

Development and Reliability of an Instrument to Measure Self- Comfort with Sexual Identity in a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender Young Adult Population

Problem

- This study addresses is the need to define, examine, and measure the internal processes represented by the construct of self-comfort in GLBT young adults as they attempt to identify and accept their alternative sexual identity.

Purpose

- The purpose of this study is to:
 - (a) use the defining attributes of self-comfort: autonomy, identity, relationship and transcendence to design an instrument to measure self-comfort with sexual identity in gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender young adults
 - (b) To determine the psychometric properties of the instrument.

Significance of Study

- These young adults are shown to be at a higher risk for isolation, victimization, and other adverse behaviors
- Non-heterosexual young adults in our society are socialized as heterosexuals with homosexual preferences
- Acknowledgment of an alternative sexual identity is fraught with shame, rejection, anger, loss of parental support, feelings of isolation, exclusion from family customs, traditions, and the loss of role models.

Significance of Study

- This absence of support and guidance generates in many GLBT young adults feelings of deviancy, unacceptability, and intolerance; these feelings force many to face alone the challenges of evolving physically and mentally healthy in an often unaccepting culture (Nagle & Hanson, 1993; Galatzer-Levy & Cohler, 2002; Saltzburg, 2004; van Womer & McKinney, 2003).



Specific aims

- To refine and test an instrument developed by this researcher to measure levels of self-comfort with sexual identity in GLBT young adults
- To determine if the proposed factor structure of the instrument corresponds with its theoretical suppositions.

Study Populations

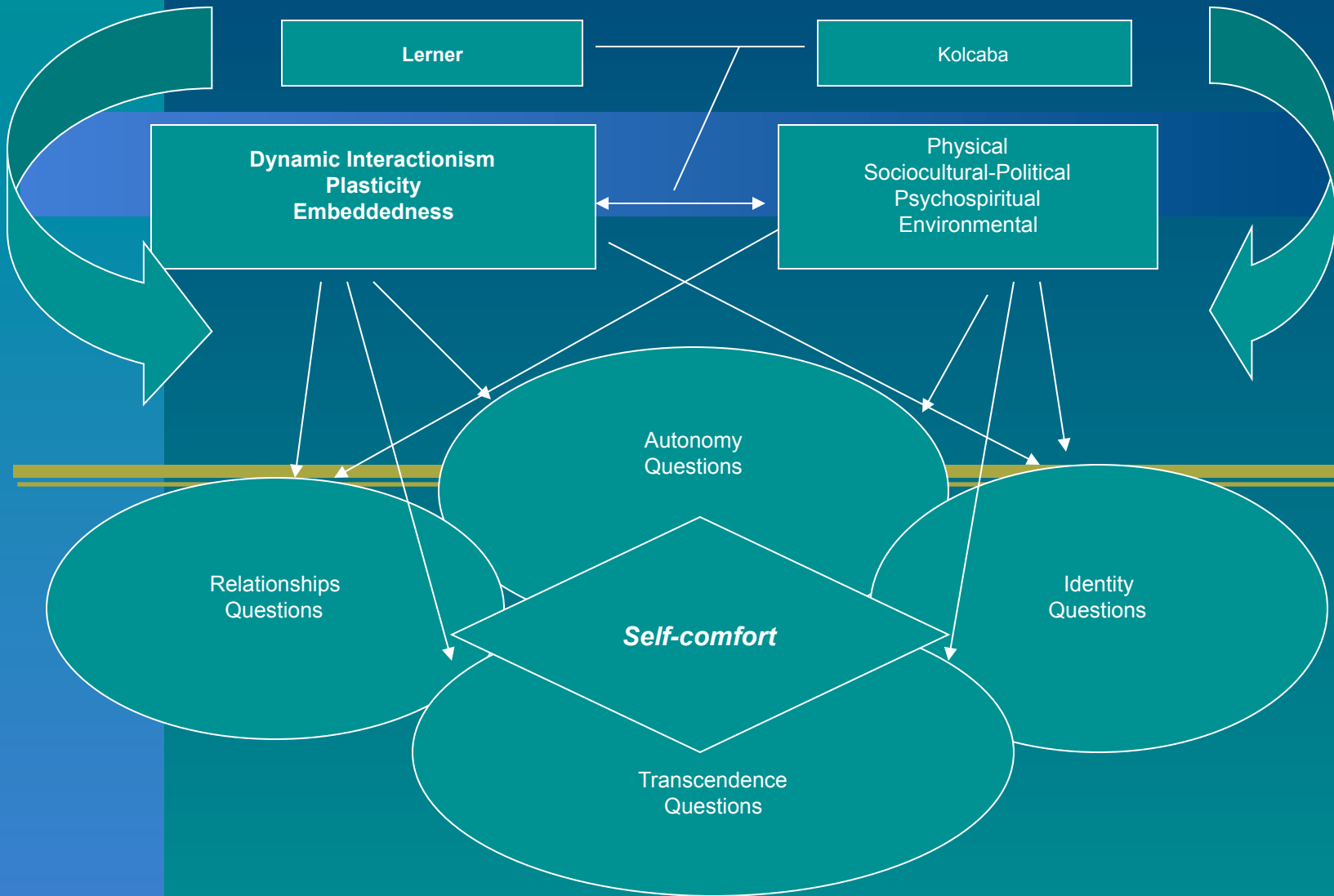
■ Inclusion criteria

- Individuals greater than 18 years but less than 23 years
- Who have privately or publicly self-identified as having an alternative sexual identity that includes: gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender or who are unsure of their sexual identity
- Computer literate

■ Sample size

- Minimum total sample 235
- Five subjects/ questionnaire item

Self-Comfort with Sexuality Identity



Taxonomic Structure

	Autonomy	Identity	Relationship	Transcendence
Physical				
Psychospiritual				
Sociocultural-Political				
Environmental				

Definitions

Self-comfort is *conceptually defined* as a product, outcome or state that entails the wholeness of the individual which incorporated conscious individuality, ownership of identity, and an integrated wholeness that occurs in a physical, psychospiritual or environmental context. These interactions result in growth, development and achievement of an integrated wholeness, where the individual becomes the agent for his/her resulting behaviors (Glaude, unpublished)

Definitions

- Alternative sexual identity

A descriptive term used to describe an individual who chooses to follow or employ a nontraditional or culturally unsanctioned gender role in establishing a sexual relationship

(Webster's Universal College Dictionary, 1997; Carrera & Calderone, 1980).

Instruments

Researcher developed Self-Comfort with
Sexual Identity Questionnaire (SCSIQ)
(47 items)

Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability Scale
(33 items)

Demographic Questionnaire

Research Questions

- What are the psychometric properties of an instrument designed to measure self-comfort in a sample of young adults with an alternative sexual identity?
- Is the proposed factor structure of self-comfort confirmed by factor analysis?

Data Analysis

- Confirmatory Factor Analysis
- Item to Item correlation
- Descriptive statistics

People

