGIZMO.COM

4. State of Residence (i.e. Florida or FL):

5. Racial Identity:

- African American/Black/Caribbean/African descent
- Arab Descent
- Asian American/Asian/South Asian/Pacific Islander descent
- European American/Caucasian/White
- Hispanic or Latina/o
- Native American/Indigenous
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Other

6. Current Relationship Status:

- Divorced
- Long-term Committed Relationship (Not legally recognized)
- Married/Legal Union
- Single
- Polyamorous

7. Highest level of education completed:

- No high school
- High school graduate or GED
- Some college
- College degree
- Master's degree
- Doctoral or other professional degree

8. Current personal income:

- \$0 to \$10,000
- \$10,001 to \$30,000
- \$30,001 to \$60,000
- \$60,001 to \$90,000
- \$90,001 to \$150,000

SEXUAL FLUIDITY RESEARCHS STUDY AS PRESENTED IN SURVEYGIZMO.COM

- \$150,001 to \$250,000
- \$250,001 and above

9. Have you disclosed your sexual orientation label (i.e. homosexual, heterosexual, bisexual, etc.) to anyone?

- Yes
- No

10. How comfortable do you feel with your current sexual orientation label?

- Very comfortable
- Somewhat comfortable
- Somewhat uncomfortable
- Very uncomfortable

11. Have you ever felt isolated or invisible because of your current or past sexual attractions?

- Yes
- No

12. Have you ever felt the pressure to identify exclusively as heterosexual or homosexual?

- Yes
- No

13. How many dating relationships (with men) have you been involved in?

- 1-3
- 4-5
- 6-8
- 9-10
- 11+

14. How many dating relationships (with women) have you been involved in?

- 1-3
- 4-5
- 6-8
- 9-10
- 11+

15. Have you ever had a sexual relationship with a man?

- Yes
- No

16. Have you ever had a sexual relationship with a woman?

- Yes
- No

17. Have you ever participated in a LGB (lesbian, gay, and bisexual) community?

- Yes
- No

18. Do you believe in the existence of a bisexual community?

- Yes
- No

19. How long have you participated in a bisexual community?

- 0-6 months
- 7-11 months
- 1-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 6-9 years
- 10+ years

20. Do you currently consider yourself or do others consider you an advocate, activist, or a role model to other lesbian, gay, or bisexual individuals?

- Yes
- No

21. Please briefly describe what "bisexuality" mean to you?

Next

14%

Sexual Attractions Study PAGE 3

22. We are interested in the patterns of sexual attraction that you experienced from ages 20-30. Please indicate your sexual attractions over the 10 year time span. If you are unable to recall a specific age/year, please make your best guess.

Sexual attractions to men and women equally

Sexual attraction primarily to women; some sexual attraction to men

Sexual attractions to women only

Sexual attractions primarily to men; some sexual attraction to women

Sexual attractions to men only

SEXUAL FLUIDITY RESEARCHS STUDY AS PRESENTED IN SURVEYGIZMO.COM

	Sexual attractions to men and women equally	Sexual attraction primarily to women; some sexual attraction to men	Sexual attractions to women only	Sexual attractions primarily to men; some sexual attraction to women	Sexual attractions to men only
Age 20	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Age 21	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Age 22	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Age 23	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Age 24	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Age 25	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Age 26	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Age 27	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Age 28	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Age 29	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Age 30	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

23. I anticipate that my current sexual attractions will change in the future:

- Yes
- No

Next

29%

Sexual Attractions Study PAGE 4

24. Please respond to each item according to your experience in the past, present, and a future ideal. If "future" does not appear on your screen, please use the bar at the bottom of the question to scroll to the right of the page. The dropdown menu indicates your choices.

Past: your entire life up until a year ago

Present: the last 12 months

Ideal: if you could order your life any way you wanted, what would it be like?

	Past	Present	Ideal
SEXUAL ATTRACTION (To whom are you sexually attracted?)	--Please Select--		
SEXUAL BEHAVIOR (With whom do you actually have sex?)	--Please Select--		
SEXUAL FANTASIES (Who do you fantasize about?)	--Please Select--		

SEXUAL FLUIDITY RESEARCHS STUDY AS PRESENTED IN SURVEYGIZMO.COM

Past Present Ideal

EMOTIONAL

PREFERENCE (Who do you feel more drawn to or close to emotionally?)

--Please Select--		
-------------------	--	--

SOCIAL PREFERENCE (With whom do you like to socialize?)

--Please Select--		
-------------------	--	--

25. Please indicate your affinity for same and other gender partners, friends, and community members in the past, present, and future.

Past Present Ideal

LIFESTYLE

PREFERENCE (In which community do you prefer to spend your time? In which do you feel most comfortable?)

--Please Select--	--Please Select--	--Please Select--
-------------------	-------------------	-------------------

SELF-IDENTIFICATION (How do you label or identify yourself?)

--Please Select--	--Please Select--	--Please Select--
-------------------	-------------------	-------------------

Next

43%

Sexual Attractions Study PAGE 5

26. Please indicate experiences/ feelings/impressions about your Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual (LGB) Community:

- | | Agree
Strongly 1 | 2 | 3 | Disagree
Strongly 4 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. You feel you're a part of your local LGB community. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Participating in your local LGB community is a positive thing for you. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. You feel a bond with your local LGB community. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. You are proud of your local LGB community. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. It is important for you to be politically active in your local LGB community. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. If we work together, gay, bisexual and lesbian people can solve problems in your local LGB community. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. You really feel that any problems faced by your local LGB community are also your own problems. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. You feel a bond with other [same gender similar others]. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Next

57%

Sexual Attractions Study PAGE6

27. For each of the following statements, mark the response that best indicates your experience as a lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) person. Please be as honest as possible in your responses.

	Disagree Strongly 1	2	3	4	5	6	Agree Strongly 7
1. I prefer to keep my same-sex romantic relationships rather private.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. I will never be able to accept my sexual orientation until all of the people in my life have accepted me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. I would rather be straight if I could.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Coming out to my friends and family has been a very lengthy process.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. I'm not totally sure what my sexual orientation is.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. I keep careful control over who knows about my same-sex romantic relationships.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. I often wonder whether others judge me for my sexual orientation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. I am glad to be an LGB person.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. I look down on heterosexuals.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. I keep changing my mind about my sexual orientation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. My private sexual behavior is nobody's business.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. I can't feel comfortable knowing that others judge me negatively for my sexual orientation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. Homosexual lifestyles are not as fulfilling as heterosexual lifestyles.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. Admitting to myself that I'm an LGB person has been a very painful process.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15. If you are not careful about whom you come out to, you can get very hurt.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16. Being an LGB person makes me feel insecure around straight people.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17. I'm proud to be 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"/>
18. Developing as an LGB person has been a fairly natural process for me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19. I can't decide whether I am bisexual or homosexual.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20. I think very carefully before coming out to someone.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21. I think a lot about how my sexual orientation affects the way people see me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
22. Admitting to myself that I'm an LGB person has been a very slow process.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
23. Straight people have boring lives compared with LGB people.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
24. My sexual orientation is a very personal and private matter.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
25. Please do not respond to this item	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
26. I wish I were heterosexual.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27. I get very confused when I try to figure out my sexual orientation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
28. I have felt comfortable with my sexual identity just about from the start.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Next

71%

Sexual Attractions Study PAGE 7

28. We are interested in how you feel about the following statements. Read each statement carefully. Indicate how you feel about each statement.

- Very Strongly Disagree 1
- Strongly Disagree 2
- Mildly Disagree 3
- Neutral 4
- Mildly Agree 5
- Strongly Agree 6
- Very Strongly Agree 7

	Very Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5	6	Very Strongly Agree
	1						7
1. There is no special person who is around when I am in need	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. There is a special person with whom I can share my joys and sorrows	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. My family really tries to help me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. I get the emotional help and support I need from my family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. I have a special person who is a real source of comfort to me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. My friends really try to help me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. I can count on my friends when things go wrong	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. I can talk about my problems with my family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. I have friends with whom I can share my joys and sorrows	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. There is a special person in my life who cares about my feelings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. My family is willing to help me make decisions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. I can talk about my problems with my friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Submit

86%

Sexual Attractions Study PAGE 8

Thank You!

Thank you for your participation in this survey!

Please click on the link below if you would like to enter to win one of two \$50 VISA gift cards or learn the results of this study (when they become available):

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/514652/Demographic-Information>

100%

SEXUAL FLUIDITY RESEARCHS STUDY AS PRESENTED IN SURVEYGIZMO.COM

Second Survey (NOT CONNECTED TO THE PREVIOUS SURVEY)

GIFT CARD ENTRY PAGE 1

1. Please enter a valid e-mail address (optional) for a chance to win one of two \$50 VISA gift cards.

Note: If you win the gift card, you will be notified via e-mail and asked to provide a physical address where the card will be mailed.

2. If you would like to learn the results of this study, when they become available, (optional) please provide a valid e-mail address.

Submit

0%

APPENDIX J
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD
(IRB) APPROVAL

REPORT OF ACTION: EXEMPT/EXPEDITED REVIEW
University of North Dakota Institutional Review Board

Date: 5/16/2011 Project Number: IRB-201105-336

Principal Investigator: Draganic, Julijana

Department: Counseling Psychology and Community Services

Project Title: Sexual Fluidity and Bisexual Women's Identity Development

The above referenced project was reviewed by a designated member for the University's Institutional Review Board on May 20, 2011 and the following action was taken:

- Project approved. **Expedited Review** Category No. 7
Next scheduled review must be before: May 19, 2012
 Copies of the attached consent form with the IRB approval stamp dated _____ must be used in obtaining consent for this study.
- Project approved. **Exempt Review** Category No. _____
This approval is valid until _____ as long as approved procedures are followed. No periodic review scheduled unless so stated in the Remarks Section.
 Copies of the attached consent form with the IRB approval stamp dated _____ must be used in obtaining consent for this study.
- Minor modifications required. The required corrections/additions must be submitted to RDC for review and approval. **This study may NOT be started UNTIL final IRB approval has been received.**
- Project approval deferred. **This study may not be started until final IRB approval has been received.** (See Remarks Section for further information.)
- Disapproved claim of exemption. This project requires Expedited or Full Board review. The Human Subjects Review Form must be filled out and submitted to the IRB for review.
- Proposed project is not human subject research and does not require IRB review.
 - Not Research
 - Not Human Subject

PLEASE NOTE: Requested revisions for student proposals MUST include adviser's signature. All revisions MUST be highlighted.

- Education Requirements Completed. (Project cannot be started until IRB education requirements are met.)

cc: Dorlene Walker, Ph.D.

Jane A. Debaen May 20, 2011
Signature of Designated IRB Member Date
UND's Institutional Review Board

If the proposed project (clinical medical) is to be part of a research activity funded by a Federal Agency, a special assurance statement or a completed 310 Form may be required. Contact RDC to obtain the required documents.

(Revised 10/2006)

**APPENDIX K
DISSERTATION CODING SHEET**

NAME	VARIABLE	CODE
VR ID	Assigned ID #	1, 2, 3, etc.
VCountry	Country	0=No Response 1=United States 2=Canada 3=Australia 4=New Zealand
VCity	City	0=No Response 1=Bloomington 2=Thornhill 3=Tucson 4=Grand Forks 5= Telluride 6=Minot 7=Baton Rouge 8=Wichita Falls 9=Massena 10=Lake Oswego 11=Albany 12=Waterloo 13=Hyattsville 14=Cleveland 15=Fargo 16=North Brunswick 17=Claremont 18=Boston 19=Pittsburg 20=Peachtree City 21=Lexington 22=Stillwater 23=Melbourne 24=Crookston 25=Auckland 26=Hopkins 27=Washington 28=Santa Rosa 29=Portland 30=Jenkintown 31=Salt Lake City 32=Haslet 33=Menomonie 34=Eau Claire

		<p>35=Galt 36=Wheeler 37=San Diego 38=Madison 39=West Fargo 40=Renton 41=Kent 42=Hudson 43=Des Moines 44=Sacramento 45=Chippewa Falls 46=Shenandoah 47=New York 48=Rantoul 49=Brownsburg 50=Alexandria 51=Champaign 52=King of Prussia 53=Neshkoro 54=Newark 55=Miami 56=Moscow 57=Greenville 58=Sun Prairie 59=Rochester 60=Dayton 61=Richmond 62=Fond Du Lac 63=Williston 64=Statesboro 65=Pocatello 66=Surrey 67=Philadelphia 68=Arlington 69=Stow 70=Brooklyn 71=Marlborough 72=Worcester 73=Florence 74=Mesa 75=Midlothian 76=Anderson 77=Milford 78=Silver Spring 79=Vienna 80=Pullman 81=Berkeley 82=Darlington 83=Winnipeg 84=Chicago 85=Chantilly 86=Oakland 87=Milwaukee</p>
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DEMOGRAPHIC FORM

VAR 3	Biological Sex	1=Female 2=Male 3=Other
VAR4	Current Age	1=30-34 2=35-39 3=40-44 4=45-49 5=50-54 6=55-59 7=60-64 8=65-69 9=70-74
VAR5	State of Residence	0=No Response 1=Other Country (NOT USA) 2=Arizona 3=California 4=Delaware 5=District of Columbia 6=Florida 7=Georgia 8=Idaho 9=Illinois 10=Indiana 11=Iowa 12=Kentucky 13=Louisiana 14=Maryland 15=Massachusetts 16=Michigan 17=Minnesota 18=New Hampshire 19=New York 20=North Carolina 21=North Dakota 22=Ohio 23=Oklahoma 24=Oregon 25=Pennsylvania 26=Texas 27=Utah 28=Virginia 29=Washington 30=Wisconsin 31=Tennessee

VAR6	Racial Identity	1 =African American/Black Caribbean/African descent (10006) 2 =Arab descent (10007) 3 =Asian America/Asian/South Asian/Pacific Islander descent (10008) 4 =European American/Caucasian/White (10009) 5 =Hispanic or Latino/a (10010) 6 =Native American/Indigenous (10011) 7 =Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (10012) 8 =Other (10013)
VAR7	Current Relationship Status	1 =Divorced (10014) 2 =Long-term Committed Relationship/ Not legally recognized (10015) 3 =Married/Legal Union (10016) 4 =Single (10017) 5 =Polyamorous (10018)
VAR8	Highest Level of Education	1 =No high school (10019) 2 =High school graduate/GED (10020) 3 =Some College (10021) 4 =College Degree (10022) 5 =Master's Degree (10023) 6 =Doctoral or other professional degree (10024)
VAR9	Current Personal Income	1 =\$0-\$10,000 (10025) 2 =\$10,001-\$30,000 (10026) 3 =\$30,001-\$60,000 (10027) 4 =\$60,001-\$90,000 (10028) 5 =\$90,001-\$150,000 (10029) 6 =\$150,001-\$250,000 (10030) 7 =\$250,001 and above (10031)
VAR10	Disclosed Sexual Orientation	1 = Yes (10032) 2 =No (10033)
VAR11	Comfort with Sexual Orientation Label	1 = Very comfortable (10034) 2 =Somewhat comfortable (10035) 3 =Somewhat uncomfortable (10036) 4 =Very uncomfortable (10109)
VAR12	Felt Isolated/Invisible Due to Sexual Attractions	1 = Yes (10038) 2 =No (10039)
VAR13	Pressure to Identify Exclusively Homosexual/Heterosexual	1 = Yes (10058) 2 =No (10059)

VAR14	# Dating Relationships with Men	1 =1-3 (10040) 2 =4-5 (10041) 3 =6-8 (10042) 4 =9-10 (10043) 5 =11+ (10044)
VAR15	# Dating Relationships with Women	1 =1-3 (10045) 2 =4-5 (10046) 3 =6-8 (10047) 4 =9-10 (10048) 5 =11+ (10049)
VAR16	Sexual Relationships with Men	1 = Yes (10050) 2 =No (10051)
VAR17	Sexual Relationships with Women	1 = Yes (10052) 2 =No (10053)
VAR18	Participated in LGB community	1 = Yes (10054) 2 =No (10055)
VAR19	Believe in Existence of Bisexual community	1 = Yes (10056) 2 =No (10057)
VAR20	How Long Participated in Bisexual community	0 =No response 1 = 0-6 months (10060) 2 =7-11 months (10061) 3 =1-2 years (10062) 4 =3-5 years (10063) 5 =6-9 years (10064) 6 =10+ years (10065)
VAR21	Activist/Role model to LGB individuals	1 = Yes (10066) 2 =No (10067)
VAR 22	Describe/Define Bisexuality	1 =Being attracted to both men and women. 2 =Attraction to more than one sex or gender. 3 =Being attracted to members of either gender. I am attracted to the person as an individual, not for his or her body or assumed biology or social stereotypes. I appreciate physical, spiritual, emotional, personal beauty in many forms of expression. I believe in the individual's right to self-expression and self-definition. Bisexuality involves seeking balance, equanimity in my life. I am not Polyamorous; I do not need to be in a sexual relationship with a man & a woman simultaneously to feel fulfilled. I am faithful, loyal and committed to one individual at a time and do not have to be in a sexual relationship to have a sexuality i.e. straight while with a man, lesbian while with a woman. I am self-identified and a Feminist. I am grounded, clear and comfortable with my sexuality. 4 =romantic and physical (sexual) attraction to people regardless of gender identity, although one might have a

	<p>preference for a type</p> <p>5=I prefer the term queer...I don't like the idea of binary logic here. However, I don't argue with anyone who prefers to identify bi rather than queer.</p> <p>6=non-restrictive sexuality; In other words, a person's gender is not the deciding factor of my attraction to them.</p> <p>7=Bisexuality, to me, means that I am attracted to sexual and relationship partners regardless of gender. It means that I measure attractiveness against other standards beside gender.</p> <p>8=It means that you don't necessarily feel that you have to be attracted to only men or women. I generally find men more appealing, but I have found a number of women sexually appealing and taken it a step further with them.</p> <p>9=bisexuality means that one is equally attracted to and sexually satisfied by both male and females.</p> <p>10=I don't identify as bisexual, I identify as queer. To me being queer means attraction isn't defined by the gender of the person I am attracted to.</p> <p>11=Bisexual= has the potential to be attracted to the full gender spectrum, generally seen in terms of the two extremes (male and female.)</p> <p>12=Having an attraction to men and women</p> <p>13=Being attracted to the person first and gender is an incidental factor.</p> <p>14=Bisexuality covers a range of different sexual orientations that are neither exclusively heterosexual nor exclusively same-sex oriented. Bisexuality means having the capacity to love and be sexually attracted to females and males, and both women and men. However, it also can mean stepping outside of binaries to love or be attracted to people regardless of gender or sex. Note: regarding questions 13 and 14, my answers correspond to the number of relationships I have had since the age of 18.</p> <p>15= Blank</p> <p>16=Affectional and sexual attraction to and relations with both men and women</p> <p>17= Blank</p> <p>18=Bisexuality means different things to different bisexual people, but for me personally, it means that I am attracted to both men and women, plain and simple. I like sex with both, although I am more attracted to women.</p> <p>19=Bisexuality has always been well defined by the bisexual community itself. The only people who pretend that it isn't are those who are biphobic, whether straight or gay/lesbian. This is done to 'prove' that bisexual people do not exist or is a transitory stage. It isn't. Current studies including long term ones involving brain-scans in bisexual men clearly show difference between bisexual people and their straight and gay/lesbian compatriots. For your use here is a version of the current most commonly accepted definition: Bisexuals are people with the inborn capacity to form enduring physical, romantic, (some include spiritual) and/or emotional attractions to (1) those of the same gender as themselves (2) those of some other genders/gender</p>
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	<p>presentations. There may be an individual attraction for one gender or gender presentation which can also be fluid and changeable over time. Bisexuality is not synonymous with being polyamorous, (some include 'or promiscuous'). Individual bisexual people may be celibate, monogamous or non-monogamous just as individual straight, lesbian or gay people can be. No matter what the gender/gender presentation of the person they are partnered with, bisexual people remain bisexual. They do not suddenly switch orientation as if by magic when they enter into a relationship.</p> <p>20=sexual-affectional attraction to both men and women 21=Being able to be sexually attracted to men and women. 22=being attracted to and/or interested in romantic/sexual relationships with men and women 23=Bisexuality means being attracted sexually to either sex-meaning that you can have sex with either sex. 24=I am attracted to a person, not their gender, and that gives me the capacity to desire or fall in love with women or men. 25=bisexuality has two meanings: some people (often not bisexual) think bisexuality is being attracted to both men and women. bisexuals often feel attracted to the PERSON, thus it is a lack of inhibition toward either men or women rather than an affiliation toward both. Therefore, many bisexuals feel more polysexual - attracted to many different forms of sexuality - all of which are based on context, of course! 26=attraction to both genders 27=having attraction and potential for intimate emotional and physical relationships with members of either sex 28=Finding sexual attraction and fulfillment from others regardless of gender 29=attractions and experiences that include or cut across both genders and/or sexes. i.e. either across both men and women, or masculinity or femininity in either sex 30=Being attracted to a person in a sexual or romantic way regardless of whether or not they are members of the 'opposite' sex 31=An attraction to all people regardless of gender 32=interested in relationships with people of same or different genders. 33= Being physically attracted to both men and women. 34=Huh. I used to consider myself straight, now I consider myself gay. I think bisexuality falls under the umbrella of 'gay'. I guess bisexuality means I can go either way, depending on the person. 35=Being physically, emotionally, and/or sexually attracted to men and women. 36=When a person is attracted to men and women, but not necessarily at the same time. 37=The ability to be emotionally and (or) sexually connected to other people regardless of their gender. 38=can both feel sexual attraction to, and deep feelings of love and devotion to both sexes equally...but however, I am</p>
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	<p>monogamous, so only have 1 relationship at a time.</p> <p>39=Comfortable with being sexual with men or women.</p> <p>40=Some degree of sexual and/or affectional orientation towards persons of more than one gender.</p> <p>41=To me, in a practical/mainstream sense, it tends to rely on normative ideas about gender and sexuality in the sense that it sounds like it generally recognizes 'men' and 'women' who have the capacity to be attracted to/involved with 'men' and 'women,' whether or not they 'act' on it through 'sexual intercourse.' I specifically distinguish between bisexuality and polyamory, since they do not necessarily overlap, despite widespread notions.</p> <p>42=Attracted to males and females, regardless of their sexual organs.</p> <p>43=That both male and female arouse me and neither have a higher affect than the other.</p> <p>44=I can be sexually attracted to both men and women.</p> <p>45=being attracted to both genders. I'm not so much concerned with a person's gender as I am with who they are. I feel that attraction should be more than just what's between someone's legs.</p> <p>46=A preference for both sexes.</p> <p>47=Being able to have a romantic relationship with any gender.</p> <p>48=liking both men and women.</p> <p>49=I believe it is the ability to be attracted to males as well as females.</p> <p>50=to me, bisexuality means to not exclude dating based on physical gender</p> <p>51=Sexual attraction to both men and women.</p> <p>52=attraction towards both men and women with the potential for sexual, dating, and/or long-term relationships.</p> <p>53=A person who is/has been equally attracted/in love with someone of the same or opposite gender (generally not at the same time).</p> <p>54=well, to me it's not a sexual thing it's more like attraction to certain people. and discovering that I want that person in my life. mainly when it comes to woman, just friends but also if she is attractive or nice to look at, then I will just kinda sit there and watch her.</p> <p>55=Bisexuality is the attraction to both males and females and the variations on that spectrum.</p> <p>56=Being 'bisexual' to me means that my sexuality/sexual attraction is fluid. I don't really like to call myself bisexual, because it feels too concrete -- like people view bisexuality as being 'sometimes hetero, sometimes homo' when it is neither.</p> <p>57=Being sexually attracted to both men and women. It is who you fall in love with not what gender the person is that matters.</p> <p>58=I believe in a model of bisexuality that accounts for attraction/desire, behavior, and identity; I may identify as bisexual whether or not my current relationship status reflects that identity, or choose not to identify as bisexual</p>
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	<p>because the binary nature of the term does not adequately represent the spectrum of my attractions or behaviors. For me, it's been the label that fits best for the past 10+ years, in spite of the stigma and stereotypes that it carries in U.S. society.</p> <p>59=It's pretty complex but in a nutshell I'd say that it is having sexual attraction to men and women.</p> <p>60=A sexual attraction to both males and females.</p> <p>61=To me, bisexuality is someone who can be attracted to either sex. They can fall in love with either sex based on how they feel about that particular individual, regardless of sex.</p> <p>62=It is the ability to have relationships with women and men. There is no need to identify as only het or homo.</p> <p>63=intimate feelings and sexual attraction to both men and women. A person that does not prefer one over the other.</p> <p>64=Someone with the capacity to be physically and emotionally attracted to all genders</p> <p>65=Attraction to a person regardless of their biological sex, gender, or gender identity</p> <p>66=Means that I am sexually attracted to both men and women (and possibly transgender men and women), that I have the ability to have sexual and emotional romantic relationships with both men and women, that my feelings of attraction vary thru no choice of my own.</p> <p>67=It means being attracted to both men and women, though not necessarily in equal degrees or with equal frequency.</p> <p>68=bisexuality is the experience of sexual attraction to another person without regard to her/his biological sex or gender</p> <p>69=attraction to all genders</p> <p>70=It means that I am attracted to a person, and not because of a gender with which they identify. I do not limit myself by gender and instead base my attraction on the person.</p> <p>71=Enjoying the sexual attraction to both male and female individuals</p> <p>72=Attraction to both sexes.</p> <p>73=bisexuality is the root of my sexual identity. I have identified this way for as long as I can remember. While I have not explored relationships with the same sex often in my life, it is an important part of who I am.</p> <p>74=People attracted to men and women</p> <p>75=means I'm attracted to at least two genders. It's complicated now, b/c I am in a long term monogamous relationship with a man, so my lgbq id begins to disappear, and it feels awkward to out myself b/c I am living with such straight privilege that it doesn't feel right to keep claiming queer identity, although I do if asked, and I AM queer.</p> <p>76=Someone who is attracted to individuals of more than one sex.</p> <p>77=Politically: The ability to be attracted to both genders. Personally: The ability to love both genders.</p> <p>78=bisexuality is attraction to female and male-identified individuals</p> <p>79=Sexual or romantic attraction to people of both male and</p>
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	<p>female genders.</p> <p>80=Physical and/or emotional attraction to either gender.</p> <p>81=someone who is attracted to and/or falls in love with both men and women.</p> <p>82=Attraction to both men and women</p> <p>83=Bisexuality means you like both men and women the same and would have relations with them at the same time or separate.</p> <p>84=Not using gender, gender expression or biological sex to determine sexual attraction.</p> <p>85=Sexual interest in both men and women, though often selecting one or the other to maintain a long-term relationship with.</p> <p>86=attraction (physical, emotional, sexual, fantasy, etc.) to both males and females with or without having acted on it behaviorally.... further it means not believing in sexuality as an all or nothing thing, but as shades of grey and on a continuum</p> <p>87=I think it means you can be attracted to men or women. That it's not so much about appearance (though that def plays a role as in any relationship) but that you can be more open to loving people regardless of their sex. I think people that strictly adhere to dating one sex or the other do not generally see how it is possible to enjoy physical sex with both male and female people. I also think most insecurities come into play due to a fear around satisfying their partner leading to cheating...as if it is hard to understand how someone being bi could be faithful to one partner.</p> <p>88=Bisexuality, to me, means attraction to either gender. (But I no longer choose that word to describe myself because I feel the simple dichotomy is too limiting to both myself and to potential partners.)</p> <p>89=Sexual attraction to both sexes.</p> <p>90=The capacity to be sexually and romantically involved with men, women and transgender people.</p> <p>91=To me, bisexuality means having a sexual attraction to both men and women. I can find both men and women sexually attractive. Although, I prefer relationships with women, I can't deny that some men are sexually attractive to me.</p> <p>92=It really doesn't matter what is between one's legs. Way more complicated.</p> <p>93=Being attracted to the person, not the gender.</p> <p>94=Being able to acknowledge, either openly, or within, that you can love an individual regardless of their biological sex or gender identification.</p> <p>95=to be sexually attracted to a man or a woman because of who they are on the inside and not what they look like on the outside.</p> <p>96=I'm sexually & romantically attracted to some people of both genders. (yes, I'm using just the man/woman gender thing; I'm not attracted to trans folks)</p> <p>97=Telling myself the truth and living with the reality.</p> <p>98=Being attracted to both sexes.</p>
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	<p>99=Bisexuality to me means sexual attraction to people of one's same gender or sex, and to people of another or other genders/sexes over time.</p> <p>100=To be attracted to people of all genders. When I cross the street I look both ways. My attractions to both men and women are deeply heartfelt and intense.</p> <p>101=attracted to both sexes</p> <p>102=Someone who is equally comfortable being in a relationship and equally comfortable sexually with either a man or woman.</p> <p>103=Attraction to both men and women.</p> <p>104=Being able to be attracted to people, regardless of sex/gender.</p> <p>105=Being attracted to both sexes.</p> <p>106=Love.</p> <p>107=It means one is sexually and/or emotionally attracted to a person of either sex. Bisexuality can span across all forms of relationship and levels sexual experience - virgin, celibate, committed, monogamous, polyamorous, etc.</p> <p>108=That I experience sexual attraction to both sexes and if I were not in a long term monogamous relationship with a women, my next partner could be a man.</p> <p>109=I identify more as 'queer' than bisexual. I am attracted to people rather than genders. I am uncomfortable with questions 18-20, because while I am involved with GLBT communities, I am more of an activist for the notions of sexual fluidity proffered by queer theorists and more contemporary and (I believe) useful, conceptions of sexual identity.</p> <p>110=To me, bisexuality is a label, or identity, that someone feels comfortable with if they honestly feel as if they could fall in love with, be happy with, and have a relationship with someone of either gender. Even if they find that their circumstances lead to finding more compatible people of one gender or another, they know that they really could go 'either way', depending on the individual.</p> <p>111=Being attracted to both men and women</p> <p>112=Having intimate attractions to both genders.</p> <p>113=person who is sexually attracted to both men and women. may or may not act sexually on that attraction</p> <p>114=Despite my attraction to men and women, I don't label myself as bisexual, however that is pretty close to what I would define bisexuality as. I would say it is someone physically and emotionally attracted to someone regardless of that person's gender.</p> <p>115=To me it means that one is current attracted to a person of either gender. (In my case I used to be only with men, and now I am only with women, so I do not consider myself bisexual.)</p> <p>116=Someone who has no definite sexual orientation, who is comfortable with either sex. it's more about the emotional relationship and who they love at the time as to who they choose to be with.</p> <p>117=An individual sexually attracted/responsive to both men</p>
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		<p>and women.</p> <p>118=I believe it to mean I may be attracted to an individual regardless of their gender.</p> <p>119=It means being attracted to an individual where it doesn't matter whether they are a woman or a man.</p> <p>120=Love/arousal depends more on the characteristics of the person than on the plumbing.</p> <p>121=I'm not sure if this question is asking how I define bisexuality? (i.e., what does bisexuality as a concept mean?) or is it asking what MY bisexuality means to me?</p> <p>122=It means being attracted sexually and emotionally to a person regardless of their presenting gender or biological sex. I often say 'I am attracted to the person's soul, and their body is simply the packaging. Different packages mean different gifts.' I also feel that being bisexual means that I shouldn't have to make a choice between men and women, but have the option to say 'Yes, both/and'. It also means having to endure the slurs of both the L/G and heterosexual community who insist that I must 'make up my mind', or that being bi- means not 'really' coming out of the closet.</p> <p>123=attraction (emotional and physical) to all genders</p> <p>124=the sexual attraction to men and women.</p> <p>125=Emotional, psychological and physical connections which occur for an individual with little regard for a particular preference in gender with the outcome being intimate and loving relationships.</p> <p>126=Attracted to both male and female.</p> <p>127=I use it very randomly since I don't believe in dualisms so I don't think there are only two genders to which I feel attractive. I rather identify myself as queer, fluid and polyamorous.</p> <p>128=Being sexually attracted to both men and women.</p>
THEME 1: Attraction to men and women		
THEME 2: Attraction to person		
THEME 3: Non-restrictive attraction		
THEME 4: Physical or sexual attraction		
THEME 5: Emotional/relational/spiritual attraction		
THEME 6: Identity Terminology		
THEME 7: Monogamy/Polyamory		
THEME8: Degree/Level of attraction or preference		
SEXUAL FLUIDITY GRID		
VAR24	AGE 20	<p>1=Sexual attraction to men and women equally (10068)</p> <p>2=Sexual attraction primarily to women some sexual attraction to men (10069)</p> <p>3=Sexual attractions to women only (10070)</p> <p>4=Sexual attractions primarily to men some sexual attraction to women (10071)</p> <p>5=Sexual attractions to men only (10072)</p>
VAR25	AGE 21	<p>1=Sexual attraction to men and women equally</p> <p>2=Sexual attraction primarily to women some sexual</p>

		<p>attraction to men 3=Sexual attractions to women only 4=Sexual attractions primarily to men some sexual attraction to women 5=Sexual attractions to men only</p>
VAR26	AGE 22	<p>1=Sexual attraction to men and women equally 2=Sexual attraction primarily to women some sexual attraction to men 3=Sexual attractions to women only 4=Sexual attractions primarily to men some sexual attraction to women 5=Sexual attractions to men only</p>
VAR27	AGE 23	<p>1=Sexual attraction to men and women equally 2=Sexual attraction primarily to women some sexual attraction to men 3=Sexual attractions to women only 4=Sexual attractions primarily to men some sexual attraction to women 5=Sexual attractions to men only</p>
VAR28	AGE 24	<p>1=Sexual attraction to men and women equally 2=Sexual attraction primarily to women some sexual attraction to men 3=Sexual attractions to women only 4=Sexual attractions primarily to men some sexual attraction to women 5=Sexual attractions to men only</p>
VAR101	AGE 25	<p>1=Sexual attraction to men and women equally 2=Sexual attraction primarily to women some sexual attraction to men 3=Sexual attractions to women only 4=Sexual attractions primarily to men some sexual attraction to women 5=Sexual attractions to men only</p>
VAR102	AGE 26	<p>1=Sexual attraction to men and women equally 2=Sexual attraction primarily to women some sexual attraction to men 3=Sexual attractions to women only 4=Sexual attractions primarily to men some sexual attraction to women 5=Sexual attractions to men only</p>
VAR103	AGE 27	<p>1=Sexual attraction to men and women equally 2=Sexual attraction primarily to women some sexual attraction to men 3=Sexual attractions to women only 4=Sexual attractions primarily to men some sexual attraction to women 5=Sexual attractions to men only</p>

VAR104	AGE 28	1 =Sexual attraction to men and women equally 2 =Sexual attraction primarily to women some sexual attraction to men 3 =Sexual attractions to women only 4 =Sexual attractions primarily to men some sexual attraction to women 5 =Sexual attractions to men only
VAR105	AGE 29	1 =Sexual attraction to men and women equally 2 =Sexual attraction primarily to women some sexual attraction to men 3 =Sexual attractions to women only 4 =Sexual attractions primarily to men some sexual attraction to women 5 =Sexual attractions to men only
VAR106	AGE 30	1 =Sexual attraction to men and women equally 2 =Sexual attraction primarily to women some sexual attraction to men 3 =Sexual attractions to women only 4 =Sexual attractions primarily to men some sexual attraction to women 5 =Sexual attractions to men only
MWE Total (new variable created)	MWE Total	0 =0 1 =1 2 =2 3 =3 4 =4 5 =5 6 =6 7 =7 8 =8 9 =9 10 =10 11 =11
PWSM Total (new variable created)	PWSM Total	0 =0 1 =1 2 =2 3 =3 4 =4 5 =5 6 =6 7 =7 8 =8 9 =9 10 =10 11 =11

WONLY total (new variable created)	Women Only Total	0=0 1=1 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=7 8=8 9=9 10=10 11=11
PMSW total (new variable created)	Primarily men, some women total	0=0 1=1 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=7 8=8 9=9 10=10 11=11
MONLY total (new variable created)	Man Only Total	0=0 1=1 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=7 8=8 9=9 10=10 11=11
ChangeAmount (new variable created)	Stability/Chan ge in labels	0=Stable (no change in fluidity) 1= Minimal Fluidity 2=Moderate Fluidity 3=Moderate Fluidity 4=Significant Fluidity 5=Significant Fluidity <u>TRANSFORMED:</u> 1= Stable 2=Minimal Fluidity 3=Moderate Fluidity 4=Significant Fluidity

SF (Significant Fluidity)= 4-5 changes in label categories MF (Moderately Fluid)= 2-3 changes WF (Minimal Fluidity)=1 change S (Stable/No Fluidity)=0 change		
<i>VAR 108-112 DELETE (Empty space/no data)</i>		
VAR 29	Attraction Change?	1 =Yes (10079) 2 =No (10080)
KLEIN SEXUAL ORIENTATION GRID		
VAR31081	Past Sexual Attraction (PSA)	0 =No Response 1 =Other (opposite gender) only 2 =Other (opposite gender) mostly 3 =Other (opposite gender) somewhat more 4 =Both genders equally 5 =Same gender somewhat more 6 =Same gender mostly 7 =Same gender only
VAR 31082	Present Sexual Attraction (PRSA)	0 =No Response 1 =Other (opposite gender) only 2 =Other (opposite gender) mostly 3 =Other (opposite gender) somewhat more 4 =Both genders equally 5 =Same gender somewhat more 6 =Same gender mostly 7 =Same gender only
VAR 31083	Ideal Sexual Attraction (ISA)	0 =No Response 1 =Other (opposite gender) only 2 =Other (opposite gender) mostly 3 =Other (opposite gender) somewhat more 4 =Both genders equally 5 =Same gender somewhat more 6 =Same gender mostly 7 =Same gender only
VAR 32081	Past Sexual Behavior (PSB)	0 =No Response 1 =Other (opposite gender) only 2 =Other (opposite gender) mostly 3 =Other (opposite gender) somewhat more 4 =Both genders equally 5 =Same gender somewhat more 6 =Same gender mostly 7 =Same gender only

VAR 32082	Present Sexual Behavior (PrSB)	0 =No Response 1 =Other (opposite gender) only 2 =Other (opposite gender) mostly 3 =Other (opposite gender) somewhat more 4 =Both genders equally 5 =Same gender somewhat more 6 =Same gender mostly 7 =Same gender only
VAR 32083	Ideal Sexual Behavior (ISB)	0 =No Response 1 =Other (opposite gender) only 2 =Other (opposite gender) mostly 3 =Other (opposite gender) somewhat more 4 =Both genders equally 5 =Same gender somewhat more 6 =Same gender mostly 7 =Same gender only
VAR 33081	Past Sexual Fantasies (PSF)	0 =No Response 1 =Other (opposite gender) only 2 =Other (opposite gender) mostly 3 =Other (opposite gender) somewhat more 4 =Both genders equally 5 =Same gender somewhat more 6 =Same gender mostly 7 =Same gender only
VAR 33082	Present Sexual Fantasies (PrSF)	0 =No Response 1 =Other (opposite gender) only 2 =Other (opposite gender) mostly 3 =Other (opposite gender) somewhat more 4 =Both genders equally 5 =Same gender somewhat more 6 =Same gender mostly 7 =Same gender only
VAR 33083	Ideal Sexual Fantasies (ISF)	0 =No Response 1 =Other (opposite gender) only 2 =Other (opposite gender) mostly 3 =Other (opposite gender) somewhat more 4 =Both genders equally 5 =Same gender somewhat more 6 =Same gender mostly 7 =Same gender only
VAR 34081	Past Emotional Preference (PEP)	0 =No Response 1 =Other (opposite gender) only 2 =Other (opposite gender) mostly 3 =Other (opposite gender) somewhat more 4 =Both genders equally 5 =Same gender somewhat more 6 =Same gender mostly 7 =Same gender only

VAR 34082	Present Emotional Preference (PrEP)	0=No Response 1=Other (opposite gender) only 2=Other (opposite gender) mostly 3=Other (opposite gender) somewhat more 4=Both genders equally 5=Same gender somewhat more 6=Same gender mostly 7=Same gender only
VAR 34083	Ideal Emotional Preference (IEP)	0=No Response 1=Other (opposite gender) only 2=Other (opposite gender) mostly 3=Other (opposite gender) somewhat more 4=Both genders equally 5=Same gender somewhat more 6=Same gender mostly 7=Same gender only
VAR 35081	Past Social Preference (PSP)	0=No Response 1=Other (opposite gender) only 2=Other (opposite gender) mostly 3=Other (opposite gender) somewhat more 4=Both genders equally 5=Same gender somewhat more 6=Same gender mostly 7=Same gender only
VAR 35082	Present Social Preference (PrSP)	0=No Response 1=Other (opposite gender) only 2=Other (opposite gender) mostly 3=Other (opposite gender) somewhat more 4=Both genders equally 5=Same gender somewhat more 6=Same gender mostly 7=Same gender only
VAR 35083	Ideal Social Preference (ISP)	0=No Response 1=Other (opposite gender) only 2=Other (opposite gender) mostly 3=Other (opposite gender) somewhat more 4=Both genders equally 5=Same gender somewhat more 6=Same gender mostly 7=Same gender only
VAR 37084	Past Lifestyle Preference (PLP)	0=No Response 1=Heterosexual only 2=Heterosexual mostly 3=Heterosexual somewhat more 4=Equally heterosexual and homosexual 5=Homosexual somewhat more 6=Homosexual mostly 7=Homosexual only

VAR 37085	Present Lifestyle Preference (PrLP)	0 =No Response 1 =Heterosexual only 2 =Heterosexual mostly 3 =Heterosexual somewhat more 4 =Equally heterosexual and homosexual 5 =Homosexual somewhat more 6 =Homosexual mostly 7 =Homosexual only
VAR 37086	Ideal Lifestyle Preference (ILP)	0 =No Response 1 =Heterosexual only 2 =Heterosexual mostly 3 =Heterosexual somewhat more 4 =Equally heterosexual and homosexual 5 =Homosexual somewhat more 6 =Homosexual mostly 7 =Homosexual only
VAR 38084	Past Self-Identification (PSI)	0 =No Response 1 =Heterosexual only 2 =Heterosexual mostly 3 =Heterosexual somewhat more 4 =Equally heterosexual and homosexual 5 =Homosexual somewhat more 6 =Homosexual mostly 7 =Homosexual only
VAR 38085	Present Self-Identification (PrSI)	0 =No Response 1 =Heterosexual only 2 =Heterosexual mostly 3 =Heterosexual somewhat more 4 =Equally heterosexual and homosexual 5 =Homosexual somewhat more 6 =Homosexual mostly 7 =Homosexual only
VAR 38086	Ideal Self-Identification (ISI)	0 =No Response 1 =Heterosexual only 2 =Heterosexual mostly 3 =Heterosexual somewhat more 4 =Equally heterosexual and homosexual 5 =Homosexual somewhat more 6 =Homosexual mostly 7 =Homosexual only
A summary of ratings with higher scores denotes greater same-sex attractions, while lower scores denote other-sex attractions		
KLEINtotal	Overall Sexual Orientation	
PASTtotal	Sexual Orientation in the PAST	

PRESENTtotal	Sexual Orientation in the Present	
IDEALtotal	Ideal Sexual Orientation	
CONNECTEDNESS TO THE LGB COMMUNITY SCALE		
VAR 49	Feel part of LGB community (PART COMM)	1=Agree Strongly (10091) 2=2 3=3 4=Disagree Strongly (10094)
VAR 50	Participate in LGB a positive experience (PART POSIT)	1=Agree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=Disagree Strongly
VAR 51	Feel bond with LGB community (COMM BOND)	1=Agree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=Disagree Strongly
VAR 52	Proud of LGB community (PROUD COMM)	1=Agree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=Disagree Strongly
VAR 53	Important to be politically active in LGB Community (IMP POL ACT)	1=Agree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=Disagree Strongly
VAR 54	If work together, LGB people can solve problem in LGB Community (WRK TOG)	1=Agree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=Disagree Strongly
VAR 55	Problems of LGB community also your own problems (PROB OWN)	1=Agree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=Disagree Strongly
VAR 56	Bond with Same gender similar others (IND BOND)	1=Agree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=Disagree Strongly
CONtoCOM	Connection to Community Total Score	Total scores calculated (decimals)

TOTConComm		1=Highly connected 2=Moderately connected 3=Poorly connected
<p><u>Lower scores indicate greater connectedness to LGB(T) Community</u></p> <p>HC =1-1.9 (1) MC=2—2.9 (2) PC= 3 -4 (3)</p> <p>A summary of ratings with higher scores denotes greater degree of community connectedness. Three categories of community connectedness will be utilized for the purposes of this study: highly connected (HC), moderately connected (MC), and poorly connected (PC).</p>		
LGB IDENTITY SCALE		
VAR 58	Prefer to Keep Same-sex attractions Private (SAME SEX PRIV)	1= Disagree Strongly (10095) 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly (10101)
VAR 59	Never able to accept sex. Orientation until accepted by others (NOT ACCT. UNTIL OTH.)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 61	Rather be Straight (HETR. INST)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 62	Coming out lengthy process (OUT LENGT)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly

VAR 63	Not sure of Sex. Orientation (UNSURE OF SO)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 64	Can control who knows about same-sex relationships (CONTR SS REL.)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 65	Wonder about judgment of SO (JUDG SO)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 66	Glad to be LGB (GLAD LGB)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 67	Look down on Hetero (DOWN HETER)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 68	Change mind about SO (CHNG SO)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly

VAR 69	Private Sexual Behavior Nobody's Business (PRIV SB)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 70	Uncomfortable because others judge SO (UNCMF JUDGE SO)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 72	Homosexual as fulfilling as heterosexual (HOM FULL HETR)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 73	Admitting to LGBT painful process (ADMT LGB PAIN)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 74	Not careful about coming out get hurt (COM OUT HURT)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 75	Insecure around hetero people (INSCR ARND HETRO)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly

VAR 76	Proud to be part of LGB community (PRUD LGB COMM)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 77	Developing as LGB personal natural process (DEVL LGB NATRL)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 78	Can't decide whether BI or HOMO (CANT DEC BI/HOMO)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 79	Think carefully before coming out (THNK BEF OUT)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 80	Think how SO affect's perception of me (SO AFFCT PERCP)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 81	Admitting LGB slow process (ADMT LGB SLOW)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly

VAR 82	Straight boring to LGBT (HETR BORNG)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 83	SO personal/private (SO PRIV)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 84	NO RESPOND	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 85	Wish were hetero (WISH HETRO)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 86	Confused about SO (CONFSD SO)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
VAR 87	Comfortable with SO (COMF WITH SO)	1= Disagree Strongly 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Agree Strongly
INTERnegat	Internalized Homonegativity/ Binegativity Scale	Higher scores, higher internalized negativity)

NEEDprivac	Need for Privacy	(Higher scores, higher need for privacy)
NEEDaccept	Need for Acceptance	(Higher scores, higher need for acceptance)
IDENTconfs	Identity Confusion	(Higher scores, higher identity confusion)
DIFFprocess	Difficult Process	(Higher scores, more difficult process)
SUPERIOR	Superiority	(Higher scores, higher feelings of superiority)
NEGTident	Negative Identity	(Higher scores, higher negative identity)
MULTIDIMENSIONAL SCALE OF PERCEIVED SOCIAL SUPPORT (MSPSS)		
VAR 89	No special person when needed (NO SPEC PRSN)	1= Very Strongly Disagree (10102) 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Very Strongly Agree (10108)
VAR 90	Special person to share joys (SPEC PERS JOYS)	1= Very Strongly Disagree 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Very Strongly Agree
VAR 91	Family helpful (FAM HELPF)	1= Very Strongly Disagree 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Very Strongly Agree
VAR 100	Support from family (SUPRT FROM FAM)	1= Very Strongly Disagree 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Very Strongly Agree

VAR 92	Have special person (HAS SPECL PERS)	1= Very Strongly Disagree 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Very Strongly Agree
VAR 93	Friends help (FRNDS HELP)	1= Very Strongly Disagree 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Very Strongly Agree
VAR 94	Friends dependable (FRNDS DEPEND)	1= Very Strongly Disagree 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Very Strongly Agree
VAR 95	Can talk with family (TALK WITH FAM)	1= Very Strongly Disagree 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Very Strongly Agree
VAR 96	Have friend share joys (FRND JOYS)	1= Very Strongly Disagree 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Very Strongly Agree
VAR 97	Special person cares about feelings (SPEC PERS FEEL)	1= Very Strongly Disagree 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Very Strongly Agree

VAR 98	Family helps with decisions (FAM HELP DECSN)	1= Very Strongly Disagree 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Very Strongly Agree
VAR 99	Talk about problems with friends (TALK WITH FRNDS)	1= Very Strongly Disagree 2=2 3=3 4=4 5=5 6=6 7=Very Strongly Agree
SOtotal	Significant Other Support	(Higher scores, higher perceived SO Support)
FAMtotal	Family Support	(Higher scores, higher perceived FAM Support)
FRItotal	Friends Support	(Higher scores, higher perceived FRI Support)
MSPSStotal	Total Support (SO, FRI, and FAM)	(Higher scores, higher perceived Overall support)
TOTMSPSS	Total Support (SO, FRI, and FAM transformed)	1=Poorly Connected 2=Moderately Connected 3=Highly Connected 1 to 2.5 poorly connected 2.6 to 5 moderately connected 5.1 to 7 highly connected
Family Subscale= Sum of items 3,4,8 &11 (var91, var100, var95 & var98)		
Friends Subscale= Sum of items6,7,9 &12 (var93, var94, var96 &var99)		
Significant Other Subscale= Sum of items1,2, 5,& 10 (var89, var90, var92, & var97)		
Total Support= sum of all item scores (var89-var-99)		
<p>The MSPSS questionnaire is comprised of 12 items rated on a 7-point Likert-type scale (response format ranges from, 1 = very strongly disagree to 7 = very strongly agree). A higher score signifies increased levels of perceived social support. The score on individual items on the MSPSS were summed and divided by 12. Scores on the four items that comprise each subscale were also summed and divided by 4 (Cecil, Stanley, Carrion, & Swann, 1995).</p>		

APPENDIX L
BRADFORD'S BISEXUAL IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT MODEL

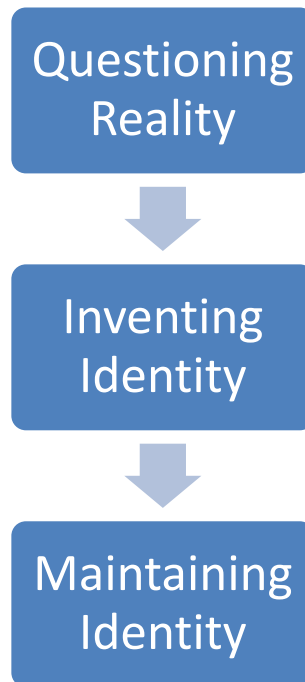


Figure 1. Conceptual Model of Bradford's Bisexual Identity Development.

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