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GENDER ROLES, SEXUAL ASSERTIVENESS, AND SEXUAL COERCION IN LGBTQ  
INDIVIDUALS

A Thesis Defense

submitted in partial fulfillment of requirements

for the degree of Master of Arts

Department of Psychology

The University of Mississippi

August 2019

by

Lavina Ying Ho

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## ABSTRACT

Sexual violence is a prominent community issue, particularly within the LGBTQ+ community. The present study examined the relationships among gender roles, sexual assertiveness, and sexual victimization as well as sexual perpetration in a LGBTQ+ population. For most severe form of sexual violence victimization in the past year, 17.6% reported having been raped. Moderated logistic regression analyses found that both gender roles and sexual assertiveness independently predicted severity of sexual victimization and perpetration. No interactions were found to predict either sexual victimization or sexual perpetration. Specifically, the femininity gender role and lower levels of sexual assertiveness predicted greater likelihood for victim status of acts within the past year and since age 14. Surprisingly, the femininity gender role and lower levels of sexual assertiveness also predicted perpetrator status for acts in the past year and since age 14. Implications for these findings in a LGBTQ+ population are discussed.

## DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my husband, Lucas McCoy, and my supportive family members and friends who have guided me to this point in my career and life. To my loving husband, I am grateful for your patience, support, and kindness throughout this thesis ordeal. I hope you are ready to do this all again for my dissertation.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

GLB	Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual
GLBT	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender
LGBQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Queer
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender
LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer
SAQ	Sexual Assertiveness Questionnaire
SES	Sexual Experiences Survey
SWLS	Satisfaction With Life Scale
TMF	Traditional Masculinity and Femininity
WHO	World Health Organization

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Sexual assault is a prominent health and community issue, as approximately 1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men report being sexually assaulted (Cantor et al., 2015; Krebs, Lindquist, Warner, Fisher, & Martin, 2007). In particular, sexual coercion refers to submission to “unwanted sexual behavior as a result of direct pressure, manipulation, or force” (Waldner-Haugrud, 1999). Sexual assault can result in negative health outcomes such as depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder (Campbell, Dworkin, & Cabral, 2009).

Gender may be a factor in sexual coercion as women report more sexually submissive behavior and lower sexual satisfaction than men (Kiefer & Sanchez, 2007; Sanchez, Phelan, Moss-Racusin, & Good, 2012). Moreover, women are more likely to engage in submissive sexual behaviors such as deferring to their partner’s desires and waiting for their partner to initiate the sexual interaction (O’Sullivan & Byers, 1992; Sanchez et al., 2012). Women also implicitly associate sex with submission, which leads them to engage in a submissive sexual role (Sanchez, Kiefer, & Ybarra, 2006). Kelly and Erickson (2007) found that men utilized more aggressive sexual behaviors than women. Both men and women viewed women as more submissive, giving, and emotional (Werner & LaRussa, 1985).

Gender role is typically defined as “the degree to which one associates closely with being either male or female” (Kelly & Erickson, 2007). Furthermore, it may play a role in sexual coercion as women are stereotyped as submissive while men are stereotyped as aggressive within sexual encounters. Sexually compliant heterosexual women were more likely to endorse traditional gender norms (Kennett, Humphreys, & Bramley, 2013). When men and women were

sex-primed, they were more likely to endorse gender stereotypical beliefs (Hundhammer & Mussweiler, 2012). Seal, O'Sullivan, and Ehrhardt (2007) discussed how past literature on sexual scripts, socially constructed beliefs regarding sexuality and sexual behavior (Simon & Gagnon, 1969) have examined "traditional" sexual scripts in which women are gatekeepers while men are initiators. In their qualitative study, they found that some men saw sexual compliance as the "man's right" within the relationship context.

In a meta-analysis examining masculinity in relation to sexual aggression, Murnen, Wright, and Kaluzny (2002) found that hypermasculinity strongly predicted sexual aggression. Moreover, endorsing certain types of masculine attitudes such as the need to display toughness and independence predicted a history of sexual aggression in men (Truman, Tokar, & Fischer, 1996). Conformity to gender roles predicted lower sexual agency for women and higher levels of sexual agency for men (Kiefer & Sanchez, 2007). For women in particular, adhering to gender roles predicted sexual passivity. However, there have been mixed results as Kelly and Erickson (2007) found a weak, non-statistically significant correlation between masculinity and sexually aggressive behavior. These differences in findings may be due to psychometric issues associated with Bem's Sex Role Inventory (Good, Borst, & Wallace, 1994).

Sexual assertiveness refers to the ability to initiate wanted sexual experiences, as well as the ability to refuse unwanted sexual experiences (Morokoff et al., 1997). For college women, initial sexual victimization has been found to correlate with lower sexual refusal assertiveness (Katz, May, Sorenson, & DeTosta, 2010). Additionally, women who have been re-victimized had lower levels of sexual assertiveness and sexual self-efficacy in comparison to women who had not been victimized (Kearns & Calhoun, 2010). The reverse of sexual assertiveness would be

considered sexual passivity. Kiefer and Sanchez (2007) found that sexual passivity predicted less sexual satisfaction.

Relationships among masculinity, sexual coercion, and sexual assertiveness have been largely based on heterosexual samples. Recent reports suggest elevated prevalence rates of sexual assault among gay, lesbian, bisexual, and other non-heterosexual individuals (Edwards et al., 2015; Johnson, Matthews, & Napper, 2016; Martin, Fisher, Warner, Krebs, & Lindquist, 2011). There have been fewer studies examining gender roles and sexual assertiveness within lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer (LGBQ) individuals. The purpose of this study is to examine relationships among these variables in non-heterosexual couples. Following a review of sexual coercion and victimization among heterosexual men and women, sexual coercion and victimization among gay and lesbian individuals will be examined. The impact of gender role on sexual coercion will also be reviewed. Finally, the role of sexual assertiveness in sexual victimization/perpetration will be examined.

### **Sexual Coercion**

Sexual coercion encompasses a wide spectrum of force including physical force and psychological intimidation (World Health Organization [WHO], 2002). It is defined as the “act of using pressure, alcohol or drugs, or force to have sexual contact with someone against his or her will” (Struckman-Johnson, Struckman-Johnson, & Anderson, 2003). Essentially, it can be conceptualized as “making another person engage in sexual activity despite his or her unwillingness to do so” (Brousseau, Bergeron, Hebert, & McDuff, 2011).

Initially, sexual coercion was understood as a form of sexual victimization perpetrated by men against women. As noted above, recent research has expanded the conceptualization of sexual coercion to include female perpetrators and male victims. When examining sexual coercion in a broader context with other forms of sexual violence such as unwanted sexual

contact, noncontact unwanted sexual experiences, being forced to penetrate a perpetrator (0.6% of women and 6.7% of men), prevalence rates increased to 43.9% for women and 23.4% for men (Breiding et al., 2011).

Sexual coercion rates for women have varied from 12.5% to 69%, while rates for men vary from 5.8% to 50%. Brousseau, Bergeron, Hebert, and McDuff (2011) surveyed Canadian undergraduate and graduate student couples and assessed sexual coercion victimization and perpetration. They found that 54.5% of couples reported an incident of sexual coercion, and 20% reported reciprocal sexual coercion where both partners experienced and perpetrated sexual coercion. Rapoza and Drake (2009) found that 35.5% of college men reported perpetrating sexual aggression, which encompassed acts of sexual coercion and threatened/forced sex, while 31.1% of college women reported experiencing sexual victimization. Similarly, in a sample of 2,149 German college students, 35.9% of women and 19.4% of men reported having experienced sexual aggression, including sexually coercive strategies and sexual acts (Krahe & Berger, 2013).

In a study of gender, sexual harassment, and sexual coercion among college men and women, Menard and colleagues (2003) administered measures of sexual coercion, child sexual abuse, adult sexual victimization, personality, nonsexual aggression, and sexual harassment. It was reported that men were three times more likely to engage in sexually coercive behaviors in comparison to women. While female victims reported mostly male perpetrators, perpetrators for male victims varied according to type of sexual violence (Breiding et al., 2011). Male victims of sexual coercion reported predominantly female perpetrators. Male rape victims reported predominantly male perpetrators.

Zinzow and Thompson (2015) examined sexual aggression in a sample of male college students. Participants were administered measures assessing experiences of sexual coercion, characteristics of their first sexually coercive perpetration offense, peer norms, and rape supportive attitudes. Analyses revealed that 68% of participants who reported perpetrating sexual coercion and assault engaged in these behaviors on more than one occasion. The authors also found that rape supportive beliefs accounted for variance in the prediction of sexual coercion. Moreover, sexually aggressive beliefs also predicted sexually coercive repeat transgressors. Similarly, Struckman-Johnson et al. (2003) showed that men were more likely to report using sexually coercive tactics (e.g., persistent kissing and touching, removing clothes) than women (40.4% vs. 25.5%). Additionally, more women reported experiencing post-refusal sexual persistence tactics in comparison to men (78.2% vs. 57.8%).

Similar rates of sexual coercion have been found in community samples. Black and colleagues (2011) found that 12.5% of women and 5.8% of men reported experiencing sexual coercion in their lifetime. In the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey conducted by Black and colleagues (2010), sexual coercion included activities such as making false promises, threatening to end the relationship, or spreading rumors if the individual refused sex. Coercion included being pressured without the use of physical force into unwanted sexual anal, oral, or vaginal penetration. A review by Spitzberg (1999) of 120 studies revealed that 25% of women and 23% of men reported experiencing sexual coercion. The review demonstrated that women were also likely to engage in sexual coercion, as 29% of women and 24% of men perpetrated sexual coercion. Lottes and Weinberg (1997) reported 69% of U.S. women and 50% of U.S. men reported experiencing some form of nonphysical sexual coercion. They also noted that 45% of U.S. women reported experiencing some form of physical sexual coercion. Seventy-

five percent of women and 69.7% of men who experienced sexual coercion stated that the perpetrator was an intimate partner (Black et al., 2010). Data from Campbell and Soeken's (1999) survey revealed that 45.9% of battered women reported experienced forced sex by their intimate partner.

Being sexually coerced may have undesirable outcomes. Negative consequences associated with unwanted sexual experiences include disordered eating and depressive symptoms (Capitaine, Rodgers, & Chabrol, 2011). Other consequences of sexual coercion include elevated levels of anger, social isolation, depressed mood, and lower self-esteem (Zweig, 1997). Larimer, Lydum, Anderson, and Turner (1999) found that while men and women reported experiencing sexual coercion, men reported greater depressive symptoms following coercive sex. In order to determine whether emotional responses to sexual coercion differed in men and women, Kernsmith and Kernsmith (2009) administered measures of sexual coercion victimization, emotional responses to coercive behavior, and previous abuse experiences to undergraduate college students. Analyses revealed that relative to men, women reported higher victimization rates of coercion frequency. Furthermore, compared to women, male participants reported more positive emotional reactions to experiences of sexual coercion.

Sexual coercion is also associated with other sexual health risks. Turchik and Hassija (2014) observed that in comparison to women who reported no sexual victimization, women reporting sexual victimization were more likely to engage in greater drug use, problematic alcohol use, sexual risk taking, and sexual dysfunction. Similarly, in a qualitative study of women who had verbally sexually coerced their partner, sexually coercing their partner negatively influenced their relationship, and approximately one-fourth of the women engaged in self-blame for the sexual coercion (Livingston, Buddie, Testa, & VanZile-Tamsen, 2004).



The above review suggests that being sexually coerced is a frequently occurring phenomenon experienced by men and women. While common to both male and female experience, type of sexually coercive act may vary by gender, and is associated with several undesirable consequences and significant health risks.

### **Sexual Coercion and Gender Roles**

Gender role refers to “behaviors, expectations, and role sets defined by society as masculine or feminine which are embodied in the behavior of the individual man or woman and culturally regarded as appropriate to males or females” (O’Neill, 1981). These beliefs are taught to children and modeled through processes of socialization, which may lead to restrictive attitudes and behaviors. When men or women engage in behaviors that are incongruent with their perceived gender, they may be punished or devalued for their deviations from their traditional roles. These processes often lead to a restriction in behaviors that become more aligned with their gender role. While the feminine gender role is characterized by expressiveness, empathy, and passivity (Bem, 1975; Harris, 1994), the masculine gender role is characterized by restricted emotionality, socialized control, homophobia, restrictive sexual and affectionate behavior, independence, and assertiveness (Bem, 1975; O’Neill, 1981). Although gender roles have been conceptualized in a myriad of ways, contemporary views conceptualize gender roles as the behavioral characteristics associated with being male or female. Early research often used the terminology sex roles to describe gender roles.

Sexual coercion has also been understood within a framework of gender roles and traditional sexual scripts that suggest what is expected of men and women in romantic contexts. Heteronormative beliefs refer to the cultural beliefs that men and women hold contrasting roles in sexual interactions, such as men being sexually dominant over women or women being passive. Heteronormative beliefs have been studied as an aspect of masculinity.

In a study of verbal sexual coercion and heteronormative beliefs among heterosexual college students, Eaton and Matamala (2014) predicted that heteronormative beliefs would be correlated with approval of verbal sexual coercion. They also predicted that endorsing heteronormative beliefs would be related to men's reports of perpetrating verbal sexual coercion, as well as women's victimization experiences with verbal sexual coercion. Measures of heteronormative beliefs (e.g., male dominance, male sexuality, and sexual double standards) were administered to a sample of 555 heterosexual undergraduate students. Regression analyses revealed that heteronormative attitudes, which included beliefs that men should dominate women, men are always ready for sex, and that men's sexual activity is more acceptable compared to women's, predicted a greater likelihood of accepting verbal sexual coercion in both men and women. Analyses also revealed that men and women who endorsed heteronormative attitudes reported having been a victim and/or perpetrator of verbal sexual coercion.

In a study of sex roles and sexual coercion among college men and women, Poppen and Segal (1988) hypothesized that men were expected to be perpetrators while females were expected to be victims. They also hypothesized that individuals with masculine traits would report using sexually coercive tactics more than individuals with feminine traits. Measures of sexual behaviors, reasons for engaging in unwanted sex, and sex roles were administered. Analyses demonstrated that participants who identified with a masculine sex role orientation were more likely to use sexually coercive strategies in comparison to participants who identified with other sex roles. It was suggested that people who identified with masculine roles were least likely to report having been sexually coerced using continual arguments, while people who identified with androgynous or feminine roles were most likely to have been sexually coerced through continual arguments.

In a study of gender role identity and coercive behaviors within male and female undergraduate students, Mahoney, Shively, and Traw (1986) examined factors associated with men and women experiencing and perpetrating sexual coercion. Measures of sexual experience, male macho personality, attitude towards female gender roles, and experience with coercive sexual behaviors were administered. Results showed that men who reported greater levels of hypermasculine traits were more likely to engage in sexual coercion in comparison to men who reported fewer hypermasculine traits.

Literature indicates that gender roles are an important factor in predicting sexual coercion. In particular, masculinity has been related to perpetrating sexual coercion, while femininity has been associated with experiencing sexual coercion. Gender roles may be useful in understanding sexually coercive behavior.

### **Sexual Assertiveness**

Although sexual assertiveness has been conceptualized as an amalgamation of various behaviors, it is defined as “a commitment to employ appropriate contraception, the ability to initiate sex with a partner, the ability to refuse unwanted sex, the capacity to communicate sexual desires and satisfaction, and/or the ability to discuss sexual history with a sexual partner” (Loshek, 2015). Sexual assertiveness is separate from general assertiveness as it focuses on communicating an individual’s sexual desires. Sexual assertiveness is correlated with greater sexual satisfaction and greater subjective sexual desire (Hulbert, 1991; Menard & Offman, 2009).

In a study designed to determine the role of sexual assertiveness on sexual victimization, Livingston, Testa, and VanZile-Tamsen (2007) assessed a large sample of women at three time-points over a two-year period. Measures of childhood sexual abuse, sexual victimization, sexual assertiveness, depression, and posttraumatic stress disorder were gathered. Results revealed that

women who reported low sexual refusal assertiveness at the first assessment point were more likely to experience re-victimization compared to women who did not report low sexual refusal assertiveness. Furthermore, women who experienced sexual victimization reported more difficulties with stopping unwanted sexual advances. The authors suggested that sexual assertiveness may serve as a protective factor against sexual coercion. Similar findings have been reported by Greene and Navarro (1998).

Katz, May, Sorensen, and DeTosta (2010) examined sexual re-victimization, self-blame, and sexual refusal assertiveness in a sample of 87 female college women at two time points over an academic year. Measures of sexual victimization, self-blame, and sexual assertiveness were administered. Analyses indicated that women who reported re-victimization at Time 2 were more likely to have reported self-blame and lower sexual refusal assertiveness at Time 1 in comparison to women who did not report re-victimization at Time 2. Path analyses revealed that initial victimization was associated with self-blame and subsequently, self-blame indirectly predicted re-victimization at Time 2 through lower sexual refusal assertiveness. The authors suggested that sexual victimization occurring within high school or at the beginning of women's college education may lead to self-blame of unwanted sexual experiences, which then may inhibit sexual assertiveness.

While considerable evidence suggests that sexual assertiveness may be a protective factor against sexual victimization, inconsistent results have been reported. Walker, Messman-Moore, and Ward (2011) administered measures of sexual victimization, number of sexual partners, refusal sexual assertiveness, and relational sexual assertiveness to 335 female college students. Correlational analyses revealed that greater sexual assertiveness was associated with lower rates of verbal sexual coercion and rape. Moreover, analyses also suggested that women with low

sexual assertiveness who had a higher number of sexual partners reported more experiences of sexual victimization. Surprisingly, sexual assertiveness did not moderate the relationship between number of sexual partners and verbal sexual coercion.

Research suggests that sexual assertiveness may influence an individual's response to sexual coercion. Data also indicate that sexual assertiveness level may mediate the relationship between an initial sexual coercion victimization and subsequent re-victimization (Kelley, Orchowski, & Gidycz, 2016). In sum, these studies suggest that higher sexual assertiveness is associated with fewer sexually coercive experiences, as well as future coercive experiences.

### **Sexual Coercion among Gay and Lesbian Individuals**

Research indicates that sexual violence is also problematic among gay, bisexual, lesbian, and queer individuals. Rothman, Exner, and Baughman's (2011) review noted that lifetime sexual assault ranged from 15.6% to 85% for lesbian or bisexual women, and 11.8% to 54% for gay or bisexual men. These rates are similar, if not greater, than those found among heterosexual couples. The authors highlighted differences between GLB and heterosexual prevalence rates of sexual assault as prevalence rates within the general population typically range from 11-17% for women and 2-3% for men. They also reported that lesbian and bisexual women were more likely to report adult sexual assault, lifetime sexual assault, and intimate partner sexual assault in comparison to gay and bisexual men. Similarly, in a sample of LGBTQ individuals, 41% reported that at least one of their sexual violence experiences occurred in a relationship with an intimate partner (Virginia Education Fund & Virginia Anti-Violence project, 2008). In a sample of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) adults seeking services for intimate partner violence, 41% of LGBT adults reported that a partner had forced them to have sex, and 10% were forced to have sex with another individual (Heintz & Melendez, 2006).

Examination of sexual coercion experiences among GLBT individuals has also received attention and revealed little difference in victimization rates between gay men and lesbian women. Waldner-Haugrud and Gratch (1997) examined sexual orientation and sexual coercion with a lesbian or gay partner in a sample of 273 gay men and lesbian women. Measures of sexual orientation through Kinsey's Heterosexual-Homosexual Rating Scale and unwanted sexual behavior with a lesbian/gay partner were administered. Results revealed that 52% of the sample reported having experienced at least one sexually coercive incident. Chi-square analyses revealed that while gay men were not more likely to be victims of sexual coercion, gay men in this sample reported a higher average number of sexually coercive experiences than lesbian women. Authors suggested that although the gay men in their sample were not more likely to be classified as sexual coercion victims, the finding approached significance and a larger sample of gay men was needed to detect significant findings.

Waterman, Dawson, and Bologna (1989) examined sexually aggressive coercion, conflict tactics, and relational power in a sample of 34 gay and 36 lesbian adults. Results revealed that 12% of men and 31% of women reported having experienced sexual coercion, defined as being forced to engage in sex, by a current or recent partner. It was suggested that the higher reported rate of sexual coercion among lesbian women in comparison to gay men may be due to the longer reported relationship duration for lesbian women, and/or greater awareness of sexual coercion among lesbian women.

In a study of sexual health differences in lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual individuals, Kuyper and Vanwesenbeeck (2011) conducted a study on 4,333 Dutch adults. Several measures of sexual health, sexual behavior, minority stress, and sexual coercion were administered. Analyses revealed that bisexual women reported having experienced more sexual

coercion than heterosexual women. Results also revealed that both bisexual and homosexual men reported more sexually coercive experiences in comparison to heterosexual men. Similarly, in a sample of Australian men and women de Visser, Smith, Rissel, Richters, and Grulich (2007) found that bisexual or lesbian women reported more sexually coercive experiences than heterosexual women. Similarly, analyses revealed that bisexual or gay men reported more sexually coercive experiences than heterosexual men.

Krahe and Berger (2013) examined sexual aggression, sexual victimization, engagement of sexual activity with opposite or same-sex partners, and alcohol consumption in a sample of 2,149 German college students. Chi-square analyses revealed that women who reported having sexual relationships with both opposite and same-sex partners reported the highest victimization and perpetration rates of sexual aggression compared to heterosexual women. Moreover, men who reported having sexual relationships with both opposite and same-sex partners reported greater sexual victimization by a female perpetrator compared to heterosexual men.

Menning and Holtzman (2014) examined unwanted sexual contact, sexual orientation, and characteristics of unwanted sexual contact in a sample of 195 male and female college students. Measures of unwanted sexual experiences, characteristics of unwanted sexual experiences, sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex were administered. Odds ratios, constructed by binary regression models, indicated that bisexual or homosexual orientations in men predicted unwanted sexual contact 3.5 times more than heterosexual men. In contrast, bisexual and homosexual orientations in women did not predict unwanted sexual contact for women.

Johnson, Matthews, and Napper (2016) examined sexual assault victimization, sexual orientation status, alcohol use, and gender in a sample of American college students. They

hypothesized that gay men would report greater rates of sexual victimization than heterosexual men, and that bisexual men and women were more likely to report victimization than heterosexual men and women. They also predicted that men and women who questioned their sexual orientation were more likely to be sexually victimized than heterosexual individuals. Binomial logistic regression analyses revealed that gay men and bisexual students of both sexes were more likely than heterosexual students to report victimization including unwanted touching, attempted penetration, completed penetration, and sexually abusive relationships. Relative to heterosexual students, students who were unsure of their sexual orientation were more likely to report all types of victimization experiences measured except for sexually abusive relationships. Lesbian women did not report greater rates of sexual victimization than heterosexual individuals. Base rates indicated that transgendered students were 4.5 times more likely to report unwanted touching, completed penetration, and sexually abusive relationships relative to female college students.

In sum, prior research has demonstrated that gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals are often more likely to report prior experiences of unwanted sexual experiences such as sexual coercion, sexual aggression, and sexual assault. In particular, bisexual men and women have reported elevated victimization rates of unwanted sexual experiences. For some studies examined above, these acts occurred within the context of an intimate relationship with their partner.

### **Gender Roles.**

Several studies indicate that gender roles may play a key role in sexual victimization among non-heterosexual couples. VanderLaan and Vasey (2009) examined gender roles, sexual orientation, and sexual coercion in a sample of Canadian university and community individuals. Measures of masculinity/femininity, aggressive tendencies, sexual coercion victimization, and sexual coercion perpetration were administered. Regression analyses demonstrated that non-



heterosexual men perpetrated fewer non-physical sexually coercive acts than heterosexual men, but more than non-heterosexual women. Findings also indicated that relative to heterosexual men, non-heterosexual men scored lower on the Masculinity scale, but both heterosexual and non-heterosexual men reported greater verbal aggression in comparison to non-heterosexual women.

McConaghy and Zamir (1995) administered measures of sexual experiences, sex-linked behaviors, and sex roles to a sample of 182 Australian medical students. Results showed that 4% of men and women reported experiencing sexual coercion by someone of the same sex. Results also revealed that when lesbian women or gay men endorsed more masculine sex roles, they were more likely to engage in sexually coercive behaviors.

The above review suggests that sexual coercion is a common problem in heterosexual and non-heterosexual relationships. Moreover, regardless of sexual orientation data support the notion that masculine gender role identity is related to perpetration of sexual coercion, while feminine gender role identity is related to sexual coercion victimization. Data from studies of heterosexual relationships indicate that sexual assertiveness can be a protective factor for sexual coercion. The purpose of the present study is to examine relationships among sexual coercion, gender roles, and sexual assertiveness in an LGBT sample. Measures of gender roles, sexual assertiveness, sexual coercion, and sexual orientation will be administered to a sample of LGBT individuals. It is expected that gender role and sexual assertiveness will predict sexual perpetration and victimization status. It is also anticipated that sexual assertiveness will moderate the relationship between gender role and sexual victimization.

## II. METHODS

### **Participants**

Participants consisted of 455 adults recruited from Mechanical Turk who were greater than 18 years of age. 16.5% were aged 18-24, 55.4% were aged 25-34, 16.5% were aged 35-44, 7.5% were aged 45-54, 3.7% were aged 55-64, and 0.4% were aged 65 and older. Regarding race and ethnic background, 17.8% identified as Black/African American, 66.2% identified as White/Non-Hispanic, 7.0% identified as Hispanic/Latino, 4.4% identified as Asian, 0.2% identified as Pacific Islander, 0.9% identified as Native American Indian, 3.1% identified as Multiracial, and 0.4% identified as Other. Additionally, socioeconomic status was self-reported by broad categories, 11.9% reported being part of the working poor, 32.3% reported being part of the working class, 34.7% reported being in the lower middle class, 20.4% reported being in the upper middle class, and 0.7% reported being in the upper class.

In regard to education, 0.4% reported obtaining less than a high school diploma, 2.6% reported obtaining a GED, 5.9% reported obtaining a high school diploma, 23.3% reported obtaining some college or technical school with no degree, 13.4% reported obtaining an Associate's degree, 39.6% reported obtaining a Bachelor's degree, 10.5% reported obtaining a Master's degree, 2.9% reported obtaining a Professional degree, and 1.3% reported obtaining a Doctorate. For employment status, 62.4% indicated that they worked full time (e.g., 40 or more hours per week), 18.4% indicated that they worked part-time, 5.5% indicated that they were unemployed, 4.2% indicated that they were a homemaker, 2.7% indicated that they were

disabled or on caregiver medical leave, 5.8% indicated that they were a full-time student, and 1.1% indicated that they were retired.

When examining sexual orientation and gender identity, 23.5% self-reported being gay, 11.4% self-reported being lesbian, 65.6% self-reported being bisexual, and 7.3% self-reported being transgender, transsexual, or gender non-conforming. Because many of these identities overlap, participants often selected more than one orientation and/or identity and may have also selected straight, bisexual, lesbian, and/or transgender. Of the 33 participants who indicated that they were transgender or gender non-conforming, 24.2% stated that they identified as male to female transgender, 27.3% stated that they identified as female to male transgender, and 48.5% identified as gender non-conforming. For a full report on demographic statistics, please see Table 1.

## **Measures**

Participants reported information based on their personal characteristics such as age, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, and education. They also provided details about their relationship status and when applicable, length of current relationship, prior sexual intimacy with partner, and quality of their current relationship (CSI-4; Funk & Rogge, 2007). A reliability analysis was conducted on the relationship quality measure comprised of 4 items. Cronbach's alpha showed the measure to reach excellent reliability,  $\alpha = 0.941$  (George & Mallery, 2003).

## **Sexual Victimization**

The revised Sexual Experiences Survey (SES-SFV; Koss et al., 2007) is a self-report measure consisting of 10 items to examine victimization of unwanted sexual experiences. The first 7 items regarding unwanted sexual acts are comprised of 5 additional questions that ask about the specific tactics used such as verbal coercion, disapproval or criticism, intoxication,

threats of physical harm, and physical force. For the first 7 items, participants indicate how many of each unwanted sexual experience they have experienced within the past 12 months as well as since the age of 14 (e.g., 0, 1, 2, 3+). Due to this study's use of a non-heterosexual sample, gender-neutral pronouns were utilized when referring to the perpetrator of the unwanted sexual experience. Although psychometric data were not provided in the original study by Koss and colleagues (2007), Johnson, Murphy, and Gidycz (2017) administered the SES-SFV to a sample of 433 college women. They found the internal consistency for items for unwanted sexual experiences in the past 12 months to be .92, and test-retest reliability for unwanted sexual experiences in the past 12 months between the first and third assessment to be 73%.

### **Sexual Perpetration**

The Sexual Perpetration Survey (SES-SFP; Koss et al., 2006) is a similar self-report measure consisting of 10 items to examine perpetration of unwanted sexual experiences. The first seven items refer to various sexual behaviors that the participant may have engaged in (e.g., fondling, forced oral sex, penetration) through five coercive tactics within the past 12 months, as well as since the age of 14. Some items were reworded as the current SES-SFP is based in some heteronormative language. Similarly, psychometric data were not provided in the original study by Koss and colleagues (2006), but a subsequent psychometric study by Johnson, Murphy, Gidycz (2017) whom administered the SES-SFP on a sample of 136 college men revealed that the internal consistency for perpetration of unwanted sexual experiences in the past 12 months to be .99 and the test-rest reliability between the first and third assessment for perpetration of unwanted sexual experiences in the past 12 months to be 91%. However, they also stated that endorsement of perpetrating unwanted sexual acts was generally low within their sample of male college students.

## **Sexual Assertiveness**

The Sexual Assertiveness Questionnaire (SAQ; Loshek & Terrell, 2015) is an 18-item questionnaire that examines sexual assertiveness through three subscales that assess for communication about sexual initiation and satisfaction, refusal of unwanted sex, and sexual history communication. Each item is rated on a 7-point Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (*strongly disagree*) to 7 (*strongly agree*). The communication about sexual initiation and satisfaction subscale encompasses items 1 through 8, the refusal of unwanted sex subscale comprises items 9 through 13, and the sexual history communication subscale encompasses items 14 to 18. Items 1, 2, 5, 10, 11, and 12 are reverse-coded. Each subscale is scored by taking the mean of the responses for each subscale. Loshek & Terrell (2015) conducted an exploratory factor analysis and found three dimensions of communication consisting of sexual initiation and communication of wanted sex, ability to refuse unwanted sexual acts, and ability to communicate sexual risk and prior sexual history. A confirmatory factor analysis was also conducted to ensure the fit of the factor structure for the SAQ utilizing the three dimensions. The Cronbach alpha coefficients for the three subscales were .79 (sexual initiation and satisfaction subscale), .78 (refusal subscale), and .81 (risk/prior history subscale). In addition, the overall Cronbach alpha coefficient for the Sexual Assertiveness Questionnaire was .878. Lastly, all three factors were found to be moderately correlated ( $.44 < r < .55, p < .001$ ). A reliability analysis was conducted on the SAQ comprised of 18 items. Cronbach's alpha showed the SAQ to attain good reliability,  $\alpha = 0.882$  (George & Mallery, 2003).

## **Gender Roles**

The Traditional Masculinity and Femininity (TMF) scale is a 6-item measure with each item rated on a Likert-type scale from 1 (*totally masculine*) to 7 (*totally feminine*) that assesses for gender role in the areas of gender role adoption, gender-role preference, and gender-role

identity (Kachel, Steffens, & Niedlich, 2016). A sample item includes the statement “traditionally, my behavior would be considered as...” and then ranked from 1 to 7 for masculinity or femininity. Researchers conceptualized that femininity and masculinity lie on one bipolar dimension. Although the study was originally conducted in German, it has been translated to English. An exploratory principal axis factoring revealed a one-factor solution, and each item’s factor loadings ranging from 0.75 to 0.94. Cronbach alpha coefficients were found to be good for the overall scale ( $\alpha_{\text{TMF}} = 0.94$ ), as well as for the masculinity and femininity scales ( $\alpha_{\text{TMF-M}} = 0.89$ ,  $\alpha_{\text{TMF-F}} = 0.90$ ). The TMF was found to be moderately correlated with other gender role measures such as the German Extended Personal Attributes Questionnaire and the Bem Sex Role Inventory. Lastly, the TMF was also administered to a sample of heterosexual men and women as well as lesbian women and gay men, and was found to predict sexual orientation for men and women. A reliability analysis was conducted on the gender roles measure comprised of 6 items. Cronbach’s alpha showed the measure to reach excellent reliability,  $\alpha = 0.939$  (George & Mallery, 2003).

### **Life Satisfaction**

The Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS; Diener, Emmons, Larsen, & Griffin, 1985) examines judgments of overall life satisfaction through 5 self-rated statements which are rated on a 7-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (*strongly disagree*) and 7 (*strongly agree*). A sample item of the SWLS asks participants to rate the statement, “If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing.” Scores are summed for the 5 items and range in categories of extremely satisfied (31-35), satisfied (26-30), slightly satisfied (21-25), neutral (20), slightly dissatisfied (15-19), dissatisfied (10-14), and extremely dissatisfied (5-9). Cronbach alphas ranged from .85-.87 while test-retest reliability coefficients ranged from .82-.84 (Diener et al., 1985, Pavot, Diener, Colvin, & Sandvik, 1991). A reliability analysis was conducted on the SWLS measure

and comprised of 5 items. Cronbach's alpha showed the measure to have excellent reliability,  $\alpha = 0.928$  (George & Mallery, 2003).

## **Procedures**

Participants were recruited online through Mechanical Turk and paid approximately \$1 for participation. The survey was administered on Qualtrics and personally identifying information was not collected to ensure anonymity. Due to the nature of Mechanical Turk, participants first completed a short screener that included five demographic questions. Participants who identified as LGBTQ+ underwent the informed consent process that advised of confidentiality, what the survey entailed, benefits of the study, and potential risk related to reflecting upon sexual experiences before proceeding to the study.

After informed consent, participants completed additional demographic questions and questions about their relationship and relationship satisfaction (if they stated that they were in one). Next, participants completed measures on sexual assertiveness (SAQ), gender roles (TMF), satisfaction with life (SWLS), and an attention check, followed by sexual victimization and perpetration measures. The sexual victimization and perpetration measures were presented last to avoid biasing participants, as sexual victimization and perpetration experiences may potentially lead to strong emotional reactions. All participants were provided with a list of national services such as Rainn.org in the event that discussing unwanted sexual experiences led to personal distress or symptomology.

### III. RESULTS

#### **Data Cleaning**

Five-hundred and fifty-two individuals completed the survey on Qualtrics. Due to the number count nature of the Sexual Experiences Survey (SES; Koss, 2007), computation was not appropriate to calculate for missingness. Therefore, different criteria were used to account for missingness, and a 10% cutoff for missing values was utilized, meaning that if a participant's responses did not answer more than 10% of the questions in the study, their data were excluded from analyses. Fifty-one participants failed the attention check and an additional 36 participants had more than 10% missingness and were removed from the analysis. In regard to outliers greater than 3 standard deviations from the mean of each measure, 3 outliers were removed when examining the CSI-4 (examines relationship quality) and an additional 2 outliers were removed when examining the Sexual Assertiveness Questionnaire (SAQ). Additional outliers were removed due to missing more than one value on the measures for satisfaction with life (SWLS), relationship quality (CSI-4), gender roles (TMF), or sexual assertiveness (SAQ). After these outliers were removed, Mahalanobis distance identified no multivariate outliers (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2007), resulting in a final sample of  $N = 455$ .

For measures examining gender roles, sexual assertiveness, relationship quality, and satisfaction with life, missing values were mean-imputed using scores of other items on the scale if the participant only missed one value for each subscale. If participants missed more than two values for a subscale, their data were not included in the analyses. The data indicated no violations of skewness or kurtosis. However, a visual examination of the data's histograms



revealed a bimodal distribution that warranted the use of logistic regression (see Figure 2). In addition, the dataset was examined for assumption violations, and violations were found for assumptions of normality and homoscedasticity. Due to these concerns, the logistic regression based on non-parametric assumptions was utilized.

### **Correlations among Variables**

A correlation matrix of all predictor variables was computed (see Table 4) and revealed that relationship quality was significantly positively correlated with sexual assertiveness. While satisfaction with life was also significantly positively correlated with sexual assertiveness, sexual assertiveness was not correlated with gender roles. In addition, gender roles did not significantly correlate with relationship quality, but gender roles did significantly positively correlate with satisfaction with life.

### **Prevalence Rates**

When examining sexual victimization in the past year using the most severe form of unwanted sexual violence, 31% reported experiencing some form of victimization. For victimization experiences since the age of 14 (e.g., sexual contact, attempted coercion, coercion, attempted rape, and/or rape), 66.6% of participants reported having experienced some type of victimization (e.g., sexual contact, attempted coercion, coercion, attempted rape, and/or rape). For perpetration of sexual violence in the past year, 17.4% indicated that they had perpetrated some form of sexual violence (e.g., sexual contact, attempted coercion, coercion, attempted rape, and/or rape) and 27% of participants reported that they had perpetrated some form of sexual violence since age 14.

For most severe form of sexual violence victimization in the past year 68.8% reported no victimization, 6.2% reported having experienced unwanted sexual contact, 2% reported experiencing attempted sexual coercion, 3.1% reported experiencing sexual coercion, 2.2%

reported experiencing attempted rape, and 17.6% reported experiencing rape. For most severe form of sexual violence victimization experienced since the age of 14 of the, 30.3% reported no victimization, 8.4% reported unwanted sexual contact, 3.3% reported attempted sexual coercion, 7% reported sexual coercion, 5.9% reported attempted rape, and 42% reported rape.

Conversely, when examining perpetration of the most severe form of sexual violence in the past year, 82.4% reported not having perpetrated any acts, 1.5% reported perpetrating sexual contact, 0.4% reported perpetrating sexual coercion, 1.1% reported perpetrating attempted rape, and 14.3% reported perpetrating rape. For perpetration of the most severe form of unwanted sexual violence since the age of 14, 72.3% reported not having perpetrated any acts, 4.6% reported having perpetrated sexual contact, 1.3% reported having perpetrated attempted coercion, 1.1% reported perpetrating sexual coercion, 2.2% reported perpetrating attempted rape, and 17.8% reported perpetrating rape (see Table 3).

Although 42% of participants reported having experienced rape (when described in behavioral terms) since the age of 14, only 25.5% explicitly acknowledged that they had been raped. Victims of sexual violence indicated that their perpetrators were 14.38% only female, 69.69% were only male, and 15.94% were both females and males. Victims reported that 35% of acts of sexual violence occurred within a committed relationship and 55.7% indicated that acts of sexual violence had occurred more than once.

Additionally, 17.8% of participants indicated that they had perpetrated rape (when described in behavioral terms) since the age of 14, but only 3.1% explicitly acknowledged that they had perpetrated rape. Of these sexually perpetrated acts, 12.4% occurred within the context of a committed relationship and 14.8% of participants reported having perpetrated acts of sexual

violence more than once. Perpetrators indicated that their victims were 40.68% only female, 44.07% only male, and 15.25% both female and male.

### **Logistic Regression Analyses**

Stepwise logistic regressions were used to test the contributions of gender roles, sexual assertiveness, and the interaction between gender roles and sexual assertiveness in predicting the likelihood that respondents had experienced sexual victimization and perpetration outcomes (sexual victimization in the past year, sexual victimization since the age of 14, sexual perpetration in the past year, and sexual perpetration since the age of 14). Independent variables were not mean-centered due to the nature of the regression analysis. Although we considered the tertiary method of classifying the data (using the bottom and upper third), the nature of the scale (e.g., victim vs. non-victim, perpetrator vs. non-perpetrator) led to the use of dichotomized variables based on the research questions of interest.

### **Sexual Victimization in the Past Year**

For the first logistic analysis, gender roles, sexual assertiveness, and the interaction term (gender roles x sexual assertiveness) were entered as predictors in a stepwise fashion. Victim or non-victim status in the past year was entered as the dependent variable. The last step of the model which included the interaction term was not significant, Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 1.921$ ,  $p = 0.166$ , OR = 0.994, so results will emphasize the earlier step of the model with only the two main predictors (Hayes, 2013). The model accurately identified 70% of victims for sexual victimization in the past year. Gender roles was a significant predictor of victim status in the past year, Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 7.826$ ,  $p = 0.005$ , OR = 1.24, indicating that femininity (as indicated by higher scores on the gender roles measure) was associated with victim status. In addition, sexual assertiveness was a significant predictor of victim status in the past year, Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 46.074$ ,  $p$

< 0.001, OR = 0.956, such that lower levels of sexual assertiveness predicted greater likelihood for victim status.

### **Sexual Victimization since the Age of 14**

For the second logistic analysis, gender roles, sexual assertiveness, and the interaction term (gender roles x sexual assertiveness) were entered as predictors while the victim or non-victim status for sexual victimization acts that occurred since age 14 was entered as the dependent variable. Similar to sexual victimization acts in the past year, there was no significant interaction between gender roles and sexual assertiveness on victim status, Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 2.021$ ,  $p = .155$ , OR = 0.994. When utilizing the second step of the model which only included the two predictor terms of gender roles and sexual assertiveness, there was a significant relationship between gender roles and victim status, Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 6.226$ ,  $p = 0.013$ , OR = 1.191, and a significant relationship between sexual assertiveness and victim status, Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 6.29$ ,  $p = 0.012$ , OR = 0.985. The model accurately identified 69.2% of victims for sexual victimization since age 14. Results indicate that greater adherence to femininity, as indicated by higher gender role scores, predicted a higher likelihood for victim status, and that lower levels of sexual assertiveness predicted greater likelihood for victim status.

### **Sexual Perpetration in the Past Year**

For the third logistic regression, gender roles, sexual assertiveness, and the interaction term (gender roles x sexual assertiveness) were entered as predictors. Perpetrator or non-perpetrator status for sexual perpetration experiences that have occurred in the past year was entered as the dependent variable. There was no significant interaction between gender roles and sexual assertiveness on perpetrator status, Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 1.404$ ,  $p = .236$ , OR = 0.993, so the second step of the model that included only the two predictor terms will be discussed. The model accurately identified 80.6% of perpetrators for sexual perpetration in the past year. When only

gender roles and sexual assertiveness were included as predictors in the model, both variables predicted perpetrator status. Gender roles predicted perpetrator status, Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 6.239$ ,  $p = .012$ , OR = 1.275. Additionally, sexual assertiveness significantly predicted perpetrator status, Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 48.133$ ,  $p < .001$ , OR = 0.939, indicating that lower levels of sexual assertiveness predicted greater likelihood for perpetrator status.

#### **Sexual Perpetration since the Age of 14**

For the last logistic regression, gender roles, sexual assertiveness, and the interaction term (gender roles x sexual assertiveness) were entered as predictors. Perpetrator or non-perpetrator status for sexual perpetration experiences that have occurred since age 14 was entered as the dependent variable. The interaction term, Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 2.578$ ,  $p = .108$ , OR = 0.992, did not account for significant variance in the prediction of perpetrator status for sexual perpetration acts since age 14. As such, the earlier step of the model was examined. The model accurately identified 72.1% of perpetrators for sexual perpetration since age 14. Gender roles, Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 5.39$ ,  $p = .02$ , OR = 1.202, as well as sexual assertiveness, Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 45.028$ ,  $p < 0.001$ , OR = 0.954, were significant predictors of perpetrator status for sexual perpetration experiences since age 14. Results indicate that femininity was associated with greater likelihood for perpetrator status and that lower levels of sexual assertiveness are associated with greater odds for perpetrator status.

#### IV. DISCUSSION

Present findings indicate that the prevalence of sexual violence is comparable, if not greater, for LGBTQ individuals compared to their heteronormative peers, as 30.9% of participants reported having experienced some form of sexual violence (e.g., sexual contact, attempted coercion, coercion, attempted rape, rape) in the past year, with 17.7% reported having experienced rape. When examining acts of sexual violence for this sample of LGBTQ individuals that have occurred since the age of 14, 66.4% of participants reported having experienced some form of unwanted sexual contact, and 41.8% of individuals reported having experienced rape. In general, prevalence rates for sexual violence in the present study are consistent with prior reports indicating lifetime sexual assault ranging from 15.6% to 85% for lesbian or bisexual women and 11.8% to 54% for gay or bisexual men (Rothman, Exner, & Baughman, 2011). Relative to heterosexual women, sexual minority women have also been found to experience all forms of victimization (e.g., child sexual assault, adult sexual assault, child physical abuse, adult physical abuse) (Andersen, Hughes, Zou, & Wilsnack, 2014).

Gender roles, in particular femininity, was found to predict sexual victimization status for both acts of sexual violence that had occurred within the past year and since the age of 14. Women who endorsed high levels of femininity were also more likely to report having experienced sexual victimization (e.g., intercourse and petting) by force or threat as well as sexual harassment by misuse of authority (e.g., from a boss) (Kury, Chouaf, Obergfell-Fuchs, & Woessner, 2004). Kury and colleagues (2004) suggest that traditional gender role beliefs may contribute to sexual violence as individuals may have internalized a specific gender role and

distorted beliefs related to rape may critically bias both victims and perpetrators. Subscribing to traditional gender role beliefs may influence individuals to act in the manner aligned with their identified gender role, so that an individual who internalizes a feminine gender role may be passive and submissive. Additionally, Lehavot, Molina, and Simoni (2012) have also noted that women who identify as femme were more likely to report having experienced forced sex as an adult than women who identified as butch or otherwise. Femme refers to a feminine gender identity including aspects of appearance, emotional expression, and gender role. It may be that the femme gender role may increase sexual victimization risk due to how the feminine appearance may elicit greater interest from perpetrators, and that women who identify as femme are more likely to be bisexual, which increases risk due to greater exposure to sexual/dating interactions with men.

Sexual assertiveness also predicted sexual victimization status for the past year and since the age of 14. This finding is consistent with previous reports that sexual assertiveness is associated with lower likelihood of sexual assault victimization (Greene & Navarro, 1998; Katz, May, Sorensen, & DeTosta, 2010; Livingston, Testa, & VanZile-Tamsen, 2007). Moreover, it is also been observed that women who had experienced sexual victimization by an intimate partner report lower levels of sexual refusal assertiveness than non-victimized women (Testa, VanZile-Tamsen, & Livingston, 2007). Being able to refuse unwanted sex may be critical in reducing victimization risk as VanZile-Tamsen, Testa, and Livingston (2005) found that women are less likely to appraise risk of victimization (and are less likely to utilize direct verbal resistance) when it occurs in the context of close interpersonal relationships with partners and friends than acquaintances, so that refusal skills are necessary in negotiating these instances of unwanted sex.

Surprisingly, gender roles significantly predicted perpetration status for acts of sexual violence within the past year and since the age of 14. Higher scores on the gender role measure indicated greater identification with the femininity gender role, and higher scores were associated with a greater likelihood of being a perpetrator. Russell and Oswald (2001) observed heterosexual women who engaged in sexual coercion reported higher scores in femininity than women who did not engage in sexual coercion. Specifically, sexually coercive women utilized ludic relationship strategies, such as being in control of the relationship, game-playing, being noncommitted, and manipulative toward love. It may be that as Russell and Oswald (2001) note, women who are sexually coercive use an embellished form of femininity in which they believe that their coercive strategies are seductive instead of coercive.

Sexual assertiveness predicted perpetration status for acts within the past year and since the age of 14. Unexpectedly, it was lower levels of sexual assertiveness that was found to predict perpetration status. As to date, no previous studies have examined the role of sexual assertiveness on sexual perpetration. However, when examining communication strategies, as assessed within the sexual assertiveness measure, Loh & Gidycz (2006) found that men who reported using physically aggressive conflict strategies were four times more likely to have a history of sexual aggression compared to men who used reasoning conflict strategies. Male sexual violence perpetrators were also more likely to misperceive women's sexual intentions compared to non-perpetrators (Abbey, McAuslan, Zawacki, Clinton, & Buck, 2001). Interviews with perpetrators who had engaged in multiple acts of sexual offending revealed that 92% did not intend to sexually assault their victims and were unable to identify how the incidents had progressed to sexual assault (da Silva, Woodhams, & Harksin, 2018). Moreover, 24% of these perpetrators indicated that they did not have insight into their thoughts during these acts. LBGTO



individuals in the present sample may have similarly misperceived their partner's sexual intentions and lacked insight regarding the progression of sexual encounters that led to sexual assault. Future efforts should examine these elements.

Contrary to the hypothesized model, the interaction between gender roles and sexual assertiveness was not predictive of sexual victimization or perpetration. While the sexual assertiveness and victimization/perpetration measures employed explicit behaviors to measure these constructs (e.g., "I give in and kiss if my partner pressures me, even if I already said no"), the gender role measure involved asking participants to reveal self-perceptions of gender roles (e.g., "traditionally, my attitudes and beliefs would be considered as...") without specific behavioral anchors. The lack of interaction may be due to how gender role was assessed. LGBTQ individuals may not define gender roles or proscribe to gender roles the way that in which heteronormative individuals do (Cardell, Finn, & Marecek, 1981; Shechory & Ziv, 2007). That is, participant definitions of what constitutes masculinity and femininity may not be congruent with traditional concepts of these constructs. While masculinity is traditionally associated with sexual assertiveness, participants may have viewed femininity as also incorporating high levels of sexual assertiveness. Current measures of masculinity and femininity are defined as they were at their creation in contrast to how these concepts have evolved over time (Good, Borst, & Wallace, 1994; Hoffman & Borders, 2001). Rather than employing measures that ask participants to rate themselves on certain global personality characteristics, future research might benefit by focusing on specific behaviors that reflect contemporary notions of femininity and masculinity.

### **Strengths and Limitations**

Several limitations of the present study should be noted. Items on the SES for both victimization and perpetration (Koss et al., 2006; Koss et al., 2007) were modified to account for

non-heteronormative participants and their sexual experiences. The original SES was validated and normed on a largely heterosexual sample. Given the elevated prevalence rates of sexual violence among non-heterosexual individuals, there is a need to develop victimization measures that accurately capture the experiences of all individuals. In the present sample, approximately two-thirds of participants identified as predominantly bisexual, with less representation across other gender/sexual identities. It would be advantageous to obtain more comprehensive representation of all gender/sexual identities in future studies. Moreover, the order of measures administration may have primed participants to respond in certain ways. However, it should be noted that the gender role measure was presented before the sexual assertiveness measure as prior research has found that positively framed messages lead to higher ratings (Buda & Zhang, 2000), and the gender role measure contains relatively neutral items whereas the sexual assertiveness measure can be potentially construed as negative if participants endorse many items related to lower levels of sexual assertiveness.

### **Directions for Future Research**

Current results suggest that gender roles and sexual assertiveness may predict sexual victimization and perpetration status for acts of sexual violence in LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly bisexual individuals. Replication studies should be conducted to further understand sexual violence risk factors in this population. Findings from this study have may serve to inform future prevention and intervention programs (e.g., high school sexual education classes, bystander intervention programs, university-administered consent programs), particularly those taught in high school sexual education classes or at college campuses, aimed at decreasing risk for sexual victimization and helping young adults navigate sexual interactions successfully.

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## APPENDIX

Table 1- Descriptive Statistics of Participants

*Descriptive Statistics of Participants (n = 455)*

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18-24	75	16.5%
25-34	252	55.4%
35-44	75	16.5%
45-54	34	7.5%
55-64	17	3.7%
65+	2	0.4%
Race/Ethnicity	Frequency	Percentage
Black/African American	81	17.8%
White/Non-Hispanic	301	66.2%
Hispanic/Latino/a	32	7.0%
Asian	20	4.4%
Pacific Islander	1	0.2%
Native American Indian	4	0.9%
Multiracial	14	3.1%
Other	2	0.4%
Socioeconomic Status	Frequency	Percentage
Working Poor	54	11.9%
Working Class	147	32.3%
Lower Middle Class	158	34.7%
Upper Middle Class	93	20.4%
Upper Class	3	0.7%
Education	Frequency	Percentage
Less than a high school diploma	2	0.4%
GED	12	2.6%
High school diploma	27	5.9%
Some college or technical school, no degree	106	23.3%
Associate degree (e.g., AA, AS)	61	13.4%
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BA, BS)	180	39.6%
Master's degree (e.g., MA, MS, MEd)	48	10.5%
Professional degree (e.g., MD, DDS, DVM)	13	2.9%
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, EdD)	6	1.3%
Employment Status	Frequency	Percentage
Full time (40 or more hours per week)	282	62.4%
Part-time (up to 39 hours per week)	83	18.4%
Unemployed or laid off	25	5.5%
Homemaker	19	4.2%
Disabled (on disability) or on home caregiver medical leave	12	2.7%
Full-time student	26	5.8%
Retired	5	1.1%
Sexual Orientation	Frequency	Percentage
Straight/gay	4	0.9%

Straight/gay/bisexual	1	0.2%
Straight/gay/bisexual/transgender	1	0.2%
Straight/gay/transgender	1	0.2%
Straight/bisexual	38	8.4%
Straight/transgender	2	0.4%
Gay	89	19.6%
Gay/Lesbian	6	1.3%
Gay/Lesbian/Transgender	1	0.2%
Gay/Bisexual	2	0.4%
Gay/Bisexual/Transgender	2	0.4%
Lesbian	44	9.7%
Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender	1	0.2%
Bisexual	238	52.3%
Bisexual/Transgender	15	3.3%
Transgender, transsexual, or gender non-conforming	10	2.2%
<b>Gender Identity</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Transgender or transsexual, male to female	8	24.2%
Transgender or transsexual, female to male	9	27.3%
Gender non-conforming	16	48.5%
<b>Relationship Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Single	174	38.3%
Member of unmarried couple	85	18.7%
Married, or in a domestic partnership	166	36.6%
Separated	7	1.5%
Divorced	21	4.6%
Widowed	1	0.2%



Table 2 - Means and Standard Deviations on Predictor Variables

*Means and Standard Deviations on Predictor Variables.*

Measure	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
Gender Roles (TMF)	455	4.33	1.48
Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS)	453	22.64	7.69
Relationship Quality (CSI-4)	307	15.74	4.07
Sexual Assertiveness Questionnaire (SAQ)	455	96.22	17.36
Communication of Satisfaction	455	42.72	9.38
Refusal of Unwanted Sex	455	25.29	6.79
Sexual Communication	455	28.21	7.17

Table 3 - Victimization and Perpetration Experiences

*Victimization and Perpetration Experiences.*

Victimization in the Past Year	Frequency	Percentage
Non-Victim	313	68.8%
Sexual Contact	28	6.2%
Attempted Coercion	9	2.0%
Coercion	14	3.1%
Attempted Rape	10	2.2%
Rape	80	17.6%
Victimization since the Age of 14	Frequency	Percentage
Non-Victim	138	30.3%
Sexual Contact	38	8.4%
Attempted Coercion	15	3.3%
Coercion	32	7.0%
Attempted Rape	27	5.9%
Rape	191	42%
Perpetration in the Past Year	Frequency	Percentage
Non-Perpetrator	375	82.4%
Sexual Contact	7	1.5%
Coercion	2	0.4%
Attempted Rape	5	1.1%
Rape	65	14.3%
Perpetration since the Age of 14	Frequency	Percentage
Non-Perpetrator	329	72.3%
Sexual Contact	21	4.6%
Attempted Coercion	6	1.3%
Coercion	5	1.1%
Attempted Rape	10	2.2%
Rape	81	17.8%

Table 4 - Correlations Matrix Among Predictor Variables

*Correlations Matrix Among Predictor Variables*

Variable	1	2	3	4
1. Sexual Assertiveness (SAQ)	-			
2. Relationship Quality (CSI-4)	0.429**	-		
3. Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS)	0.212**	0.53**	-	
4. Gender Roles (TMF)	0.038	0.066	0.146**	-

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

Table 5 - Logistic Regression Analysis Predicting Victim/Perpetrator Status from Gender Roles and Sexual Assertiveness

*Logistic Regression Analysis Predicting Victim/Perpetrator Status from Gender Roles and Sexual Assertiveness*

Victim Status in the Past Year				
Predictor	<u>B</u>	<u>Wald <math>\chi^2</math></u>	<u>p</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>
Gender Roles	0.215	7.826	.005*	1.24
Sexual Assertiveness	-0.045	46.074	<.001*	0.956
Test		$\chi^2$	df	p
Overall model evaluation				
Likelihood ratio test		57.861	2	<.0001*
Goodness-of-fit test				
Hosmer & Lemeshow		17.359	8	0.027
Victim Status since the Age of 14				
Predictor	<u>B</u>	<u>Wald <math>\chi^2</math></u>	<u>p</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>
Gender Roles	0.175	6.226	.013*	1.191
Sexual Assertiveness	-0.015	6.29	.012*	0.985
Test		$\chi^2$	df	p
Overall model evaluation				
Likelihood ratio test		12.364	2	.002
Goodness-of-fit test				
Hosmer & Lemeshow		7.558	8	.478
Perpetrator Status in the Past Year				
Predictor	<u>B</u>	<u>Wald <math>\chi^2</math></u>	<u>p</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>
Gender Roles	0.243	6.239	.012*	1.275
Sexual Assertiveness	-0.063	48.133	<.001*	0.939
Test		$\chi^2$	df	p
Overall model evaluation				
Likelihood ratio test		64.642	3	<.001*
Goodness-of-fit test				
Hosmer & Lemeshow		22.45	8	.004
Perpetrator Status since the Age of 14				
Predictor	<u>B</u>	<u>Wald <math>\chi^2</math></u>	<u>p</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>
Gender Roles	0.184	5.39	.02*	1.202
Sexual Assertiveness	-0.047	45.028	<.001*	0.954
Test		$\chi^2$	df	p
Overall model evaluation				
Likelihood ratio test		55.212	2	<.001*
Goodness-of-fit test				
Hosmer & Lemeshow		17.063	8	.029

\* indicates statistical significance

Table 6 - Logistic Regression Predicting Victim/Perpetrator Status from Gender Roles, Sexual Assertiveness, and the Interaction between Gender Roles and Sexual Assertiveness

*Logistic Regression Predicting Victim/Perpetrator Status from Gender Roles, Sexual Assertiveness, and the Interaction between Gender Roles and Sexual Assertiveness*

Victim Status in the Past Year				
Predictor	<u>B</u>	<u>Wald <math>\chi^2</math></u>	<u>p</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>
Gender Roles	0.807	3.432	.064	2.241
Sexual Assertiveness	-0.018	0.825	.364	0.982
Gender Roles x Assertiveness	-0.006	1.921	.166	0.994
Test		$\chi^2$	df	P
Overall model evaluation				
Likelihood ratio test		59.804	3	<.001*
Goodness-of-fit test				
Hosmer & Lemeshow		7.543	8	.479
Victim Status since the Age of 14				
Predictor	<u>B</u>	<u>Wald <math>\chi^2</math></u>	<u>p</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>
Gender Roles	0.755	3.31	.069	2.129
Sexual Assertiveness	0.009	0.233	.629	1.009
Gender Roles x Assertiveness	-0.006	2.021	.155	0.994
Test		$\chi^2$	df	p
Overall model evaluation				
Likelihood ratio test		14.388	3	.002
Goodness-of-fit test				
Hosmer & Lemeshow		10.864	8	.21
Perpetrator Status in the Past Year				
Predictor	<u>B</u>	<u>Wald <math>\chi^2</math></u>	<u>p</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>
Gender Roles	0.872	2.588	.108	2.391
Sexual Assertiveness	-0.032	1.4	.237	0.968
Gender Roles x Assertiveness	-0.007	1.404	.236	0.993
Test		$\chi^2$	df	P
Overall model evaluation				
Likelihood ratio test		66.065	3	<.001*
Goodness-of-fit test				
Hosmer & Lemeshow		14.463	8	.07
Perpetrator Status since the Age of 14				
Predictor	<u>B</u>	<u>Wald <math>\chi^2</math></u>	<u>p</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>
Gender Roles	0.891	3.936	.047*	2.437
Sexual Assertiveness	-0.015	0.484	.487	0.985
Gender Roles x Assertiveness	-0.008	2.578	.108	0.992

Test	$\chi^2$	df	<i>p</i>
Overall model evaluation			
Likelihood ratio test	57.828	3	<.001*
Goodness-of-fit test			
Hosmer & Lemeshow	10.58	8	.227

\* indicates statistical significance

Figure 1 - Moderation Model

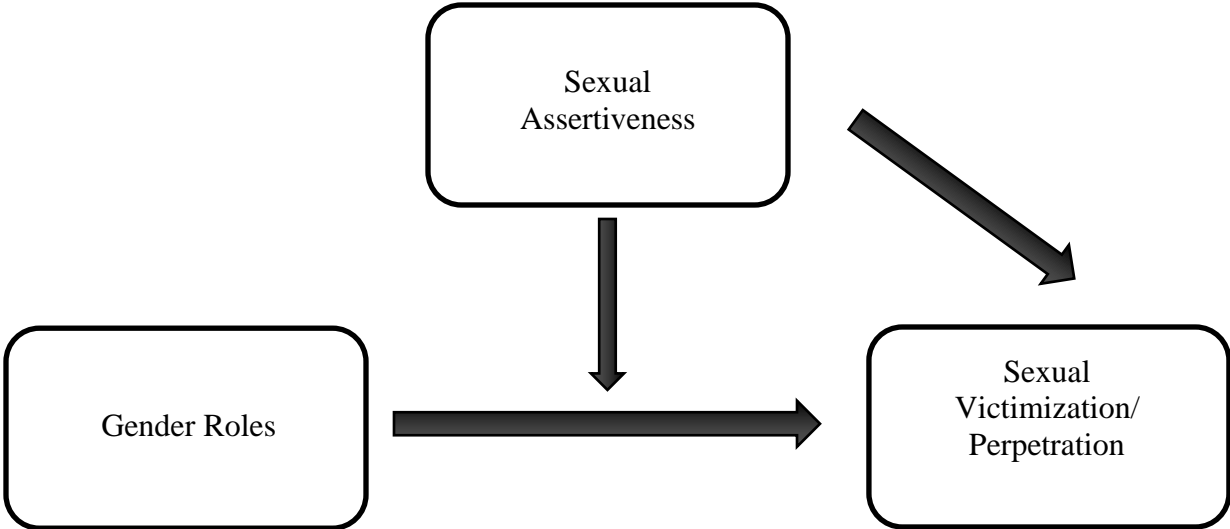
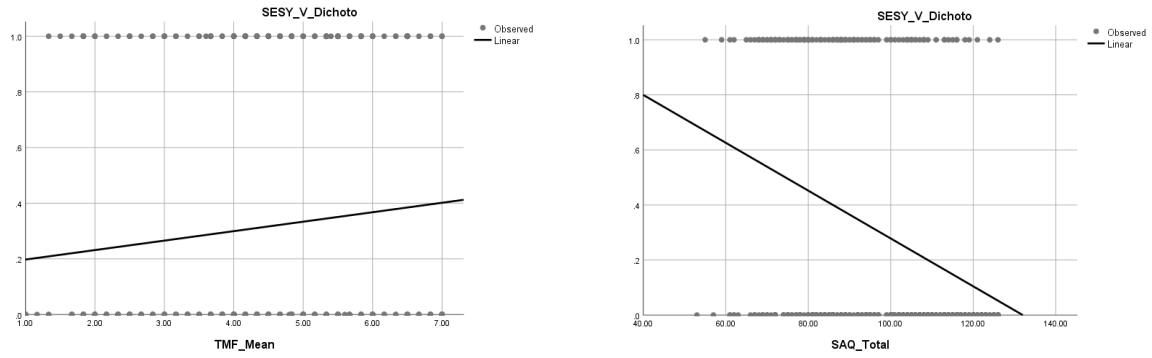
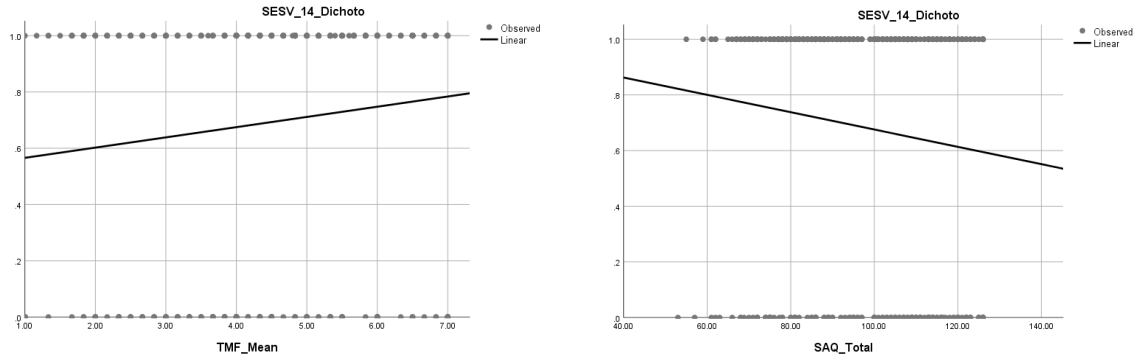


Figure 2 - Gender Role and Sexual Assertiveness Main Effects on Victimization



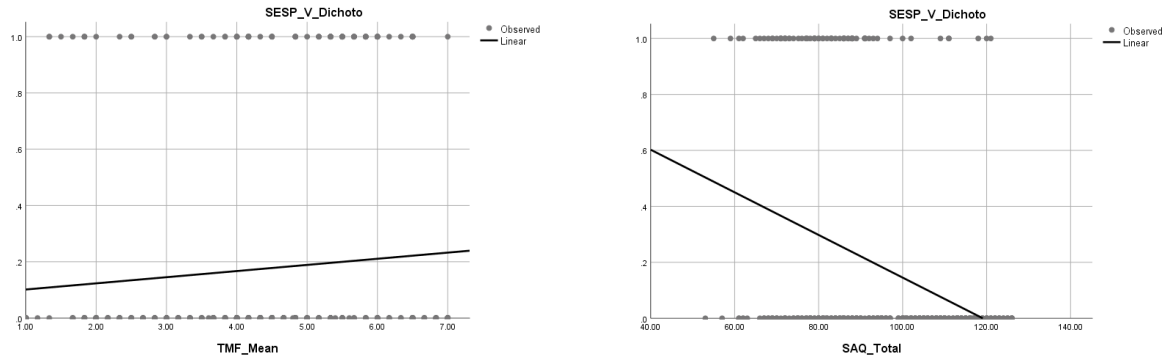
2a. Gender Role and Sexual Assertiveness Main Effects on Victimization in Last Year



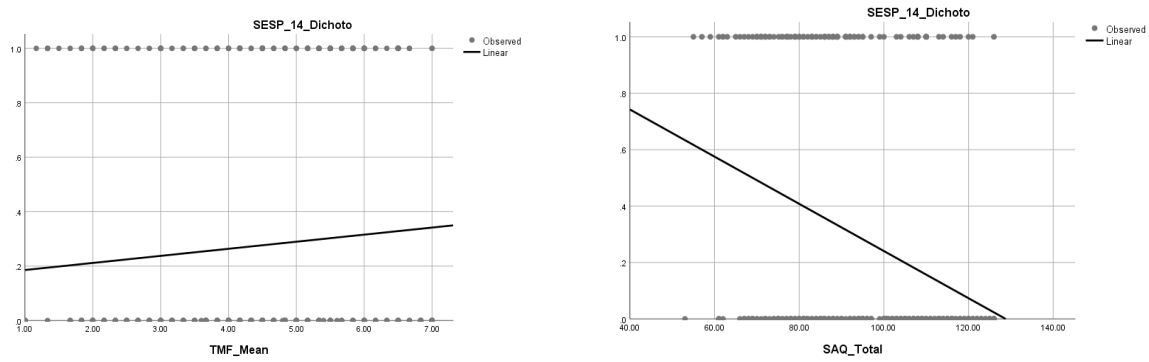
2b. Gender Role and Sexual Assertiveness Main Effects on Victimization Since Age 14



Figure 3 - Gender Role and Sexual Assertiveness Main Effects on Perpetration

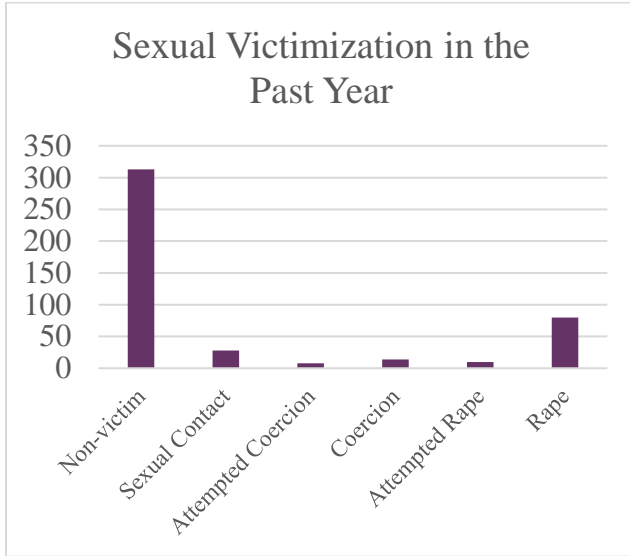


3a. Gender Role and Sexual Assertiveness Main Effects on Perpetration in Last Year

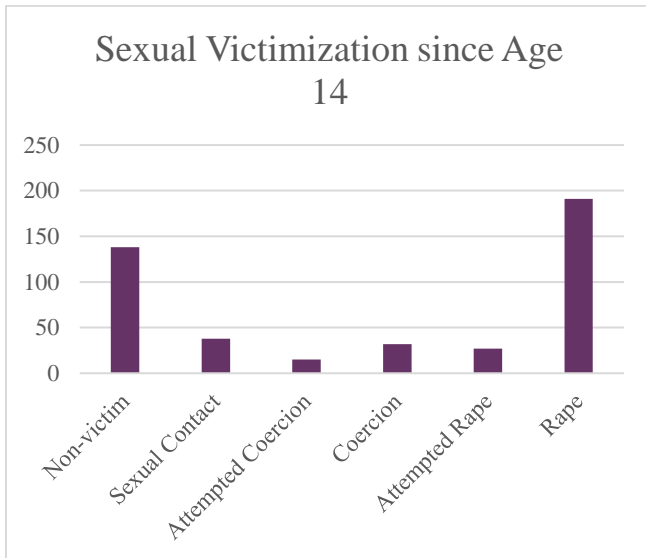


3b. Gender Role and Sexual Assertiveness Main Effects on Perpetration Since Age 14

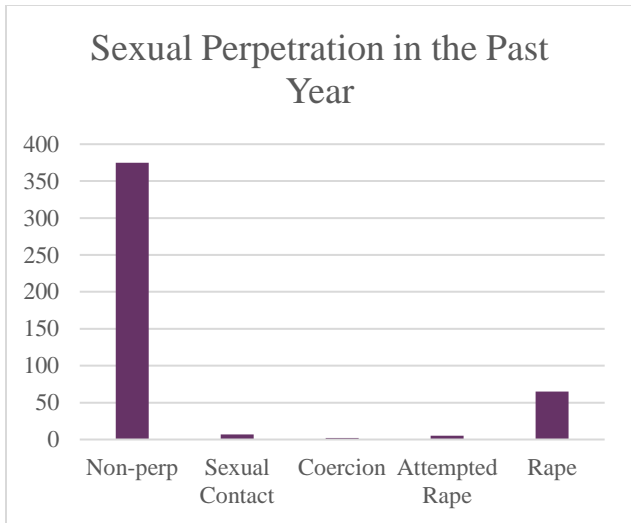
Figure 4 - Victimization and Perpetration



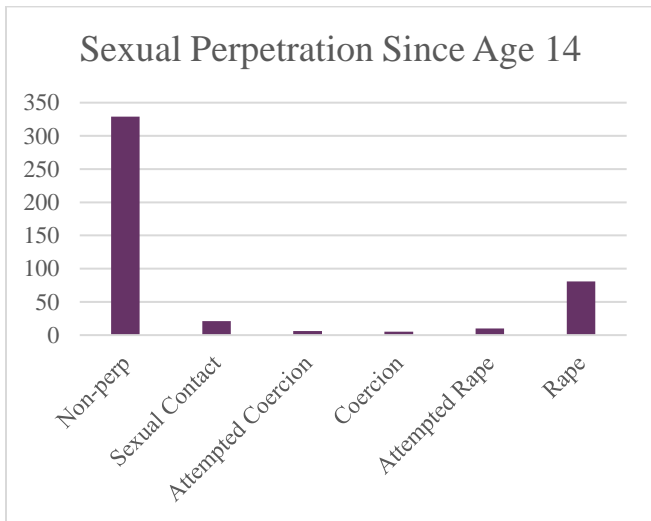
4a – Sexual Victimization in the Past Year



4b – Sexual Victimization Since Age 14



4c – Sexual Perpetration in the Past Year



4d – Sexual Perpetration Since Age 14

## The Sexual Experiences Survey (SES-SFV)

The following questions concern sexual experiences that you may have had that were unwanted. We know that these are personal questions, so we do not ask your name or other identifying information. Your information is completely confidential. We hope that this helps you to feel comfortable answering each question honestly. Place a check mark in the box showing the number of times each experience has happened to you. If several experiences occurred on the same occasion--for example, if one night someone told you some lies and had sex with you when you were drunk, you would check both boxes a and c. The past 12 months refers to the past year going back from today. Since age 14 refers to your life starting on your 14th birthday and stopping one year ago from today.

<b>Sexual Experiences</b>	<b>How many times in the past 12 months?</b>	<b>How many times since age 14?</b>
<p><b>1</b> Someone fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against the private areas of my body (lips, breast/chest, crotch or butt) or removed some of my clothes without my consent (<i>but did not attempt sexual penetration</i>) by:</p> <p>a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn't want to.</p> <p>b. Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn't want to.</p> <p>c. Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.</p> <p>d. Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me.</p> <p>e. Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon.</p>	<p>0 1 2 3+</p>	<p>0 1 2 3+</p>
<p><b>2</b> Someone had oral sex with me or made me have oral sex with them without my consent by:</p> <p>a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn't want to.</p> <p>b. Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn't want to.</p> <p>c. Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.</p> <p>d. Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me.</p>	<p>0 1 2 3+</p>	<p>0 1 2 3+</p>

e. Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon.

**How many times in the past 12 months?**      **How many times since age 14?**

3 **If you are a male, check box and skip to item 4**

**A man put his penis into my vagina, or someone inserted fingers or objects without my consent by:**      0 1 2 3+      0 1 2 3+

a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn't want to.

b. Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn't want to.

c. Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.

d. Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me.

e. Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon.

4 **A man put his penis into my butt, or someone inserted fingers or objects without my consent by:**      0 1 2 3+      0 1 2 3+

a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn't want to.

b. Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn't want to.

c. Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.

d. Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me.

e. Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon.

5 **Even though it didn't happen, someone TRIED to have oral sex with me, or make me have oral sex with them without my consent by:**      0 1 2 3+      0 1 2 3+

a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn't want to.

b. Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn't want to.

c. Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.

d. Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me.

e. Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon.

**How many times in the past 12 months?**      **How many times since age 14?**

**If you are male, check this box and skip to item 7.**

**6 Even though it didn't happen, a man TRIED to put his penis into my vagina, or someone tried to stick in fingers or objects without my consent by:**      0 1 2 3+      0 1 2 3+

a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn't want to.

b. Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn't want to.

c. Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.

d. Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me.

e. Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon.

**7 Even though it didn't happen, a man TRIED to put his penis into my butt, or someone tried to stick in objects or fingers without my consent by:**      0 1 2 3+      0 1 2 3+

a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn't want to.

b. Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn't want to.

c. Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.

d. Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me.

e. Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon.

8. I am: Female Male My age is \_\_\_\_\_ years and \_\_\_\_\_ months.

9. Did any of the experiences described in this survey happen to you 1 or more times? Yes No  
What was the sex of the person or persons who did them to you?

Female only

Male only

Both females and males

I reported no experiences

10. Have you ever been raped? Yes No

**Sexual Perpetration Survey (SES-SFP)**

The following questions concern sexual experiences. We know these are personal questions, so we do not ask your name or other identifying information. Your information is completely confidential. We hope this helps you to feel comfortable answering each question honestly. Place a check mark in the box showing the number of times each experience has happened. If several experiences occurred on the same occasion--for example, if one night you told some lies and had sex with someone who was drunk, you would check both boxes a and c. The past 12 months refers to the past year going back from today. Since age 14 refers to your life starting on your 14th birthday and stopping one year ago from today.

Sexual Experiences	How many times in the past 12 months?	How many times since age 14?
<b>1 I fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against the private areas of someone’s body (lips, breast/chest, crotch or butt) or removed some of their clothes without their consent (but did not attempt sexual penetration) by:</b>	0 1 2 3+	0 1 2 3+
a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about them, making promises about the future I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring them after they said they didn’t want to.		
b. Showing displeasure, criticizing their sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force after they said they didn’t want to.		
c. Taking advantage when they were too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.		
d. Threatening to physically harm them or someone close to them.		
e. Using force, for example holding them down with my body weight, pinning their arms, or having a weapon.		
<b>2 I had oral sex with someone or had someone perform oral sex on me without their consent by:</b>	0 1 2 3+	0 1 2 3+
a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about them, making promises about the future I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring them after they said they didn’t want to.		
b. Showing displeasure, criticizing their sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force after they said they didn’t want to.		
c. Taking advantage when they were too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.		
d. Threatening to physically harm them or someone close to them.		



e. Using force, for example holding them down with my body weight, pinning their arms, or having a weapon.

**How many times in the past 12 months?**      **How many times since age 14?**

**3 I put my penis (men only) or I put my fingers or objects (all respondents) into a woman's vagina without her consent by:**

0 1 2 3+      0 1 2 3+

a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about them, making promises about the future I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring them after they said they didn't want to.

b. Showing displeasure, criticizing their sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force after they said they didn't want to.

c. Taking advantage when they were too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.

d. Threatening to physically harm them or someone close to them.

e. Using force, for example holding them down with my body weight, pinning their arms, or having a weapon.

**4 I put in my penis (men only) or I put my fingers or objects (all respondents) into someone's butt without their consent by:**

0 1 2 3+      0 1 2 3+

a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about them, making promises about the future I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring them after they said they didn't want to.

b. Showing displeasure, criticizing their sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force after they said they didn't want to.

c. Taking advantage when they were too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.

d. Threatening to physically harm them or someone close to them.

e. Using force, for example holding them down with my body weight, pinning their arms, or having a weapon.

**5 Even though it did not happen, I TRIED to have oral sex with someone or make them have oral sex with me without their consent by:**

0 1 2 3+      0 1 2 3+

a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about them, making promises about the future I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring them after they said they didn't want to.

b. Showing displeasure, criticizing their sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force after they said they didn't want to.

c. Taking advantage when they were too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.

d. Threatening to physically harm them or someone close to them.

- e. Using force, for example holding them down with my body weight, pinning their arms, or having a weapon.

**How many times in the past 12 months?**      **How many times since age 14?**

**6 Even though it did not happen, I TRIED put in my penis (men only) or I tried to put my fingers or objects (all respondents) into a woman's vagina without their consent by:**      0 1 2 3+      0 1 2 3+

a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about them, making promises about the future I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring them after they said they didn't want to.

b. Showing displeasure, criticizing their sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force after they said they didn't want to.

c. Taking advantage when they were too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.

d. Threatening to physically harm them or someone close to them.

- e. Using force, for example holding them down with my body weight, pinning their arms, or having a weapon.

**7 Even though it did not happen, I TRIED to put in my penis (men only) or I tried to put my fingers or objects (all respondents) into someone's butt without their consent by:**      0 1 2 3+      0 1 2 3+

a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about them, making promises about the future I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring them after they said they didn't want to.

b. Showing displeasure, criticizing their sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force after they said they didn't want to.

c. Taking advantage when they were too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.

d. Threatening to physically harm them or someone close to them.

- e. Using force, for example holding them down with my body weight, pinning their arms, or having a weapon.

8. I am: Female Male My age is \_\_\_\_\_ years and \_\_\_\_\_ months.

9. Did you do any of the acts described in this survey 1 or more times? Yes No  
If yes, what was the sex of the person or persons to whom you did them?

- Female only
- Male only
- Both females and males
- I reported no experiences

10. Do you think you may have you ever raped someone? Yes No

**Sexual Assertiveness Questionnaire (SAQ)**

1. I feel uncomfortable telling my partner what feels good. (R)

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

2. I feel uncomfortable talking during sex. (R)

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

3. I am open with my partner about my sexual needs.

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

4. I let my partner know if I want to have sex.

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

5. I feel shy when it comes to sex. (R)

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

6. I approach my partner for sex when I desire it.

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

7. I begin sex with my partner if I want to.

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

8. It is easy for me to discuss sex with my partner.

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

9. I refuse to have sex if I don't want to.

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

10. I find myself having sex when I do not really want it. (R)

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

11. I give in and kiss if my partner pressures me, even if I already said no. (R)

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

12. I have sex if my partner wants me to, even if I don't want to. (R)

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

13. It is easy for me to say no if I don't want to have sex.

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

14. I would ask my partner about his or her risk of HIV.

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

15. I would ask my partner if he or she has had sex with someone who shoots drugs with needles.

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

16. I ask my partner if he or she has practiced safe sex with other partners.

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

17. I ask my partners about their sexual history.

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

18. I ask my partners whether they have ever had a sexually transmitted infection=disease.

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*strongly disagree*

*strongly agree*

*Note.* R = Item was reverse-coded.

### Traditional Masculinity-Femininity (TMF) Scale

1. I consider myself as...

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Totally masculine*

*totally feminine*

2. Ideally, I would like to be...

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Totally masculine*

*totally feminine*

3. Traditionally, my interests would be considered as...

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Totally masculine*

*totally feminine*

4. Traditionally, my attitudes and beliefs would be considered as...

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Totally masculine*

*totally feminine*

5. Traditionally, my behavior would be considered as...

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Totally masculine*

*totally feminine*

6. Traditionally, my outer appearance would be considered as...

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Totally masculine*

*totally feminine*

### Satisfaction With Life Scale (SWLS)

Below are five statements that you may agree or disagree with. Using the 1 - 7 scale below, indicate your agreement with each item by placing the appropriate number on the line preceding that item. Please be open and honest in your responding.

- 7 - Strongly agree
- 6 - Agree
- 5 - Slightly agree
- 4 - Neither agree nor disagree
- 3 - Slightly disagree
- 2 - Disagree
- 1 - Strongly disagree

\_\_\_\_\_ In most ways my life is close to my ideal.

\_\_\_\_\_ The conditions of my life are excellent.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am satisfied with my life.

\_\_\_\_\_ So far I have gotten the important things I want in life.

\_\_\_\_\_ If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing.

## VITA

### LAVINA Y. HO

#### EDUCATION

- M.A.           **The University of Mississippi (2015-2019)**  
*Clinical Psychology*  
Thesis Title: Gender Roles, Sexual Assertiveness, and Sexual Coercion in LGBTQ Individuals  
Thesis Chair: Alan M. Gross, Ph.D.
- M.A.           **Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg (2012-2014)**  
*Applied Clinical Psychology*  
GPA: 3.9  
Supervised Clinical Hours: 700
- B.A.           **The University of California, Irvine (2008-2012)**  
Major: Cognitive Sciences  
Major: Anthropology, Certificate in Global Studies  
GPA: 3.797

#### PUBLICATIONS

- Patihis, L., **Ho, L.Y.**, Loftus, E.F., & Herrera, M.E. (2018). Memory experts' beliefs about repressed memory. *Memory*. doi: 10.1080/09658211.2018.1532521
- Gross, A.M. & **Ho, L.Y.** (2016). Understanding College Sexual Assault Survivors Beyond Victimhood [Review of the book *Campus Sexual Assault: College Women Respond*, by L.J. Germain]. *PsycCRITIQUES*, 61(35). doi: 10.1037/a0040503
- Harrison, M.A., Murphy, E.A., **Ho, L.Y.**, Zambrana, A.L., & Bowers, T.G. (2015). Female serial killers in the United States: Means, motives, and makings. *The Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology*. doi: 10.1080/14789949.2015.1007516
- Patihis, L., Lilienfeld, S.O., **Ho, L.Y.**, & Loftus, E.L. (2014). Unconscious repressed memory is scientifically questionable. *Psychological Science*, 25,



1967–1968. doi: 10.1177/0956797614547365

Sabina, C., & **Ho, L.Y.** (2014). Campus and college victim responses to sexual assault and dating violence: Disclosure, service utilization, and service provision. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 15*, 201-226. doi: 10.1177/1524838014521322

Patihis, L., **Ho, L.Y.**, Tingen, I.W., Lilienfeld, S.O., & Loftus, E.L. (2014). Are the "Memory Wars" over? A scientist-practitioner gap in beliefs about repressed memory. *Psychological Science, 25*, 519-530. doi: 10.1177/0956797613510718

**Ho, L.Y.** (2013). "Ma vie en graduate school": Advice for future students and for student futures. *The General Psychologist, 48*, 25.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Sabina, C., Cuevas, C.A., & **Ho, L.Y.** (*Under Review*). Multiple dimensions of acculturation and the victimization of Latino adolescents. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*.

**Ho, L.Y.**, & Bowers, T. (*In Prep*). A Cross-Cultural Literature Review of Suicide in Schizophrenia.

## RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

**Ho, L.Y.**, & Gross, A.M. (2019). *Gender roles, sexual assertiveness, and sexual coercion in same-sex individuals*. Poster Presentation at the Louisiana and Mississippi Association for Contextual Behavioral Science (LaMiss ACBS) Conference, Oxford, MS.

**Ho, L.Y.**, & Gross, A.M. (2018). *Gender roles, sexual assertiveness, and sexual coercion in same-sex individuals*. Paper presented at the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) Annual Meeting, Charleston, SC.

**Ho, L.Y.**, Weber, M., Gawlik, E. & Schulenberg, S.E. (2018). *Student preparedness and perceptions of violence in higher education*. Interest group conducted at the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) Annual Meeting, Charleston, SC.

**Ho, L.Y.**, Johnson, J.R., Assenga, S., Courson, C.S., Schulenberg, S.E., & Karim, Z.N. (2016). *Measuring perceived meaning in life among Tanzanian youth and emerging adults*. Poster Presentation at the Association of Psychological Science (APS) Conference, Chicago, IL.

**Ho, L.Y.**, & Bowers, T. (2014). *A cross-cultural literature review of suicide in schizophrenia*. Poster Presentation at the American Psychological Association (APA) Conference, Washington, D.C.

**Ho, L.Y.,** & Harrison, M. (2014). *Perceptions, punishments, and prevention of sexual assault*. Poster Presentation at the Association of Psychological Science (APS) Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Murphy, E.A., **Ho, L.Y.,** Harrison, M.A., & Hughes, S.M. (2014). *Female Serial Killers in the U.S.: Motives, means, and meanings*. Poster Presentation at the Association of Psychological Science (APS) Conference, San Francisco, CA.

**Ho, L.Y.,** Martinez, S., Debski, S., Patihis, L., Loftus, E.F. (2012). *Memory beliefs of the public, clinical psychologists, and criminal justice system professionals*. Poster Presentation at the Western Psychological Association (WPA) Conference, San Francisco, CA.

**Ho, L.Y.,** Martinez, S., Debski, S., Patihis, L., Loftus, E.F. (2012). *Memory beliefs of the public, clinical psychologists, and criminal justice system professionals*. Oral and Poster Presentation at University of California, Irvine Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Symposium (UROP). Irvine, CA.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Spring 2019      **Graduate Instructor**  
PSY 201: Introduction to Psychology  
University of Mississippi

**Teaching Assistant**  
PSY 301: Developmental Psychology  
University of Mississippi  
Professor Lucy Leslie, Ph.D.

Fall 2018        **Graduate Instructor**  
PSY 201: Introduction to Psychology  
University of Mississippi

**Teaching Assistant**  
PSY 301: Developmental Psychology  
University of Mississippi  
Professor Kurt Streeter, Ph.D.

Spring 2018     **Teaching Assistant**  
PSY 321: Social Psychology (Online)  
University of Mississippi  
Professor Marilyn Mendolia, Ph.D.

Summer 2017    **Teaching Assistant**  
PSY 410: Health Psychology

University of Mississippi  
Professor Todd A. Smitherman, Ph.D.

Spring 2015

**Adjunct Instructor**

PSYCH 238: Introduction to Personality Psychology  
PSYCH 100: Introduction to Psychology  
Penn State Harrisburg

**Adjunct Instructor**

PSYC 209: Lifespan Development  
Harrisburg Area Community College: York Campus

Fall 2014

**Adjunct Instructor**

PSYC 101: Introduction to Psychology (2 sections)  
Harrisburg Area Community College: York Campus

**Adjunct Instructor**

PSYCH 100: Introduction to Psychology  
WMNST 100: Introduction to Women's Studies  
Penn State Harrisburg

Spring 2014

**Teaching Assistant**

PSYCH 100: Introduction to Psychology (2 sections)  
PSYCH 243: Introduction to Wellbeing and Positive Psychology  
Professor Cobi Michael, M.A.

**Teaching Assistant**

PSYCH 301W: Research Methods in Psychology  
Professor Marissa Harrison, Ph.D.

Fall 2013

**Teaching Assistant**

PSYCH 100: Introduction to Psychology (2 sections)  
PSYCH 212: Lifespan Development  
Professor Cobi Michael, M.A.

**Teaching Assistant**

PSYCH 100: Introduction to Psychology  
Professor Marissa Harrison, Ph.D.

Spring 2013

**Teaching Assistant**

SO SC 480W: Quantitative Research Methods  
Professor Chiara Sabina, Ph.D.

Fall 2012

**Teaching Assistant**

WMNST 100: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies  
Professor Chiara Sabina, Ph.D.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2017-2018      **Provisionally Licensed Mental Health Therapist**  
Communicare  
Supervisor: Scott A. Gustafson, Ph.D.  
Hours: 18.75 hours per week  
Responsibilities: Provided individual therapy to adults at a community mental health agency in a rural county.
- 2016-Present      **Graduate Student Therapist**  
Psychological Services Center  
Supervisors: Alan M. Gross, Ph.D, Scott A. Gustafson, Ph.D., Todd Smitherman, Ph.D., and Kelly Wilson, Ph.D.
- 2016-2017      **Graduate Student: Assessment Team**  
Psychological Assessment Clinic  
Supervisor: Scott A. Gustafson, Ph.D.
- 2016-2017      **Graduate Student Therapist**  
University of Mississippi Counseling Center  
Supervisor: Quinton Bud Edwards, Ph.D.
- 2014      **Behavioral Health Therapeutic Intern**  
Holy Spirit Hospital (A Geisinger Affiliate)  
Supervisor: Russ Matthews, M.A.
- 2013-2014      **School Psychology Intern**  
TrueNorth Wellness Services, Inc.  
Supervisor: Stacy Dove, M.A., LPC
- 2011-2012      **Counseling Center Peer Educator**  
Counseling Center, UC Irvine  
Supervisor: Jeanne Manese, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2019-2020      **Diversity Committee Graduate Representative**  
Psychology Department, The University of Mississippi

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2015-2016      **Research Assistant**  
College of Liberal Arts, The University of Mississippi  
Supervised by Stefan Schulenberg, Ph.D.

- 2013-2014      **Graduate Assistant**  
 School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, Penn State Harrisburg  
 Supervised by Marissa Harrison, Ph.D.
- 2012-2013      **Graduate Assistant**  
 School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, Penn State Harrisburg  
 Supervised by Chiara Sabina, Ph.D.
- 2011-2013      **Memory Beliefs Undergraduate Research Project**  
 Department of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine  
 Supervised by Elizabeth Loftus, Ph.D.
- 2011-2012      **Research Assistant Team Member**  
 Department of Education, University of California, Irvine  
 Supervised by Lindsey Richland, Ph.D. and Michael Martinez, Ph.D.
- 2010-2012      **Research Assistant Team Member**  
 Department of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine  
 Supervised by Elizabeth Loftus, Ph.D.

## **OUTREACH EXPERIENCE**

- 2018-Present    **LAMBDA: LGBTQ+ Support Group**  
 Oxford, MS  
Supervisor: Laura R. Johnson, Ph.D.
- 2016-2017      **TrevorChat Counselor**  
 The Trevor Project: <http://www.thetrevorproject.org/>
- 2015-2016      **International Ladies Club**  
 Oxford, MS  
Supervisor: Laura R. Johnson, Ph.D.
- Fall 2013        **Hershey Medical Center Social Skills Intervention**  
 Hershey, PA  
Supervisor: Amanda Pearl, Ph.D.

## **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

- 2016-2018      **Vice President**  
 Autism Speaks U  
 University of Mississippi

- 2013-2014     **Vice President**  
Psi Chi, the International Honors Society in Psychology  
Penn State University, Harrisburg
- President**  
Applied Psychology Association of Penn State Harrisburg  
Penn State University, Harrisburg
- 2011-2012     **President**  
Psi Chi, the International Honors Society in Psychology  
University of California, Irvine
- 2010-2012     **Founding Board Member, Community Service Coordinator**  
Autism Speaks U  
University of California, Irvine
- 2011-2012     **Internal Chair**  
Community Service and Leadership Program (CSLP)  
University of California, Irvine
- 2010-2011     **Support and Development Chair**  
Community Service and Leadership Program (CSLP)  
University of California, Irvine

## **ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS**

- Spring 2014    **Division 52 Student Poster Award**  
Award for 2<sup>nd</sup> place of students within Division 52 for research on Cross-Cultural Suicide in Schizophrenia at the APA conference in Washington, DC.
- Penn State Harrisburg School of Behavioral Sciences and Education**  
The Outstanding Graduate Student in Applied Clinical Psychology Award with \$100 award.
- Association of Psychological Science (APS) Graduate Student Grant**  
Award for \$200 given for travel funds to present study on Perceptions of Sexual Assault and Female Serial Killers at the APS conference in San Francisco, CA.
- American Psychological Association (APA) Graduate Student Grant**  
Award for \$300 given for travel funds to present Cross-Cultural Suicide in Schizophrenia study findings at the APA conference in Washington, DC.

- Fall 2013 **Pennsylvania State University Los Angeles (PSULA) Alumni Endowed Scholarship**  
The Los Angeles Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association (PSULA) awards exceptional Penn State students who have achieved superior academic records and whose home address of record is within the Chapter geographic area, including Greater Los Angeles and the Counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Ventura, California.
- Fall 2012 **Penn State University Bunton-Waller Fellowship**  
The Bunton-Waller Fellows Program attracts students from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds who have demonstrated academic potential and are eligible to attend Penn State. The award for a Graduate Assistant fellowship by Penn State University includes full tuition remission and monthly stipend for the duration of two academic years.
- Spring 2012 **School of Social Sciences Order of Merit**  
University of California, Irvine
- Certificate in Gender Studies; Law and Policy**  
University of California, Irvine  
Anthropology specialization in gender studies, foreign policy, and law.
- Winter 2012 **Psi Chi Western Psychological Association (WPA) Travel Grant**  
Award for \$300 given for excellence within research and to present Memory Beliefs study findings at the WPA conference in San Francisco, CA.
- Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP)**  
Received additional \$1100 dollars to conduct and present Memory Beliefs study at WPA Conference and annual UROP symposium.
- Spring 2012 **Certificate in Global Studies**  
University of California, Irvine  
Anthropology specialization in globalization, global studies and culture.
- Spring 2011 **Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP)**  
Received \$1000 dollars to conduct and present Memory Beliefs study at annual UROP symposium.
- Winter 2011 **Social Sciences Academic Resource Center Princeton Review Scholarship**  
Award given for \$1099 as a scholarship for a GRE preparatory course given by the Princeton Review company.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Division 52: International Psychology- Student member  
American Psychological Association (APA)- Member  
Association for Psychological Science (APS)- Member  
Phi Beta Kappa Society (2012)- Member  
Psi Chi Honors Society in Psychology (2011)- Member  
Pi Gamma Mu Honors Society in Social Sciences (2011)- Member  
Lambda Alpha Honors Society in Anthropology (2011)- Member