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TRANSGENDER FRIENDSHIP PROFILES: PATTERNS ACROSS GENDER IDENTITY AND LGBT AFFILIATION

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ABSTRACT

TRANSGENDER FRIENDSHIP PROFILES: PATTERNS ACROSS GENDER IDENTITY AND LGBT AFFILIATION

C. Reyn Boyer

Using comparative analysis, based on connectedness to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, this study explores the close friendship patterns of transgender and gender variant individuals across gender identity, sexual orientation, and LGBT affiliation. As not all of these individuals identify within the larger LGBT community, comparative analysis attended to differences in individual connection to the community. Participants completed a questionnaire reporting basic demographic information about themselves and their close friends. The present findings reveal that transgender men maintain more cisgender, more sexual minority, and more LGBT affiliated friendships. In contrast, transgender women are more likely to maintain friendships outside of the LGBT community, with fewer sexual minorities and more LGBT non-affiliated individuals. These findings suggest that transgender men and women negotiate unique friendship characteristics within and outside of the LGBT community. The implications of these findings are discussed in the context of feminist intersectional theory.

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Introduction

The present research is a descriptive study investigating the close friendship patterns of transgender and gender variant individuals to better understand the social context of these adult friendships. This research is comparative by design and considers whether transgender and gender variant individuals who feel connected to the larger lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, and those that do not, differ in their categorical choices of friendship. Participants completed a friendship profile questionnaire by reporting basic demographic information (e.g. gender identity, sexual orientation, race) about themselves and their closest friends. Using feminist intersectionality theory, this explored the unique friendship patterns of transgender individuals to account for potential same- and cross-category friendships.

Homophily and Friendships

Close friendships are characterized by interaction and mutual affection, as well as an exchange of benefits, not always received by casual friends or acquaintances (Galupo & Gonzalez, 2013; Hays, 1989; Rose & Serafica, 1986). Friendships are also characterized by homophily, which is the idea that people connect with others who are similar to themselves. The tendency toward homophily often serves as the foundation of social relationships (McPherson, Smith-Lovin, & Cook, 2001). Homophily in relationships, particularly friendships, suggests choosing companions on commonalities with regard to gender, sexual orientation, age, race, and social economic status (Duck, 1991; Galupo, 2009; Ueno, 2010).

Despite homophily, same-category friendships are common. Cross-category friendships exist between individuals who have differing social identities and are

considered less common, and develop despite significant obstacles (Galupo, 2009; O'Meara, 1989). Cross-category friendships invite both parties to consider different perspectives, especially with regard to issues of social identity and of social identities and inequalities (Galupo & St. John, 2001). Cross-category friendships are particularly common for social minorities and require the negotiation of minority status within the friendships (Galupo, 2009). Although sexual minorities may have more cross-category friendships, these friendships often exist at the expense of their identity. For example, sexual minorities who maintain friendships with heterosexual individuals often sacrifice identity validation and experience consistent judgment due to their orientation label (Galupo & Gonzalez, 2013; Galupo, Sailer, & St. John, 2004). This suggests that sexual minorities' cross-orientation friendships place less emphasis on homophily.

LGBT Friendships

Research regarding transgender friendships has largely explored these relationships through the collective LGBT community experience. Transgender friendship experience reviewed in the larger LGBT collective experience characterizes these friendships as social networks that comprise the larger LGBT community (Tillmann-Healy, 2001) and function as a type of familial support (Nardi, 1992; Weinstock, 2000). Friendships for sexual minorities can also serve as protection against societal stigma of maintaining a sexual minority identity. This has been found for lesbian friendships with other lesbians (Stanley, 1996), for positive psychological adjustment for gay men over the age of 40 (Berger, 1982), and friendship equality for gay men (Nardi, 1999).

Galupo (2007) explored friendship patterns among 407 lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals across categories of sex, sexual orientation, and race. In regards to sex, sexual minority women and men reported having more same-sex than cross-sex friendships, with men reporting significantly more close, cross-sex friendships than women (Galupo, 2007). With regard to sexual orientation, Galupo (2007) found that sexual minorities reported more cross-orientation friendships, with differences across sexual orientation. Gay men and lesbians maintain fewer cross-orientation friendships, having significantly more lesbian and gay friends than heterosexual, bisexual, or questioning friendships. This pattern shifts for bisexual individuals, who maintain more cross-orientation friendships with heterosexual women and men (Galupo, 2007). This suggests that bisexual individuals may receive less support from within the LGBT community. When comparing heterosexual and sexual minority adults, Galupo (2009) found that individuals form equal numbers of close friendships and that there are unique cross-sex and cross-orientation differences among these groups. With regard to orientation, sexual minority individuals are significantly more likely to befriend heterosexual individuals than vice versa, suggesting that they frequently navigate categorical differences in their relationships.

Galupo's (2007, 2009) findings are consistent with heterosexual men's more negative attitudes toward bisexual individuals (Herek, 2002) and lesbians and gay men (Herek & Capitanio, 1999), as these attitudes might influence the context in which friendships develop. In addition to attitudes towards sexual minorities impacting friendship development, Muraco (2005) found that sexual minorities friendship behaviors are often poorly evaluated based on sex and orientation status. Muraco (2005) had 299

heterosexual participants read six hypothetical friendships scenarios and then randomly assigned participants to evaluate either a heterosexual male friend, a gay male friend, a heterosexual female friend, or a lesbian female friend. Muraco (2005) found that friendship behavior is seen as less accepted when exhibited by a sexual minority versus heterosexual individual. Muraco's (2005) findings suggest that sexist and heterosexist expectations are at play when considering friendship development. Although heterosexual participants did not outright refuse to maintain friendships with sexual minority individuals, they engaged in identity work to distance themselves from the sexual minority label and validate their own heterosexual identity (Muraco, 2005). These findings suggest that sexual prejudice exists and operates in voluntary interpersonal friendship.

These findings shed light onto the unique context in which sexual minority individuals form their friendships and also how dimensions of sexism and homophobia are at play in these developments. It is important to note the absence of transgender friendship literature that attends to the unique and distinctive experience in which transgender friendships occur. Considering how aspects of sexism and homophobia impact sexual minority friendships, it may be anticipated that transphobia adds a unique dimension from which to consider friendships for transgender individuals within and outside of the LGBT community.

Transgender Friendships

In the past few years, friendship research on social minorities has been expanded to include transgender and gender variant individuals. Previous research has shown the importance of friendships in identity formation and disclosure for transgender and gender

variant individuals (Alegria, 2010; Johnson, 2007). In their interviews with 65 MtF transsexual individuals at different stages on the trans spectrum, Gagné and Tewksbury (1998) found that social interactions have a critical affirmation function in the attainment and acceptance of a new gender identity. A noteworthy study by Nuttbrock et al. (2009) conceptualized gender affirmation through two dimensions, gender identity disclosure and desired role casting (i.e. being treated in the preferred gender identity). The results of Nuttbrock et al. (2009) showed that both forms of gender affirmation were experienced significantly more in achieved relationships, e.g. friends or sexual partners, than ascribed relationships, e.g. family. While gender identity disclosure occurred at higher rates for sexual partners, friends were found to be the most supportive of desired gender role casting. Recognition of previous and current lived realities constructs and affirms identities for transgender individual's friendships, and this support from friends often leads the individual to elevate the relationship status from one of friendship to that of family, often filling a void created by the absence of or estrangement from biological families (Zitz, 2011).

Conversely, friendships can serve as barriers and sources of threat for transgender and gender variant individuals. Johnson (2007) explains that close relationships, particularly friendships, can be experienced as affirmation or as disavowal of transitioning. With the emergence of their transgender identity, Johnson (2007) suggests that these individuals have to negotiate between "being a new person" while considering their past self and "being the same person" while sorting out how to also preserve themselves. The results suggest that friends can hinder close relationships by refusing to acknowledge a transgender individual's past self and accept the continuity of the new

self. Such breaches in respect expressed towards new identity often lead to the discontinuation of close friendships (Johnson, 2007). These findings can be complicated by sexual orientation status, with MtF transgender individuals being welcomed for their new same-sex relationship status (Alegria, 2010) and FtM transgender individuals being scrutinized for their separation from lesbian networks (Joslin-Roher & Wheeler, 2009).

In previous research on the benefits and barriers of transgender and gender variant friendships, Galupo et al. (2014) explored these relationships across transgender-heterosexual, transgender-sexual minority, cisgender-heterosexual, and cisgender-sexual minority individuals. Transgender and gender variant individuals who shared friendships with transgender heterosexual individuals found that both shared experiences could offer support and comfort, as well as lend assistance with passing. Conversely, participants found that their conversations were dominated with transgender issues and concerns, which did not provide emotional stability for this friendship pair. Galupo et al. (2014) found that transgender individuals who sought friendships with transgender sexual minorities bonded over a non-normative social identity experiences. Similar beliefs and knowledge about gender, sex, and privilege frequently led to supportive relationships among these pairings. However, even with shared identities, friendships were strained by invalidation of personal experiences and a surfeit of gender identity/sexuality issues dictating conversations. In both transgender-heterosexual and transgender-sexual minorities friendships, participants feared being outed through association (Galupo et al., 2014).

As for friendships with cisgender-heterosexual individuals, participants were sometimes comforted by a sense of social “normality” and emotional stability.

Transgender friendships with cisgender-heterosexual individuals offered a venue for educational opportunities about transgender issues and concerns, however, ignorance (language and pronoun insensitivity) was a pitfall of these relationships (Galupo et al., 2014). When considering cisgender-sexual minority friendships, Galupo et al. (2014) found that transgender individuals felt a shared sense of community or "family," which opened opportunities for education and, sometimes, sexual partners. However, these friendships were occasionally limited, attributed to a lack of understanding of non-normative experience due to cisgender identity. These friendships come with both positive and negative experiences, all of which have implications for the lived experiences of transgender and gender variant individuals, but research has yet to explore which types of friend's transgender individuals seek. Previous literature regarding LGBT, and more specifically transgender friendships, focuses on the acknowledgement and understanding of the power and inequalities that exist across transgender identity. Considering transgender individuals who identify within and outside of the LGBT community might produce an understanding of the ways power and oppression intersect to impact friendship dynamics.

Feminist Intersectionality Theory

This study uses feminist intersectionality theory to understand cross-category friendship patterns for transgender and gender variant individuals who do or do not identify with the larger lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. Feminist intersectionality theory stresses the importance of examining relationships among social identities as interconnecting categories of oppression and inequality (Collins, 2000; Crenshaw, 1991; hooks, 1984; McCall, 2005). This theory was originally created out of a

need to critically analyze race, class, and gender in research and consider those who live at the intersection of these varying social identities. More recently, feminist intersectional theory has expanded to include sexual and gender minorities to consider how dimensions of heterosexism and cisgenderism affect individuals and social relationships (Anzaldua, 1990; King, 1990; Trujillo, 1991, Futty, 2010; Hines, 2010; Monro and Richardson, 2010; Nagoshi and Brzuzy, 2010). Looking at gender identity within intersectional theory distances the focus from the "abnormal" conceptualizations of transgender that are traditionally highlighted in psycho-medical literature, while simultaneously making visible and subjective non-transgender identities.

Using an intersectional framework to consider transgender friendship experiences is ideal, as it considers: (1) a comparative approach across transgender and cisgender identities; (2) a disaggregation of sexual and gender minority experience, especially considering that not all transgender individuals are comfortable being considered within the larger LGBT community (Fassinger & Arseneau, 2007; Galupo et al., 2014); (3) a systematic comparison across sexual orientation and gender identity, particularly attending to unique differences in operating as normative identity (cisgender/heterosexual) and non-normative identities (transgender/sexual minority); and (4) considering how experiences differ among individuals who identify as transgender. The last is critical, especially because not all transgender and gender variant individuals see their experiences as similar (Monro & Richardson, 2010).

Taking an intersectional approach to researching transgender and gender variant friendships allows for better understanding of close friendship choices considering experiences across gender and sexual orientation, in regard to whether or not they

identify as connected to the LGBT community (Galupo et al., 2014). Internal tensions within the LGBT community, especially with regard to transphobia and biphobia, can have potential to impact friendship dynamics (Weiss, 2004). Intersectionality theory has been explored in past friendship research to consider differences in social identities (e.g. cross-race, cross-orientation, cross-gender). This theory provides a conceptual framework from which to consider the intersecting influences of sexual orientation (Galupo, 2006, 2009; Galupo & Gonzalez, 2013; Muraco, 2006, 2012) and gender identity (Galupo et al., 2014).

Present Study

The present research uses survey methodology to explore the close friendships of transgender and gender variant individuals in the United States. By mirroring the methods of Galupo (2007; 2009), the purpose of this research was to: 1) explore differences and similarities in friendship patterns across current gender identity, sexual orientation, and affiliation to the larger LGBT community; and 2) develop friendship profiles of transgender and gender variant individuals with regard to the frequency of cross-category friendships. Transgender and gender variant individuals do not unanimously consider themselves within the larger LGBT community (Fassinger & Arseneau, 2007). In transgender friendship dynamics, benefits and barriers shift based on friends connectedness to the LGBT community (Galupo, et al., 2014). It is for these reasons that the present research used comparative analyses, based on connection or no connection to the LGBT community, to establish friendships profiles for transgender and gender variant individuals.

With regard to our comparative analyses, it was predicted that (1) the total number of friends would be the same for participants regardless of LGBT affiliation; (2) participants who are LGBT affiliated would have more transgender friends than participants who are not affiliated with the LGBT community; (3) participants would have the same number of cisgender friendships regardless of LGBT affiliation; (4) participants who are LGBT affiliated would have more sexual minority friends than participants who are not affiliated with the LGBT community; (5) participants who are LGBT affiliated would have less heterosexual friends than those who are not affiliated; (6) participants who are LGBT affiliated would have more LGBT affiliated friendships than participants who are not affiliated with the LGBT community.

Method

Participants and Recruitment

Participants included 495 individuals who self-identify as transgender or gender variant. The research requirements included identification as transgender or gender variant, an age of 18 or older, current residence in the United States, and voluntary consent for their participation. Tables 1 and 2 provide demographic information of the participants. With regard to sex assigned at birth, 53.3% of participants were assigned female at birth, 46.5% were assigned male at birth, and 3% identified as intersex at birth. As for gender raised, 53.5% of participants were raised as female and 46.5% were raised as male. With regard to gender identity, participants self-identified as 41.4% male, 35.4% female, 13.9% gender nonconforming, 7.3% bigender, and 2.0% did not identify. In regard to sexual orientation, participants self-identified as 35.2% queer/pansexual/fluid, 19.0% heterosexual, 20.2% gay/lesbian, 18.2% bisexual, and 7.5% questioning. 78.0% of

the participants identified themselves as part of the larger lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, while 22.0% did not identify within the community. In regard to race & ethnicity, participants self-identified as 84.2% Caucasian/White, 4.2% African American/Black, 2.8% Hispanic, 1.6% Asian/Asian American, and 1.2% Native American, 5.9% Other.

All participants were United States residents. Participant age ranged from 18 to 77 (M = 36.93, SD = 15.97). In regard to socioeconomic status, participants self-identified as 2.6% upper class, 21.0% upper-middle class, 41.4% middle class, and 34.9% working class. In response to educational background, 7.7% have completed some high school education, 3.2% have completed vocational school, 6.5% have completed their Associate's degree, 29.7% have completed some college, 23.2% have earned a bachelor's degree, 22.1% were working on/completed an advance degree, and 7.5% choose other.

Measures & Procedure

The study used a survey format, which was hosted through SurveyMonkey.com. Participants were recruited from various transgender listservs and online message boards (e.g. Trans-Academics, FtM Trans) with a link to the online survey. The survey was distributed to local transgender communities, as well as online resources that reached a national population. Additionally, the researchers used Facebook and other forms of social media intended to reach transgender individuals.

On the first page of the survey, participants agreed to the stated requirements of the study and were informed that they could discontinue participation at any time. Data was collected through a friendship questionnaire developed by the authors for the purpose of the study. Participants were then asked to complete friendship profiles about

themselves and up to eight of their closest friends. These profiles consisted of demographic information including sex assigned at birth, gender raised, current gender identity, sexual orientation, whether or not they identified as part of the larger LGBT community, social class, and race. Developing transgender friendship profiles considers the number of close friends, as well as the quantity of same- and cross-category friendships (i.e. current gender identity, race, class).

Comparative analysis, based on LGBT affiliation or non-affiliation, was used when testing all three hypotheses. Multivariate statistical analyses were used to examine the relationship of participant gender identity and LGBT affiliation on chosen friendship characteristics, using total number of friends as a covariate.

Results

A 3 (gender identity) x 2 (LGBT affiliation) multivariate analysis of variance, covarying the number of friends, was used to develop friendship profiles for transgender and gender variant individuals. In cases where there was a main effect of gender identity, pairwise planned post-hoc analyses explored differences across gender identity. Bonferroni post hoc t-tests were used to explore mean differences among transgender men, transgender women, and non-binary individuals. Table 3 provides the overall friendship patterns. Participants' mean number of close friendships was 5.90 (SD = 2.58). MANOVA revealed no significant main effects or interaction effects for gender identity and LGBT affiliation on the total number of close friendships reported by participants.

Friendships with Transgender and Cisgender Individuals

A multivariate analysis of covariance revealed no significant interaction of gender identity (male, female, non-binary) and LGBT community affiliation $F(2, 487) = .56$, $p =$

.57, partial h^2 = .002 on total number of transgender friendships. Analysis revealed a main effect of LGBT Community, where those affiliated (*M* = 1.38, *SD* = 1.55) had more transgender friends than those who were not affiliated with the LGBT community (*M* = .62, *SD* = 1.03), *F*(1, 487) = 11.69, *p* < .05, partial h^2 = .02. There was no main effect of gender identity for transgender friendships *F*(2, 487) = 2.15, *p* = .12, partial h^2 = .01.

A multivariate analysis of covariance revealed no significant interaction of gender identity (male, female, non-binary) and LGBT community affiliation *F*(2, 487) = 2.04, *p* = .13, partial h^2 = .01 on cisgender friendships. Analysis did not reveal a main effect of LGBT community affiliation *F*(1, 487) = 2.71, *p* = .10, partial h^2 = .01 on cisgender friendships. There was a significant main effect of gender identity, *F*(2, 487) = 5.15, *p* < .01, partial h^2 = .02. Transgender men (*M* = 3.72, *SD* = 2.07) maintain significantly more cisgender friendships than transgender women (*M* = 3.11, *SD* = 2.33). Non-binary individuals (*M* = 3.37, *SD* = 2.27) do maintain more cisgender friendships than transgender women and less cisgender friendships than transgender men, but do not significantly differ from one another.

Friendships with Sexual Minority and Heterosexual Individuals

A multivariate analysis of covariance revealed no significant interaction of gender identity (male, female, non-binary) and LGBT community affiliation *F*(2, 487) = .30, *p* = .74, partial h^2 = .001 on total number of sexual minority friendships. Analysis revealed a main effect of LGBT Community, where those affiliated (*M* = 2.92, *SD* = 2.01) had more sexual minority friends than those who were not affiliated with the LGBT community (*M* = 1.73, *SD* = 1.64), *F*(1, 487) = 15.92, p < .001, partial h^2 = .03. There was a significant

main effect of gender identity, $F(2, 487) = 3.55$, $p < .05$, partial $h^2 = .01$. Transgender men ($M = 2.92$, $SD = 1.92$) maintain significantly more sexual minority friendships than transgender women ($M = 2.42$, $SD = 2.03$). Transgender men have more sexual minority friends than non-binary individuals (M = 2.54, SD = 2.01), but not statistically significantly so.

A multivariate analysis of covariance revealed no significant interactions of gender identity (male, female, non-binary) and LGBT community affiliation $F(2, 487) = .28$, $p = .75$, partial $h^2 = .001$ on total number of heterosexual friendships. Analysis revealed a main effect of LGBT Community, where participants who were LGBT-affiliated ($M = 2.14$, $SD = 1.71$) had less heterosexual friends than participants who were not affiliated with the LGBT community (M = 2.49, SD = 1.92), $F(1, 487) = 12.5$, $p < .05$, partial $h^2 = .03$. There was no main effect of gender identity for transgender friendships $F(2, 487) = 1.91$, $p = .15$, partial $h^2 = .01$.

Friendships Within and Outside of the LGBT Community

A multivariate analysis of covariance revealed no significant interaction of gender identity (male, female, non-binary) and LGBT community affiliation $F(2, 487) = .72$, $p = .49$, partial $h^2 = .003$ on total number of LGBT affiliated friends. Analysis revealed a main effect of LGBT Community, where those affiliated ($M = 2.84$, $SD = 2.03$) had more friendships with those who were also LGBT affiliated than those who were not affiliated with the LGBT community ($M = .83$, $SD = 1.12$), $F(1, 487) = 88.24$, $p < .05$, partial $h^2 = .15$. There was a significant main effect of gender identity, $F(2, 487) = 5.69$, $p < .05$, partial $h^2 = .02$. Transgender men ($M = 2.68$, $SD = 2.09$) hold significantly more

friendships with LGBT-affiliated individuals than transgender women (*M* = 2.04, *SD* = 1.93). Transgender men hold more friendships than non-binary individuals, but not significantly so.

A multivariate analysis of covariance revealed no significant interaction of gender identity (male, female, non-binary) and LGBT community affiliation $F(2, 487) = .19$, $p = .83$, partial $h^2 = .001$ on total number of LGBT non-affiliated friends. Analysis revealed a main effect of LGBT Community, where those affiliated (*M* = 2.24, *SD* = 1.69) had less friendships with those who were LGBT non-affiliated than those who were not affiliated with the LGBT community (*M* = 3.39, *SD* = 2.21), $F(1, 487) = 65.93$, $p < .05$, partial $h^2 = .12$. There was a significant main effect of gender identity, $F(2, 487) = 3.59$, $p < .05$, partial $h^2 = .02$. Transgender women (*M* = 2.93, *SD* = 2.06) hold significantly more friendships with LGBT non-affiliated individuals than transgender men (*M* = 2.27, *SD* = 1.71) and non-binary individuals (*M* = 2.22, *SD* = 1.77). Tables 4 and 5 provide the main effects of lgbt affiliation and gender identity.

Discussion

This research allows an understanding of close friendships patterns in adulthood with respect to transgender and gender variant individuals. This is the first study to draw a direct comparison between LGBT community connection and how this may impact categorical choices of friendship, based on gender identity, sexual orientation, and LGBT affiliation. It is important to note that while gender identity, sexual orientation, and LGBT affiliation did have an influence on friendships patterns, they did not have an influence on the total number of close friendships reported by participants. Across all participants, individuals form equal numbers of close friendships. The present research

suggests, however, that identity characteristics such as gender identity, sexual orientation, and LGBT affiliation do have an influence on who individuals count as their friends. In general, these analyses revealed that while there is a general trend toward similarity in friendships, there are unique friendship patterns shaped by LGBT affiliation and gender identity.

As hypothesized, transgender and gender variant individuals who consider themselves connected to the LGBT community tend to have more transgender friendships. The results did show a tendency toward cross-category friendships for transgender men who maintained more cisgender friendships than did transgender women. As for non-binary individuals, they maintained slightly more cisgender friendships than transgender men, but slightly less than transgender women. Overall, transgender and gender variant individuals who felt connected to the LGBT community had less heterosexual and more sexual minority friendships. When considering gender identity specifically, transgender men had significantly more sexual minority friendships than transgender women, and slightly more than non-binary individuals.

The tendency toward homophily was apparent in LGBT community connectedness, where participants who saw themselves as part of the LGBT community reported more affiliated and less non-affiliated friendships. When considering differences across gender identity, transgender men maintained more LGBT affiliated friendships than transgender women, and slightly more than non-binary individuals. Transgender women maintain greater LGBT non-affiliated friendships than both transgender men and non-binary individuals.

Limitations & Directions for Future Research

This study is the first to create close friendships profiles of transgender and gender variant individuals, however, this research is accompanied by its own set of unique limitations. Close friendships are characterized by more frequent interaction and affection, providing more benefits, and being more exclusive than casual friendships (Hays, 1989; Rose & Serafica, 1986). The narrow criteria for a close friend may have led to more similarity in friendship choices for our participants. In addition, participants were asked to describe up to eight of the closest friends, however, we did not provide a definition of a close friendship. Research providing a common definition for participants, therefore, may yield different results. Definitions of friendship may be particularly important in light of research that suggests that LGBT individuals define friends more broadly (e.g. friends as family, chosen family), especially in the face of familial rejection (Weinstock, 2000; Weston, 1991). Additionally, LGBT individuals are more likely to consider their current and past partners as friends (Zitz, Burns, & Tacconelli, 2014), which may shift friendship patterns.

Our participants represent a convenience sample collected online. Online recruitment and sampling is particularly useful for reaching out to sexual and gender minority samples where participants may have heightened concern about anonymity and may not otherwise have access to the survey (Riggle, Rostosky, & Reedy, 2005). With this convenience in mind, online sampling has been shown to disproportionally reflect a White, middle-upper class, educated experience (Dillman, Smyth, & Christian, 2014). Considering 84.2% of our participant sample is White and 65% is middle-upper class, our

demographics are consistent with this trend. Any interpretation of the present data should note these trends.

In accordance with feminist intersectionality theory, future research should consider how various identities (e.g. age, socioeconomic status, race) interact with gender identity, sexual orientation, and LGBT affiliation to impact friendships choices. In particular, future research should consider comparative analysis of White and racial minorities, especially considering how distinct friendship patterns are formed among racial/ethnic minorities (Way, Cowel, Gingold, Pahl, & Bissessar, 2001). Furthermore, transgender people of color are marginalized in the larger LGBT community (Erickson-Schroth, 2014) and future research should consider how this marginalization impacts friendship development and maintenance, in both same and cross-category contexts. Because microaggressions have been shown to play a significant role in transgender friendship dynamics (Galupo, Henise, & Davis, 2014), future research should consider how microaggressions impact friendship selection and development.

The present study reveals clear friendship patterns that differ across gender identity, sexual orientation, and LGBT affiliation. Social identity, for this study, was used as a grouping variable based on participant self-identification. Friendships profiles were developed based on participants' descriptions of their close friendship with regard to the same social identity categories (e.g. sexual orientation, gender identity). Differences in friendship profiles did arise across these social identities, suggesting that grouping used was relevant to participant's friendship profiles. However, an assessment of the meaning participants assigned to these categories was not included. For instance, the research did not consider whether sexual or gender identity was disclosed to, or acknowledged, by

friends. Additionally, we coded gender identity into three categories: male, female, and non-binary, and did not ask for additional information to help contextualize their identification. Future research should address the meaning assigned to these social identities and also their respective importance to participants (Weisz & Wood, 2005). Our findings did not yield specific results for non-binary individuals, and future research should consider looking at this population to gain a better understanding of their friendships choices and experiences.

It is important to consider the role of socialization along the transition spectrum, with regard to friendship selection. Dietert and Dentice's (2013) research interviewed 37 transgender individuals, with 86% identifying as FtM, about their experience with socialization and the gender binary. The findings suggest that transgender children are frequently encouraged, by their parents and peers, to present and behave in accordance with their sex assigned at birth. For example, for trans men, this meant not engaging in stereotypically masculine activities and presenting in stereotypically gender appropriate clothing (Dietert & Dentice, 2013). Despite these challenges, friends were sometimes able to provide identity validation for trans men and gender non-conforming individuals (Dietert & Dentice, 2013). Socialization pressures, from parents and peers, to conform to the gender binary and appropriate associated behaviors, likely have implications for friendship development and maintenance and should be considered in future research.

Transgender Friendships Patterns: Implications for Interpersonal Support

The present findings are illustrative of transgender friendship patterns. These patterns provide insight to the social relationships and support available to transgender individuals in their friendships and would be helpful for psychologists working with this

population. Friendships within the LGBT community are often representative of larger social relationships found within LGBT (Esterberg, 1997) and transgender specific (Hines, 2007) communities. These affiliated friendships are often useful as they allow for the processing of marginalization (Hines, 2007), through a mutual understanding of minority experience (Galupo & Gonzalez, 2013). According to Riggle, Rostosky, McCants, and Pascale-Hague (2011), connecting with those of similar identity provides a more positive transgender experience. Members of the LGBT community frequently serve familial roles for transgender individuals, especially during times of social isolation or biological family rejection (Hines, 2007, Nardi, 1992; Weinstock, 2000; Weston, 1991). Friendships with other transgender individuals might facilitate a particular type of support that is not afforded by society. In many ways, fellow transgender individuals serve roles beyond what is typically expected of friends, serving as mentors or role models that enable open discussions about gender-specific issues, as well as provide information that may not available through medical and counseling professions (Hines, 2007).

While there are many positives accompanied with LGBT community affiliation, the community experiences its fair share of transphobia, which may have implications for the friendships our participants have developed and maintained. Microaggressions, which are subtle forms of discrimination that occur daily and manifest as behavioral, verbal, or environment slights, can manifest in relationships formed within and outside of the LGBT community. Galupo, Henise, and Davis (2014) report that transgender individuals experience microaggressions from inside the LGBT community. Some internal microaggressions include invalidation from cisgender LGBT individuals who reject the

ways in which transgender experiences may be distinct from being a sexual orientation minority. More specifically, cisgender LGBT individuals misgender their transgender friends and report feeling that transgender individuals over exaggerate their discrimination (Galupo, Henise, & Davis, 2014). Cisgender LGBT friends were also shown to sexualize their transgender friends, as well as current and past partners (Galupo, Henise, & Davis, 2014). This trend is consistent with past research that suggests issues of sexuality dominate transgender friendships with LGBT persons (Galupo et al., 2014).

Even friendships with other transgender individuals can be complicated as a result of comparison and competition. Galupo, Henise, and Davis (2014) explain that this competition develops from an implied hierarchy of transgender and gender variant experience and a need to be constantly performing gender in accordance to friendship expectations. Microaggressions coming from LGBT community members evoke feelings of disappointment and betrayal, especially coming from a group that is commonly discriminated against themselves—they are expected to "know better" (Nadal et al., 2014).

The present findings suggest that transgender men maintain more cisgender, more sexual minority, and more LGBT affiliated friendships, which suggests that they are likely negotiating both the unique characteristics of friendships within the LGBT community. In contrast, transgender women are more likely to maintain friendships outside of the LGBT community. Our findings suggest that transgender women have fewer sexual minority and more LGBT non-affiliated friendships. In particular, friendships with cisgender and heterosexual individuals have been shown to provide unique benefits for transgender individuals. These friends can help transgender

individuals feel "normal," help them to present as their desired gender, and provide friendships where gender identity is not the core focus (Galupo et al., 2014). However, microaggressions have been shown to complicate friendship dynamics. Those outside of the LGBT community are more likely to overtly deny transgender experience. For example, some microaggressions include misgendering transgender friends and dictating how they should behave (Galupo, Henise, & Davis, 2014). Positives and negatives of these friendships are often complicated by cissexist and transphobic factors, which transgender and non-binary individuals have to consider when engaging in social relationships. This information may be especially helpful for researchers, clinicians, and counselors working with this population. These patterns provide insights to the social relationships and support available to transgender individuals, and may help psychologists assist transgender people negotiate social differences to build stronger, supportive friendships.

Conclusion

This present study uses feminist intersectionality theory as a framework to uncover trends of relationships across intersecting identities of inequality. The assumption of this approach is that the categories used to group participants (gender identity, sexual orientation, and LGBT affiliation) represent dimensions of inequality that shape social experience. The resulting friendship patterns can be explained by these inequalities, based on sexual prejudice and transphobia, existing both inside and outside of the LGBT community. These larger attitudes have implications for cultural conceptions of normality regarding gender identity and sexual orientation. Friendship selection, then, cannot be fully explained by opportunity or demography, but rather they

are shaped by sociopolitical attitudes and structures that influence all social and personal relationships.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1.

Demographics: LGBT Affiliation Means

	LGBT Affiliated (n = 386)	LGBT Non-Affiliated (n = 109)
	M (SD)	*M (SD)*
Gender Identity		
Male	162 (42%)	43 (39.4%)
Female	131 (33.9%)	44 (40.4%)
Non-Binary	93 (24.1%)	22 (20.2%)
Sexual Orientation		
Heterosexual	63 (16.3%)	31 (28.4%)
Bisexual	60 (15.5%)	30 (27.5%)
Lesbian/Gay	82 (21.2%)	18 (16.5%)
Questioning	23 (6%)	14 (12.8%)
	158 40.9%)	16 (14.7%)
Queer/Pansexual/Fluid		
Age	36.61(15.83)	38.07(16.47)

TABLE 2.

Demographics: Gender Identity

	Gender Identity		
	Male (n = 205)	Female (n = 175)	Non-Binary (n = 115)
Sex Assigned at Birth			
Female	188 (91.7%)	5 (2.9%)	71 (61.7%)
Male	16 (7.8%)	161 (92%)	39 (33.9%)
Intersex	1 (.5%)	9 (5.1%)	5 (4.3%)
Gender Raised			
Female	188 (91.7%)	6 (3.4%)	71 (61.7%)
Male	17 (8.3%)	169 (96.6%)	44 (38.3%)
Sexual Orientation			
Heterosexual	53 (25.9%)	32 (18.3%)	9 (7.8%)
Bisexual	20 (9.8%)	47 (26.9%)	23 (20%)
Lesbian/Gay	35 (17.1%)	50 (28.6%)	15 (13%)
Questioning	10 (4.9%)	19 (10.9%)	8 (7%)
Queer/Pansexual/Fluid	87 (42.4%)	27 (15.4%)	60 (52.2%)

TABLE 3.

Overall Friendship Patterns

	M(SD)		*M (SD)*	*t*-test	*p*-value
Transgender Friends	1.21 (1.49)	Cisgender Friends	3.42 (2.22)	17.23	.001
Sexual Minority Friends	2.66 (1.99)	Heterosexual Friends	2.22 (1.76)	3.23	.001
LGBT Affiliated Friends	2.39 (2.05)	LGBT Non-Affiliated Friends	2.49 (1.88)	.70	.001

TABLE 4.

Main Effects of LGBT Affiliation

	LGBT Affiliated *M (SD)*	LGBT Non-Affiliated *M (SD)*
Transgender Friends*	1.38 (1.55)	.62 (1.03)
Sexual Minority Friends*	2.92 (2.01)	1.73 (1.64)
Heterosexual Friends*	2.14 (1.71)	2.49 (1.92)
LGBT Affiliated Friends*	2.84 (2.03)	.83 (1.12)
LGBT Non-Affiliated Friends*	2.24 (1.69)	3.39 (2.21)

Note. All significant at the $p < .05$ level.

TABLE 5.

Main Effects of Gender Identity

	Transgender Men *M (SD)*	Transgender Women *M (SD)*	Gender Variant *M (SD)*
[1]Cisgender Friends*	3.72 (2.07)	3.11 (2.33)	3.37 (2.67)
[1]Sexual Minority Friends*	2.93 (1.92)	2.42 (2.03)	2.54 (2.01)
[1]LGBT Affiliated Friends*	2.68 (2.09)	2.04 (1.93)	2.42 (2.07)
[2]LGBT Non-Affiliated Friends*	2.27 (1.71)	2.93 (2.06)	2.221.77)

Note. [1]Sig differences: transgender men v. transgender women
[2]Sig differences: transgender women v. transgender men and gender variant
All significant at the $p < .05$ level

APPENDIX B: SURVEY

Transgender Experience: Friendship & Belongingness

We are a group of researchers from Towson University's Psychology Department and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) Studies Program conducting a study to learn about transgender / gender variant friendship experiences as well as feelings of belongingness and community. In this study you will be asked to complete some questions about yourself, your relationships, and your attitudes regarding yourself and others from a variety of contexts. It is anticipated that it will take approximately 20-30 minutes to participate.

Participation is voluntary. There are no known personal risks associated with participation. Should you become uncomfortable or wish to cease participation for any reason, you may do so by clicking "Exit Survey" in the top right hand corner of your screen. Although there are no direct benefits to you, we hope that the results of the study will reveal something about human behavior in general and transgender experience in particular.

Participants can be assured that the information supplied will be completely anonymous, that is, no one will be able to identify you by your responses. Completion of this survey signifies your voluntary consent to participate in this research and that you are at least 18 years of age.

The Towson University Institutional Review Board has approved this study. If you have any questions regarding this research or its purposes, please contact the principal investigator Dr. Paz Galupo, (Professor of Psychology and Director of LGBT Studies) at pgalupo@towson.edu. If you have any questions pertaining to your rights as a participant, please contact Dr. Debi Gartland, Chairperson of the Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Participants, at (410) 704-2236.

Thank you!

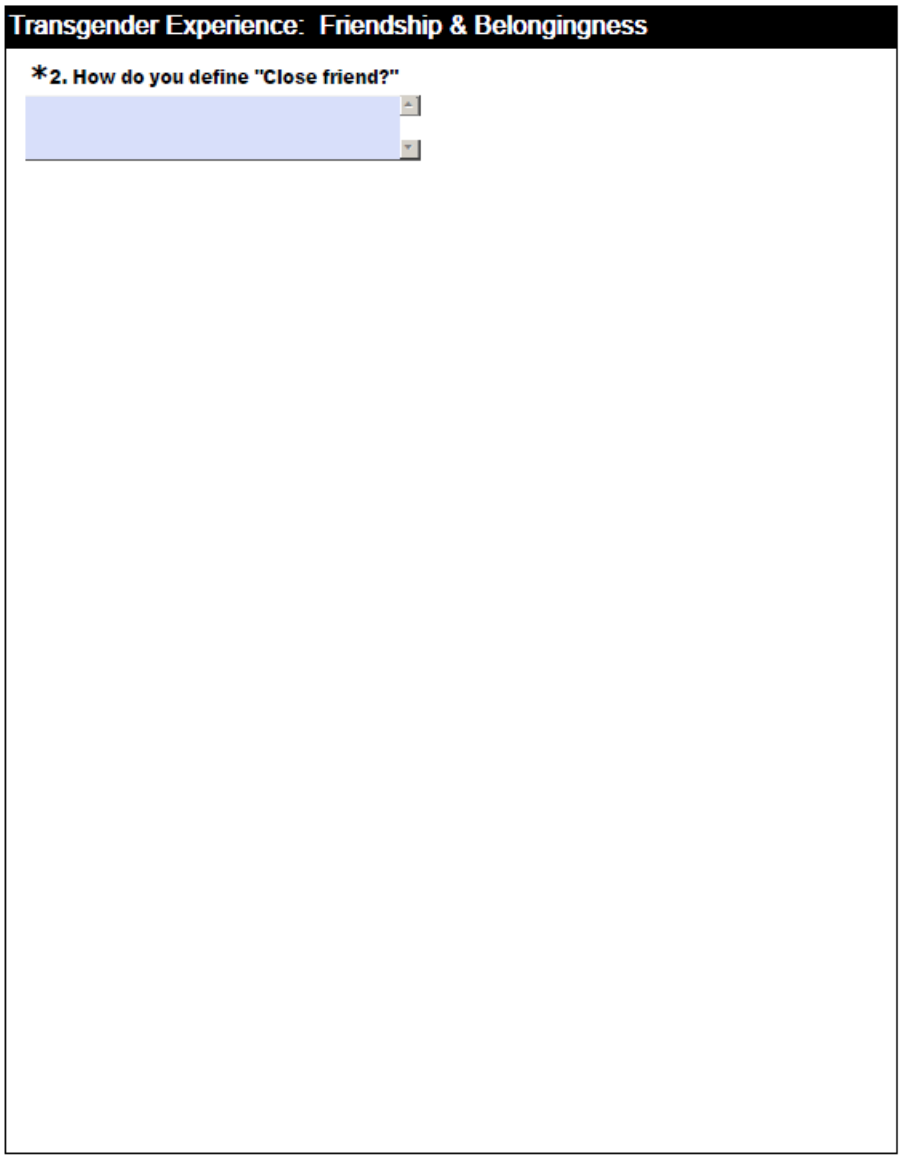
Loryn Bauerband
Kirsten A. Gonzalez
Brienne Hagen
Shandelle Hether
Tiana Krum
M. Paz Galupo

***1. I have read the above passage and would like to complete the survey. In continuing I certify that I meet the research criteria for the study:**

1. I identify as transgender / gender variant;
2. I am 18 years of age or older;
3. I currently reside in the United States; and
4. I voluntarily consent to participate in this research.

If you would like to discontinue your participation, please choose "Exit Survey" in the right hand corner.

○ yes


Transgender Experience: Friendship & Belongingness
*2. How do you define "Close friend?"

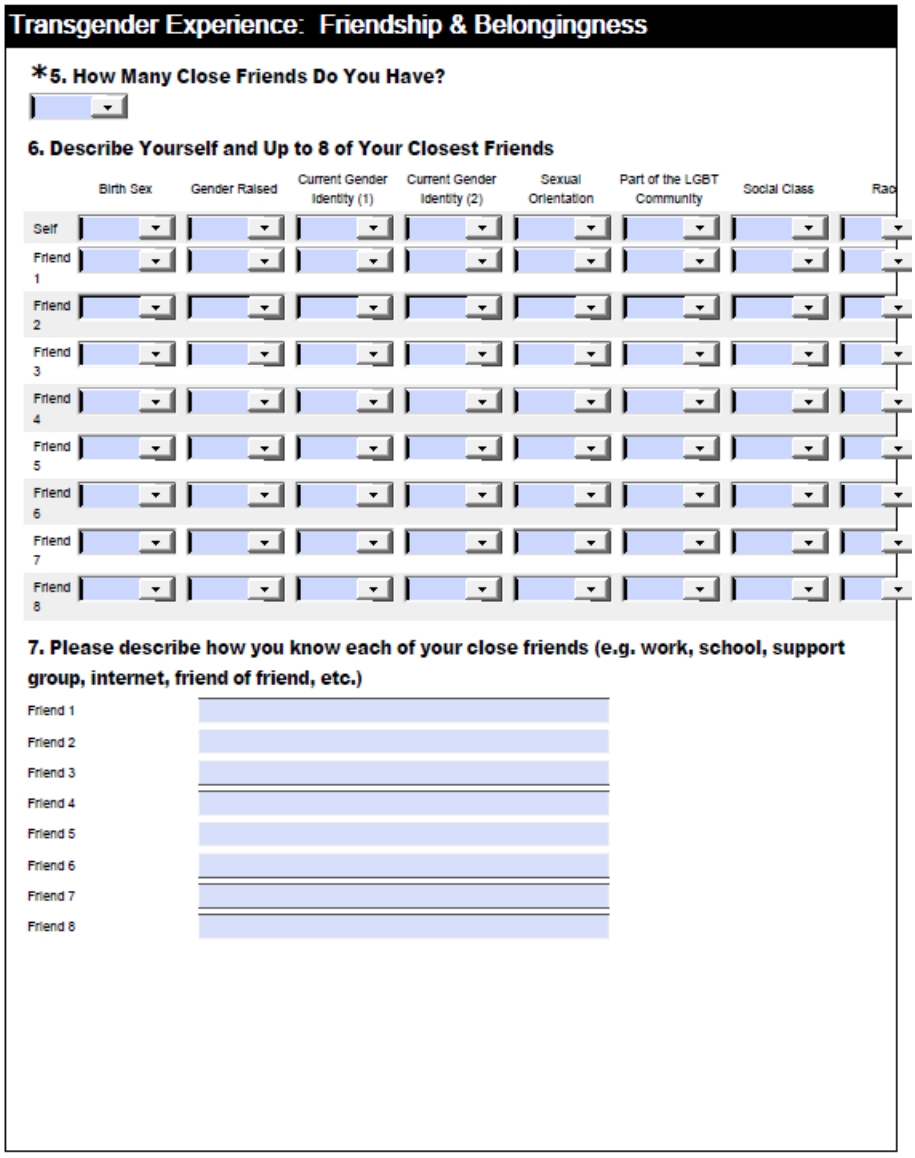
Transgender Experience: Friendship & Belongingness

***3. Rate each item in terms of how important you feel it is in a close friendship.**

	Not Important	Slightly Not Important	Neither Important Nor Not Important	Slightly Important	Important
Can Talk About Anything	○	○	○	○	○
Emotional Support	○	○	○	○	○
Frequent Contact	○	○	○	○	○
Have Fun Together	○	○	○	○	○
Known for a Long Time	○	○	○	○	○
Non-judgmental	○	○	○	○	○
Shared Activities	○	○	○	○	○
Similar Lives / Similar Experiences	○	○	○	○	○
Similar Values	○	○	○	○	○
Trust / Honesty	○	○	○	○	○
Respect Friend as a Person	○	○	○	○	○
There When Needed	○	○	○	○	○

***4. Choose the TWO characteristics that are the most important to you in a close friendship.**

- ☐ Can Talk About Anything
- ☐ Emotional Support
- ☐ Frequent Contact
- ☐ Have Fun Together
- ☐ Known for a Long Time
- ☐ Non-judgmental
- ☐ Shared Activities
- ☐ Similar Lives / Similar Experiences
- ☐ Similar Values
- ☐ Trust / Honesty
- ☐ Respect Friend as Person
- ☐ There When Needed



Transgender Experience: Friendship & Belongingness

***5. How Many Close Friends Do You Have?**

6. Describe Yourself and Up to 8 of Your Closest Friends

	Birth Sex	Gender Raised	Current Gender Identity (1)	Current Gender Identity (2)	Sexual Orientation	Part of the LGBT Community	Social Class	Rac
Self								
Friend 1								
Friend 2								
Friend 3								
Friend 4								
Friend 5								
Friend 6								
Friend 7								
Friend 8								

7. Please describe how you know each of your close friends (e.g. work, school, support group, internet, friend of friend, etc.)

Friend 1

Friend 2

Friend 3

Friend 4

Friend 5

Friend 6

Friend 7

Friend 8

APPENDIX C: INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD APPROVAL

TOWSON UNIVERSITY

EXEMPTION NUMBER: 11-0X86

To: M. Paz Galupo

From: Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects, Melissa Osborne Groves, Member

Date: Thursday, January 27, 2011

RE: Application for Approval of Research Involving the Use of Human Participants

Office of University Research Services

Towson University
8000 York Road
Towson, MD 21252-0001

t. 410 704-2236
f. 410 704-4494

Thank you for submitting an application for approval of the research titled,

Positive Transgender Experiences: Friendship & Belongingness

to the Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Participants (IRB) at Towson University.

Your research is exempt from general Human Participants requirements according to 45 CFR 46.101(b)(2). No further review of this project is required from year to year provided it does not deviate from the submitted research design.

If you substantially change your research project or your survey instrument, please notify the Board immediately.

We wish you every success in your research project.

CC:

√ File

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Curriculum Vitae

C. Reyn Boyer

[redacted]

Educational Background

2015	M.A.	Towson University, Towson, Maryland Experimental Psychology Thesis Advisor: Dr. M. Paz Galupo

First Year Project: Prove it! Same-sex Performativity among Sexual Minorities
Thesis: Transgender Friendship Profiles: Patterns across Gender Identity & LGBT Affiliation

2013 *Cum Laude*	B. S.	Towson University, Towson, Maryland Major: Psychology, *Honors* Minor: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Studies Thesis Advisor: Dr. M. Paz Galupo

Publications

Boyer, C.R. & Galupo, M.P. (2015, In Press) "Prove It!":Same-Sex Performativity among Sexual Minorities. *Psychology & Sexuality.*

Boyer, C.R. & Galupo, M.P. (2015). Attitudes toward individuals in same-sex and cross-sex encounters: Implications for bisexuality. *Journal of Bisexuality, 15*(1), 57-68.

Hackl, A. M., **Boyer, C.R**., & Galupo, M. P. (2013). From "Gay marriage controversy" (2004) to "Endorsement of same-sex marriage" (2012): Framing bisexuality in the marriage equality discourse. *Journal of Sexuality & Culture, 17*(3), 512-524.

Presentations

Boyer, C. R. & Galupo, M.P. (November, 2014). LGBT Family Microaggressions. Poster presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Conference. Omaha, Nebraska.

Boyer, C.R. & Galupo, M.P. (April, 2014). Gender Differences in Sexual Minority Same-sex Performativtity. Poster presented at the Maryland Psychological Association Graduate Studies Conference. Baltimore, Maryland.

Boyer, C.R. & Galupo, M.P. (April, 2014). Prove it: Same-sex Performativtity among Sexual Minorities. Same poster presented at the National Association for Women in Psychology Conference, at the Towson University Research EXPO. Towson, MD.

Boyer, C.R. & Galupo, M.P. (March, 2014). Prove it: Same-sex Performativtity among Sexual Minorities. Poster presented at the National Association for Women in Psychology Conference. Columbus, Ohio.

Hutton-Rogers, L., Todd., M., & **Boyer, C.R.** (December 2013). Sexual vs Spiritual? Experiences of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth. Poster presented at the National Sex Ed Conference. Meadowlands, NJ.

Todd, M., Hutton-Rogers, L., & **Boyer, C.R.** (November, 2013). Sexual vs Spiritual? Experiences of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth. Poster presented at the National Council on Family Relations. San Antonio, TX.

Boyer, C. R. & Galupo, M, P. (May, 2013). Attitudes Towards Sexual Permissiveness Vary Across Gender and Sexual Orientation of Target Individual. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Sciences. Washington, D.C.

Ardinger, C., **Boyer, C.R.**, Sekely, K.R.V., Hackl, A.M., & Galupo, M.P. (May, 2013). Attractive Eggs and Strong Sperm: Online Presentation of Egg and Sperm Donors. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Sciences. Washington, D.C.

Boyer, C. R. & Galupo, M.P. (April, 2013). Want to come back to my place? How attitudes towards sexual permissiveness vary across gender and sexual orientation of target individual. Poster presented at The Student Research and Scholarship Expo. Towson University, Towson, MD.

Todd, M. & **Boyer, C.R.** (March, 2013). Spiritual Selves vs. Sexual Selves: The Needs of LGBT Identified College Students. Paper presented at the Intersections Symposium: Sexuality, Gender, Race and Ethnicity. Morgan State University. Baltimore, MD.

Hackl, A. M., **Boyer, C.R**., & Galupo, M. P. (October, 2012). Bringing Us All Together? Implications for Changing Language in the Print Media Discourse of Same-Sex Marriage From 2004-2012. Paper presented at the Transcending Boundaries Conference. Springfield, Massachusetts.

Boyer, C. R., Hackl, A.M., Valliere, K.R., Ardinger, C., & Galupo, M.P. (April, 2012). Athletic inclination and mechanical ability, now let's talk fertility: Masculinity and gender presentation of sperm donors. Poster presented at The Student Research and Scholarship Expo. Towson University, Towson, MD.

Ardinger, C., Valliere, K.R., Hackl, A.M., **Boyer, C. R**., Galupo, M.P. (April, 2012). Beauty and passivity, now let's talk viability: Femininity and gender presentation of egg donors. Poster presented at The Student Research and Scholarship Expo. Towson University, Towson, MD.

Valliere, K.R., **Boyer, C.R.**, Ardinger, C., Hackl, A.M., & Galupo, M.P. (April, 2012). Masculinity, femininity, and the gendered presentation of egg and sperm donors. Poster presented at the Maryland Psychological Association of Graduate Students Convention, Columbia, MD

Research Experience

Fall 2013-present

Graduate Assistant
Towson University, Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity
Duties: Research issues and policies in regards to diversity and multiculturalism, create reports for recruitment and retention practices for diverse students, schedule and prepare SpeakUp! sessions on campus—a educational training about everyday bigotry, independently assemble reports of hate/bias/sexual misconduct incidents on campus utilizing Access database, maintain ODEO webpage, processing faculty searches in accordance with Towson University's affirmative action goals

Fall 2012-Spring 2013

Undergraduate Research Assistant (paid)
Towson University
Dr. Maureen Todd & Dr. Laurencia Hutton Rogers
Project Title: Spiritual Selves vs. Sexual Selves: The Needs of LGBT Identified College Students
Duties: Attending and transcribing focus group sessions, data analysis, coding, presenting results

Spring 2012-present

Research Assistant/Lab Member
Towson University, Dr. M. Paz Galupo
Gender and Sexual Identity Lab

Project Title: From "Gay marriage controversy" (2004) to "Endorsement of same-sex marriage" (2012): Framing bisexuality in the marriage equality discourse.

Duties: Conducted data collection and analysis of 2012 results

Project Title: Masculinity, femininity, and the gendered presentation of egg and sperm donors.
Duties: Data collection, coding items, write up, preparation of conference materials, presentation at conference

Project Title: LGBT Family Microaggressions
Duties: IRB application, survey creation, data collection, coding items, write up, preparation of conference materials, presentation at conference, manuscript preparation

Spring 2012-Spring 2013 **Undergraduate Honors Thesis**
Towson University, Dr. M. Paz Galupo
Project Title: Do attitudes towards sexual permissiveness vary across gender and sexual orientation of target individual?

Fall 2011-Fall 2012 **Intern Research Project**
Towson University, Dr. Bruce Herman, *Counseling Center*
Project Title: Towson University Campus Climate for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer Students
Duties: Conducted an original project, data collection, data input and analysis using SPSS

Fall 2011-Spring 2012 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**
Towson University, Dr. Margaret Faulkner
Project Title: Mind/Body Lab—Can Animals Reduce Stress?
Duties: Included running participants, measuring heart rate, blood pressure, and cortisol levels of participants, data collecting

Fall 2010 **Undergraduate Research Assistant (paid)**
Towson University, Dr. Pamela Lottero-Perdue
Project Title: Education in Elementary Education School and Clubs—the PEEESC Program
Duties: Interview transcription

Teaching Experience

Spring 2015 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**
Towson University, Renae Mitchell, M.A.
PSYC 447/557: Sex Differences: Psychological Perspectives
Duties: Taught two classes, Created and graded exams, graded weekly journal writing assignments and extra credit assignments, facilitated small group discussions and observed group dynamics, provided administrative assistance and uploaded course material on Blackboard

Fall 2013 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**
Towson University, Dr. Paz Galupo
PSYC 447/557: Sex Differences: Psychological Perspectives
Duties: Created and graded exams, graded weekly journal writing assignments and extra credit assignments, facilitated small group discussions and observed group dynamics, provided administrative assistance and uploaded course material on Blackboard

Fall 2012	**Undergraduate Teaching Assistant** Towson University, Dr. Cynthia Kalodner *PSYC 432: Cross Cultural Psychology* Duties: Facilitated class discussion, graded homework assignments and exams, prepared course assignments, lead study sessions prior to exams
Spring 2011	**Undergraduate Teaching Assistant** Towson University, Dr. Loraine Hutchins *LGBT 101: Intro to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Studies* Duties: Assisted in syllabus development, prepared assignments for students, graded class assignments, facilitated class discussions

Study Abroad Experience

A Comparison of the US and Argentina: A Psychological Perspective
Buenos Aires, Argentina, January 2013
Towson University, PSYC 494 & 470

- Completed cross-cultural and industrial psychology courses in Latin America
- Introduced to Argentinian culture and society while exploring the cultural, psychological, and organizational differences between the United States and Argentina

Leadership Experience

2011	**Towson University Student Support Network Peer Advocate** *Towson University* Duties: Trained in mental health issues, learned how to support the mental health concerns of peers on campus, & how to integrate these skills into organizations on campus

Grants

2014	Institute for Bisexuality Research ($350)
2014	Graduate Travel Grant Award ($500)
2014	Institute for Bisexuality Research ($145)
2014	Graduate Travel Grant Award ($500)
2013	Undergraduate Travel Grant ($300)
2012	Undergraduate Travel Grant ($500)

Service/Volunteer Experience

Fall 2014	SSSS Conference Volunteer
Spring 2014	AWP Conference Volunteer
2010-present	PRIDE LGBT Mentor Program, *Towson University*

Honors and Awards

2013	Graduated Cum Laude, Towson University
Spring 2013	Psychology Departmental Achievement Award
Spring 2012-present	Psi Chi, National Honor Society in Psychology, Towson University
Spring 2012-Spring 2013	Undergraduate Psychology Honors Thesis Program
Fall 2010-present	National Society of Collegiate Scholars
Fall 2010-present	Dean's List, Towson University