



Universidade Federal da Paraíba
Centro de Ciências, Humanas, Letras e Artes



Departamento de Psicologia
Programa de Pós-Graduação em Psicologia Social
Doutorado em Psicologia Social

Washington Allysson Dantas Silva

Gay Pride: theorization, measurement, and mental health implications

Orgulho Gay: teorização, testagem e implicações para a saúde mental

João Pessoa

2024

Washington Allysson Dantas Silva

Universidade Federal da Paraíba

Gay Pride: theorization, measurement, and mental health implications

Orgulho Gay: teorização, testagem e implicações para a saúde mental

Tese submetida ao Programa de Pós-Graduação em Psicologia Social da Universidade Federal da Paraíba, por Washington Allysson Dantas Silva, como requisito parcial para a obtenção do título de Doutor em Psicologia Social.

Orientador: Prof. Dr. Cicero Roberto Pereira.

Instituição financiadora: Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES).

João Pessoa

2024

Catálogo na publicação
Seção de Catalogação e Classificação

S586o Silva, Washington Allysson Dantas.

Orgulho Gay : teorização, testagem e implicações
para a saúde mental / Washington Allysson Dantas Silva.
- João Pessoa, 2024.

236 f. : il.

Orientação: Cicero Roberto Pereira.

Tese (Doutorado) - UFPB/CCHLA.


1. Orgulho gay. 2. Microagressões. 3. Saúde mental.
4. Teoria da identidade social. 5. Modelos de
mediação-moderada. 6. Cross-lagged panel analysis. I.
Pereira, Cicero Roberto. II. Título.

UFPB/BC


CDU 613.86-055.34(043)

ATA DE DEFESA DE TESE

Aos quatorze dias do mês de agosto de dois mil e vinte e quatro, de modo remoto pelo Google Meet, reuniram-se em solenidade pública os membros da comissão designada pelo Colegiado do Programa de Pós-graduação em Psicologia Social (CCHLA/UFPB), para a defesa de Tese do aluno **WASHINGTON ALLYSSON DANTAS SILVA**– mat. 20211012900 (orientando, UFPB, CPF: 095.380.524-71). Foram componentes da banca examinadora: Prof. Dr. **CICERO ROBERTO PEREIRA** (UFPB, Orientador, CPF: 982.070.754-49), Prof. Dr. **CARLOS EDUARDO PIMENTEL** (UFPB, Membro Interno ao Programa, CPF: 023.802.314-19), Prof. Dr. **CRISTIAN ZANON** (UFRGS, Membro Externo à Instituição, CPF: 997.168.280-04), Prof.^(a) Dr.^(a) **ELZA MARIA TECHIO** (UFBA, Membro Externo à Instituição, CPF: 408.824.702-72) e Prof.^(a) Dr.^(a) **KALINE DA SILVA LIMA** (UNIFOR, Membro Externo à Instituição, CPF: 079.904.744-92). Na cerimônia compareceram, além do examinado, alunos de pós-graduação, representantes dos corpos docente e discente da Universidade Federal da Paraíba e interessados em geral. Dando início aos trabalhos, o presidente da banca, Prof. Dr. **CICERO ROBERTO PEREIRA**, após declarar o objetivo da reunião, apresentou o examinado **WASHINGTON ALLYSSON DANTAS SILVA** e, em seguida, concedeu-lhe a palavra para que discorresse sobre seu trabalho, intitulado: "**ORGULHO GAY: TEORIZAÇÃO, TESTAGEM E IMPLICAÇÕES PARA A SAÚDE MENTAL**". Passando então ao aludido tema, o aluno foi, em seguida, arguido pelos examinadores na forma regimental. Ato contínuo, passou a comissão, em secreto, a proceder a avaliação e julgamento do trabalho, concluindo por atribuir-lhe o conceito de "**APROVADO**", o qual foi proclamado pelo presidente da banca, logo que retornou ao recinto da solenidade pública. Nada mais havendo a tratar, eu, **Júlio Rique Neto**, Coordenador do Programa de Pós-Graduação em Psicologia Social da UFPB, lavrei a presente ata, que depois de lida e aprovada por todos assino juntamente com os membros da banca. **João Pessoa**, 14 de agosto de 2024.

Documento assinado digitalmente
 **CICERO ROBERTO PEREIRA**
Data: 15/08/2024 14:25:05-0300
Verifique em <https://validar.iti.gov.br>


Prof. Dr. **Cícero Roberto Pereira**

Documento assinado digitalmente
 **CARLOS EDUARDO PIMENTEL**
Data: 15/08/2024 14:17:48-0300
Verifique em <https://validar.iti.gov.br>


Prof. Dr. **Carlos Eduardo Pimentel**




Prof. Dr. **Cristian Zanon**

Documento assinado digitalmente
 **ELZA MARIA TECHIO**
Data: 14/08/2024 17:07:30-0300
Verifique em <https://validar.iti.gov.br>

Prof^a Dr^a **Elza Maria Techio**

Documento assinado digitalmente
 **KALINE DA SILVA LIMA**
Data: 14/08/2024 22:34:01-0300
Verifique em <https://validar.iti.gov.br>

Prof^a Dr^a **Kaline Da Silva Lima**

Documento assinado digitalmente
 **JULIO RIQUE NETO**
Data: 16/08/2024 11:46:19-0300
Verifique em <https://validar.iti.gov.br>

Prof. Dr. **Júlio Rique Neto**
Coordenador do PPGPS

*“LGBTQ people are marvels. We disappoint our parents. We are at battle with our government. We are stigmatized by religions. We are bullied in our childhoods. **We are erased [...], and still we rise – we come out and say, ‘This is me.’** This is the spirit of an extraordinary species of people. We need to celebrate that and not diminish it.”*

— Richie Jackson [“Gay Like Me”]

Acknowledgements

It is the end of my doctoral journey, a process that has been idealized and pursued with personal effort, sacrifice, and systematization. Along the way, I have met people who have helped me on different paths and to whom I would like to express my gratitude.

First, I thank my advisor, Professor Cicero Roberto Pereira, for his time dedicated to my professional training. Thank you for your personal, theoretical, and methodological guidance. In my journey from bachelor's to master's to doctorate, I have learned valuable lessons from your example of responsibility and ethics.

I thank my life partner, Lucas Gabriel, for his support during this doctoral period. I am very fortunate to be able to count on your lightness, companionship, and joy in my life. Over the last ten years, you have listened to my concerns about dreams and fears for the future. Well, the future is here, and it is so good to have you by my side.

I thank my family who, although they do not understand my work, have often welcomed my absence with personal support and encouragement. I thank my mother Rosiclei for the gift of life and encouragement towards education, my aunt Roseane for her peace and affection and my grandmother Maria do Socorro Silva Dantas for teaching me about the power of dreams, love, and happiness in life.

I thank my friends — and here I fear I am being unfair to someone — for giving me comfort in the difficult moments that life brings me. I thank the friends who have accompanied all my changes and, above all, have shaped some of my personal attributes, namely Daniel Capistrano, Fabiana Santos, and Henrique Costa.

I thank the friends that Academia introduced me to. Bruna Falcão, Débora Cristina, Layrthton Carlos, Lina Ferrari, Shirley Simeão, and Tátila Brito entered my professional life on an academic whim, but quickly took a happy and grateful place in my personal life. A special thank you to Emerson do Bú for his methodological support in the U.S. studies.

A friend in need is a friend indeed, so a special thanks to Emanuelle Medeiros, who added color and shine to my time in Lisbon.

I thank the members of Political Behavior Research Group (GPCP) at the Federal University of Paraíba for sharing important experiences during this period.

Thank you to my students, whom I learn every day how to be a teacher. Thank you for being the meaning of my professional life.

Thank you to the panel of reviewers for taking the time to read this work.

Finally, I thank CAPES for partially funding this work and the people who agreed to participate in the studies of this doctoral thesis.

Gay Pride: theorization, measurement, and mental health implications

Abstract

Social psychology has made considerable efforts to understand how and under what conditions social victimization processes can negatively affect the quality-of-life indicators of oppressed individuals. There is extensive literature in this area of research describing the far-reaching consequences of social discrimination on the mental health of gay men. Overall, the studies show that marked experiences of social discrimination based on sexual orientation are associated with poorer mental health, particularly for those with low identification with their group. However, most studies focus on analyzing explicit forms of discrimination where victims are aware of the discriminatory intent of the perpetrator. Therefore, it remains unclear how less explicit forms of discrimination (e.g., microaggressions) may affect the positive dimensions (e.g., positive emotions and life satisfaction) and the negative dimensions (e.g., self-hate and suicidal ideation) of gay men's psychological well-being. Because striving for a positive social identity is a critical component of self-concept, how affirmation of sexual minority identity (e.g., gay pride) might influence the relationship between microaggressions and dimensions of psychological well-being has not been extensively examined. Given this gap, we hypothesize that gay pride, understood here as a sociopolitical strategy to affirm the identity of gay men, may mitigate the negative effects of microaggressions on the mental health of these individuals. In the context of this thesis, we hypothesize that gay pride can be conceptualized and measured (1) and can serve as a buffer for the effects of microaggressions on positive and negative dimensions of psychological well-being (2) and can be conceptualized as a sociopolitical strategy to change the social value of the gay group (3). To test these propositions, we draw on social identity theory and minority stress theory, based on which we developed a research program with three empirical articles. The first article ($N = 815$) comprises six studies (five correlational studies and one experimental study) in which we present the process of developing and validating the Gay Pride Scale and address the first hypothesis. The second article ($N = 471$), consisting of three studies, examines the moderating role of gay pride in the relationship between homonegative microaggressions and psychological well-being (Study 1) and the mediating role of self-hate in the relationship between homonegative microaggressions and levels of suicidal ideation in gay men, using both cross-sectional (Study 2) and longitudinal studies (Study 3). Finally, the third article ($N = 132$) shows the conditions under which gay pride can function as a competitive strategy for changing the social value of the gay group. In summary, through this program of study, we demonstrated that embracing and promoting gay pride can be an effective way of improving the social value and well-being of gay individuals within society. In doing so, we have helped to further develop the theoretical perspectives underpinning this thesis while outlining practical implications for the application of the models examined. Based on the findings presented here, we suggest new pathways for the development of psychosocial intervention strategies that focus on both maintaining social identity and improving the mental health of gay men.

Keywords: gay pride; microaggressions; mental health; social identity theory; moderated-mediation models; cross-lagged panel.

Orgulho Gay: teorização, testagem e implicações para a saúde mental

Resumo

A Psicologia Social tem dedicado consideráveis esforços na tentativa de responder como e em que condições a vitimização social pode impactar negativamente os indicadores de qualidade de vida de vítimas de opressão. Dentro desse campo de pesquisa, existe uma vasta literatura que detalha as consequências pervasivas da discriminação social na saúde mental de homens gays. No geral, as experiências acentuadas de discriminação social com base na orientação sexual estão associadas a níveis mais precários de saúde mental, principalmente entre aqueles com baixo nível de identificação grupal. Contudo, a maioria dos estudos concentra-se na análise das formas explícitas de discriminação, nas quais as vítimas têm clara consciência da intenção discriminatória do perpetrador. Consequentemente, ainda não está claro como formas menos explícitas de discriminação (e.g., microagressões) podem impactar as dimensões positiva (e.g., emoções positivas e satisfação com vida) e negativa (e.g., auto-ódio e ideação suicida) do bem-estar psicológico de homens gays. Ademais, sabendo que a busca de uma identidade social positiva é uma parte importante do autoconceito, a análise sobre como a afirmação social da identidade sexual minoritária (e.g., Gay Pride) pode influenciar a relação entre microagressões e as dimensões do bem-estar psicológico ainda não foi completamente explorada. Diante dessa lacuna, propomos a tese de que o Gay Pride, aqui compreendido como uma estratégia sociopolítica de afirmação da identidade de homens gays, pode atenuar o impacto negativo das microagressões na saúde mental desses indivíduos. Ao passo em que propomos essa tese, hipotetizamos que o Gay Pride pode ser teorizado e medido (1), podendo funcionar como amortecedor dos efeitos das microagressões no bem-estar (2), e que pode ser concebido como uma estratégia de competição para mudança do valor social do grupo gay (3). Para testarmos essas proposições, fundamentamo-nos na Teoria da Identidade Social, na Teoria do Estresse Minoritário e na Teoria da Justificação do Sistema, a partir das quais desenvolvemos um programa de estudos composto por três artigos empíricos. O primeiro artigo (N = 766) envolve seis estudos (cinco correlacionais e um experimental) nos quais apresentamos o processo de desenvolvimento e de validação da Gay Pride Scale, abordando assim a primeira proposição da tese. O segundo artigo (N = 471), composto por três estudos, examina a nossa segunda proposição ao confirmar o papel moderador do gay pride na relação entre microinvalidações homonegativas e o bem-estar psicológico (Estudo 1), assim como o papel mediador do auto-ódio na relação entre as microinvalidações homonegativas e os níveis de ideação suicida de homens gays, tanto em uma perspectiva transversal (Estudo 2) e longitudinal (Estudo 3) de recolha e análise dos dados. Por fim, o terceiro artigo (N = 132) demonstra as condições sob as quais o orgulho gay pode funcionar como uma estratégia competitiva para a mudança do valor social do grupo gay. No geral, este programa de estudos demonstra que a promoção do orgulho gay pode ser um meio eficaz de manutenção do valor social e da saúde mental de homens gays na sociedade. Esses achados contribuem para o avanço das perspectivas teóricas subjacentes a esta tese ao passo em que delineamos implicações práticas para o uso dos modelos investigados.

Palavras-chave: orgulho gay; microagressões; saúde mental; Teoria da Identidade Social; modelos de mediação-moderada; cross-lagged panel analysis.

Contents

Introduction	6
Theoretical background.....	8
Models of Gay Identity	8
Social Identity Theory and the Development of Gay Identity.....	10
Gay Pride	13
Minority Stress Theory: Microaggressions and Mental Health of Gay Men	16
Legitimizing the Status Quo: The System Justification Theory	20
Thesis statement	22
Overview of Thesis	26
References of Introduction	27
Paper 1.....	44
Abstract.....	45
Introduction.....	46
Overview of Studies	53
Study 1	54
Study 2	59
Study 3	68
Study 3a	69
Study 3b	73
Study 4.....	77
General Discussion	83
References.....	91
Transitional Remarks (paper 1 to paper 2)	102
Paper 2.....	103
Abstract.....	104
Introduction.....	105
Overview of studies	111
Study 1	112
Study 2	120
Study 3	130
General Discussion	138
References.....	144
Transitional Remarks (paper 2 to paper 3)	156
Paper 3.....	157
Abstract.....	158
Introduction.....	159
Method.....	165
Results.....	169
Discussion.....	175
References.....	178
Meta-analytical psychometric examination of the Gay Pride measurement.....	185
General Discussion	193
Theoretical implications	196
Practical implications.....	200
Limitations and further directions	202
Conclusions.....	203
References.....	205
Supplementary Materials	214

Introduction

In this thesis, we will examine the dynamics by which microaggressions influence gay men's mental health, with a particular focus on the effects of homonegative microinvalidations and the protective role of gay pride. Because it is a subtle form of discrimination, microaggressions are often confused with unintentional remarks or slips of the tongue by people who claim not to be prejudiced. To illustrate how a microaggression (more specifically, a microinvalidation) manifests itself, let us take the example of John, a 30-year-old Brazilian man who recounts an experience of subtle discrimination at his workplace.

“During a meeting with some colleagues, John, a 30-year-old openly gay man, shared his recent experience with members of the company team. He shared that at a meeting after presenting a proposal for the company's social diversity campaign, he was surprised when his manager said to another colleague that such a proposal, while nice, had a “gay tinge” to it. When John discussed this with his colleagues, he felt that the comment, although subtle, had a homophobic undertone. But before he could fully consider his statement, Mateus, a close friend of John's, interrupted him without thinking about the consequences and said: “John, I think you are exaggerating. I doubt that anyone there has a problem with your sexual orientation. Sometimes it seems like you are looking for homophobia everywhere.” At that moment, John felt Mateus’ comment trigger unpleasant memories. He immediately recalled all the obstacles he had encountered throughout his life when it came to accepting and embracing his gay identity. He felt belittled as a person.”

John's (fictional) case represents a common phenomenon experienced by gay men. It is homonegative microinvalidation, a subtle form of discrimination that aims to demean a person's identity through comments and behaviors that negate the individual's psychological experiences (Sue et al., 2010). In John's case, not only did he experience a homophobic

episode at the previous meeting, but his experiences and perspectives were devalued by Mateus, making him feel temporarily silenced and uncomfortable.

The constant frequency with which he is exposed to homonegative microinvalidations can impact John's self-esteem and sense of social belonging. As he is labeled as "over the top" in terms of his gay identity, he may begin to question the validity of his perceptions and experiences and develop a negative sense of his social belonging and himself. Furthermore, the constant invalidation of his identity, even in subtle ways, may negatively impact how happy and accepting John feels about his sexuality, potentially affecting his relationships and the ongoing process of developing his identity. John's example not only demonstrates a case of subtle invalidation of gay identity but also highlights the persistence of homonegative prejudice in today's society.

Historically, social hostility and the devaluation of non-straight sexual orientations have posed major challenges to the development of gay identities. Gay identities have been viewed through the lens of social exclusion and marginalization caused by daily episodes of social victimization, especially among gay men (Jaspal, 2019). In Brazil, for example, in 2022 more than half of adult gay men were verbally or physically assaulted because of their sexual orientation (Opinion Box, 2023). As a result, their psychological and social well-being is affected due to the pervasive impact of discrimination on different areas of their lives. This includes not only the direct assaults, but also the subtle but insidious microaggressions that permeate their daily interactions which contribute to increased levels of stress, anxiety, and in some cases, internalized feelings of shame and self-hate (e.g., Berg et al., 2016).

In fact, previous research has shown that gay men's mental health is negatively impacted by the devaluation of their identity due to their sexual orientation (Marchi et al., 2023), particularly at a subtle level exemplified by microinvalidations of gay identity (see Lui & Quezada, 2019 for a review). In other hand, some theories suggest that developing a

positive social identity can protect individuals from the harmful effects of social stressors such as prejudice and discrimination (Bourguignon et al., 2020; Branscombe et al., 1999; Hambour et al., 2023). In the case of gay men, the potential outcome of cultivating a positive social identity is illustrated by the concept of gay pride.

However, given the historical social victimization that gay men have experienced, it remains unclear how they can develop the sense of gay pride since their gay identity is derived from a strongly devaluated group in the society (Jaspal, 2022). Moreover, considering that gay pride may be a critical component of gay men's social identity, the role of gay pride in mitigating the effects of social victimization on gay men's mental health has not been thoroughly explored. Furthermore, given that the gay pride emerged as a countermovement to social hierarchies, we ask how the system justification may influence this dynamic. To answer these questions, we draw on theories from social psychology about the development of gay men's identity.

Theoretical Background

Models of Gay Identity

There are a variety of explanatory models for the development of gay identity (Bishop et al., 2020; Jaspal, 2019; Richardson & Hart, 1981; Troiden, 1989), with the best-known models being those of Cass (1979) and Plummer (1975). These models deal with the developmental process of gay identity from both a psychological and a psychosocial (interactionist) perspective. Plummer's (1975) model, for example, assumes that gay identity develops through the social interaction of gays with their gay, lesbian and bisexual peers. The author suggests that homosexuality, which is initially perceived with a negative sexual connotation due to social hostility towards this identity, tends to take on a positive character for people who identify with this sexual orientation when they seek interaction with other gays within the gay subculture (Plummer, 1981, 2007). It means that the negative stigma of

their identity changes to a more positive one during this process. According to Plummer (2007), this interaction with gay peers is positive. It promotes the maintenance of self-esteem among gay men and contributes to the development of a sense of belonging to a group.

Cass's (1979) model views the development of gay identity from the perspective of interpersonal congruence. The author proposes that the process of developing a gay identity is motivated by the desire for congruence between the perception of a self-image, the perception of the behavior that results from that trait, and the perception of others' views of that trait. The model assumes six stages of gay identity development (i.e., identity confusion, identity comparison, identity tolerance, identity acceptance, identity pride, and identity synthesis) that are cumulative and result from congruence between the individual's perception of self as a group member, their behaviors, and the environment in which they live based on the reception of their sexual orientation, whether positive or hostile.

However, both models have been criticized concerning the explanations they offer for the process of identity formation (e.g., Elizur & Mintzer, 2001, 2003; Goodrich & Brammer, 2021; Kennedy & Oswalt, 2014; Tyler, 2002; Zurbenis et al., 2011). First, both theorists view identity as a mere process of personal labeling and neglect the psychosocial and political aspects that may play a role in this process (Jaspal, 2022). Second, both models take an individualized perspective on gay identity formation and overlook the crucial role of the group in the recognition of gay identity (Cox & Gallois, 1996). In other words, they focus on individual identity development and place less importance on aspects of group identity development (e.g., the group of gay men). Moreover, by paying minimal attention to social identity, they gave less attention to the intergroup dynamics in the formation of gay group identity, which is socially influenced by the heterosexist norms prevalent, the hierarchy of social group in a society in predominantly heterosexual societies (Kertzner et al., 2009). Some authors have attempted to explain the processes of gay identity formation from the

perspective of social psychology of intergroup relations (e.g. Cox & Gallois, 1996; Jaspal, 2019, 2020).

Social Identity Theory and the Development of Gay Identity

To overcome the limitations associated with individualizing models of gay identity development, Cox and Gallois (1996) propose discussing gay identity formation from a social identity perspective, drawing on social identity theory (SIT; Tajfel, 1978, 1981; Tajfel & Turner, 1979). According to these authors, the models of gay identity development studied to date have concentrated primarily on individual processes and the relationship between the individual and society. SIT, on the other hand, concentrates on questions of group identity and observes how these aspects are influenced by society and how they interact with social structures (Tajfel & Turner, 1986).

SIT assumes that individuals are motivated to seek a group-based identity to develop a positive self-image that reflects the social value of groups in a society (Tajfel & Turner, 1986). Social identity, in turn, is defined as “that part of an individual’s self-concept which derives from his knowledge of his membership in a social group (or groups) together with the value and emotional significance attached to that group membership” (Tajfel, 1981, p. 255). The theory states three main elements (cognitive, socio-evaluative, and self-affective) are linked to social identity formation. The cognitive element (self-categorization) refers to the awareness of group membership, i.e., the extent to which an individual perceive they is as a member of a particular social category. The socio-evaluative element refers to how positively or negatively the society evaluates his\her group relatively to other group in the society. The affective element, in turn, refers to the feelings and emotions individuals derive from their social belonging. These three elements underpin the basis for social identity (Tajfel & Turner, 1979, 1986).

SIT also represents three theoretical principles as proposed by Tajfel and Turner (2004, p. 284). First, the theory assumes individuals are motivated to acquire or maintain a positive social identity. Secondly, SIT postulates that this positive social identity is achieved through processes of social comparison between the evaluative characteristics of the ingroup (belonging group) and a relevant external group (outgroup). A positive social identity is achieved when the ingroup differs positively from the outgroups. Striving for positive differentiation of the ingroup compared to a relevant outgroup is referred to as motivation for positive distinctiveness (e.g., Falomir-Pichastor et al., 2009; Figueiredo & Pereira, 2021; Jetten et al., 2004). This motivation is the basis for developing prejudice and discrimination (Brown & Zagefka, 2005), which in the SIT is featured as a phenomenon known as ingroup favoritism can occur (Turner et al., 1987). Ingroup favoritism (e.g., ingroup bias) is the individuals' tendency to behave in a way that favor their ingroups and discriminate the outgroups (Brewer, 1979; Everett et al., 2015).. Finally, the third postulate assumes that when the process of social comparison leads to damage to the ingroup and creates a negative/unsatisfactory social identity, i.e., when individuals belong to socially devaluated groups, they can use individual strategies to leave the group to which they belong and join a more socially distinctive group; or use collective strategies to make their social group more positively distinctive from others groups (Tajfel & Turner, 1979).

Social comparison and competition for social change

Social comparison forms the basis for the development of social identity. However, as SIT emphasizes (Tajfel & Turner, 1979), this social comparison process only has meaning in relevant and specific group's social value dimensions. When groups have a higher social status (e.g., when they wield power), acquiring a positive social identity is easier because members of such groups occupy a significant place in society (Brown, 2000, 2020), which facilitate derive positive feeling from such social belongings. However, in socially

hierarchized contexts, such as the division between advantaged groups (groups that exert a more significant influence on the social structure – e.g., straight people) and disadvantaged groups (groups that are influenced by the norms and social rules established by the majority, such as gay individuals), the process of social comparison leads to the formation of a negative social identity (Hogg & Abrams, 1988). This occurs because individuals derive negative feeling from such social belongings. In other words, the higher social value of the advantaged group compared to the lower social value of a disadvantaged group tends to lead to the development of a positive social identity for the advantaged and a negative social identity for the disadvantaged one. For example, relationships between straight and gay individuals are characterized by this social hierarchy formed by a heterosexist structure (i.e., denial, prejudice, and discrimination of non-heterosexual behaviors, relationships, and identities, as discussed in Minority Stress Theory; Meyer, 2003), leading to the development of a positive social identity for the straights but not for the gays one (Frost & Meyer, 2023). For members of advantaged groups to acquire a positive social identity, they must primarily engage in collective strategies to change the social value of the group, with the primary strategy referred to as competition for social change (Tajfel & Turner, 1979).

Competition strategies for social change

Competition for social change is a strategy used by members of disadvantaged groups when they are highly motivated to change the social value of the group to which they belong (Branscombe et al., 2012; Tajfel, 1981). This process is usually triggered when members of social minorities become aware of unequal social structures and perceive the difference in social status of their group compared to an advantaged group as illegitimate (Breakwell, 2015; Dirth & Branscombe, 2019). Specifically, group members exhibit competitive social change behavior when they believe that (1) the ingroup's position in society is seen as fixed or changeable (i.e., stability of the group's social status), (2) status differences between groups

are illegitimate and unfair, and (3) ideological and social boundaries separating them from the majority group are impermeable or difficult to change (Camposano et al., 2023; Jackson et al., 1996; Reicher et al., 2010; Tajfel & Turner, 1979). To achieve a positive social identity, this social minority competes with straight people through behaviors and emotions that challenge the legitimacy of the social structure with which they are associated (Meadows & Higgs, 2022) – an example of this is gay pride.

Gay Pride

Gay pride is identity-based dimension occurring in the process of affirming the social identity of gay group members, which involves positive emotions related to the awareness of belonging to the gay group (Camp et al., 2020; Jaspal, 2020; Mohr & Kendra, 2011). From the SIT approach (Tajfel & Turner, 1979), pride may be closely linked to the affective-emotional component of gay men's social identity (Salice, 2016), namely ingroup affect/identity affirmation (e.g., Cameron et al., 2004). However, gay pride goes beyond a mere feeling, as its emergence involves a motivational component that arises from the expectation of confronting the oppression that gay men experience in heterosexist social structures (Bernstein, 1997; Bratschi, 1996; Riemer & Brown, 2019). It serves as a mechanism of resistance to the oppression generated by the gay disadvantaged status in contact with the straight advantaged group (Duberman, 2019). It is something of a coping strategy that gay men can use in the face of the pervasive prejudice and discrimination they have experienced throughout their lives (Branscombe et al., 2012).

Gay pride essentially emerges as a feeling that arises in gay men due to their belonging to the gay group (Brannon & Lin, 2021). Although this has not been extensively studied, we propose that gay men use this identity affirmation strategy as a mechanism to maintain a positive distinctiveness in comparison with heterosexuals. Our argument is based on the observation that gay men have used political elements (e.g., “gay is good”) as a

mechanism to combat heterosexist hierarchies (Chang et al., 2021) by associating intergroup status differences with a locus of positive affection rather than stigmatization or personal/group devaluation, as predicted by SIT (Tajfel & Turner, 1979) about competition for social change. In this sense, pride in one's socially marginalized identity due to prejudice and discrimination may already be a strategy to challenge the status quo (i.e., competition-oriented action) to change the social value of the gay group.

Historically, gay pride emerged within a collective movement that manifests itself in an attempt to overcome the social, political, and psychological challenges posed by prejudice and discrimination against non-heterosexual people (e.g., Gay Liberation Movement; Stevenson, 2020). It is socio-political because it is a collective strategy (Bratschi, 1996) triggered by a phenomenon of devaluation and marginalization of the gay group by members of the socially advantaged groups (i.e., straight people) (Bernstein, 1997; Punk, 2019). Its socio-political feature implies a struggle for change in the social status of the gay group, manifested in the attainment of equal rights (e.g., civil marriage, same-sex adoption) and the reduction of systematic inequalities compared to heterosexual individuals (e.g., pride parades; Tandon et al., 2021). It is also psychological because it manifests as a feeling associated with social belonging evoked by behaviors of members of the gay group (Salice & Sánchez, 2016). For gay pride to be considered an element of competition for social change for the gay group, it must be associated with perceptions of the stability of the group's social value (e.g., historical attempts to marginalize and invalidate gay identity by dominant groups), the impermeability of boundaries between groups (i.e., difficulty in changing the social value of the group individually) and the illegitimacy of the status quo (i.e., the perception that the hierarchy favoring straight over gay individuals is unjust and illegitimate), as postulated by SIT (Tajfel & Turner, 1986).

Furthermore, pride is conceived as a result of developing a positive social identity (Cass, 1979; Chang et al., 2021; Mohr & Kendra, 2011). Previous studies have shown that affirmation of minority social identity (e.g., gay pride) is directly related to the development of positive attitudes toward a non-heterosexual sexual orientation and consequently increases gay men's well-being and self-esteem (e.g., Doyle et al., 2021; Ghavami et al., 2011; Scandurra et al., 2023). In line with the SIT, these findings show that the development of positive emotions related to one's sexuality directly contributes to the formation of gay men's social identity despite belonging to a social minority. However, it remains to be clarified which social elements (e.g., behaviors, attitudes, relationships) of ingroup members can be listed in the formation of gay pride (i.e., what other gay men do to make ingroup members proud of being gay), and how we can measure this variable validly and reliably.

Pride as a minority identity affirmation

Identity affirmation (i.e., the ingroup effect) can act as a protective mechanism against the effects of social victimization on gay men's mental health (Ghabrial & Andersen, 2023; Kalb et al., 2020). Studies on this topic have shown that the affective dimension of social identity can influence the relationship between experiences of victimization situations (e.g., prejudice, discrimination, microaggressions) and levels of psychological well-being, depression, and suicidal ideation in social minorities (Branscombe & Wann, 1994; Huynh, 2012; Umaña-Taylor et al., 2012). However, while the importance of developing positive attitudes towards sexuality in the relationship between the variables presented is acknowledged, the role of gay pride in the relationship between social victimization and gay men's mental health is still unclear. As the development of a social identity can mitigate the effects of episodes of blatant discrimination and serve as a buffer for social minority mental health (e.g., Choi et al., 2021), pride can likely moderate the relationship between the experience of social victimization and the effects of these events on gay men's mental health.

The Minority Stress Theory (Frost & Meyer, 2023; Meyer, 2003) can help us understand this phenomenon.

Minority Stress Theory: Microaggressions and Mental Health of Gay Men

The Minority Stress Theory (Meyer, 2003) assumes that social minorities (e.g., gay men) are exposed to additional stress factors compared to social majority groups (e.g., straight individuals) due to their disadvantaged position in society. These stressors are often related to specific processes that LGB people go through, such as coming out (Dank, 1971; Perrin-Wallqvist & Lindblom, 2015), self-acceptance of their sexuality (Camp et al., 2020), and delayed development of their affection (Meyer & Frost, 2013). In this sense, stressors include factors such as stigmatization, prejudice, and social discrimination resulting from the social victimization that minorities face (see Hoy-Ellis, 2023 for a review), which negatively affects their psychological well-being.

Psychological well-being is characterized by two main perspectives (e.g., Warr, 1978; Ryff, 1989a, 1989b): the eudaimonic, which conceptualizes psychological well-being as an outcome of self-actualization (Machado & Bandeira, 2012; van Dierendonck & Lam, 2023), and the hedonistic approach, which views psychological well-being as manifested through the pursuit of pleasurable experiences and happiness across an individual's lifespan (Das et al, 2020; Diener, 1984; Diener et al., 2017). Psychological well-being is an important social indicator of quality of life, expressed in maintaining positive attitudes and influencing one's life (Ryff, 2018). In addition, psychological well-being and psychological stressors experienced by gay men are closely related to age (e.g., Lia et al., 2017; Wilton-Harding & Windsor, 2022), so it will be used as a control variable in all our analyses.

Recent studies have shown that as the frequency of episodes of social victimization increases, so does the accumulation of stressors for minorities, which can subsequently have adverse effects on the mental health of minority group members, such as increased anxiety,

depression, and other psychosocial problems such as internalizing stigma and self-hatred (Douglass et al., 2020; Frost & Meyer, 2023; Puckett et al., 2023). Social victimization is defined as the process of being socially victimized, either physically, psychologically, morally, or sexually (Muratore, 2014; Otis & Skinner, 1996). A person can be socially victimized when they are the target of a social act that violates their physical or psychological integrity, whether intentionally or not (Rosen et al., 2018). Types of social victimization include the daily experiences of prejudice and discrimination (both overt and subtle) faced by different social groups (Freitas et al., 2022).

Historically, sexual minorities, such as the group of gay men, have been targets of social victimization through overt (e.g., insults, persecution, abuse, and violence) and subtle processes (e.g., negative comments, heterosexism, institutional discrimination, and microaggressions) (Herek, 1992; Marchi et al., 2023; Swann et al., 2016). Heterosexism is defined as the tendency to give heterosexuality more prestige, more space, and infinite room to speak than homosexuality and any other sexual identity (Griffin, 1998, p. 33). Furthermore, it refers to the social structure and social exclusion of gay individuals (Hudak, 2023; Pascoe, 2001) based on the ideology of compulsory heterosexuality – that is, heterosexuality is ‘normal,’ and homosexuality should be marginalized (van der Toorn et al., 2020). In our studies, we want to investigate how experiences of victimization through subtle discrimination (e.g., microaggressions) may affect gay men’s mental health. More specifically, we want to analyze how the experience of microaggressions related to non-heterosexual sexual orientation may affect gay men’s psychological well-being and suicidal ideation.

Microaggressions are defined primarily in the racial context as “brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, or environmental indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative racial slights and insults

toward people of color” (Sue et al., 2007, p. 273). In this sense, microaggressions can be understood as subtle processes of social victimization related to veiled prejudice and discrimination in the form of comments, behaviors, or hostile environmental structures that are highly likely to be ignored by society/majority groups but are easily perceived by their victims/minorities (e.g., a comment such as ‘that is so gay’ to express a negative reaction to a person’s behavior) (Sue, 2010). Microaggressions directed towards non-heterosexual individuals tend to be homonegative as they manifest in attitudes and expressions that convey negative attitudes towards gay identities (Nadal, 2011; Smith & Griffiths, 2022; Smits et al., 2021; Swann et al., 2016).

Research-based on microaggressions theory discusses three common types of victimization – microassaults, microinsults, and microinvalidations (Sue et al., 2007; Sue, 2010). Microassaults correspond to insults and verbal and nonverbal behaviors. Microinsults are statements or actions that can diminish or demean a person’s marginalized identity. Microinvalidations are behaviors or comments intended to exclude, deny, or devalue the thoughts, feelings, or experiences of members of a disadvantaged group (Nadal et al., 2010, 2016). In the case of gay men, there is a debate about the existence of different subclasses of microaggressions expressed by majority groups concerning this sexual orientation, such as the use of heterosexist terminology, the endorsement of heteronormative culture and behaviors, the discomfort/rejection of gay men’s experiences, the denial of the reality of heterosexism, the assumption of pathology or sexual deviance, and environmental macroaggressions (Nadal, 2018, 2019).

Several studies have demonstrated the link between social victimization through microaggressions and low mental health in sexual minorities (Adedeji et al., 2023; Wesselmann et al., 2022; Williams, 2020), particularly concerning the impact of microinvalidation (see Lui & Quezada, for a review). In the case of gay men, these

experiences of subtle invalidations manifest as comments and behaviors aimed at invalidating the subjective experiences related to their sexual identity by heterosexual individuals (Marchi et al., 2023; Nadal, 2023). Across the evidence on this topic, experiences of microinvalidations related to sexual orientation (i.e., homonegative microinvalidations) are associated with lower self-esteem and psychological well-being in historically marginalized groups (Hsieh et al., 2021; Wright & Wegner, 2012).

Furthermore, the more experiences of microinvalidation over the life course, the higher the degree of internalized oppression (Nadal et al., 2021), such as the development of self-hatred (David, 2014). In the face of microinvalidation experiences, exaggerated self-devaluation (self-hate) may act as a negative coping strategy for social minorities to deal with the consequences of this victimization (David et al., 2019a, 2019b), which manifests in attempts to nullify their identity and risky behaviors by gay men (Chen et al., 2021).

Although the relevance of studying social victimization through microinvalidations related to sexual orientation (i.e., homonegative microinvalidations) is recognized, at the time of writing, this topic has not been adequately studied in non-WEIRD contexts (Western, educated, industrialized, rich, and democratic), such as Brazilian gay men. Examining the relationship between experiences of victimization by microinvalidations in samples of Brazilian gay men is socially relevant because it addresses a research problem that numerous gay men experience daily in the country that has the highest rate of violence against non-heterosexual persons in the world (ILGA, 2020) – the experience of overt insults and subtle and heterosexist devaluations by a socially marginalized group.

Similarly, it is still not clear how victimization by microaggressions is related to the development of gay men's identity (e.g., gay pride), nor is the role of pride clear in the relationship between this specific type of victimization and the mental health of members of this group. Considering that social identity may buffer the effects of discrimination on social

minority psychological outcomes (Branscombe & Wann, 1994; Costa et al., 2023; Kalb et al., 2022), we refine the previously presented hypothesis by proposing that gay pride may moderate the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and gay men's psychological outcomes, such as psychological well-being, self-hate, and suicidal ideation.

Given that gay pride is a strategy of resisting and coping with experiences of social victimization, how experiences of microinvalidation are related to the development of gay pride in gay men, and whether this strategy of affirming minority social identity can play an empirically competitive role in changing the social value of the gay group given the low legitimacy of intergroup differences has not yet been examined. In social psychology, there is a theory that helps us understand how people are motivated to legitimize the status quo: system justification theory (Jost & Banaji, 1994).

Legitimizing the Status Quo: The System Justification Theory

System justification theory (Jost & Banaji, 1994; Jost, 2019, 2020) has been applied to understand the psychological and social aspects that lead individuals to view the social system in which they live as just, legitimate, and necessary. System Justification is a motivational mechanism that refers to the “process by which existing social arrangements are legitimized” (Jost & Banaji, 1994, p. 2). SJT also postulates that this motivation to legitimize the status quo is often implicit rather than explicit and generally even comes at the expense of personal and group interests (Jost, 2019). In intergroup relations, system justification takes place without significant costs for members of socially advantaged groups. For members of disadvantaged groups, the motivation for system justification impels individuals to behave in a way that reinforce social hierarchies (Jost, 2020), so that individuals often favor the advantages outgroups in a way that seems to contradict the positive distinctiveness motivations (Santos & Pereira, 2021).

SJT aspires to answer questions like “Why do people find social change challenging, even painful?”. In this sense, SJT seeks to explain how people are motivated to resist change (Jost, 2019; Jost & van der Toorn, 2012). Osborne et al. (2019), examining change behavior and system defense, observed that system justification was negatively associated with system-challenging forms of protest but positively associated with system-supporting collective action for members of both low-status and high-status groups. In other words, the lower the level of system justification among individuals, the greater the motivation to collectively advocate for social change within the group (Jost, 2020).

Considering that legitimization processes are a crucial factor in intergroup relations (Costa-Lopes et al., 2013), it is likely that in the hierarchized relationship between straight and gay individuals, the sense of pride (theorized here as the antithesis of experiences of social discrimination) is stronger among members with low motivation for system justification. We therefore hypothesize that the potential effects of homonegative microinvalidations on pride are due to gay men perceiving low levels of legitimacy in social arrangements (i.e., low levels of system justification).

Furthermore, gay pride is indeed a predictor of engaging in social group change actions. In that case, it is likely that in a social comparison context where favoritism toward the ingroup is possible, those who are highly motivated not to justify the system and who are high in gay pride will develop an ingroup bias, as postulated by SIT (Tajfel & Turner, 1979). In this case, the ingroup bias may be manifested in the individual behavior concerning the more significant commitment to the gay group compared to the straight group, such as allocating more resources to the gay group than to the straight group. If this line of thinking holds, the effects of homonegative microinvalidations on gay men’s engagement in collective action for social competition are likely mediated by gay pride and moderated by system justification.

Thesis Statement

Social psychology has a rich history of exploring the harmful effects of socially unequal relationships on the psychological characteristics and group dynamics of disadvantaged populations. The discourse on gay identity formation has spanned several decades and has been predominantly characterized by a negative perspective (for a review, see Hall et al., 2019). While numerous studies describe the social identity of gay men through the lens of adversity (e.g., Breakwell & Jaspal, 2022; Frey et al., 2021; Gerena, 2023), few address how and under what conditions the development of a positive social identity occurs (e.g., Camp et al., 2020; Petrocchi et al., 2020; Rostosky et al., 2018). Furthermore, the social and political implications of this positive social identity formation for members of the gay community have not been adequately explored, at least from a social identity approach (Tajfel & Turner, 1979) as framed within the social psychology of intergroup relations (Tajfel & Turner, 1986). Considering that gay men are six times more likely to experience social victimization than their heterosexual peers (for a review, see Malik et al., 2023), it is unclear whether identity elements specific to define the gay identity, such as gay pride, can be protective against the psychological toll imposed by such experiences. However, there exists a notable gap in the current literature regarding the role of gay pride on gay men well-being, especially among the studies concerning the effects of subtle discrimination.

To fill this gap, we proposed this thesis based on the notion that gay pride is a crucial factor for the development and maintenance of mental health in gay men. We hypothesize that this variable can be theorized and measured to function as a protective element against the effects of microaggressions (particularly the effects of homonegative microinvalidations on gay men's mental health) and as a competing element for social change in the social value of the gay group, particularly under conditions of low system justification. Our thesis draws on the theoretical assumptions of gay men's identity development models and incorporates

frameworks from social identity theory (Tajfel & Turner, 1979), minority stress theory (Frost & Meyer, 2023; Meyer & Frost, 2013), and system justification theory (Jost & Banaji, 1994; Jost, 2020). The innovative aspect of this research lies in our attempt to shed light on the phenomenon addressed through subtle victimization processes (microaggressions) and in the introduction of a new psychological measure to assess individual differences in gay pride; the buffer effect of gay pride on homonegative microinvalidation effects on gay men mental health.

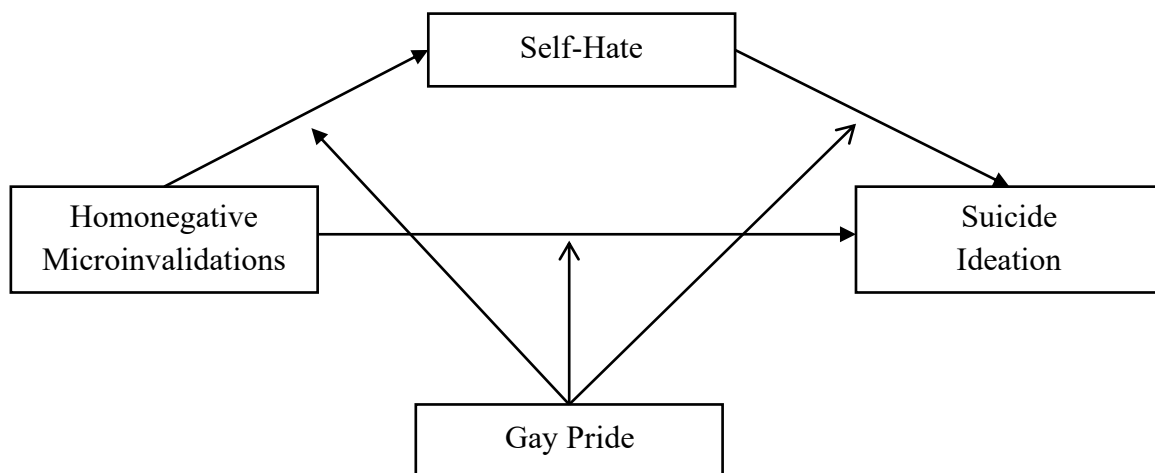
Therefore, considering the main research problem, the thesis is based on subjacent three research questions that will guide the design of the studies presented below. Specifically, we ask (1) how gay pride can be measured validly and reliably, (2) what role gay pride plays in the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and positive indicators (e.g., psychological well-being) and negative indicators (e.g., self-hate and frequency of suicidal ideation) of gay men's mental health, and (3) under what conditions of system justification gay pride may function as a competing strategy for social change in the social value of the gay group.

To test this thesis, we present three propositions: (1) gay pride can be conceptualized and measured as an affective dimension of social identification theoretically predicted in the SIT (Tajfel & Turner, 1986), (2) it functions as a protective element against the psychological effects of discrimination on gay men, and (3) it serves as a competitive strategy for social change, enhancing the social value of gay men's identity. To put forward this proposition, we considered the social psychology approaches discussed earlier. First, we assume that gay pride can be understood as a psychological construct that has emerged through psychosocial and political processes. If this assumption is valid, then gay pride can be theorized and measured, like all psychological constructs (McCall, 1939; Thorndike, 1918). Second, we hypothesize that gay pride may play a protective role in gay men's mental health, given the

stigmatization they experience in society through microaggressions based on their sexual orientation. Because these social stressors for minorities (homonegative microinvalidations) affect the mental health of this population and social identity may influence the relationship between these variables, we hypothesize that the impact of experiencing homonegative microinvalidations on gay men's mental health will depend on participants' level of gay pride. Specifically, we hypothesize that the effects of homonegative microinvalidations on gay men's psychological well-being, self-hate, and suicidal ideation will depend on gay pride levels and will be stronger for participants with low (vs. high) gay pride (Figure 1).

Figure 1

The protective role of gay pride against the negative impacts of homonegative microinvalidation experiences

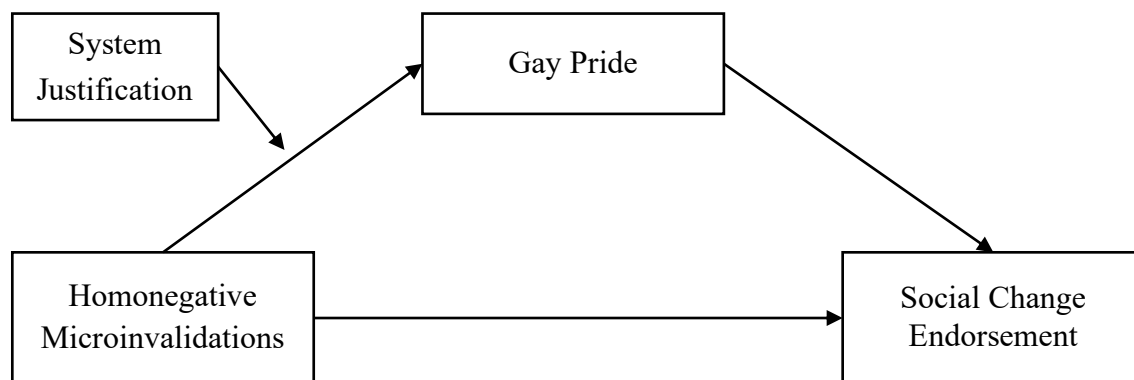


Because gay pride is a historical and political element in the development of a positive social identity for gay men (Bratschi, 1996), we hypothesize that this variable may function as a competitive strategy used by gay men to change the social value of their group. Considering the three previously mentioned elements that serve as motivation for the use of competitive strategies, we hypothesize that in the case of the gay group, the history of discrimination experienced by the group (e.g., homonegative microinvalidations) may serve as a mechanism

for the perception of stability of the group's negative social value. Furthermore, this perception of discrimination due to the group's disadvantaged status can lead to the development of gay pride as a counter to the heterosexist system. However, this should only be the case for those who perceive the social hierarchy between straight and gay men as illegitimate (i.e., a low level of system justification). Statistically, this is a moderated mediation hypothesis in which the impact of homonegative microinvalidations on support for egalitarian policies is mediated by gay pride and moderated by system justification (Figure 2).

Figure 2

Hypothesized model of gay pride as a competitive strategy used by gay men to change the social value of their group



Overall, the aim of this thesis is threefold:

1. To develop and validate a new measure to assess individual differences in gay pride (the Gay Pride Scale). In our studies, we will consider population samples from the country from which the gay pride movement emerged (USA) and the country where the debate on the development and maintenance of rights for the gay group is still nascent (Brazil).
2. To examine the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and the mental health of gay men. Specifically, we will analyze how gay pride might

moderate the effects of homonegative microinvalidations on positive (psychological well-being) and negative (self-hate and suicidal ideation) aspects of gay men's mental health.

3. To analyze how gay pride might act as a competitive strategy for social change about the social value of the gay group. For this, we will analyze whether the effect of homonegative microinvalidations on collective action in favor of the gay group might be mediated by gay pride and moderated by system justification.

Overview of the Thesis

In order to test the hypotheses of this thesis, we have created a research program consisting of nine empirical studies summarized in three manuscripts. In the first paper, we analyzed how gay pride can be validly and accurately measured in different population samples of gay men. To this end, we developed the Gay Pride Scale (GPS) and investigated empirical evidence of its scores through six empirical studies (Article 1). In the second paper, we test the moderating role of gay pride in the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and gay men mental health. In three correlational studies, we test the buffering effect of gay pride against the impact of homonegative microinvalidations on psychological well-being. In the third paper we tested the gay pride hypothesis as an element of competition for social change of gay group social value, in which we found that the impact of homonegative microinvalidations on support for civil right equalization is mediated by gay pride and moderated by system justification. Finally, we conducted a psychometric meta-analysis to analyze the consistency of GPS factor loadings. This research program was approved by local ethics committee.

References of the Introduction

- Adedeji, A., Olonisakin, T. T., Metzner, F., Buchcik, J., Tsabedze, W., Boehnke, K., & Idemudia, E. S. (2023). Interpreting Microaggression as a Determinant of Wellbeing. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, 10, 2470-2481. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-022-01426-z>
- Berg, R. C., Munthe-Kaas, H. M., & Ross, M. W. (2016). Internalized Homonegativity: A Systematic Mapping Review of Empirical Research. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 63(4), 541-558. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2015.1083788>
- Bernstein, M. (1997). Celebration and Suppression: The Strategic Uses of Identity by the Lesbian and Gay Movement. *American Journal of Sociology*, 103(3), 531-565. <https://doi.org/10.1086/231250>
- Bishop, M. D., Fish, J. N., Hammack, P. L., & Russell, S. T. (2020). Sexual identity development milestones in three generations of sexual minority people: A national probability sample. *Developmental Psychology*, 56(11), 2177–2193. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0001105>
- Blake, J. J., Kim, E. S., Sohn McCormick, A. L., & Hayes, D. (2011). The dimensionality of social victimization: A preliminary investigation. *School Psychology Quarterly*, 26(1), 56–69. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0022712>
- Bourguignon, D., Teixeira, C. P., Koc, Y., Outten, H. R., Faniko, K., & Schmitt, M.T. (2020). On the protective role of identification with a stigmatized identity: Promoting engagement and discouraging disengagement coping strategies. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 50(6), 1125-1142. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2703>
- Brannon, T. N., & Lin, A. (2021). “Pride and prejudice” pathways to belonging: Implications for inclusive diversity practices within mainstream institutions. *American Psychologist*, 76(3), 488-501. <https://doi.org/10.1037/amp0000643>

- Branscombe, N. R., Schmitt, M. T., & Harvey, R. D. (1999). Perceiving pervasive discrimination among African Americans: Implications for group identification and well-being. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 77(1), 135–149.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.77.1.135>
- Branscombe, N. R., & Wann, D. L. (1994). Collective self-esteem consequences of outgroup derogation when a valued social identity is on trial. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 24(6), 641–657. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2420240603>
- Branscombe, N. R., Fernández, S., Gómez, A., & Cronin, T. (2012). Moving toward or away from a group identity: Different strategies for coping with pervasive discrimination. *The social cure: Identity, health and well-being* (pp. 115–131). Psychology Press.
- Bratschi, C. E. (1996). *An examination of gay pride as a collective identity for gay males within the gay and lesbian social movement* [Master's thesis, Oklahoma State University]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses.
- Breakwell, G. M. (2015). *Coping with threatened identities*. Psychology Press.
- Breakwell, G. M., & Jaspal, R. (2022). Coming Out, Distress and Identity Threat in Gay Men in the UK. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, 19, 1166–1177.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13178-021-00608-4>
- Brewer, M. B. (1979). In-group bias in the minimal intergroup situation: A cognitive-motivational analysis. *Psychological Bulletin*, 86(2), 307–324.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.86.2.307>
- Brewer, M. B. (1979). In-group bias in the minimal intergroup situation: A cognitive-motivational analysis. *Psychological Bulletin*, 86(2), 307–324. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.86.2.307>

- Brown, R. (2000). Social Identity Theory: Past achievements, current problems and future challenges. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 30(6), 745–778. [https://doi.org/10.1002/1099-0992\(200011/12\)30:6<745::AID-EJSP24>3.0.CO;2-O](https://doi.org/10.1002/1099-0992(200011/12)30:6<745::AID-EJSP24>3.0.CO;2-O)
- Brown, R. (2020). The social identity approach: Appraising the Tajfellian legacy. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 59(1), 5-25. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjso.12349>
- Brown, R., & Zagefka, H. (2005). Ingroup Affiliations and Prejudice. In J. F. Dovidio, P. Glick, & L. A. Rudman (Eds.), *On the nature of prejudice: Fifty years after Allport* (pp. 54–70). Blackwell Publishing.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/9780470773963.ch4>
- Cameron, J. E. (2004). A three-factor model of social identity. *Self and Identity*, 3(3), 239–262. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13576500444000047>
- Camp, J., Vitoratou, S., & Rimes, K. A. (2020). LGBTQ+ Self-Acceptance and Its Relationship with Minority Stressors and Mental Health: A Systematic Literature Review. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 49, 2353-2373. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-020-01755-2>
- Camposano, G. A. A., Rodrigues, D. L., & Moleiro, C. (2023). Gay vs. straight? Implications of intergroup perceptions on minority stress and the mental health of lesbian and gay people. *Current Psychology*, 23, 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-023-05315-4>
- Cass, V. C. (1979). Homosexual identity formation: A theoretical model. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 4(3), 219-35. https://doi.org/10.1300/J082v04n03_01
- Chang, C. J., Feinstein, B. A., Meanley, S., Flores, D. D., & Watson, R. J. (2021). The Role of LGBTQ Identity Pride in the Associations among Discrimination, Social Support, and Depression in a Sample of LGBTQ Adolescents. *Annals of LGBTQ Public and Population Health*, 2(3), 203-219. <https://doi.org/10.1891/LGBTQ-2021-0020>

- Chen, J.-S., Huang, Y.-T., Lin, C.-Y., Yen, C.-F., Griffiths, M. D., & Pakpour, A. H. (2021). Relationships of Sexual Orientation Microaggression with Anxiety and Depression among Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Taiwanese Youth: Self-Identity Disturbance Mediates but Gender Does Not Moderate the Relationships. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(24), 12981. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph182412981>
- Choi, S., Weng, S., Park, H., Lewis, J., Harwood, S. A., Mendenhall, R., & Hunt, M. B. (2021). Sense of belonging, racial microaggressions, and depressive symptoms among students of Asian descent in the United States. *Smith College Studies in Social Work*, 91(2), 115–141. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00377317.2021.1882922>
- Costa, P., McDuffie, J. W., Brown, S. E. V., He, Y., Ikner, B. N., Sabat, I. E., & Miner, K. N. (2023). Microaggressions: Mega problems or micro issues? A meta-analysis. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 51(1), 137-153. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22885>
- Costa-Lopes, R., Dovidio, J. F., Pereira, C. R., & Jost, J. T. (2013). Social psychological perspectives on the legitimization of social inequality: Past, present and future. *Journal of European and Social Psychology*, 43(4), 229-237. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.1966>
- Cox, S., & Gallois, C. (1996). Gay and lesbian identity development: A social identity perspective. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 30(4), 1-30. https://doi.org/10.1300/J082v30n04_01
- Dank, B. M. (1971). Coming out in the gay world. *Psychiatry: Journal for the Study of Interpersonal Processes*, 34(2), 180–197. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00332747.1971.11023666>
- Das, K., Jones-Harrell, C., Fan, Y., Ramaswami, A., Orlove, B., & Botchwey, N. (2020). Understanding subjective well-being: perspectives from psychology and public health. *Public Health Reviews*, 41(25), 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40985-020-00142-5>

- David, E. J. R. (2014). *Internalized Oppression: The Psychology of Marginalized Groups*. Springer Publishing Company.
- David, E. J. R., Petalio, J., Crouch, M. C. (2019a). Microaggressions and Internalized Oppression: Intrapersonal, Interpersonal, and Institutional Impacts of “Internalized Microaggressions”. In G. C. Torino, D. P. Rivera, C. M. Capodilupo, K. L. Nadal, & D. W. Sue (Eds.), *Microaggression Theory: Influence and Implications* (pp. 121-137). Wiley.
- David, E. J. R., Schroeder, T. M., Fernandez, J. (2019b). Internalized Racism: A Systematic Review of the Psychological Literature on Racism's Most Insidious Consequence. *Journal of Social Issues*, 75(4), 1057-1086. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josi.12350>
- Diener, E. (1984). Subjective well-being. *Psychological Bulletin*, 95(3), 542–575. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.95.3.542>
- Diener, E., Pressman, S. D., Hunter, J., & Delgadillo-Chase, D. (2017). If, Why, and When Subjective Well-Being Influences Health, and Future Needed Research. *Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being*, 9(2), 133-167. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aphw.12090>
- Dirth, T. P., & Branscombe, N. R. (2019). Recognizing ableism: A social identity analysis of disabled people perceiving discrimination as illegitimate. *Journal of Social Issues*, 75(3), 786–813. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josi.12345>
- Douglass, R. P., Conlin, S. E., & Duffy, R. D. (2020). Beyond Happiness: Minority Stress and Life Meaning Among LGB Individuals. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 67(11), 1587-1602. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2019.1600900>
- Doyle, D. M., Begeny, C. T., Barreto, M., & Morton, T. A. (2021). Identity-related factors protect well-being against stigma for transgender and gender non-conforming

- people. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 50(7), 3191–3200. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-021-02029-1>
- Duberman, M. (2019). *Stonewall: The definitive story of the LGBTQ rights uprising that changed America*. Penguin Random House.
- Elizur, Y., & Mintzer, A. (2001). A framework for the formation of gay male identity: Processes associated with adult attachment style and support from family and friends. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 30(2), 143–167. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1002725217345>
- Elizur, Y., & Mintzer, A. (2003). Gay males' intimate relationship quality: The roles of attachment security, gay identity, social support, and income. *Personal Relationships*, 10(3), 411–435. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6811.00057>
- Everett, J. A. C., Faber, N. S., & Crockett, M. (2015). Preferences and beliefs in ingroup favoritism. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, 9(15), 1-21. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnbeh.2015.00015>
- Falomir-Pichastor, J. M., Gabarrot, F., & Mugny, G. (2009). Conformity and identity threat: The role of group identification. *Swiss Journal of Psychology*, 68, 79–87. <https://doi.org/10.1024/1421-0185.68.2.79>
- Figueiredo, C. V., & Pereira, C. R. (2021). The effect of gender and male distinctiveness threat on prejudice against homosexuals. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 121(6), 1241–1257. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pspi0000269>
- Freitas, D. F., Mendonça, M., Wolke, D., Marturano, E. M., Fontaine, A. M., & Coimbra, S. (2022). Resilience in the face of peer victimization and perceived discrimination: The role of individual and familial factors. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 125(105492), 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2022.105492>

- Frey, J. J., Hall, W. J., Goldbach, J. T., & Lanier, P. (2021). “Here in the Bible Belt, It’s Predominantly Negative”: Sexual Identity Stigma in the American South, 50 Years After Stonewall. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12(12), 1-18.
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.804064>
- Frost, D. M., & Meyer, I. H. (2023). Minority stress theory: Application, critique, and continued relevance. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 51(101579), 1-6. 3
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2023.101579>
- Gerena, C. E. (2023). Latino gay men’s disclosure of sexual identity to their fathers: a systematic review. *Journal of Family Studies*, 29(5), 2459-2478.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13229400.2022.2109983>
- Ghabrial, M. A., & Andersen, J. P. (2023). Identity affirmation is associated with adaptive cardiovascular flexibility in response to stress among sexual and gender minority people of color. *Social Science & Medicine*, 320(115703), 1-10.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2023.115703>
- Ghavami, N., Fingerhut, A., Peplau, L. A., Grant, S. K., & Wittig, M. A. (2011). Testing a model of minority identity achievement, identity affirmation, and psychological well-being among ethnic minority and sexual minority individuals. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 17(1), 79–88. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0022532>
- Goodrich, K. M., & Brammer, M. K. (2021). Cass's Homosexual Identity Formation: A Critical Analysis. *Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development*, 49(4), 239-253. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jmcd.12228>
- Griffin, G. (1998). Understanding heterosexism: The subtle continuum of homophobia. *Women & Language*, 21(1), 33–39. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10447-005-8207-7>

- Hall, W. J., Dawes, H. C., & Plocek, N. (2021). Sexual Orientation Identity Development Milestones Among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Queer People: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 21(12), e753954.
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.753954>
- Hammack, P. L., Frost, D. M., Meyer, I. H., & Pletta, D. R. (2018). Gay Men's Health and Identity: Social Change and the Life Course. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 47, 59-74.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-017-0990-9>
- Herek, G. M. (1992). The social context of hate crimes: notes on cultural heterosexism. In G. M. Herek, & K. T. Berrill. (Eds.), *Hate crimes: confronting violence against lesbians and gay men* (pp. 89-104). Sage.
- Hershberger, S. L., & D'Augelli, A. R. (1995). The impact of victimization on the mental health and suicidality of lesbian, gay, and bisexual youths. *Developmental Psychology*, 31(1), 65-74. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0012-649.31.1.65>
- Hogg, M. A., & Abrams, D. (1988). *Social Identifications: A Social Psychology of Intergroup Relations and Group Processes*. Routledge.
- Hoy-Ellis, C. P. (2023). Minority Stress and Mental Health: A Review of the Literature. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 70(5), 806-830.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2021.2004794>
- Hsieh, M.-T., Chen, J.-S., Lin, C.-Y., Yen, C.-F., Griffiths, M. D., & Huang, Y.-T. (2021). Measurement Invariance of the Sexual Orientation Microaggression Inventory across LGB Males and Females in Taiwan: Bifactor Structure Fits the Best. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(20), 10668.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph182010668>

- Hudak, N. (2023). "Who's the Mom?": Heterosexism in Patient-Provider Interactions of Queer Pregnant Couples. *Health Communication*, 38(1), 114-123.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2021.1936752>
- Huynh, V. (2012). Ethnic Microaggressions and the Depressive and Somatic Symptoms of Latino and Asian American Adolescents. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 41, 831-846. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-012-9756-9>
- International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA). (2020). *Relatório Anual 2019: Discriminação contra pessoas LGBTI+. Observatório da Discriminação contra pessoas LGBTI+*. ILGA.
- Jackson, L. A., Sullivan, L. A., Harnish, R., & Hodge, C. N. (1996). Achieving Positive Social Identity: Social Mobility, Social Creativity, and Permeability of Group Boundaries. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 70(2), 241-254.
- Jaspal, R. (2019). *The Social Psychology of Gay Men*. Palgrave.
- Jaspal, R. (2022). Social psychological aspects of gay identity development. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 48(101469), 1-5. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2022.101469>
- Jetten, J., Spears, R., & Postmes, T. (2004). Intergroup Distinctiveness and Differentiation: A Meta-Analytic Integration. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 86(6), 862–879. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.86.6.862>
- Jost, J. T. (2019). A quarter century of system justification theory: Questions, answers, criticisms, and societal applications. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 58(2), 263–314. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjso.12297>
- Jost, J. T. (2020). *A theory of system justification*. Harvard University Press.
- Jost, J. T., & Thompson, E. P. (2000). Group-based dominance and opposition to equality as independent predictors of self-esteem, ethnocentrism, and social policy attitudes

- among African Americans and European Americans. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 36(3), 209–232. <https://doi.org/10.1006/jesp.1999.1403>
- Jost, J. T., & van der Toorn, J. (2012). System justification theory. In P. A. M. Van Lange, A. W. Kruglanski, & E. T. Higgins (Eds.), *Handbook of theories of social psychology* (pp. 313–343). Sage Publications Ltd. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781446249222.n42>
- Jost, J. T., & van der Toorn, J. (2012). System justification theory. In P. A. M. Van Lange, A. W. Kruglanski, & E. T. Higgins (Eds.), *Handbook of theories of social psychology* (pp. 313–343). Sage Publications Ltd. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781446249222.n42>
- Kalb, N., Brodtkin, S., Goldstein, A. L., & Gills, J. R. (2022). We're in this together: LGBTQ social identity buffers the homonegative microaggressions–alcohol relationship. *Journal of LGBT Youth*, 19(4), 379-395. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19361653.2020.1782304>
- Lia, A., Ribeiro, O., & Paúl, C. (2017). Hedonic and eudaimonic well-being in old age through positive psychology studies: a scoping review. *Anales de Psicologia*, 33(3), 567-577. <http://dx.doi.org/10.6018/analesps.33.2.265621>
- Machado, W. L., & Bandeira, D. R. (2012). Bem-estar psicológico: definição, avaliação e principais correlatos. *Estudos de Psicologia (Campinas)*, 29(4), 587-595. <https://doi.org/10.1590/S0103-166X2012000400013>
- Malik, M. H., Iqbal, S., Noman, M., Sarfraz, Z., Sarfraz, A., & Mustafa, S. (2023). Mental Health Disparities Among Homosexual Men and Minorities: A Systematic Review. *American Journal of Men's Health*, 17(3), 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15579883231176646>
- Marchi, M., Travascio, A., Uberti, D., Micheli, E., Quartaroli, F., Laquatra, G., Grenzi, P., Pingani, L., Ferrari, S., Fiorillo, A., Converti, M., Pinna, F., Amaddeo, F., Ventriglio,

- A., Mirandola, M., & Galeazzi, G. M. (2023). Microaggression toward LGBTIQ people and implications for mental health: A systematic review. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, 23(1), 1–13 <https://doi.org/10.1177/00207640231194478>
- McCall, W. A. (1939). *Measurement*. Macmillan.
- Meadows, A., & Higgs, S. (2022). Challenging oppression: A social identity model of stigma resistance in higher-weight individuals. *Body Image*, 42, 237–245. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bodyim.2022.06.004>
- Meyer, I. H. (2003). Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: Conceptual issues and research evidence. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129(5), 674–697. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.129.5.674>
- Meyer, I. H., & Frost, D. M. (2013). Minority stress and the health of sexual minorities. In C. J. Patterson & A. R. D'Augelli (Eds.), *Handbook of psychology and sexual orientation* (pp. 252–266). Oxford University Press.
- Mohr, J. J., & Kendra, M. S. (2011). Revision and extension of a multidimensional measure of sexual minority identity: The Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 58(2), 234–245. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0022858>
- Muratore, M. G. (2014). Victimization. In A. C. Michalos (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Quality of Life and Well-Being Research*. Springer.
- Nadal, K. L. (2011). The Racial and Ethnic Microaggressions Scale (REMS): Construction, reliability, and validity. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 58(4), 470–480. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0025193>
- Nadal, K. L. (2018). *Microaggressions and traumatic stress: Theory, research, and clinical treatment*. American Psychological Association.
- Nadal, K. L. (2019). Measuring LGBTQ Microaggressions: The Sexual Orientation Microaggressions Scale (SOMS) and the Gender Identity Microaggressions Scale

- (GIMS). *Journal of Homosexuality*, 66(10), 1404-1414.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2018.1542206>
- Nadal, K. L. Y. (2023). A review of microaggression literature. In K. L. Y. Nadal, *Dismantling everyday discrimination: Microaggressions toward LGBTQ people* (pp. 41–53). American Psychological Association.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/0000335-003>
- Nadal, K. L., Issa, M., Leon, J., Meterko, V., Wideman, M., & Wong, Y. (2011). Sexual orientation microaggressions: “Death by a thousand cuts” for lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth. *Journal of LGBT Youth*, 8(3), 234-259.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/19361653.2011.584204>
- Nadal, K. L., King, R., Sissoko, G., Floyd, N., Hines, D. (2021). The legacies of systemic and internalized oppression: Experiences of microaggressions, imposter phenomenon, and stereotype threat on historically marginalized groups. *New Ideas in Psychology*, 63(100895), 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.newideapsych.2021.100895>
- Nadal, K. L., Rivera, D. P., & Corpus, M. J. H. (2010). Sexual orientation and transgender microaggressions in everyday life: Experiences of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender individuals. In D. W. Sue (Ed.), *Microaggressions and marginality: Manifestation, dynamics, and impact* (pp. 217–240). Wiley.
- Nadal, K. L., Whitman, C. N., Davis, L. S., Erazo, T., & Davidoff, K. C. (2016). Microaggressions toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and genderqueer people: A review of the literature. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 53, 488–508.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2016.1142495>
- Opinion Box (2023). *Relatório Orgulho LGBTQIA+ 2023: Dados, análises e as expectativas sobre a comunidade LGBTQIA+ no Brasil*. Opinion Box.

- Osborne, D., Jost, J. T., Becker, J. C., Badaan, V., Sibley, C. G. (2019). Protesting to challenge or defend the system? A system justification perspective on collective action. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 49(2), 244-269.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2522>
- Otis, M. D., & Skinner, W. F. (1996). The prevalence of victimization and its effect on mental well-being among lesbian and gay people. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 30(3), 93–121.
https://doi.org/10.1300/J082v30n03_05
- Pascoe, C. J. (2001). *Dude, you're a fag*. University of California Press.
- Perrin-Wallqvist, R., & Lindblom, J. (2015). Coming out as gay: A phenomenological study about adolescents disclosing their homosexuality to their parents. *Social Behavior and Personality*, 43(3), 467–480. <https://doi.org/10.2224/sbp.2015.43.3.467>
- Petrocchi, N., Pistella, J., Salvati, M., Carone, N., Laghi, F., & Baiocco, R. (2020). I embrace my LGB identity: Self-reassurance, social safeness, and the distinctive relevance of authenticity to well-being in Italian lesbians, gay men, and bisexual people. *Sexuality Research & Social Policy: A Journal of the NSRC*, 17(1), 75–86. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13178-018-0373-6>
- Plummer, K. (1975). *Sexual stigma: An interactionist account*. Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- Plummer, K. (1981). *The Making of the Modern Homosexual*. Hutchinson.
- Plummer, K. (2007). Sexual Identities: Gay, Lesbian, Queer. In G. Ritzer (Eds.), *Sexual Identities: Gay, Lesbian, Queer* (pp. 30-52). John Wiley & Sons.
- Puckett, J. A., Dyar, C., Maroney, M. R., Mustanski, B., & Newcomb, M. E. (2023). Daily experiences of minority stress and mental health in transgender and gender-diverse individuals. *Journal of Psychopathology and Clinical Science*, 132(3), 340–350. <https://doi.org/10.1037/abn0000814>
- Punk, M. (2019). *The Book of Pride: LGBTQ Heroes Who Changed the World*. HarperOne.

- Reicher, S., Spears, R., & Haslam, S. A. (2010). The social identity approach in social psychology. In M. Wetherell, & C. Mohanty (Eds.), *The SAGE handbook of identities* (pp. 29–44). SAGE Publications Ltd. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781446200889>
- Richardson, D., & Hart, J. (1981). The development and maintenance of a homosexual identity. In J. Hart & D. Richardson (Eds.), *The theory and practice of homosexuality* (pp. 73–92). Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- Riemer, M., & Brown, L. (2019). *We Are Everywhere: Protest, Power, and Pride in the History of Queer Liberation*. Ten Speed Press.
- Riggs, D. W. (2015). Gay Men. In C. Richards & M. J. Barker (Eds.), *The Palgrave Handbook of the Psychology of Sexuality and Gender* (pp. 77–91). Palgrave Macmillan.
- Rosen, L. H., Beron, K. J., & Underwood, M. K. (2017). Social Victimization Trajectories From Middle Childhood Through Late Adolescence. *Social Development*, 26(2), 227–247. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sode.12185>
- Rostosky, S. S., Cardom, R. D., Hammer, J. H., & Riggle, E. D. B. (2018). LGB positive identity and psychological well-being. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 5(4), 482–489. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000298>
- Ryff, C. D. (1989a). Happiness is everything, or is it? Explorations on the meaning of psychological well-being. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 57(6), 1069–1081. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.57.6.1069>
- Ryff, C. D. (1989b). Psychological Well-Being Revisited: Advances in the Science and Practice of Eudaimonia. *Psychotherapy & Psicosomatics*, 83(1), 10–28. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000353263>
- Ryff, C. D. (2018). Eudaimonic Well-being: Highlights from 25 Years of Inquiry. In K. Shigemasa, S. Kuwano, T. Sato, & T. Matsuzawa (Eds.), *Diversity in Harmony –*

- Insights from Psychology: Proceedings of the 31st International Congress of Psychology* (pp. 375-395). Wiley. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119362081.ch20>
- Scandurra, C., Esposito, C., Fantacci, F., Borrello, L., Bochicchio, V., Giunti, D., & Antonelli, P. (2023). Social Support, Identity Affirmation, and Psychological Well-Being: A Developmental and Intersectional Comparison between Italian Cisgender and Non-Binary People with Bisexual Orientation. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(4), 3237. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20043237>
- Smith, I. A., & Griffiths, A. (2022). Microaggressions, Everyday Discrimination, Workplace Incivilities, and Other Subtle Slight at Work: A Meta-Synthesis. *Human Resource Development Review*, 21(3), 275-299. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15344843221098756>
- Smits, F., Knoppers, A., & Elling-Machartzki, A. (2021). ‘Everything is said with a smile’: Homonegative speech acts in sport. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 56(3), 343-360. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1012690220957520>
- Stevenson, R. (2020). *Pride: The Celebration and the Struggle*. Orca Book Publishers.
- Sue, D. W. (2010). *Microaggressions and Marginality: Manifestation, Dynamics, and Impact*. Wiley.
- Sue, D. W., Capodilupo, C. M., Torino, G. C., Bucceri, J. M., Holder, A. M. B., Nadal, K. L., & Esquilin, M. (2007). Racial microaggressions in everyday life: Implications for clinical practice. *American Psychologist*, 62(4), 271–286. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.62.4.271>
- Swann, G., Minshew, R., Newcomb, M. E., & Mustanski, B. (2016). Validation of the Sexual Orientation Microaggression Inventory in Two Diverse Samples of LGBTQ Youth. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 45(6), 1289-1298. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-016-0718-2>

- Tajfel, H. (1978). The achievement of inter-group differentiation. In H. Tajfel (Ed.), *Differentiation between social groups* (pp. 77–100). Academic Press.
- Tajfel, H. (1981). *Human groups and social categories: Studies in social psychology*. Cambridge University Press.
- Tajfel, H. (1982). Social psychology of intergroup relations. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 33, 1–39. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.ps.33.020182.000245>
- Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1979). An integrative theory of inter-group conflict. In W. G. Austin & S. Worchel (Eds.), *The social psychology of inter-group relations* (pp. 33–47). Brooks/Cole.
- Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1986). The Social Identity Theory of Intergroup Behavior. In S. Worchel & W.G. Austin (Eds.), *Psychology of Intergroup Relation* (pp. 7-24). Hall Publishers.
- Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (2004). The Social Identity Theory of Intergroup Behavior. In J. T. Jost & J. Sidanius (Eds.), *Political psychology: Key readings* (pp. 276–293). Psychology Press. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203505984-16>
- Tandon, A., & Sathyanarayana Rao, T. (2021). Pride Parades. *Journal of Psychosexual Health*, 3(3), 209-211. <https://doi.org/10.1177/26318318211038118>
- Thorndike, E. L. (1918). Individual differences. *Psychological Bulletin*, 15(5), 148–159. <https://doi.org/10.1037/h0070314>
- Troiden, R. R. (1993). The formation of homosexual identities. In L. D. Garnets & D. C. Kimmel (Eds.), *Psychological perspectives on lesbian and gay male experiences* (pp. 191–217). Columbia University Press.
- Turner, J. C., Hogg, M. A., Oakes, P. J., Reicher, S. D., & Wetherell, M. S. (1987). *Rediscovering the Social Group: A Self-Categorization Theory*. Basil Blackwell.

- Tyler, R. E. (2002). *Coming out over a lifetime: A qualitative investigation of gay identity in the twenty-first century* [Doctoral dissertation, North Carolina State University]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses.
- van der Toorn, J., Pliskin, R., & Morgenroth, T. (2020). Not quite over the rainbow: The unrelenting and insidious nature of heteronormative ideology. *Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences*, 34, 160–165. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cobeha.2020.03.001>
- van Dierendonck, D., & Lam, H. (2023). Interventions to enhance eudaemonic psychological well-being: A meta-analytic review with Ryff's Scales of Psychological Well-being. *Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being*, 15(2), 594-610. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aphw.12398>
- Wesselmann, E. D., DeSouza, E. R., AuBuchon, S., Bebel, C., & Parris, L. (2022). Investigating microaggressions against transgender individuals as a form of social exclusion. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 9(4), 454–465. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000513>
- Williams, M. T. (2020). Microaggressions: Clarification, Evidence, and Impact. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 15(1), 3-26. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1745691619827499>
- Wilton-Harding, B., Windsor, T. W. (2022). Awareness of Age-Related Gains and Losses and Their Associations With Psychological Well-Being: A Longitudinal Examination. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, 77(4), 661-672. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbab155>
- Wright, A. J., & Wegner, R. T. (2012). Homonegative microaggressions and their impact on LGB individuals: A measure validity study. *Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling*, 6(1), 34–54. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15538605.2012.648578>
- Zubernis, L., Snyder, M., & McCoy, V. A. (2011). Counseling lesbian and gay college students through the lens of Cass's and Chickering's developmental model. *Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling*, 5(2), 122–150. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15538605.2011.578506>

Paper 1

To Comprehend Who I am, You Need to know that I am Proudly Gay:

The Gay Pride Scale

To Comprehend Who I am, You Need to know that I am Proudly Gay:

The Gay Pride Scale

Abstract

The Stonewall Uprising was a transformative moment for the LGBTQIA+ community, signaling a seismic shift in their battle for acknowledgement and equal rights. This pivotal event paved the way for the emergence of Gay Pride, an emblem of empowerment and positive identity. However, despite its significance, the deep-rooted essence of this pride, anchored firmly within the social identity of gay individuals, remains largely unexplored. Our research addresses this gap by introducing the Gay Pride Scale (GPS), a robust instrument crafted to probe the intricacies of gay pride identity. Studies 1a and 1b ($N = 22$) addressed the development of the GPS's items, their content and semantic validity. Study 2 ($N = 219$) showed that its twelve items are organized in one dimension with high internal consistency. Importantly, metrics derived from the Item Response Theory accentuated its items' prowess in gauging varied degrees of gay pride across respondents. Studies 3a and 3b ($N = 403$) confirmed this factor's structure using confirmatory factor analysis, explored the convergent–discriminant, concurrent and incremental validity of the instrument and demonstrated the GPS's configural, scalar and residual invariance in cross-cultural contexts (Brazil and the United States). Study 4 ($N = 122$) replicated these findings and demonstrated that the GPS is sensitive to capturing the effect of the salience of gay group social value (affirmation *vs.* threat to positive social identity) on individual differences in gay men's pride. When combined, these findings are the first to systematically document the correlational and experimental evidence of the gay pride construct. Future research endeavors employing this instrument can offer invaluable insights into the antecedent and consequential factors of social identity among gay men as a cohesive group.

Keywords: gay pride, gay identity, sexual minority, scale.

To Comprehend Who I am, You Need to know that I am Proudly Gay:

The Gay Pride Scale

In June 1969, at a time when homosexuality was still considered a punishable disease (APA, 1952; Cervini, 2021; WHO, 1948), a riot sparked by a police raid on the Stonewall Inn bar in New York City transformed a scene of violence against gay individuals into a symbol of struggle and resistance within the gay community. This was the Stonewall Uprising, an iconic milestone in social movements advocating for equal rights for the LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and others) worldwide (Carter, 2004). This gave rise to the affective-social mobilization that later became known as Gay Pride (Funk, 2019; Riemer & Brown, 2019), which to this day (now referred to as LGBTI+ Pride) aims to encourage LGBTQIA+ individuals not to feel ashamed of their identity but, on the contrary, to positively embrace their gay identity in order to strengthen their self-image (Duberman, 2019). Given the emergence of this struggle for proud identity, it is important to ask how to measure the affect and positive emotions triggered by the social belonging of self-identifying gay men. We address this issue by presenting the first instrument developed to assess individual differences in gay pride identity among individuals within the gay community. Specifically, in this article, we present a research program in which we developed the Gay Pride Scale (GPS).

Pride in being gay: social value and positive affect of gay identity

There are several definitions of pride. Lewis et al. (1993) refer to pride as an emotion triggered by a positive evaluation of a particular successful action (i.e., a self-conscious emotion). Hart and Matsuba (2007), on the other hand, define pride as a positive emotion that results from self-directed events that are congruent and relevant to a person's goals. Similarly, in line with the previous definition, Tracy and Robins (2004) describe pride as an emotion that involves self-awareness of a particular fact (e.g., belonging to a social group) and self-

assessment and evaluation of the social environment (e.g., evaluation by members of one's group). However, there is no consensus in the scientific literature on the definition of gay pride, especially when it comes to social relations. Therefore, for the operational definition of this construct, we rely on a classic theory of social psychology that attempts to answer how individuals' social belonging may influence the formation of their identity, namely Social Identity Theory (SIT). More specifically, we assume the affective-emotional concept of social identity proposed by Tajfel and Turner (1979) as a key concept for defining gay pride.

SIT was developed on the basis of a series of studies by Tajfel et al. (1971) that sought to explain how and under what conditions intergroup differentiation occurs. The authors coined the concept of social identity to explain why people evaluate their own ingroup more positively than an outgroup. According to SIT, people derive part of their self-concept from belonging to groups or social categories with which they identify (Tajfel, 1969; van Bezouw et al., 2020). An individual's social identity is "the individual's knowledge that he belongs to certain social groups together with some emotional and value significance to him of the group membership" (Tajfel, 1972, p. 292). Hence, social identity is composed of three key components: group identification (i.e., the awareness of belonging to a social category), the affective charge derived from social belonging (i.e., the emotional significance of social belonging), and the social value of the group (i.e., the societal perceived worthiness or importance of the group in relation to other groups) (Tajfel & Turner, 1979). According to SIT, individuals are motivated to develop a type of social identity that contributes to the maintenance of their positive self-image.

From the definition of social identity, it follows that people who are aware that they belong to a socially valued group tend to feel positive emotions toward the group, such as pride, and this is crucial for self-positivity (Tajfel, 1978). This is referred to as positive social identity (Jackson et al., 1996; Tajfel & Turner, 1979). When people feel they belong to a

socially devalued group, they are more likely to feel negative emotions, such as shame, which negatively affects their self-esteem. This is referred to as negative social identity (Blanz et al., 1998; Tajfel & Turner, 1986). These are crucial aspects for understanding gay pride because gay people belong to a historically socially devalued group (Herek, 1984, 1988). How, then, can members of such a group cultivate positive emotions like pride stemming from their social affiliation?

According to SIT, individuals are driven to foster a positive social identity. Due to the need to uphold a positive self-concept (Tajfel & Turner, 1979), they are compelled to emphasize positive aspects of their ingroup relative to outgroups, using social comparison processes (Festinger, 1954). When the social category is socially majority and socially valued (e.g., the straight group), this process occurs automatically (e.g., when comparing straight and gay individuals). However, when the social category is a minority and socially devalued group (e.g., the gay group), members of negatively distinguishable in-groups achieve a positive social identity, according to Tajfel and Turner (1979, 1986), by using three basic strategies to change status hierarchies for individuals (social mobility) or group rewards (social creativity and/or social change).

Social mobility refers to an individual's belief system based on the assumption that boundaries between social groups are flexible, permeable, and unstable over time (Tajfel & Turner, 1979, 1986). It is an individual strategy of change in which an individual moves from one group to another without changing or confronting the status quo (Jackson et al., 1996). In this sense, according to Tajfel and Turner (1979), individuals who are dissatisfied with their own group membership for some reason may use social mobility to move individually to another group. In other words, it is a strategy used to improve individual identity without necessarily changing the social status of the group as a whole.

Social creativity and social change are collective strategies (Turner, 1975). Social creativity is a strategy that individuals use to regain or maintain positive distinctiveness for the social categories with which they identify (van Bezouw et al., 2020). In social creativity, members of minority and socially devalued social categories use various dimensions of comparison to positively distinguish themselves from a majority social group (Jackson et al., 1996). Examples of social creativity strategies typically focus on comparing the ingroup to the outgroup on a new dimension, changing the values assigned to attributes of the ingroup so that comparisons that were previously negative are now perceived as positive, and changing the outgroup to which the ingroup is compared (Tajfel & Turner, 1979, p. 43). Social creativity strategies, then, involve reinterpreting or redefining elements of intergroup comparison to promote the positive social image of the ingroup.

We claim that gay pride may be a social change strategy. According to Stonewall Uprising, Gay Pride is a social and political movement and a social response to the gay group's social exclusion (Duberman, 2019). The sense of comfort in one's identity among gay individuals was a result of the change in the way the group was viewed socially by confronting the social stratifications imposed on the group (Bernstein, 1997). In this sense, gay pride is not only a self-conscious positive emotion, but also a counterbalance to the social shame imposed on gay identity, acting as a hetero-induced emotion by the group identification (Salice & Sánchez, 2016). In developing their social identity, gay individuals tend to be motivated by changes in the social status of their group and create strategies that challenge the legitimacy of the status quo in order to build a positive social identity (e.g., gay pride). Thus, we posit gay pride as a strategy for social change given its affective, social, and political nature.

Based on the concept of social identity, then, we define "gay pride" as the emotion that arises from the self-awareness of being a member of the gay group. In this sense, gay

pride is a group-related emotion that is hetero-induced by the development of the gay social identity (Salice & Sánchez, 2016). Given the existence of psychological instruments developed on the basis of SIT to assess the degree of group identification (e.g., Leach, 2008), we distance ourselves from this perspective by focusing exclusively on the affective-emotional aspect of social identity (Tajfel & Turner, 1979, 1986).

Measuring positive social identity among sexual minorities

Research on positive social identity among social minorities, particularly the LGBTQIA+ population, dates to recent times (Rostosky et al., 2018). In these studies, the focus has been on analyzing positive traits and group and environmental resources that contribute to the development of social identity among gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals (Riggle & Mohr, 2015; Vaughan & Rodriguez, 2014). Overall, these studies demonstrate that both the development of a positive LGBTQIA+ identity and the affirmation of social identity (i.e., gay pride) among LGBTQIA+ individuals are associated with the maintenance of their mental health, which directly impacts the psychological well-being of this population (Riggle & Rostosky, 2012). In general, individual differences in sexual minority social identity have been measured with self-report instruments based on the Minority Stress propositions (Meyer, 2003, 2010, 2015), with a dearth of measures focusing on the affective-emotional dimension of gay men's social identity.

Instruments developed to measure social identity in the LGBTQIA+ population include the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale (LGBIS, Mohr & Kendra, 2011), the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Positive Identity Measure (LGB-PIM; Riggle et al., 2014), and the Positive Bisexual Identity Scale (PBI, Barros & Morrison, 2022). The LGBIS was developed to assess various dimensions of LGB identity. The current format is a revised version of Mohr and Fassinger's (2000) questionnaire. The revised scale (Mohr & Kendra, 2011) consists of 27 items divided into nine dimensions (e.g., acceptance concerns,

concealment motivation, identity uncertainty, internalized homonegativity, difficult process, identity superiority, identity affirmation, and identity centrality). Participants rate their experiences as an LGB person on a 6-point rating scale (1 = strongly disagree, 6 = strongly agree). The scale was developed through two studies in the United States that demonstrated factorial, convergent and discriminant validity, and good reliability indices through 6-week test-retest scores (correlation coefficients for the LGBIS subscales ranged from .70 to .92) and internal consistency reliability (Cronbach's alpha estimates ranged from .72 to .94 over the 6 weeks). In addition, results showed that the identity affirmation dimension was positively related to life satisfaction, social self-esteem, and self-assurance.

The LGB-PIM is the first and most known measurement developed exclusively to assess the positive identity of sexual minorities. The scale consists of 25 items organized in five dimensions (e.g., self-awareness, authenticity, community, intimacy, and social justice). Participants rated each item using a 7-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree; 7 = strongly agree), with higher scores indicating greater agreement with the proposed dimensions for assessing positive identity. Validation studies have been conducted in the United States showing good reliability indices (Cronbach's alpha ranging from .89 to .94 in two studies) and satisfactory evidence of factorial, convergent, incremental, concurrent, predictive, and construct validity. In general, Riggle et al. (2014) found associations of LGB-PIM with measures of life satisfaction, hedonic and affective well-being, and psychological well-being. The measure has been used in several countries, including Italy (e.g., Baiocco et al., 2018; Petrocchi et al., 2019), New Zealand (e.g., Bejakovich & Flett, 2018), Austria, Germany, and Switzerland (e.g., Siegel et al., 2022).

Another measure developed on positive social identity in non-heterosexual individuals is the Positive Bisexual Identity (PBI; Barros & Morrison, 2023). This is a unifactorial scale designed to assess positive traits related to identity development in bisexual individuals. The

final version of the scale consists of 16 items that assess the extent to which individuals feel comfortable with their bisexual identity. Participants rate the extent to which they agree with each item on a 5-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree). Validation studies were conducted with participants from the United States and Canada and found good reliability indices (Cronbach's alpha between .92 and .96 in three studies) and satisfactory evidence of factorial, convergent, predictive, and construct validity. In general, the authors found positive associations between positive bisexual identity, life satisfaction, positive social justice attitudes and negative associations with depression and internalized homonegativity.

An instrumental tool validated by Cameron (2004) also deserves mention, as it highlights the three foundational components of social identity across social groups: centrality, ingroup affect, and ingroup ties. The ingroup affect dimension is particularly salient in discussions of positive social identity. Items within this subscale, such as "In general, I'm glad to be a(n) (ingroup member)" and "Generally, I feel good when I think about myself as a(n) (ingroup member)", measure participants' feelings on a 6-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree to 6 = strongly agree) about their affiliation with their social group. However, although this dimension skillfully encapsulates the positive emotions associated with group membership, it may not fully capture the nuanced and deep affective-emotional experiences characteristic of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Notwithstanding these different research perspectives, there has been significant progress in studying positive identity among sexual minorities. However, the scales developed in this area have often overlooked the core aspects emphasized by social identity theory. For example, in formulating the items for the LGB-PIM, the authors relied on a set of theoretical assumptions from developmental psychology that portray positive social identity as a product of the LGB interpersonal process, "an individual identity within a social context, linking individuals to others with similar experiences" (Riggle et al., 2014, p. 399). Similarly,

the authors of the LGBIS (Mohr & Kendra, 2011) draw on a number of variables related to lesbian, gay, and bisexual identity development, but do not provide a clear definition of the concept of identity on which they rely in constructing the scale items. Similarly, the PBI is based on Riggle et al.'s (2014) definition, which conceptualizes a positive bisexual identity as “feeling good about oneself in the context of identifying as [bisexual]” (Barros & Morrison, 2023, p. 74). Although these scales assess positive dimensions of LGB identity, none of them exclusively address identity affirmation or the positive feeling generated by a sense of LGB group. Moreover, the scales developed to assess positive LGB identity consider identity affirmation (pride) exclusively as a self-conscious emotion and ignore the possibility that pride may be a hetero-induced emotion, as suggested by Social Identity Theory (Tajfel & Turner, 1986).

In this sense, it is important to develop a measure that is directly consistent with the assumptions of SIT (Tajfel & Turner, 1979), one of the most important theories of group identification, and that can not only inform the development of measure items but also open new research possibilities regarding the role of gay pride in the well-being of this population. Thus, aiming to overcome this theoretical limitation in defining the social identity of the LGB population (specifically gay men), we propose the present research program, in which we aim to develop and validate a measure to assess the positive social identity of gay men based on the affective-emotional component described by SIT (i.e., the Gay Pride Scale).

Overview of Studies

We conducted a set of four studies to gather evidence of validity and internal consistency of the Gay Pride Scale (GPS). In Study 1, we developed the scale's items and examined their content validity. In Studies 2, 3a and 3b, we analyzed the factorial structure of the scale using an exploratory (Study 2), confirmatory and multigroup confirmatory (Study 3a and 3b) approaches. In addition, we assessed the convergent-discriminant, concurrent and

incremental validity of GPS by analyzing its relationship with related and unrelated measures, as well as helping behaviors directed to the gay community. Finally, in Study 4, we examined the predictive validity of the scale using an experimental manipulation of the social value of the gay group. The research project was approved by the local ethics committee of the first author's institution. In all studies, the inclusion criteria were self-identifying as a gay man, and age of majority (18 years or older). Our diverse participant pool encompassed both Brazilian and American individuals, reflecting a broad cultural spectrum.

Study 1. Scale development and content validity of GPS

In this study, we describe the process of items development for the Gay Pride Scale (GPS) and analyze their content validity through expert rater analysis (Study 1a). In addition, we evaluate the comprehensibility of the items in a sample of the target population (Study 1b).

In developing the Gay Pride Scale (GPS), we followed the guidelines for constructing psychological instruments proposed by Nunnally and Bernstein (1994). First, we sought a conceptual definition of gay pride based on social identity theory (SIT). This theory assumes that groups occupy a fundamental place in people's social lives. SIT uses the core concept of "social identity," which refers to an individual's awareness of being part of a social group and the affective meaning attached to that social belonging. Thus, SIT fundamentally assumes that we seek a type of social identity that helps maintain a positive self-image (Tajfel et al., 1971). In the case of the gay group, it is argued that once group membership is recognized and limitations imposed by social prejudice are overcome, gay men experience a positive sense of belonging to the gay group (i.e., gay pride), which contributes to the development of their self-esteem and psychological well-being (Rostosky et al., 2018). In this sense, gay pride can be defined as the antithesis of shame, specifically as a positive affect that comes from affirming one's social identity as a gay man and may hetero-induced by another members'

behavior (Salice & Sánchez, 2016), such the fighting for gay civil rights. This is the concept of gay pride that we adopted for item construction.

Following this step, we defined the target population, consisting of men from the general Brazilian population who self-identify as gay and are at least 18 years old. We explored the type of instrument to be used and finally decided on the self-report model as the means to measure the construct. After completing all of these steps, we proceeded to construct the GPS items. To this end, we conducted a series of interviews with a pilot group consisting of individuals from the target population ($n = 49$) who answered an open-ended question about social situations in the gay community in which they felt proud to be gay (see supplementary materials). The interviews were recorded and fully transcribed, and the content was considered in the formulation of the items. After determining this, we conducted an exhaustive review of scales measuring group identity among sexual minorities (e.g., gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, women) to ensure that the set of items developed for the scale was concise enough to cover the entire construct definition. Based on the content of the participants' speeches and the review of the existing scales on positive identity of sexual minorities, we structured 12 statements about different social situations (Table 1) that evoked the positive feeling resulting from belonging to the gay group (i.e., gay pride) according to the group. Finally, we presented the set of items to experts in the field of social identity studies to gather evidence of the content validity of the proposed items.

Study 1a. Expert Analysis

Method

Participants

We consulted an expert panel composed of seven psychologists (two pursued an MSc and five a PhD in social psychology) with expertise in psychometrics (e.g., development and adaptation of psychological instruments). Four of them were women and three were men.

Their ages ranged from 25 to 30 years ($M = 27.28$; $SD = 2.21$) and their mean academic experience was 4.71 years ($SD = 1.49$).

Procedures

First, we invited the panel of experts via e-mail. In the message, we informed them about the objectives of the scale and the number of items proposed. Then, we forwarded both the informed consent form, informing them of the ethical guidelines for research with human beings, and the online survey with the proposed scale for their evaluation (see supplementary materials).

Measures

Participants received an online survey with the operational definition of “gay pride” and instructions for content expert analysis. In this survey, we provided the 12 items proposed for the measure. We asked content experts to rate the quality of the items according to three criteria (Grant & Davis, 1997) – representativeness (the degree to which the item reflects the operationalized construct), relevance (importance of the item in explaining the construct), and clarity (accessibility for understanding) on a 6-point rating scale ranging from 0 (not representative or not relevant or not clear) to 5 (very representative or very relevant or very clear). The higher the score, the more representative and/or relevant and/or clear the item was considered to assess the construct.

Data analysis

We calculated the inter-rater agreement using the Content Validity Coefficient (CVC) (Aiken, 1980). More specifically, we calculated the CVC for content expert’s judgment (CVCj), for each item (CVCi), and for the total scale (CVCt), using CVC values $\geq .80$ as a criterion for content validity (Aiken, 1985).

Results

The results showed that all items had scores above .80 for pertinence, relevance, and clarity (see Table 1). In addition, the content experts' ratings for each item (CVCj) ranged from .91 to .99. Finally, the CVC value for the scale (CVCt) was .96.

Table 1

GPS content validity coefficients (Study 1a)

Items	CVC		
	Rp	Rv	Cl
<i>I am proud of being gay [...]</i>			
1. [...] when I see that gay men face prejudice and discrimination in society.	1.00	1.00	1.00
2. [...] when I see more and more people coming out.	1.00	1.00	.97
3. [...] when I realize that other gay people come together to stand up for the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.	.97	1.00	1.00
4. [...] when I see gay couples expressing their love in public (e.g., holding hands).	1.00	1.00	.97
5. [...] because I know that many gay people have been playing important roles in society (e.g., in politics).	.97	.97	1.00
6. [...] when I read about cases of adoption by same-sex couples.	1.00	.97	1.00
7. [...] when a close friend has the courage to come out as gay to their family.	1.00	1.00	.97
8. [...] when I see other gay people fighting for their civil rights (e.g., the right to donate blood).	.91	.94	.91
9. [...] when I see other gay people standing up against LGBTQIA+ phobia or any other form of prejudice and discrimination (such as sexism and racism).	.94	.91	.91
10. [...] when I see other in the gay community opposing individuals or institutions that openly advocate for conservatism in society.	.94	.97	.94
11. [...] when I see instances of civil marriages between gays individuals.	.91	.88	.91
12. [...] when I see gay people increasingly taking charge of the political history of the LGBTQIA+ movement.	.94	.94	.85

Note. Rp = representativeness; Rv = relevance; Cl = clarity.

Study 1b. Item Comprehensibility

To assess the comprehensibility of each item among the target population, we conducted a pilot study with a small sample of Brazilian gay men aged 18 years and older. This is an important step in the scale validation process to ensure that the wording of the items was clear and understandable to participants.

Method

Participants

Fifteen men from the general Brazilian population who self-identified as gay participated in the study. They were between 22 and 53 years old ($M = 36.13$; $SD = 10.69$) and the majority were single (60%).

Procedures

We collect data online using the Qualtrics platform. Participants were invited via posts on social media (e.g., Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter). After digitally signing the informed consent form (ICF), participants were asked to rate the comprehensibility of each item using a 4-point scale (0 = no understanding; 3 = full understanding). Scores below 4 indicated difficulty in understanding the item. In such cases, participants were asked to suggest how the item could be improved to make it easier to understand.

Measure

Participants responded to the original version of GPS composed of 12 items.

Data analysis

We analyzed data using IBM SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, version 24). We used the maximum score on the response scale as a criterion for item comprehensibility. That is, for an item to be considered fully comprehensible by the sample, the mean score of participants should be 3.0, with a standard deviation of 0.0; otherwise, the

item would be classified as partially comprehensible, and we examined comments made by participants to improve the wording, as suggested by Wong and Chow (2017).

Results

The results showed that all participants selected the maximum option on the response scale regarding the understandability of the 12 items proposed for the scale ($M = 3.0$; $SD = 0.0$). Notably, all participants indicated that they fully understood the items and that no rephrasing was necessary.

Discussion

In this study, we demonstrated the process of scale development and assessed its content validity through expert raters' analysis (Study 1a). We also examined the comprehensibility of the proposed items for GPS (Study 1b). Our results showed that the items proposed for GPS, based on SIT, were evaluated by the panel of judges as representative, relevant, and clear to representing the construct. These items were considered fully comprehensible by the target population sample. Overall, these results indicate that the content of the items does indeed reflect the concept of gay pride, demonstrating the content validity of the scale. While this is an important step in the development of a psychological assessment instrument, we still need to verify the scale's factorial structure of the scale and analyze the quality of the psychometric parameters of the items using Item Response Theory (IRT) in a new and more diverse sample. This will be the objective of the next study.

Study 2. Exploratory analysis and convergent-discriminant validity of the GPS

In this study, our objectives were to gather initial evidence of the factorial validity of the GPS and to analyze its internal consistency indices. In this phase, we conducted an exploratory factor analysis of the measure in a new sample of gay men from the Brazilian general population. We also aimed to apply item response theory (IRT) to analyze the quality of the proposed scale items. We also investigated the convergent and discriminant validity of

the scale by examining its relationships with other related measures. For the convergent analysis, we observed the relationship between the GPS and a group identification measure (Wachelke, 2012). For discriminant analysis, we correlated the scores of GPS with two scales that assess the internalization of homophobic prejudice, specifically internalized homonegativity (Costa et al., 2021) and internalized stigma related to sexual orientation (Lira & Moraes, 2019).

Method

Participants

We determined the sample size based on the minimum criterion of fifteen participants per item. As a result, participants were 219 gay men from the Brazilian general population, aged 18 to 76 years ($M = 32.10$; $SD = 10.62$), and mostly single (68.0%).

Procedures

We invited potential participants via posts on social media (e.g., Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter). In these posts, we provided a link to access the questionnaire, which was organized on Qualtrics. Initially, participants were asked to digitally sign the Informed Consent Form, which included information about the purpose of the study and the ethical principles ensured by the research. Subsequently, only those who consented to participate responded to the questionnaires used in the study.

Measures

Participants completed an online survey consisting of a series of demographic questions (e.g., age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status) and the following scales:

Gay Pride Scale. We administered the original 12-item version of the GPS, as shown in Table 1. Participants indicated how much they agreed with each item on a 6-point Likert scale ranging from 0 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The higher the mean score, the greater the positive affect that resulted from belonging to the gay group (i.e., gay pride).

Group Identification Scale. We used an adapted version of the Group Identification Scale (Wachelke, 2012), a unifactorial instrument based on the scale constructed by Leach et al. (2008). Items in the scale reflect conditions of identification with general social groups (e.g., “Being a [group member] is an important part of my identity”; “Being a [group member] is an important part of my self-concept”). In this study, we replaced the statements in square brackets with the term “gay man.” Items were answered on a 7-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree; 7 = strongly agree). Higher scores indicated stronger identification with the group. The scale had adequate internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = 0.785$; $\omega = .789$), and the results of confirmatory factor analysis conducted with a single-factor model showed good fit ($DWLS\chi^2 = 6.455$; $df = 9$; $p = .694$; $\chi^2/df = .71$; CFI = .99; TLI = .99; RMSEA = .049 [90% CI = .010; .059]).

Minority Stress in Lesbians, Gays, and Bisexuals (PEM-LGB-BR). This instrument developed based on the Minority Stress Theory (Meyer, 2003, 2010) and adapted to the Brazilian context by Costa et al. (2020), measures experiences related to minority stress in the LGB population across three dimensions: internalized homonegativity (7 items), sexuality disclosure (4 items), and experiences of stigma (7 items). Participants responded to the items using a 7-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree; 7 = strongly agree). In this study, we used only the dimension of internalized homonegativity (e.g., “I feel uncomfortable in social situations with gay men”), which represents dissatisfaction with being gay due to social prejudice. This dimension showed good fit ($DWLS\chi^2 = 25.110$; $df = 14$; $p = .033$; $\chi^2/df = 1.74$; CFI = .952; TLI = .929; RMSEA = .060 [90%CI = .017; .098]) and adequate internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = .706$; $\omega = .721$).

Internalized Homophobia Scale for Gays and Lesbians (IHS-BR). This instrument, developed by Ross and Rosser (1996) and validated for the Brazilian context by Lira and Morais (2019), assesses the extent of negative feelings that lesbians and gay men have about

their sexual orientation. The scale consists of 19 items, and the Brazilian version has two dimensions: internal perception of stigma (15 items) and perception of social oppression (4 items). The items were answered on a 4-point Likert scale (0 = strongly disagree; 3 = strongly agree). In this study, we used only the dimension of internal perception of stigma (e.g., “Life would be easier if I were heterosexual,” “I would rather be heterosexual”), which has a good fit ($DWLS\chi^2 = 133.697$; $df = 90$; $p = .694$; $\chi^2/df = 1.48$; CFI = .964; TLI = .958; RMSEA = .047 [90% CI = .029; .063]) and questionable internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = .602$; $\omega = .682$).

Data analysis

We used Factor 10.10.03 software (Ferrando & Lorenzo-Seva, 2017) to conduct an exploratory factor analysis (EFA) of GPS. To determine the number of factors, we used a parallel analysis based on the minimum rank factor analysis (Timmerman & Lorenzo-Seva, 2011) and the Hull method (CFI; Lorenzo-Seva et al., 2011), which is recommended as one of the most appropriate methods to estimate the dimensionality of the instruments (Asún et al., 2015). For this analysis, we used the polychoric correlation matrix of the items based on the Diagonally Weighted Least Squares (DWLS) estimator with 5000 bootstrap resampling and 95% confidence intervals. To assess model fit, we used the following indices and parameters: χ^2/df (ratio of chi-squared to degrees of freedom) less than 5; TLI (Tucker-Lewis Index) and CFI (Comparative Fit Index) both greater than .90; RMSEA (Root Mean Square Error of Approximation) and SRMR (Standardized Root Mean Squared Residual) less than .06 (Hu & Bentler, 1999). In addition, we tested the unidimensionality of the scale using the indicators suggested by Ferrando and Lorenzo-Seva (2018): Unidimensional Congruence (UniCO) > 0.95; Explained Common Variance (ECV) > 0.85; and Mean of Item Residuals (MIREAL) < 0.30. Next, we analyzed the quality of the proposed scale items using Item Response Theory (IRT) using the Graded Response Model (GRM; Samejima, 1969), since the response

alternatives of the items are ordinal and polytomous. We used the ‘mirt’ package in R software (Chalmers, 2012) to calculate item parameters “a” (discrimination; $a > .50$) and “b” (difficulty; $-5.0 < b < 5.0$) (Barker, 2001; Baker & Kim, 2017). We assessed the internal consistency reliability of the scales using Cronbach’s alpha (α) and McDonald’s omega (ω) calculated from the polychoric correlation matrix of the items, with values above 0.70 considered acceptable (Trizano-Hermosilla & Alvarado, 2016). For the convergent-discriminant analysis, we used the software IBM SPSS (version 24.0) to calculate the bivariate correlations (Pearson’s r) between the measured variables and to build a structural model consisting of relationships between latent variables to assess the fit of the errors between the measured variables.

Results

First, we tested the factorability of the polychoric correlation matrix using Bartlett’s sphericity test ($\chi^2 = 2212.7$; $df = 66$; $p = .001$) and the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin test ($KMO = .885$ [95% CI = .889; .915]). The results of the parallel analysis showed that only the proportion of variance explained by the first factor in the real data (67.21%) exceeded that in the simulated data (17.17%). For example, for the second factor, the proportion of variance explained in the real data was 7.16%, while in the simulated data it was 14.92%. Thus, these results indicate that the best solution was to extract a single factor with an eigenvalue of 7.84. This structure was supported by the Hull method (CFI = .968; Scree test = 443.643) and the one-dimensionality indicators used in the study: UniCo = .992 (95% CI = .990, .997), ECV = .911 (95% CI = .896, .950), and MIREAL = .215 (95% CI = .120, .263). The fit of the one-dimensional model for GPS with 12 items was excellent, $\chi^2 = 58.821$, $df = 43$, $p = .058$, $\chi^2/df = 1.36$, TLI = .994, CFI = .996, RMSEA = .041 (95% CI = .001, .060), SRMR = .020 (95% CI = .015; .022). The factor loadings ranged from .53 (item 12) to .93 (item 8). Table 2 shows

the factor loadings and item response theory (IRT) parameters for difficulty (a) and discrimination (b1-b5) obtained in the IRT analysis.

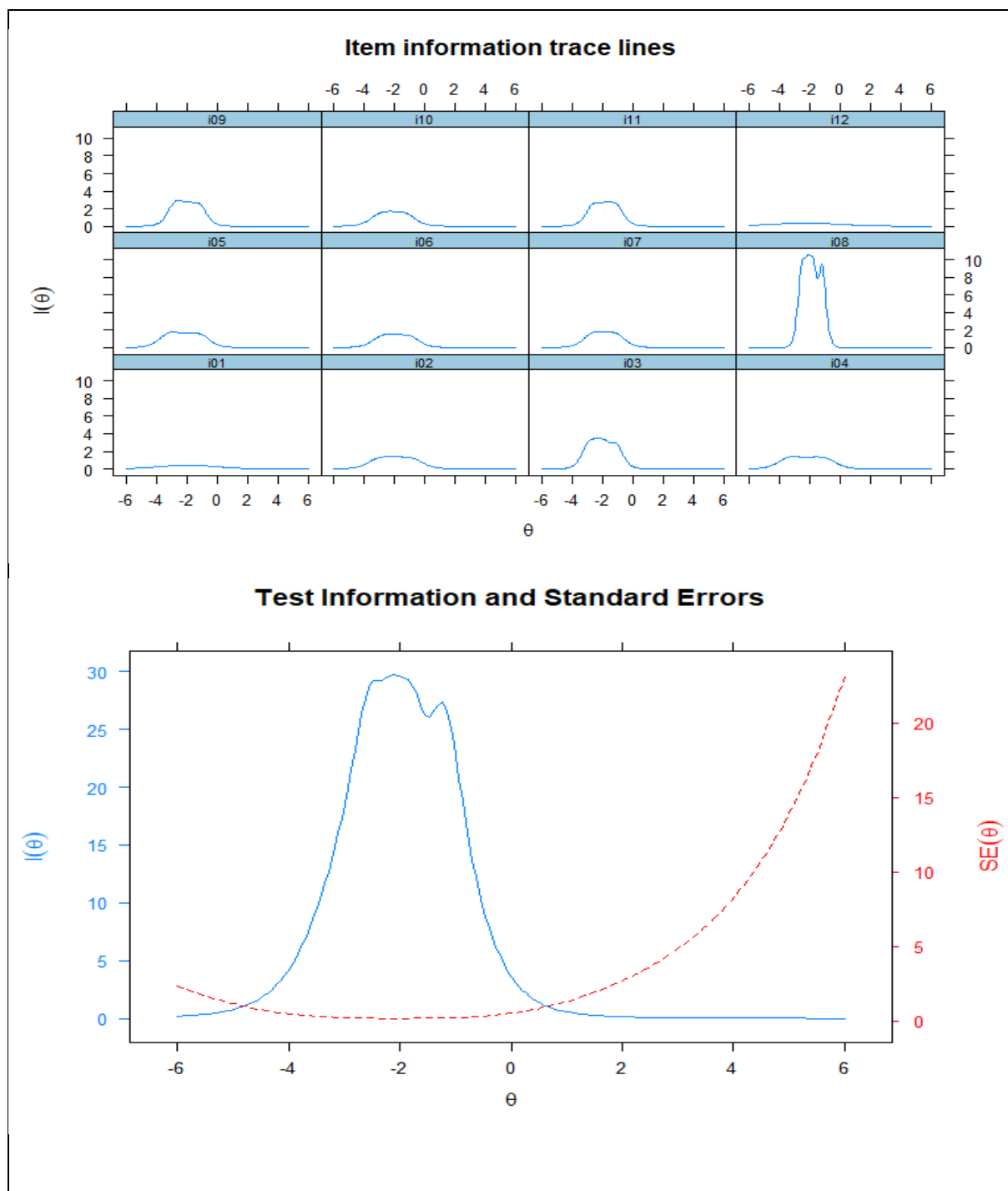
Table 2

Factor loadings and parameters a and b of GPS items (Study 2)

Item	Mean	95%CI	λ	a	b1	b2	b3	b4	b5
1	4.22	3.98 – 4.47	.57	1.11	-2.96	-2.71	-2.45	-1.81	-0.90
2	4.49	4.32 – 4.67	.77	2.09	-3.09	-2.51	-2.16	-1.62	-0.82
3	4.70	4.57 – 4.84	.89	3.31	-2.92	-2.47	-2.21	-1.83	-1.08
4	4.62	4.49 – 4.77	.77	2.14	-3.46	-3.10	-2.87	-1.81	-0.99
5	4.71	4.59 – 4.84	.81	2.40	-3.26	-2.92	-2.08	-1.11	-0.60
6	4.69	4.56 – 4.82	.80	2.26	-2.79	-2.01	-1.06	-0.31	-0.17
7	4.64	4.49 – 4.80	.80	2.43	-2.67	-2.55	-2.45	-1.78	-1.107
8	4.79	4.68 – 4.90	.93	6.05	-2.53	-2.14	-1.78	-1.20	-0.65
9	4.75	4.64 – 4.87	.85	3.11	-2.83	-2.60	-1.94	-1.18	-0.67
10	4.70	4.56 – 4.85	.80	2.31	-2.97	-2.45	-1.94	-1.25	-0.71
11	4.72	4.61 – 4.84	.87	3.10	-2.59	-1.80	-1.09	-0.38	-0.24
12	4.13	3.89 – 4.38	.53	0.98	-3.82	-2.82	-2.32	-1.73	-0.739

Note. λ = factor loadings.

As Table 2 shows, all items had satisfactory discriminant indices ($a > .50$), indicating that they were able to discriminate individuals with varying degrees of gay pride. The most discriminative items were Item 8 ($a = 6.05$) and Item 3 ($a = 3.31$), whereas the least discriminative items were Item 12 ($a = .98$) and Item 1 ($a = 1.11$). Similarly, all items had appropriate difficulty values, ranging from -3.82 (b1 of Item 12) to -.17 (b5 of Item 6). We then evaluated the item and test information trace lines (Figure 1).

Figure 1*Item and Test Information trace lines (Study 2)*

As shown in Figure 1, the GPS items were most informative for the portion of the latent trait between points -4 and 1. Conversely, there is less theta information for the extreme values and the overall positive end of the scale. In addition, items 3, 8, and 11 were the most

informative for the gay pride assessment. On the other hand, items 1 and 12 were less informative, although they had good discrimination indices. Moving forward, we examined the internal consistency reliability of the measure. The results of Cronbach's alpha and McDonald's omega coefficients demonstrate adequate values for reliability ($\alpha = .806$; $\omega = .863$).

Finally, we examined the association of the scale with related measures. Table 3 shows the correlation matrix between the results of the GPS and the scales used for convergent (group identification) and discriminant validity (internalized homonegativity and internal stigma perception).

Table 3

Correlation matrix between GPS and the measures used for convergent-discriminant analysis (Study 2)

	GPS	GI	IH	ISP
GPS	—			
GI	.441***	—		
IH	-.242***	-.387***	—	
ISP	-.214**	-.295***	.661***	—

Note. GPS = Gay Pride Scale; GI = Group Identification; IH = Internalized Homonegativity; ISP = Internal Stigma Perception. *** $p = .001$; ** $p = .01$.

As shown in Table 2, the results indicated that the scores of GPS were positively and significantly correlated with the scores of the group identification scale ($r = .441$; $p = .001$). This result indicates that the scores of GPS and the group identification scale significantly converge in the same direction. In addition, we observed negative and statistically significant correlations between GPS and measures of internalized homonegativity ($r = -.242$; $p = .001$)

and internal stigma perception ($r = -.214$; $p = .001$). These results demonstrate the discriminant nature of the relationship between the Gay Pride Scale and measures of internalized homophobic prejudice (i.e., internalized homonegativity and internal stigma perception).

Discussion

In this study, we collected preliminary evidence supporting the factorial validity, internal consistency, and convergent-discriminant validity of the GPS. The application of methods such as parallel analysis, the Hull-CFI method, the UniCo, the ECV, and the MIREAL consistently indicated that the GPS scale is unidimensional, suggesting that its items cohesively measure a singular underlying construct: gay pride.

A pivotal advancement in this study was the incorporation of IRT in the development and validation of GPS items. IRT not only offered a detailed insight into each item's performance but also highlighted their discriminative power in evaluating gay pride. This ensured that each item sensitively captured nuances in the latent trait (Bock & Gibbons, 2021). For example, items such as 3, 8, 9 and 11 showed high discriminatory power. These items are sensitive to small differences in the trait and are therefore excellent for identifying variations in gay pride. However, in this study, the most items showed moderate discrimination, meaning that while they are still good at discriminating between different levels of the trait, they are less sensitive compared to the items with high discrimination.

Furthermore, the difficulty indices obtained from IRT were appropriately calibrated, indicating that the items effectively measure varying degrees of gay pride across individuals (Reise & Moore, 2023). Items with lower difficulty parameters are easier to endorse, which can help capture a wider range of participants' attitudes. Items with higher difficulty parameters are harder to endorse, which can help identify respondents with stronger levels of the underlying trait. For interventions that target different levels of gay pride, the difficulty

parameters can serve as a guide to which items should focus on. Low difficulty items may be more relevant for the initial phase of the intervention (baseline), while high difficulty items can be used to assess progress in more advanced stages. However, the methodological precision brought in by IRT marks a significant progression compared to traditional methods employed in previous scales that assessed positive identity among sexual minorities (e.g., Riggle et al., 2015; Mohr & Kendra, 2011).

Additionally, the scale's reliability was confirmed by internal consistency metrics. Its validity was evidenced through meaningful correlations with related constructs, such as group identification, and its discriminant validity against constructs like internalized homonegativity and internal stigma perception.

Given the exploratory nature of our methodology, there is a need for further validation. Specifically, to bolster the efficacy of the GPS items in gauging individual variations in gay pride across diverse cultural settings, replication in other samples is essential. To this end, we conducted subsequent studies to validate the unidimensional structure of the 12 GPS items in both Brazil and the United States, aiming to further assess the scale's internal consistency reliability, concurrent-divergent, and incremental validity.

Study 3. Confirmatory factor analysis, concurrent-divergent and incremental validity of the GPS in cross-cultural contexts (Brazil and the United States)

In this study, our primary objective was to validate the factor structure of the GPS, as identified in previous research, across two distinct cultural contexts: Brazil (Study 3a) and the United States (Study 3b). Furthermore, we aimed to gather evidence for the concurrent, divergent, and criterion validity of the scale in the Brazilian context (Study 3a), while also examining its incremental validity in the U.S. context (Study 3b).

Study 3a. GPS in Brazil

First, we conducted a confirmatory factor analysis to test the previously observed unidimensional model of the GPS in Brazil. In this step, we aimed to confirm that the 12 items proposed for GPS capture the latent trait through a single-factor structure. In addition, we sought to examine how the scores of GPS are related to measures that capture a construct that is similar to gay pride (i.e., concurrent) and an unrelated construct (i.e., divergent). To this end, we examined the relationship between the Gay Pride scale and another scale that assesses LGBTQIA+ individuals' positive feelings toward their own sexuality. We also examined the relationship between the GPS and the Epworth Sleepiness Scale, which measures daytime sleepiness, a divergent construct to Gay Pride. Similarly, we assessed the scale's ability to predict an external criterion. Given the significant association between positive LGBTQIA+ identity and psychological well-being (Camp et al., 2020, 2022) we hypothesized that levels of gay pride (i.e., the positive feeling that results from belonging to the gay group) might be related to life satisfaction (a dimension of psychological well-being). We tested a regression model in which we examined the predictive power of GPS on participants' psychological well-being scores. In this way, we tested the hypotheses of convergent validity (i.e., the presence of a moderate or strong correlation between measures of the same construct), divergent validity (i.e., the absence of an association between scores on GPS and scores on an instrument measuring unrelated constructs), and criterion validity (i.e., the predictive power of the gay pride measure on psychological well-being).

Method

Participants

We determined the sample size using the minimum criterion of 15 participants per item. Participants were 251 gay men from the general Brazilian population, aged 18 to 60 years ($M = 31.95$, $SD = 8.62$), and mostly single (68.5%).

Procedures and Measures

Data collection procedures were the same as previous studies. Participants completed an online survey consisting of a series of demographic questions (e.g., age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status) and the following scales:

Gay Pride Scale (GPS). We administered the 12-item version of the GPS presented previously. Cronbach's Alpha ($\alpha = .902$), McDonald's Omega ($\omega = .920$), Composite Reliability (CR = .989), and Average Variance Extracted (AVE = .50) showed good reliability indices for the measure.

Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale (LGBIS). This instrument, developed by Mohr and Kendra (2011), assesses positive experiences related to the identity of sexual minority (i.e., lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender). The scale comprises 27 items divided into eight dimensions (e.g., acceptance concerns, concealment motivation, identity uncertainty, internalized homonegativity, difficult process, identity superiority, identity affirmation, and identity centrality). The instrument is rated on a 7-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree; 7 = strongly agree), with higher scores indicating higher levels of positive affect related to minority identity. In this study, we used only the three items from the identity affirmation dimension (e.g., "I am glad to be an LGB person"; "I am proud to be part of the LGB community"; "I am proud to be LGB"), which showed good internal consistency ($\alpha = .884$; $\omega = .887$).

Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS). This measure, developed by Johns (1991) and validated for the Brazilian context by Bertolazi et al. (2009), assesses the likelihood that a person will fall asleep or doze off during the day. It is a scale designed for use in nonclinical samples and includes 8 items organized in a unidimensional structure. Items are rated on a 4-point Likert scale (0 = no chance of dozing; 3 = high chance of dozing) depicting different everyday situations that might lead an ordinary person to doze off during the day (e.g., "sitting

and reading"; "sitting quietly after a lunch without alcohol"). Higher total scores on the scale indicate greater daytime sleepiness. In this study, the scale showed good fit indices ($DWLS\chi^2 = 44.53$, $df = 20$, $p = .001$, $\chi^2/df = 2.22$, $TLI = .921$, $CFI = .943$, $RMSEA = .070$ [90% CI = .042; .098]) and adequate internal consistency values ($\alpha = .728$; $\omega = .728$).

Satisfaction With Life Scale (SWLS). This scale, developed by Diener et al. (1985) and adapted to the Brazilian context by Gouveia et al. (2005), assesses an individual's level of satisfaction with their own life. It is a self-report instrument consisting of 5 items (e.g., "I am satisfied with my life"; "The conditions of my life are excellent"; "If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing") and is organized in a unidimensional structure. Items are rated on a 7-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree; 7 = strongly agree), with higher total scores indicating higher levels of life satisfaction. In this study, the unidimensional model of the scale showed good fit indices ($DWLS\chi^2 = 2.08$, $df = 5$, $p = .999$, $\chi^2/df = .41$, $TLI = .999$, $CFI = .999$, $RMSEA = .001$ [90% CI = .000; .048]) and good internal consistency values ($\alpha = .880$; $\omega = .899$).

Data analysis

We used IBM SPSS (version 24.0) to calculate descriptive statistics, correlations between scale scores (i.e., concurrent-divergent validity), and the regression model to assess the predictive power of the GPS on SWLS (i.e., criterion validity). Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was conducted using Mplus software (version 8.3; Muthén & Muthén, 2017), with Diagonally Weighted Least Squares (DWLS) as the estimator. To assess model fit, we used the following indices and parameters: χ^2/df (ratio of chi-squared to degrees of freedom) less than 5; TLI (Tucker-Lewis Index) and CFI (Comparative Fit Index) both greater than .90; RMSEA (Root Mean Square Error of Approximation) and SRMR (Standardized Root Mean Squared Residual) less than .06 (Hu & Bentler, 1999). We assessed the internal consistency of the measure using Cronbach's alpha, McDonald's omega, and composite reliability (CR), with

a minimum acceptable value of .70 (Hair et al., 2006; Trizano-Hermosilla & Alvarado, 2016). We also estimated the average variance extracted (AVE), considering values of .50 or higher as appropriate (Fornell & Larcker, 1981).

Results

The CFA results showed excellent fit indices for the one-dimensional model, $\chi^2 = 123.58$, $df = 54$, $\chi^2/df = 2.28$, $p = .998$; TLI = .982; CFI = .985; RMSEA = .065 (90%CI = .050, .080); SRMR = .055. Next, we examined the relationships between GPS and the measures used for concurrent, divergent, and criterion validity (Table 4).

Table 4

Correlation matrix between GPS and the measures used for concurrent-divergent analysis (Study 3a)

	GPS	IA	SWL	SL
GPS	—			
IA	.601***	—		
SWL	.173**	.281***	—	
SL	.076	.029	-.001	—

Note. GPS = Gay Pride Scale; IA = Identity Affirmation; SWL = Satisfaction with Life; SL = Sleepiness. *** $p = .001$; ** $p = .01$.

Overall, we found that the gay pride measure had a positive and statistically significant correlation with the gay identity affirmation component ($r = .601$; $p = .001$). This suggests that higher levels of gay pride are associated with stronger identity affirmation. In addition, we found no association between gay pride and sleepiness scores ($r = .076$; $p = .228$). Additionally, the results of the regression model showed a significant effect of GPS on life

satisfaction scores, $F(1, 249) = 7.760, p = .006$, suggesting that gay pride positively impacts gay men's life satisfaction ($b = .35; SE = .12; t = 2.79; p = .006$).

Study 3b. GPS in the United States

In this study, we aimed to test the factor structure of the GPS within the U.S. context and juxtapose it with the results obtained in Brazil. This comparative analysis aimed to underscore the cross-cultural robustness of the GPS. Furthermore, we sought to establish the concurrent validity of the GPS in the U.S. This involved assessing its correlation with the Ingroup Affect subscale (Cameron, 2004). Another focal point of this study was to probe the incremental validity of the GPS. We meticulously analyzed how both Ingroup Affect and Gay Pride constraints predicted gay individuals' helping behaviors towards their community movements. Specifically, we evaluated their propensity to donate both time and financial resources to support gay community initiatives. Central to our inquiry was the hypothesis that Gay Pride, as a standalone factor, would be a significant predictor of such community-oriented behaviors, even when accounting for other potential influencing variables.

Participants

This study engaged a total of 152 gay male participants from the United States. These individuals spanned a broad age range from 18 to 81 years. On average, participants were 38.64 years old ($SD = 12.84$). The sample size was determined based on a criterion of 10 participants for every item on the scale.

Procedures

To ensure the content validity and cultural relevance of the GPS in the American context, two bilingual male social psychologists, both identifying as gay, undertook the initial translation of the Portuguese items into English. This preliminary version was then examined by two gay male American social psychologists, ensuring that the items were not only clear

and comprehensible but also contextually relevant and culturally nuanced (see supplementary materials for details).

Employing the Prolific platform, we reached out to potential participants and guided them to our online survey. Our inclusion criteria were designed for specificity: participants had to be at least 18 years old, self-identify as gay, and be male. The survey started with the Gay Pride Scale, followed by questions related to support for the gay community movement. Specifically, they were presented with hypothetical scenarios about contributing financially and volunteering time towards organizing a gay parade in their city (e.g., “Considering the financial demands of organizing a gay parade in your city, how much would you be willing to donate in USD?” and “Given the need for volunteers to ensure the parade’s success, how many hours would you pledge in a week to aid in its organization and execution?”). Subsequently, participants responded to the Ingroup Affect subscale (Cameron, 2004) and rounded off the survey by furnishing demographic information such as age, sexual orientation, gender, and nationality. On average, the completion time was 6 minutes.

Measures

Gay Pride Scale. Consistent with prior studies, we employed the 12-item GPS. Reliability was affirmed through robust indices: Cronbach’s Alpha ($\alpha = .946$), McDonald’s Omega ($\omega = .947$).

Ingroup Affect. For concurrent validity, we leveraged the Ingroup Affect subscale from Cameron’s (2004) multidimensional social identity scale, previously validated in the U.S. This subscale is pivotal in capturing positive social identity in social groups. Items like “In general, I’m glad to be a(n) (ingroup member)” gauge participants’ sentiments on a 6-point Likert scale. The subscale demonstrated commendable reliability, as evidenced by Cronbach’s Alpha ($\alpha = .895$), McDonald’s Omega ($\omega = .889$).

Data analysis

Our approach to confirmatory factor analysis mirrored the methodology in Study 3a. To manage missing values, we adopted the Listwise deletion approach (Cheema, 2014; Jakobsen et al., 2017). To ascertain the incremental validity, we employed multiple regression analyses to predict both monetary and time donations to gay movements, using the Ingroup Affect and Gay Pride as predictor variables.

Results

The results from the CFA demonstrated a good fit for the GPS's one-dimensional model: $\chi^2 = 69.92$, $df = 54$, $\chi^2/df = 1.29$, $p = .071$; TLI = .999; CFI = .999; RMSEA (90% CI) = .044 (.000-.071); SRMR = .044. For concurrent validity within the American context, we then explored the relationship between the GPS and the Ingroup Affect subscale. A notably significant positive correlation emerged between the two constructs ($r = .478$, $p = .001$).

Incremental Validity Analysis

To determine the incremental validity of the GPS, we conducted a multiple regression analysis where both "Donation of Time" and "Donation of Money" were the dependent variables. The predictors were introduced in two blocks: Ingroup Affect in Block 1, followed by the addition of Gay Pride in Block 2. The results of the analysis are displayed in Table 5.

Table 5

Multiple regression predicting donation of time and money to gay movements (Study 3b)

Predictors	Donation of Time		Donation of Money	
	Block 1	Block 2	Block 1	Block 2
	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>
<i>Intercept</i>	.626	-3.99	8.99	-9.23
Ingroup Affect	1.51	.341	6.02*	.579
Gay Pride		2.54*		11.1**
Adjusted R^2	.015	.046	.023	.098

Note. * $p = .05$; ** $p = .001$.

The results indicate that while the Ingroup Affect predictor had a significant effect on the Donation of Money (in Block 1), the inclusion of Gay Pride in Block 2 led to a marked increase in the Adjusted R^2 values for both dependent variables, highlighting its significance. The Gay Pride predictor was notably significant for both “Donation of Time” and “Donation of Money”.

Discussion

In Study 3, we expanded the validation of the GPS across two culturally distinct environments, Brazil and the United States, diving deep into its factorial structure and various facets of validity. In the Brazilian context (Study 3a), the CFA results resonated with prior findings, solidifying the unidimensional nature of the GPS. Concurrent validity was affirmed as the GPS strongly correlated with gay identity affirmation measures. Its lack of association with unrelated constructs, such as daytime sleepiness, emphasized its divergent validity. Additionally, the significant relationship between gay pride and life satisfaction bolstered the criterion validity of the scale within Brazil.

Transitioning to the U.S. setting (Study 3b), the GPS’s unidimensional structure was further corroborated by the CFA outcomes. The notable correlation with the ingroup affect subscale accentuated its concurrent validity. The results of the incremental validity analysis showcased the GPS’s adeptness at discerning intricate variations, underlining its precision and versatility. The consistent factor structures observed in Brazil and U.S. contexts underscore the GPS’s cross-cultural adaptability and robustness.

In summation, across the extensive journey of our five studies, the GPS has emerged as a reliable and multifaceted tool. It consistently demonstrated content and factorial validity, exhibited precise convergent-divergent relationships, and showcased its predictive prowess with external criteria and behaviors. Its commendable internal consistency across different cultural landscapes reinforces its potential as a universal tool for measuring gay pride. While

these findings are promising, the exploration of the GPS's predictive validity will be further tested in the next study.

Study 4. The Gay Pride Experiment

In this study, we aim to gather further evidence of the criterion validity of GPS using an experimental approach. To this end, we conducted a randomized group experiment to manipulate social situations that we hypothesize will influence individuals' levels of gay pride. Given the scarcity of experimental studies on this topic, we relied on findings from research programs based on minority social identity theory (see Camp et al., 2020 for a review). This theory states that we are motivated to develop a positive social identity when we are aware of our membership in a particular group, the social value of the group, and the extent to which this membership is important to our self-image (Tajfel & Turner, 1979). Moreover, it is believed that we do so to maintain our psychological well-being and thus avoid cognitive dissonance.

To examine this phenomenon, we manipulated the salience of gay group social value by choosing one condition that emphasized gay affirmation (gay pride) and another condition that threatened gay identity (social group devaluation). We then compared participants' responses in these conditions with those in a control condition in which the social value of the gay group was not addressed. We hypothesized that participants in the social value affirmation condition would tend to show higher levels of gay pride than participants in the other conditions (Hypothesis 1). To reduce the cognitive dissonance created by being confronted with a situation that threatens positive social identity (devaluation of social group), participants assigned to this situation would tend to show higher levels of pride than participants in the control condition, but not as much as participants in the affirmation condition (Hypothesis 2). To test this hypothesis, we used three experimental scenarios in which we presented fictitious results from a sociological study of the quality of life of gay

men (affirmation vs. threat to the social value of the gay group) and of the quality of libraries worldwide (control).

Method

Participants and study design

This was a between-participants experimental study conducted between February and April 2022. We manipulated three fictional news articles, two on gay pride (experimental conditions: affirmation vs. threat to the social value of the gay group) and one on the importance of libraries to society (control condition). We calculated the sample size a priori using WebPower (Zhang & Yuan, 2018) specifying a moderated effect size of $f = .30$, a test power of .80, and a significance level of .05. The analysis yielded a minimum sample size of 112 participants. Therefore, 122 gay men from the general Brazilian population aged 21 to 66 years ($M = 38.11$, $SD = 11.51$) participated in the study, with the majority being single (68.9%). Participants were randomly assigned to one of three experimental conditions: Gay Pride Affirmation ($n = 40$), Gay Pride Threat ($n = 41$), and Control ($n = 41$).

Procedures

We collected data using Qualtrics. Potential participants were recruited via posts on social media (e.g., Instagram, WhatsApp, and Facebook). The experimental manipulation of gay pride was achieved through fictitious news articles published in a newspaper. Depending on the condition, the news articles presented scenarios of affirmation or threat to the social value of the gay group (see supplementary materials). As a control condition, we used a news article that emphasized the importance of libraries to society.

In the affirmation condition, participants were presented with a news article that stated, “Gay men have been feeling more satisfied with their own sexuality.” Specifically, participants read the following text:

“A study conducted by the Brazilian Society for Social Diversity showed that despite the challenges they face, most gay men feel more confident and secure about their sexual orientation today than in the past, meaning they are more satisfied with being gay. Compared to non-gay men, gay men's feelings of satisfaction and happiness are much more stable and generally better. For these and other reasons related to security and emotional stability, the number of gay men who would rather not be gay is decreasing. This is a hopeful sign in the daily struggle for better levels of well-being and life satisfaction among gay men.”

In the threat condition, participants were presented with a news article that claimed, “Gay men have been feeling more dissatisfied with their own sexuality.” Participants in this condition read the following text:

“A study conducted by the Brazilian Society for Social Diversity showed that most gay men currently feel more disappointment about their sexual orientation than in the past, which means that they are more dissatisfied with being gay. Compared to non-gay men, gay men’s feelings of satisfaction and happiness are much more unstable and generally worse. For these and other reasons related to insecurity and emotional instability, the number of gay men who would rather not be gay is increasing. This change in their feelings is a hopeful sign in the daily struggle for better levels of well-being and life satisfaction among gay men.”

In the control condition, participants were presented with a news article titled “The Amazing World of Libraries” In this condition, they read the following text:

“Based on the contents of a particular library, you can learn about the history of the people who built it. Libraries, especially those at universities, play an important role in the dissemination and democratization of knowledge, as well as in knowledge management. A library usually maintains a complete collection, including classic and contemporary works from different areas of knowledge; it has a well-lit and comfortable space for study, with individual cubicles and communal study rooms; it is well-ventilated and acoustically isolated; it provides all of its content available digitally for remote access; and it is equipped with restrooms, water fountains, and a coffee maker.”

Immediately after reading the news articles, participants were asked to respond to the 12 items of the GPS. We then conducted a manipulation check by asking participants about the content of the news article they read using a multiple-choice question. No incorrect responses were recorded in this step. Finally, participants were debriefed about the actual purpose of the study and the fictitious nature of the news articles used for the experimental manipulation.

Measures

Gay Pride Scale (GPS). We used the 12-item version of the GPS, as presented in previous studies. In this study, when we conducted confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) with the diagonally weighted least squares (DWLS) estimator, we found good fit indices for the one-factor model of measurement: $DWLS\chi^2 = 69.320$, $df = 54$, $\chi^2/df = 1.03$, $p = .078$, $TLI = .999$, $CFI = .998$, $RMSEA (CI90\%) = .048 (.000; .079)$, $e SRMR = .045$. The values of factor loadings ranged to .617 (Item 1) and .909 (Item 8). Also, the measure had good values of internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = .920$, $\omega = .921$, $CR = .964$, $AVE = .698$).

Data analysis

We used JASP to calculate descriptive statistics, perform analysis of variance (ANOVA), and confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) to test the one-factor model with data from this sample.

Results

Results showed a statistically significant effect of the experimental manipulation on participants' levels of gay pride, $F(2, 119) = 4.569, p = .012, \eta_p^2 = .071$. Descriptive statistics are presented in Table 7.

Table 7

Descriptives statistics for GPS in each experimental condition

Conditions	Mean	<i>SD</i>	<i>SE</i>
Affirmation	4.713a	0.300	.047
Control	4.372b	0.791	.124
Threat	4.317b	0.701	.110

Note. Different subscripts indicate there were statistically significant differences between the conditions. *SD* = standard deviation, *SE* = standard error.

As shown in Table 7, participants in the affirmation condition had higher levels of gay pride than participants in the threat condition, and this difference was statistically significant ($b = .395, SE = .141, t = 2.795, p = .006, d = .621$). Similarly, participants in the affirmation condition had higher levels of gay pride than participants in the control condition, and this difference was statistically significant ($b = .341, SE = .141, t = 2.407, p = .018, d = .535$). There were no statistically significant differences between the scores of participants in the control and threat conditions ($b = .055, SE = .140, t = .390, p = .697, d = .086$).

Discussion

The results confirm our predictions that GPS is sensitive to capturing the effect of the salience of gay group social value (affirmation *vs.* threat to positive social identity) on individual differences in gay men's pride. Indeed, we observed a significant effect of the affirmation and threat manipulation on participants' levels of gay pride, with individuals allocated to the affirmation condition scoring higher than participants in the other conditions (Hypothesis 1). However, the convergence in gay pride levels between the threat and control conditions warrants deep investigation. One interpretation could be that societal ambivalence or neutrality towards the gay community may inadvertently mirror the latent threats or prejudices they often perceive (Breakwell & Jaspal, 2021), thereby diluting the distinction between a neutral and a threat scenario. This subtle undertone of societal pressure, even in the absence of overt negativity/threat, could be a significant factor in shaping the pride levels of gay individuals. Another dimension to consider is the role of self-acceptance. The extent of internalized acceptance of one's gay identity could potentially buffer the impact of external stimuli, be it affirming or threatening. This suggests that the internal landscape of self-acceptance and pride might sometimes overshadow external influences. The resilience imbued by deep-seated self-acceptance could be a protective shield against societal threats or prejudices (Woodford et al., 2014).

While our experiment did validate the criterion validity of the GPS (Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994), it also threw light on the intricate interplay between societal narratives, individual self-acceptance, and gay pride. In sum, the study shows the GPS's capability to effectively gauge gay pride across different social conditions (*i.e.*, affirmation *vs.* threat), while also hinting at the complex layers that constitute an individual's sense of pride.

General Discussion

Drawing on social identity theory (Tajfel & Turner, 1979) and minority identity affirmation studies (Cass, 1979; Elizur & Mintzer, 2001; Meyer, 2003, 2010, 2015), this paper presents the results of a research program in which we developed and validated the Gay Pride Scale (GPS). In six empirical studies, we demonstrated content validity (Studies 1a and 1b), factorial validity, convergent-discriminant validity, concurrent, incremental validity (Studies 2, 3a and 3b), and criterion validity (Study 4) of this new instrument. Overall, our results showed satisfactory psychometric evidence for GPS validity and reliability in assessing individual differences related to gay pride.

Specifically, in Studies 1a and 1b, we examined whether the items proposed for the composition of the scale would have content validity. Our results showed that the set of items had satisfactory indices of content validity, as they were considered pertinent, relevant, and clear for assessing gay pride by the experts who judged the quality of the scale. In other words, we found that each of the items was consistent with the concept of gay pride from a theoretical perspective. This first stage was a fundamental step in the development of this new measure because it allowed us to propose items that operationally encompassed the behaviors associated with the definition of the construct, as recommended in psychological assessment procedures (Grant & Davis, 1997).

The results of Studies 2, 3a and 3b showed evidence of the factorial validity of the proposed instrument. Overall, the results of both studies provided us with the first empirical evidence that the proposed scale validly captures the unifactorial structure underlying the construct it proposes to measure across different cultural contexts (i.e., factorial validity; Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994). Indeed, these results show that the factor loadings of the items proposed for GPS carried in a single factor that measures individual differences in gay pride

in Brazil and the United States. This indicates that identity affirmation by gay pride is a unifactorial component in the process of forming a minority sexual identity (Cass, 1979).

In addition, the results showed empirical relationships theoretically consistent with the constructs, supporting evidence of convergent and discriminant validity (Study 2), concurrent and divergent validity (Study 3a) and incremental validity (Study 3b). In our study, we found that the gay pride scores has empirical evidence of convergent validity (i.e., association with directly related constructs), discriminant validity (i.e., low association with inversely related constructs), concurrent validity (i.e., association with measures assessing other constructs theoretically related to gay pride), divergent validity (i.e., low association with different constructs), and incremental validity (i.e., the predictive power of the GPS after controlling for other ingroup affect measure) (Hunsley & Meyer 2003; Ziegler & Lämmle, 2020). This procedure corresponds to a fundamental step in the development of any measure assessing psychological constructs by demonstrating the relationship of the scores of the new instrument to variables already in the literature assessing correlated and uncorrelated constructs, which supports empirical evidence of the construct validity (McCarthy et al., 2014).

Indeed, the results of our research program showed that the scores obtained by participants answering the Gay Pride Scale were related to the scores of several correlated measures. We found that the more participants scored on the Gay Pride Scale, the higher their scores on the Ingroup Identification Scale and the subscale Identity Affirmation Subscale of Mohr and Kendra's measure (2011; LGBIS). Conversely, we found that the higher participants scored on the Gay Pride Scale, the lower their scores were on the Internalized Homonegativity Scale and the Internal Perception of Gay Stigma Scale. In addition, scale scores were significantly related to life satisfaction in the target population, which is consistent with several studies demonstrating the protective role of a positive minority social

identity fostered by self-acceptance and affirmation of sexual identity (Camp et al., 2020; Rostosky et al., 2018) on the mental health of gay men (Meyer, 2015).

Finally, in Study 4, we demonstrated the sensitivity of GPS to experimentally assess individual differences in gay pride endorsement with random groups. Given that several studies have demonstrated the harmful and threatening effects of gay group social devaluation on minority identity development (Dunn et al., 2014; Hershberger & D'Augelli, 1995), we designed an experiment in which we manipulated a hypothetical situation of threat (vs. affirmation of gay group social value) to assess the effects of these conditions on gay pride endorsement. Indeed, individuals in the affirmation condition (affirmation of the social value of the gay group) showed higher levels of gay pride, as measured by GPS, than participants assigned to the threat (devaluation of the social value of the gay group) and control conditions.

In addition, across these studies, our results demonstrated the accuracy of GPS in assessing gay pride, as evidenced by the high internal consistency coefficients. The results support empirical evidence for the validity and reliability of scores produced by the Gay Pride Scale, which was developed to measure individual differences in social identity affect among gay men.

Theoretical implications

While we have demonstrated that GPS is an adequate instrument for assessing individual differences in gay pride, the studies presented here represent an important step in the advancement of minority social identity formation studies: the development of a measure designed to assessing the positive feeling generated by social belonging to the gay group in contexts marked by high levels of sexual prejudice and internalized heterosexism (Dunn et al., 2014). This is the case of Brazil, a country known for its deep social inequality and intolerance of diversity, where a non-heterosexual person (e.g., LBGT - lesbian, gay,

bisexual, and transgender) is killed every 32 hours (ABGLT, 2023; GGB, 2021), placing the country at the top of the world ranking of murders of LGBTQIA+ people (ILGA, 2020; TGEU, 2022).

In this context, although there has been progress in ensuring equal rights for sexual minorities, such as equalizing the legal consequences of LGBTQIA+ discrimination with the penalties for the crime of racial insult (Brasil, 2019), Brazil is still considered one of the most dangerous countries in the world to assume a non-heterosexual social identity (Aliança Nacional LGBTI, 2017; ILGA, 2020). All these misfortunes lead to the fact that the development of a positive social attitude towards oneself, in the case of gay men, is socially curtailed by the heterosexism shared by the political movements and the social ideal promoted in the formation of Brazilian social policies, which directly leads to a decrease in the pride of being part of a social minority. This is evident when we observe, for example, in the results of Study 4, that participants in the threat condition (devaluation of the social value of the gay group) scored lower on the gay pride scale than participants in the control condition. This phenomenon is understood in the scientific literature as a process of social exclusion due to the victimization experienced by non-heterosexual groups (Wesselman et al., 2022). To preface, although hypothetical, the social devaluation of the gay group may have led the participants in this study to apply this information to their own self-image, directly affecting their positive (albeit temporary) attitudes toward their minority identity. Coming out as part of a historically marginalized group and still being proud to belong to that group is not an easy task for gay men in Brazil. In this sense, the present research program presents implications that go beyond the methodological-scientific apparatus and include in their results an attempt to overcome social exclusion through a psychosocial mechanism related to the formation of a minority social identity, more specifically, the pride of being gay, in a context of marginalization of individuals considered diverse.

These studies also have direct implications for the study of identity factors in the formation of gay self-esteem as envisioned in Social Identity Theory (TIS; Tajfel & Turner, 1979). By listing the affective component of social identity as a guide to the construction of this work, we attest to the possibility of its evaluation in socially diverse groups and minorities. Specifically, the set of results can be read considering the theorization proposed by Tajfel and Turner (1986) by highlighting the affective association with a social category as an important component in the maintenance of the self. In our research, we found that self-valorization of gay social identity is understood as an important factor in increasing gay men's life satisfaction, demonstrating the extension of SIT theoretical propositions to minority social groups. Nevertheless, our research program advances in studies by guiding a measurement aimed at assessing the affective component of social identity among people belonging to a socially marginalized minority group, as is the case of the group of gay men.

Moreover, our findings have direct implications for the debate on sexual minority mental health as proposed by Minority Stress Theory (MST; Meyer, 2003). According to MST, people who are part of sexual minority groups (e.g., gay men) experience certain social stressors that the vast majority generally do not cope with, such as coming out, heterosexism, and family rejection (i.e., minority stressors). In contrast, studies from this perspective have shown that developing a positive social identity through self-acceptance and affirmation of sexual identity can act as a resilience factor in relation to prejudice/social exclusion victimization (Meyer, 2015). In this sense, our study is consistent with these findings while advancing the research by framing this issue in a non-European social context and in a non-English language (i.e., Latin context).

In addition, our studies have some practical implications. Considering that there are few studies that use samples of the non-heterosexual population and that sociodemographic censuses conducted in different contexts, such as Brazil, do not ask questions to analyze

diversity, the GPS, developed in this research program, can be used in epidemiological studies aimed at investigating the degree of satisfaction with one's sexuality that people belonging to a socially stigmatized group may exhibit. In addition, GPS has the potential to be used as an instrument to evaluate the effectiveness of intervention programs aimed at developing affirmation of sexual identity among gay men (e.g., Pachankis et al., 2015). In addition, the measure can be used in mental health clinics as an adjunctive tool to assess sexual minorities' well-being or satisfaction with their own sexuality.

Study Strengths, Limitations, and Further Directions

The GPS is the first instrument developed in the Latin context to assess an affective dimension of the development of gay men's social identity, avoiding possible doubts of the participants about the construct being assessed. Moreover, it is an instrument developed based on the definition of gay pride, considering in its items different social situations that evoke this group-based feeling. This addresses the limitations highlighted by Camp et al. (2022) in the use of related instruments to assess positive social identity dimensions in gay men. Moreover, it is a brief and easy-to-use instrument with good psychometric validity and reliability evidence, and its results can be used to show the predictive effect of this identity component on levels of pride in contexts of affirmation or threat to gay identity.

Although our results demonstrate the validity and consistency of the gay pride scale, as well as theoretical and empirical implications, our studies have several limitations. A first limitation concerns the sampling procedure. In our studies, we used only convenience samples that were not representative of the entire Brazilian gay male population, which limits the generalizability of the results. Another limitation is that different sexual orientations (e.g., lesbian, gay, bisexual) and gender identities are not represented in the samples we studied (e.g., transgender or non-binary people). Although our objective was to analyze feelings of pride only in gay men, we suggest that future studies adapt the items developed in this scale to

extend their representation to the different scenarios of other sexual orientations and gender identities. A third limitation concerns the lack of robustness of the sociodemographic characterization of participants. Social victimization is known to emanate in different ways from various social demarcations, such as gender identity, skin color, age, income, place of residence, environmental support, access to public health and education, and timing of identification with a non-heterosexual social identity (McCarthy et al., 2014). Given this important limitation of our findings, we suggest that future research incorporate variables that provide a broader view of participant characteristics to examine differences in gay pride motivation. In addition, we did not analyze the structural invariance of the measure. Because age plays an important role in identity affirmation (Koziara et al., 2022), we suggest that further research consider this variable as a criterion for invariance analysis, as younger gay men tend to self-affirm their minority identity to a greater extent than older men (see Camp et al., 2020 for a review).

Our research program was based on a psychometric examination of the analysis of a psychosocial variable. Future studies could use qualitative approaches (e.g., interviews, focus groups, discursive analyzes) to analyze not only the situations in which feelings of pride are elicited in gay men (e.g., the procedures used to develop the items in Study 1). These studies could also analyze how participants in this group express pride in different social contexts (e.g., family, workplace, school). Citing studies showing the impact of sexual minorities' social identity development on their mental health (Clements et al., 2021; Meyer, 2003, 2015; Riggle & Mohr, 2015; Rostosky et al., 2018), we also propose to examine the predictive role of gay pride on several stress variables (e.g., cancellation of sexuality, social acceptance, coming out, self-hate, suicidal ideation) and psychological well-being protection (e.g., self-esteem, general well-being, quality of life, satisfaction with life; Ryff, 1989). Finally, considering the proximal relationship between self-acceptance and identity affirmation (pride)

of minority social identity (Camp et al., 2020; Cass, 1979) and given that these variables play an important role in the relationship between internalizing social stigma (social victimization) and mental health of social minorities (Hershberger & D'Augelli, 1995), we suggest that future studies test the moderating effect of gay pride on the relationship between social victimization and psychological well-being in gay men.

Conclusions

This article presents the development of a new self-report instrument to assess a key dimension of gay identity—the Pride Scale Gay. Using three empirical correlational approaches and an experimental study, we reviewed good psychometric indices from GPS showing that the scale provides satisfactory evidence of validity and precision. Specifically, we show evidence of content, factorial, convergent-discriminant, concurrent-divergent, and GPS criterion validity. The use of this instrument in future research on gay pride may be useful in theorizing about the antecedent and consequential factors of social identity among gay men as a group.

References

- Associação Brasileira de Lésbicas, Gays, Bissexuais, Travestis, Transexuais e Intersexos (ABGLT). *Mortes e violências contra LGBTI+ no Brasil: Dossiê 2022*. Acontece, ANTRA, ABGLT.
- Aiken, L. R. (1980). Content Validity and Reliability of Single Items or Questionnaires. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 40(4), 955-959.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/001316448004000419>
- Aiken, L. R. (1985). Three coefficients for analyzing the reliability and validity of ratings. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 45(1), 131–142. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0013164485451012>
- Aliança Nacional LGBTI. (2017). *Carta da Diversidade*. Plataforma Nacional dos Direitos Humanos e de Cidadania das Pessoas LGBTI+ na Agenda Legislativa e de Litigância Estratégica. <http://www.grupodignidade.org.br/cartadadiversidade/>
- American Psychiatric Association (APA). (1952) *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (1st. edition)*. American Psychiatric Association.
- Asún, R. A., Rdz-Navarro, K., & Alvarado, J. M. (2015). Developing multidimensional likert scales using item factor analysis: The case of four-point items. *Sociological Methods & Research*, 45(1), 109-133. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0049124114566716>
- Baiocco, R., Salvati, M., Carone, N., Ioverno, S., Nappa, M. R., & Pistella, J. (2018). Identità positiva in persone lesbiche, gay e bisessuali: un contributo alla validazione italiana della Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Positive Identity Measure (LGB-PIM). *Giornale italiano di psicologia*, 45(4), 953-978. <https://doi.org/10.1421/93010>
- Baker, F. B. (2001). *The basics of item response theory* (second edition). ERIC.
- Baker, F. B., & Kim, S. H. (2017). *The basics of item response theory using R* (pp. 55-67). Springer.

- Barros, A. C., & Morrison, T. G. (2023). Development and validation of the Positive Bisexual Identity (PBI) scale. *Psychology & Sexuality, 14*(1), 73-93.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/19419899.2022.2057868>
- Bejakovich, T., & Flett, R. (2018). “Are you sure?”: Relations between sexual identity, certainty, disclosure, and psychological well-being. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health, 22*(2), 139-161. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19359705.2018.1427647>
- Bertolazi, A. N., Fagundes, S. C., Hoff, L. S., Pedro, V. D., Barreto, S. S. M., & Johns, M. W. (2009). Validação da escala de sonolência de Epworth em português para uso no Brasil. *Jornal Brasileiro de Pneumologia, 35*(9), 877-883.
- Bernstein, M. (1997). Celebration and Suppression: The Strategic Uses of Identity by the Lesbian and Gay Movement. *American Journal of Sociology, 103*(3), 531-565.
<https://doi.org/10.1086/231250>
- Blanz, M., Mummendey, A., Mielke, R., & Klink, A. (1998). Responding to negative social identity: a taxonomy of identity management strategies. *European Journal of Social Psychology, 28*(5), 697-729. [https://doi.org/10.1002/\(SICI\)1099-0992\(199809/10\)28:5<697::AID-EJSP889>3.0.CO;2-%23](https://doi.org/10.1002/(SICI)1099-0992(199809/10)28:5<697::AID-EJSP889>3.0.CO;2-%23)
- Bock, R. D., & Gibbons, R. D. (2021). *Item Response Theory*. John Wiley & Sons Inc.
- Brasil. Supremo Tribunal Federal. (2019). *Mandado de Injunção n. 4733*. Distrito Federal.
- Breakwell, G. M., & Jaspal, R. (2021). Coming Out, Distress and Identity Threat in Gay Men in the UK. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy, 19*, 1166-177.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13178-021-00608-4>
- Camp, J., Vitoratou, S. & Rimes, K.A. (2020). LGBTQ+ Self-Acceptance and Its Relationship with Minority Stressors and Mental Health: A Systematic Literature Review. *Archives of Sexual Behavior, 49*, 2353–2373. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-020-01755-2>

- Camp, J., Vitoratou, S., & Rimes, K. A. (2022). The Self-Acceptance of Sexuality Inventory (SASI): Development and validation. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 9(1), 92–109. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000445>
- Carter, D. A. (2004). *Stonewall: the riots that sparked the gay revolution*. Martin Press.
- Cass, V. C. (1979). Homosexual identity formation: A theoretical model. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 4(3), 219–235. https://doi.org/10.1300/J082v04n03_01
- Cervini, E. (2021). *The Deviant's War: The Homosexual vs. the United States of America*. Picador.
- Chalmers, R. P. (2012). Mirt: A multidimensional item response theory package for the R environment. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 48(6), 1–29. <https://doi.org/10.18637/jss.v048.i06>
- Clements, Z. A., Rostosky, S. S., McCurry, S., & Riggle, E. D. B. (2021). Piloting a brief intervention to increase positive identity and well-being in transgender and nonbinary individuals. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 52(4), 328–332. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pro0000390>
- Costa, A. B., Paveltchuk, F., Lawrenz, P., Vilanova, F., Borsa, J. C., Damásio, B. F., Habigzang, L. F., Nardi, H. C., & Dunn, T. (2020). Protocolo para Avaliar o Estresse de Minoria em Lésbicas, Gays e Bissexuais. *Psico-USF*, 25(2), 207-222. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/1413-82712020250201>
- Diener, E., Emmons, R. A., Larsen, R. J., & Griffin, S. (1985). The Satisfaction With Life Scale. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 49(1), 71-75.
- Duberman, M. (2019). *Stonewall: The definitive story of the LGBTQ rights uprising that changed America*. Penguin Random House.
- Dunn, T. L., Gonzalez, C. A., Costa, A. B., Nardi, H. C., & Iantaffi, A. (2014). Does the minority stress model generalize to a non-U.S. sample? An examination of minority

- stress and resilience on depressive symptomatology among sexual minority men in two urban areas of Brazil. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 1(2), 117–131. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000032>
- Elizur, Y., & Mintzer, A. (2001). A framework for the formation of gay male identity: Processes associated with adult attachment style and support from family and friends. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 30(2), 143–167. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1002725217345>
- Ferrando, P. J., & Lorenzo-Seva, U. (2017). Program FACTOR at 10: origins, development and future directions. *Psicothema*, 29(2), 236-241. <https://doi.org/10.7334/psicothema2016.304>
- Ferrando, P. J., & Lorenzo-Seva, U. (2018). Assessing the quality and appropriateness of factor solutions and factor score estimates in exploratory item factor analysis. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 78, 762-780. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0013164417719308>
- Festinger, L. (1954). A theory of social comparison processes. *Human Relations*, 2, 117-140. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00187267540070020>
- Fornell, C., & Larcker, D. F. (1981). Evaluating structural equation models with unobservable variables and measurement error. *Journal of Marketing Research*, 18(1), 39–50. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3151312>
- Funk, M. (2019). *The Book of Pride: LGBTQ Heroes Who Changed the World*. HarperOne.
- Gouveia, V. V., Barbosa, G. A., de Oliveira Andrade, E., & Carneiro, M. B. (2005). Medindo a satisfação com a vida dos médicos no Brasil [Measuring life satisfaction among physicians in Brazil]. *Jornal Brasileiro de Psiquiatria*, 54(4), 298–305.
- Grant, J. S., & Davis, L. L. (1997). Selection and use of content experts for instrument development. *Research in Nursing & Health*, 20(3), 269–274. [https://doi.org/10.1002/\(SICI\)1098-240X\(199706\)20:3<269::AID-NUR9>3.0.CO;2-G](https://doi.org/10.1002/(SICI)1098-240X(199706)20:3<269::AID-NUR9>3.0.CO;2-G)

- Grupo Gay da Bahia (GGB). (2021). *Mortes violentas de LGBT+ no Brasil: Relatório 2021*. GGB. <https://grupogaydabahia.files.wordpress.com/2022/03/mortes-violentas-de-lgbt-2021-versao-final.pdf>
- Hair, J., Black, W., Babin, B., Anderson, R., & Tatham, R. (2006). *Multivariate Data Analysis* (6th Edition). Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Hart, D., & Matsuba, M. K. (2007). The development of pride and moral life. In J. L. Tracy, & J. P. Tangney (Eds.), *The self-conscious emotions: Theory and research* (pp. 114–133). Guilford Press.
- Herek, G.M. (1984). Beyond "homophobia": A social psychological perspective on attitudes toward lesbians and gay men. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 10(1/2), 1-21
- Herek, G. M., & Glunt, E. K. (1988). An epidemic of stigma: Public reactions to AIDS. *American Psychologist*, 43(11), 886-891.
- Hershberger, S. L., & D'Augelli, A. R. (1995). The impact of victimization on the mental health and suicidality of lesbian, gay, and bisexual youths. *Developmental Psychology*, 31(1), 65–74. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0012-1649.31.1.65>
- Hu, L.-t., & Bentler, P. M. (1999). Cutoff criteria for fit indexes in covariance structure analysis: Conventional criteria versus new alternatives. *Structural Equation Modeling*, 6(1), 1–55. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10705519909540118>
- Hunsley, J., & Meyer, G. J. (2003). The incremental validity of psychological testing and assessment: Conceptual, methodological, and statistical issues. *Psychological Assessment*, 15(4), 446–455. <https://doi.org/10.1037/1040-3590.15.4.446>
- International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA). (2020). *Relatório Anual 2019: Discriminação contra pessoas LGBTI+*. Observatório da Discriminação contra pessoas LGBTI+. ILGA.

- Jackson, L. A., Sullivan, L. A., Harnish, R. & Hodge, C. N. (1996). Achieving Positive Social Identity: Social Mobility, Social Creativity, and Permeability of Group Boundaries. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 70(2), 241-254.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.70.2.241>
- Johns, M. W. (1991). A new method for measuring daytime sleepiness: the Epworth sleepiness scale. *Sleep*, 14(6), 540-545. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sleep/14.6.540>
- Koziara, K., Mijas, M. E., Galbarczyk, A., Wycisk, J., Pliczko, M. P., Krzych-Milkowska, & Grabski, B. (2022). It gets better with age: Resilience, stigma, and mental health among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer persons from Poland. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.958601>
- Leach, C. W., van Zomeren, M., Zebl, S., Vliek, M. L. W., Pennekamp, S. F., Doosje, B., Ouwerkerk, J. W., & Spears, R. (2008). Group-level self-definition and self-investment: A hierarchical (multicomponent) model of in-group identification. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 95(1), 144-165. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.95.1.144>
- Lewis, M. (1993). Self-conscious emotions embarrassment, pride, shame and guilt. In M. Lewis, & J. Haviland (Eds.), *Handbook of emotions* (pp. 353-34). The Guilford Press.
- Lira, A. N., & Moraes, N. A. (2019). Validity Evidences of the Internalized Homophobia Scale for Brazilian Gays and Lesbians. *Psico-USF*, 24(2), 361-372.
<https://doi.org/10.1590/1413-82712019240212>
- Lorenzo-Seva, U., Timmerman, M. E., & Kiers, H.A.L. (2011). The Hull method for selecting the number of common factors. *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, 46, 340-364.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00273171.2011.564527>
- McCarthy, M. A., Fisher, C. M., Irwin, J. A., Coleman, J. D., & Pelster, A. D. K. (2014). Using the minority stress model to understand depression in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and

- transgender individuals in Nebraska. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health*, 18(4), 346–360. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19359705.2014.908445>
- Meyer, I. H. (2003). Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: Conceptual issues and research evidence. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129(5), 674–697. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.129.5.674>
- Meyer, I. H. (2010). Identity, stress, and resilience in lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals of color. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 38(3), 442–454. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011000009351601>
- Meyer, I. H. (2015). Resilience in the study of minority stress and health of sexual and gender minorities. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 2(3), 209–213. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000132>
- Mohr, J. J., & Kendra, M. S. (2011). Revision and extension of a multidimensional measure of sexual minority identity: The Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 58(2), 234–245. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0022858>
- Mohr, J. J., & Fassinger, R. (2000). Measuring Dimensions of Lesbian and Gay Male Experience. *Measurement and Evaluation in Counseling and Development*, 33(2), 66–90. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481756.2000.12068999>
- Muthén, L. K., & Muthén, B. O. (2017). *Mplus User's Guide. Eighth Edition*. Muthén & Muthén.
- Nunnally, J. C., & Bernstein, I. H. (1994). *Psychometric theory* (3rd ed.). McGraw-Hill.
- Pachankis, J. E., Hatzenbuehler, M. L., Rendina, H. J., Safren, S. A., & Parsons, J. T. (2015). LGB-affirmative cognitive-behavioral therapy for young adult gay and bisexual men: A randomized controlled trial of a transdiagnostic minority stress approach. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 83(5), 875–889. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ccp0000037>

- Petrocchi, N., Pistella, J., Salvati, M., Carone, N., Laghi, F., & Baiocco, R. (2019). I Embrace My LGB Identity: Self-Reassurance, Social Safeness, and the Distinctive Relevance of Authenticity to Well-Being in Italian Lesbians, Gay Men, and Bisexual People, *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, 17(1), 75-86. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13178-018-0373-6>
- Reise, S. P., & Moore, T. M. (2023). Item response theory. In H. Cooper, M. N. Coutanche, L. M. McMullen, A. T. Panter, D. Rindskopf, & K. J. Sher (Eds.), *APA handbook of research methods in psychology: Foundations, planning, measures, and psychometrics* (2nd ed., pp. 809–835). American Psychological Association. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000318-037>
- Riemer, M., & Brown, L. (2019). *We Are Everywhere: Protest, Power, and Pride in the History of Queer Liberation*. Ten Speed Press.
- Riggle, E. D. B., Mohr, J. J., Rostosky, S. S., Fingerhut, A. W., & Balsam, K. F. (2014). A Multifactor Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Positive Identity Measure (LGB-PIM). *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 1(4), 398-411. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000057>
- Riggle, E. D. B., & Mohr, J. J. (2015). A proposed multi factor measure of positive identity for transgender identified individuals. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 2(1), 78–85. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000082>
- Riggle, E. D. B., & Rostosky, S. S. (2012). *A Positive View of LGBTQ: Embracing Identity and Cultivating Well-Being*. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Ross, M. W., & Rosser, B. R. S. (1996). Measurement and Correlates of Internalized Homophobia: a Factor Analytic Study. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 52(1), 15-21. [https://doi.org/10.1002/\(SICI\)1097-4679\(199601\)52:1<15::AID-JCLP2>3.0.CO;2-V](https://doi.org/10.1002/(SICI)1097-4679(199601)52:1<15::AID-JCLP2>3.0.CO;2-V)

- Rostosky, S. S., Cardom, R. D., Hammer, J. H., & Riggle, E. D. B. (2018). LGB positive identity and psychological well-being. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity, 5*(4), 482–489. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000298>
- Ryff, C. D. (1989). Happiness is everything, or is it? Explorations on the meaning of psychological wellbeing. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 57*, 1069–1081.
- Salice, A., & Sánchez, A. M. (2016). Pride, Shame, and Group Identification. *Frontiers in Psychology, 7*(557), 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00557>
- Samejima, F. (1969). Estimation of latent ability using a response pattern of graded scores. *Psychometrika Monograph Supplement, 34*(4, Pt. 2), 100.
<https://www.psychometricsociety.org/sites/default/files/pdf/MN17.pdf>
- Siegel, M., Randall, A. K., Lannutti, P. J., Fischer, M. S., Gandhi, Y., Lukas, R., Meuwly, N., Rosta-Filep, O., van Stein, K., Ditzen, B., Martos, T., Schneckenreiter, C., Totenhagen, C. J., & Zemp, M. (2022). Intimate Pride: a Tri-Nation Study on Associations between Positive Minority Identity Aspects and Relationship Quality in Sexual Minorities from German-Speaking Countries. *International Journal of Applied Positive Psychology, 7*(1), 1-29. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41042-022-00070-6>
- Tajfel, H. (1969). Cognitive aspects of prejudice. *Journal of Biosocial Science, 1*, 173–191. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0021932000023336>
- Tajfel, J. (1972). Social categorization. In: S. Moscovici (Ed.), *Introduction à la psychologie sociale* (pp. 272-302). Larousse.
- Tajfel, H. (1978). Individual and intergroup behavior. In H. Tajfel (Ed.), *Differentiation between social groups: Studies in the social psychology of intergroup relations* (pp. 27-60). Academic Press.

- Tajfel, H., Billig, M. G., & Bundy, R. P. (1971). Social categorization and intergroup behavior. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 1(2), 149–178.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2420010202>
- Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1979). An integrative theory of intergroup conflict. In W. G. Austin, & S. Worchel (Eds.), *The social psychology of intergroup relations* (pp. 33-37). Brooks/Cole.
- Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1986). The Social Identity Theory of Intergroup Behavior. In: S. Worchel, & W. G. Austin (Eds.), *Psychology of Intergroup Relation* (pp. 7-24). Hall Publishers.
- Timmerman, M. E., & Lorenzo-Seva, U. (2011). Dimensionality Assessment of Ordered Polytomous Items with Parallel Analysis. *Psychological Methods*, 16, 209-220.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/a0023353>
- Tracy, J. L., & Robins, R. W. (2004). Putting the Self Into Self-Conscious Emotions: A Theoretical Model. *Psychological Inquiry*, 15(2), 103–125.
https://doi.org/10.1207/s15327965pli1502_01
- Transgender Europe (TGEU). (2022). *Trans Murder Monitoring (TMM): report 2021*. TGEU.
- Trizano-Hermosilla, I., & Alvarado, J. M. (2016). Best Alternatives to Cronbach's Alpha Reliability in Realistic Conditions: Congeneric and Asymmetrical Measurements. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 7, 769.
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00769>
- Turner, J. C. (1975). Social comparison and social identity: Some prospects for intergroup behaviour. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 5(1), 5-34.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2420050102>

- van Bezouw, M. J., van der Toorn, J., & Becker, J. C. (2018). Social creativity: Reviving a social identity approach to social stability. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 51(2), 409-422. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2732>
- Wachelke, J. F. R. (2012). Identificação com o grupo: adaptação e validação de uma medida geral para o contexto brasileiro. *Psicologia e Saber Social*, 1(2), 187-200. <https://doi.org/10.12957/psi.saber.soc.2012.4898>
- Wesselmann, E. D., DeSouza, E. R., AuBuchon, S., Bebel, C., & Parris, L. (2022). Investigating microaggressions against transgender individuals as a form of social exclusion. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 9(4), 454–465. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000513>
- Wong, S. H., & Chow, A. Y. M. (2017). A pilot study to validate measures of the theory of reasoned action for organ donation behavior. *Death Studies*, 42(4), 216–227. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2017.1334012>
- Woodford, M. R., Kulick, A., Sinco, B. R., & Hong, J. S. (2014). Contemporary heterosexism on campus and psychological distress among LGBTQ students: The mediating role of self-acceptance. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 84(5), 519–529. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000015>
- World Health Organization (WHO). (1993). *The ICD-6 classification of mental and behavioural disorders*. World Health Organization.
- Zhang, Z., & Yuan, K.-H. (2018). *Practical statistical power analysis using Webpower and R* (Eds). ISDSA Press. <https://webpower.psychstat.org/wiki/models/index>
- Ziegler, M., Lämmle, L. (2020). Validity. In V. Zeigler-Hill & T. K. Shackelford (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Personality and Individual Differences* (pp. 5687-5693). Springer.

Transitional Remarks (paper 1 to paper 2)

In the previous article (Paper 1), we developed a new psychological assessment tool to measure the degree of pride (i.e., identity affirmation) in gay men. Through six empirical studies (five psychometric and one experimental), we gathered sufficient evidence for the GPS' internal consistency and construct validity by analyzing the quality parameters of the proposed items. Objectively, we identified and confirmed the unifactorial structure of the instrument and observed its relationship with other correlated and uncorrelated measures.

However, despite recognizing the strengths of the first paper, some gaps remained in the proposition of this thesis, which involves the notion that gay pride may act as a determinant of the development of mental health in gay men. Recall that we based this central perspective on three hypotheses, namely that gay pride can be conceptualized and measured (1), that it can serve as a buffer for the effects of microaggressions on positive and negative dimensions of well-being (2), and that it can be conceived as a sociopolitical strategy to change the social value of the gay group (3). While we have shown that gay pride can be theorized and measured, we have only confirmed the first of our three main hypotheses.

The studies presented in this first article did not allow us to test whether gay pride could function as a “minority coping” mechanism” (i.e., a protective element) in the impact of homonegative microinvalidations on gay men's mental health. This is because an initial gap left by the previous article was the lack of measurement of our predictor variable. In addition, although we observed the predictive power of gay pride for some positive aspects of gay men's mental health, we did not confirm whether this variable could influence the reduction of psychological stressors in gay men. That is, we did not examine whether identity affirmation may moderate the link homonegative microinvalidations – psychological outcomes among gay men. In this sense, we developed three additional correlational studies to test our thesis's second proposition, presented in Paper 2.

Paper 2

Homonegative Microinvalidations and the Mental Health of Gay Men:

The protective Role of Gay Pride

Homonegative Microinvalidations and the Mental Health of Gay Men:

The Protective Role of Gay Pride

Abstract

People who belong to a sexual minority (e.g., lesbians, gays, and bisexuals – LGB) consistently report poorer mental health than their heterosexual peers. One possible reason for this discrepancy is the discrimination, both overt and subtle, that LGB people experience in their social relationships. Recent literature has shown that the more frequently gay men experience microinvalidations related to their homosexual identity (a type of homonegative microaggression), the worse their psychological well-being, self-hate, and suicidal ideation become. A protective factor against these effects is maintaining a positive social identity. However, how this process plays out in Brazilian gay men, and the role of gay pride in these relationships has not yet been fully explored. In this article, we examined the moderating effect of gay pride on the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and gay men's mental health in three studies. Study 1 (N = 125) examines the moderating role of gay pride in the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and psychological well-being. Study 2 (N = 121) demonstrates that the effect of homonegative microinvalidations (HM) on suicidal ideation in gay men is mediated by self-hate and moderated by gay pride. Study 3 (N = 121) replicated the findings of Study 2 using a longitudinal research design. In sum, these results demonstrate the protective role of gay pride in buffering the effects of HM experiences on gay men's mental health indicators.

Keywords: microaggressions, homonegativity, mental health, gay pride.

Homonegative Microinvalidations and the Mental Health of Gay Men:

The Protective Role of Gay Pride

Lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) people have poor mental health than most people in general (Gmelin et al., 2022; Wittgens et al., 2022). LGB people are up to two-six times more likely to experience suicidal ideation during lifetime than their heterosexual counterparts (Fergusson et al., 1999; Janković et al., 2020; King et al., 2008; Ramchand et al., 2022). Factors such as higher levels of social victimization by discrimination based on sexual orientation (Kittiteerasack et al., 2021) and the experience of invalidation of LGB social identity (Woodford, 2015) are strongly associated with these disparities (Meyer, 2003; Meyer & Frost, 2013). In Brazil, the country that ranks first in the world for hate-crimes against LGB individuals (ILGA, 2020; TGEU, 2022), besides victimization due to discrimination, Garcia et al. (2022) observed that a non-heterosexual identity was positively associated with lifetime suicidal ideation. This reality are even more pervasive among gay men individuals, a group that is more likely as be victimized because of their sexual orientation than lesbian and bisexual people (Badaan & Jost, 2020; Patten et al., 2022).

Examining the mental health of LGB individuals, including suicidality (e.g., suicidal ideation), may prove critical to understanding the socio-psychological factors motivating suicide mortality reduction, one of the World Health Organization's priority targets for 2030 (Oliveira & Vedana, 2020; WHO, 2019). Thus, given the mental health disparities among social minorities (Lange et al., 2022), we explored how social victimization as expressed through the social invalidation of gay identity may be associated with psychological well-being and suicidal ideation among gay men. Given the protective role of group-based identity affect in the link between social victimization and social minority mental health (e.g., Branscombe & Wann, 1994; Kalb et al., 2022), we also analyzed how gay pride moderates this relationship.

LGB social victimization by microaggressions episodes

In heteronormative contexts, social victimization refers to a variety of abusive acts directed at LGB people, such as overt or subtle discrimination (Otis & Skinner, 1996) committed by heterosexual individuals in intergroup relationships. There is a large body of research showing that episodes of overt discrimination (e.g., avoidance of contact or exclusion of LGB persons) lead to lower psychological well-being and increased suicidal ideation among gay men (e.g., Herek, 1999; Lange et al., 2020; Pereira, 2021). However, with the advent of antidiscrimination policies in democratic societies (Ziller & Helbling, 2017), discriminatory acts against social minorities have taken a new form, tending to occur more frequently through less overt behaviors (e.g., aversive racism; Dovidio et al., 2017; Dovidio & Gaertner, 1981). One of the examples of this new form of discrimination is microaggressions, which are defined as subtle, stunning, often automatic insults and nonverbal exchanges toward minority social groups (Pierce et al., 1977).

Operationally, microaggressions are “brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, and environmental indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative racial slights and insults to the target person or group” (Sue et al., 2007, p. 273). Although the term originated within studies of racism, the concept of microaggressions has been applied to understand the processes of subtle discrimination experienced by different social minorities, including LGB people (Torino et al., 2018). In this case, the microaggressions directed against this group take on a homonegative approach (Wright & Wegner, 2012), as the insults are associated with the derogation of the sexual identity of these individuals (Nadal, 2019; Swann et al., 2016).

Microaggressions have been classified into three main categories (Lui & Quezada, 2019; Sue, 2010): Microassaults, microinsults, and microinvalidations. Microassaults are blatantly discriminatory behaviors that are "meant to hurt [people from marginalized groups]

through name-calling, avoidant behavior, or purposeful discriminatory actions" (Sue et al., 2007, p. 274). Examples of LGB microassaults include any behavior that treats lesbian women as sex objects, gay men as sexual predators, and bisexuals as either invisible or fickle. Microinsults are verbal behaviors "that convey rudeness and insensitivity" to individuals' social identities (Sue et al., 2007, p. 274). They are rude comments that disrespect (not invalidate) a person's social belongingness. Examples of microinsults directed at LGB people include comments such as "Who's the guy in the relationship?" or questions about what might have gone wrong for someone to have "turned gay, lesbian or bisexual". Finally, microinvalidations are "communications that exclude, negate, or nullify the psychological thoughts, feelings, or experiential reality" of disadvantaged people (Sue et al., 2007, p. 274). This communication includes "messages that erase or dismiss the experiences of oppression by members of marginalized groups" (Woodford et al., 2015, p. 1663). LGB microinvalidations include the use of heterosexist language in contexts where are mixed-gender individuals (Murrell, 2020), telling a young LGB person that they are just confused about their sexuality, or, in a familiar context, a parent saying to an LGB adolescent, "You can do what you want, but we do not approve". In other words, these are non-affirming strategies directed at social minorities that convey a refusal to accept a person's identity as "real" or "true" (Johnson et al., 2020). In this paper, we seek to examine how microinvalidation experiences, a subtle form of minority identity invalidation, may contribute to the decrease (or increase) in the mental health of gay men.

Identity-based Microinvalidations and Psychological Outcomes

Identity microinvalidation experiences are more insidious and common in everyday life (Lui & Quezada, 2019). As long as the content of identity microinvalidations proves to be markedly ambiguous in intergroup relations, it often tempts the victims of these invalidations to consider them a faux pas (Korman et al., 2022) or unpretentious comments made by the

perpetrators of the microaggression, even as they feel the emotional impact of such comments. Moreover, among the three main types of microaggression, microinvalidations are the most harmful to the well-being of social minorities (Adedeji et al., 2023; Albuja et al., 2019; Nadal et al., 2012, 2015). It is because the subtlety of microinvalidations triggers processes of rumination (such as self-blame and self-hate) that make them more cognitively and emotionally taxing over time than other forms of microaggressions (see Costa et al., 2021 for a review) and can lead to highly negative psychological consequences (e.g., suicidal ideation). Hence, Hillman et al. (2023) argue that identity invalidation appears to be associated with similar negative consequences of chronic emotional invalidation (e.g., anxiety, depression, self-hate, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts). They argued that invalidation represents a discrepancy between a person's subjective and social reality and threatens the person's social belonging.

Recent studies have demonstrated a strong link between the invalidation of minority identity and worse LGB mental health. For example, Johnson et al. (2020) observed that non-binary individuals who experienced increasing invalidation of their identity expressed lower psychosocial well-being. In addition, bisexual individuals in Feinstein et al.'s (2019) study reported that experiencing devaluation of their social identity was associated with lower well-being. Additionally, microinvalidation have been negatively associated with positive affect (e.g., psychological well-being) and contributed more strongly to increases in negative affect (Ong et al., 2013), self-blame/self-hate (Barrita & Wong-Padoongpatt, 2023), and suicidal ideation (see Costa et al., 2023 for a review).

Additionally, when considering only the impact of microaggressions on adverse psychological outcomes, Marchi et al. (2023) found that microinvalidation was associated with an increased risk of suicide attempts but not with suicidal ideation. Hershberger and D'Augelli (1995) argue that although the effects of discrimination are ubiquitous for the

overall mental health of non-heterosexual individuals, a lifetime experience of victimization *per se* does not affect the frequency of suicidal ideation among gay men. According to the authors, episodes of social victimization indirectly affect suicidal ideation through emotional variables. In this sense, study's findings have demonstrated the positive association of microaggressions with negative coping (Costa et al., 2021) and self-criticism (Torres-Harding et al., 2020). Kaufman et al. (2017), for example, observed in a sample of Dutch LGB individuals that microaggressions experienced by sexual minorities were related to negative psychological outcomes (e.g., depressive symptoms) through rumination. Moreover, one of the factors designed to protect LGB people from the harmful effects of microinvalidations is a stronger social identity (see Pascoe & Smart Richman, 2009 for a review). However, the consequences of experiences with microinvalidations directed at individuals' sexual identity on suicide ideation rates, and possible explanatory mechanisms and buffers are currently unknown.

The current paper addresses this gap by investigating the association between the sexual orientation microinvalidations and suicidal ideation in Brazilian gay men. Further, considering the self-hate is within self-criticism processes (Löw et al., 2020) and it is a major determinant for suicide ideation (Büge & Bilge, 2022; Turnell et al., 2019), we predicted that that impact of microinvalidations experiences on gay men suicidal ideation rates are mediated by the sense of devaluating of their self (i.e., self-hate). Moreover, considering that affective identification with minority groups may influence the relationship between microaggressions and psychological outcomes for disadvantaged people, it is likely that the mediated effect is significant only for those participants with low levels of gay pride (i.e., a mediation effect moderated by gay pride).

The Buffering Effect of Social Identity: The Protective Role of Gay Pride

Social identity theory (SIT) states that individuals derive part of their self-concept from their membership in social groups (Tajfel & Turner, 1979). According to SIT, social identity consists of three components: the sense of belonging, the social value of the ingroup in society and the individual's affect associated with the ingroup, which is expressed through positive emotions related to group membership, with group pride being a key example of such an affective dimension of social identity (Cameron, 2004; Tajfel & Turner, 1986).

Identification with minority social groups moderates the extent to which social victimization affects the psychological outcomes of disadvantaged groups (e.g., Branscombe & Wann, 1994). For example, Kalb et al. (2022) observed a significant moderating effect of ingroup affect on the relationship between homonegative microaggressions and alcohol use and alcohol-related consequences, showing that the effects of microaggressions were smaller for individuals with strong (vs. weak) ingroup affect. Similarly, social identification moderated the relationship between racial microinvalidations and psychological distress in a group of Asian American college students (Huynh, 2012). This process is due to microaggressions being interpreted as harmful depending on how central social identity is to an individual (Lui & Quezada, 2019).

In this sense, affirming one's social identity by strengthening its affective component may buffer the associations between social victimization and minority self-esteem (Umaña-Taylor et al., 2012). One way to assess the affective dimension of social identity is through gay pride (see the results of Study 3b in Article 1 of this thesis). Gay pride can be defined as the positive feeling triggered by the awareness of belonging to the gay group. It can function as a strategy group members use to achieve a positive social identity (i.e., social identity affirmation; Riemer & Brown, 2019). In this paper, we focused on the impact of the ingroup affect on the relationship between microinvalidations and gay men's mental health. For this,

we propose gay pride as a moderator of the relationship between minority identity microinvalidations and gay men's positive (e.g., psychological well-being) and negative (e.g., self-hate and suicidal ideation) psychological outcomes. So, we investigated whether microinvalidations experiences are related to suicide ideation through self-hate, and are buffered by ingroup affect (gay pride).

Overview of Studies

In the current manuscript, we raise the research question about how social victimization (identity microinvalidations) affects the positive (psychological well-being) and negative (self-hate, suicidal ideation) psychological outcomes of gay men and under which conditions of the ingroup affect (gay pride) this relationship is stronger (vs. weaker). To answer these questions, we developed a research program consisting of three studies. In the first study, we tested the hypothesis of the protective role of gay pride in mitigating the effects of microaggressions by analyzing its moderating effect on the relationship between microinvalidations and levels of psychological well-being among gay men. In the second study, we tested the moderated mediation hypothesis by examining the indirect effect of self-hate on the relationship between microinvalidations and suicidal ideation and the moderating role of gay pride in these relationships. Finally, in the third study, we tested the same model as in Study 2 using a longitudinal research design. For all studies, we followed national and international guidelines recommended for research with human participants. Inclusion criteria were the same for all three studies (e.g., self-identification as a gay male and over 18 years of age), and data collection took place between May 2023 and November 2023. The research was approved by the local ethical committee [CAAE: 32062620.9.0000.5188].

Study 1. Homonegative Microinvalidations Experiences and the Psychological Well-Being of Gay Men: The Moderating Role of Gay Pride

In this study, we seek to investigate how experiences of subtle invalidations of gay identity (homonegative microinvalidations) can impact the psychological well-being of gay men and what role gay pride plays in this relationship. Given that microaggressions are negatively related to the mental health of social minorities (Lui & Quezada, 2019; Marchi et al., 2023), we expected to observe a negative effect of homonegative microinvalidation experiences on gay men's psychological well-being (Hypothesis 1). Meanwhile, recent findings have demonstrated that social identity can play a protective role in mitigating the impacts of social victimization on positive psychological outcomes (e.g., psychological well-being) of social minorities (e.g., Rostosky et al., 2018). In this sense, considering that LGB social identity buffers negative impacts of homonegative microaggressions (e.g., Kalb et al., 2022), we also hypothesized that gay pride may moderate the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and levels of psychological well-being in gay men (Hypothesis 2). We expected that homonegative microinvalidations experiences were negatively and statistically associated with overall psychological well-being only among participants with low levels of gay pride.

Method

This is a correlational study with a cross-sectional design and an ex-post facto approach.

Participants

We calculated the required sample size using WebPower (Zhang & Yuan, 2018) specifying a median expected effect size ($f = .25$), setting alpha to .05, and power of .80. The minimum simple size required was 99 participants for testing main and interaction effects. Thus, our sample consisted of 125 Brazilian gay men aged 18 to 65 years ($M = 32.84$, $SD =$

10.17). Most of them were single (74.4%), of white skin color (50.4%), and had a college degree (42.4%).

Measures

Demographic questionnaire. Participants completed an online form with questions about their social and personal characteristics, such as age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, and highest level of education completed.

Gay Pride. To assess identification with the gay group via social identity affirmation, we used the Gay Pride Scale (GPS, Paper 1). It consists of 12 items which assess how the actions developed by members of the gay group can evoke a sense of pride in the respondent (e.g., “I am proud of being gay when I see other gay people fighting for their civil rights [e.g., the right to donate blood],” “I am proud of being gay when I realize that other gay people come together and stand up for the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community,” “I am proud of being gay when I see other gay people standing up against LGBTQIA+ phobia or any other form of prejudice and discrimination such as sexism and racism”). The GPS items are organized into a unidimensional structure, and responses are given on a 6-point scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 6 (strongly agree), with higher scores indicating higher levels of gay pride among participants. The scale showed adequate internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = .937$, $\omega = .939$). The results of confirmatory factor analysis with a one-factor model showed a good fit, $ULS\chi^2 = 134.02$, $df = 54$, $p = 1.000$, $\chi^2/df = .16$, $CFI = .99$, $TLI = .99$, $RMSEA = .001$, $90\%CI = [.000, .051]$.

Homonegative microinvalidations. To assess the frequency with which participants experienced microinvalidations of their sexual identity, we used the microinvalidation component of the Sexual Orientation Microaggression Scale (Nadal, 2019). The scale comprises 27 items divided into five factors. The microinvalidation factor comprises seven items (e.g., “I have been told I was overreacting when I confronted someone about their

heterosexist behaviors/slights,” “When I thought something was heterosexist or homophobic, a heterosexual person provided alternative rationales”), which were answered on a 4-point response scale (1 = not at all often, 4 = very often). The higher the participants scored on the overall scale, the more they were exposed to homonegative microinvalidation experiences. The dimension showed adequate internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = .921$, $\omega = .922$). The results of the confirmatory factor analysis with a one-factor model showed a good fit, $DWLS\chi^2 = 7.064$, $df = 14$, $p = .932$, $\chi^2/df = .50$, $CFI = .99$, $TLI = .99$, $RMSEA = .001$, $90\%CI [.000, .024]$.

Psychological well-being. Before participants answered this scale, we asked them to recall a situation in which they had been discriminated against for being gay. We asked them to focus on the memories of this situation and try to feel as if they had experienced it themselves when completing the questionnaire. Immediately afterward, based on the feelings evoked by this experience, participants answered the adapted Portuguese version of the short version of the Psychological General Well-Being Index (PGWB-S, by Grossi et al., 2006; Pereira et al., 2018). This measure aims to assess the general psychological well-being of adults using indicators related to vitality, self-control, and participants' perception of anxiety. To assess participants' general psychological well-being, we adapted the response instructions so that participants reported how they felt about participating in the study after recalling the discrimination episode. Thus, the six items of the PGWB-S (e.g., "After remembering this experience, I felt emotionally stable") were answered on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 (never) to 5 (always), with higher scores indicating higher psychological well-being. The scale had adequate internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = .791$, $\omega = .793$). Except for the $RMSEA$ (.093, $90\%CI [.026, .153]$), the results of the confirmatory factor analysis with a single-factor model showed a good fit, $DWLS\chi^2 = 18.322$, $df = 9$; $p = .032$, $\chi^2/df = 2.03$, $CFI = .96$; $TLI = .95$.

Procedures

Participants were invited to take part in the study via posts on social media (e.g., Facebook and Instagram). The posts contained a link to access the online questionnaire, which was structured on the Qualtrics platform. The first page of the form contained information about the study and the Informed Consent Form (ICF) so that only those who agreed to participate by ticking a consent box in the ICF had full access to the questionnaire's content. The data collection took place between May and July 2023.

Data analysis

We used different software to analyze the data. In IBM SPSS (v. 29), we performed the preliminary analysis, which consisted of descriptive statistics (i.e., mean and standard deviations) and partial Pearson correlations between homonegative microinvalidations, gay pride, and psychological well-being. In Macro PROCESS (Hayes, 2013, Model 1), we tested the proposed moderation model using homonegative microinvalidations as the independent variable, psychological well-being as the dependent variable, and gay pride as the moderator variable. We conducted the moderation analysis using a 5,000-bootstrap resampling, which yielded 95% bias-corrected confidence intervals. The predictors terms were centered to avoid high multicollinearity with the interaction term (Aiken et al., 1991). Also, the predictor variables (i.e., microinvalidations and gay pride), the interaction term (i.e., the product of the two predictor variables), and the covariate (i.e., age) were entered simultaneously into the model. We examined the conditional effects of the moderator using the Johnson-Neyman technique. Finally, we use JASP to plot the graph of the conditional effects of gay pride on the relationship between microinvalidations and psychological well-being (Figure 1) and R to plot the graph of the Johnson-Neyman analysis for the conditional effect of gay pride (Figure 2).

Results

Preliminary analysis

Table 1 shows the partial correlations and descriptive statistics of the study variables. The results of the partial correlations show that homonegative microinvalidation experiences were negatively correlated with psychological well-being ($r = -.310, p < .001$), and positively correlated with gay pride ($r = .401, p < .001$). Gay pride was negatively correlated with psychological well-being ($r = -.214, p = .017$).

Table 1

Means, standard deviations and the partial correlations of the study variables

	PWB	Microinvalidations	Gay Pride
PWB	1		
Microinvalidations	-.310***	1	
Gay Pride	-.214*	.401***	1
Mean	2.76	2.48	6.15
Standard deviation	.66	.93	1.16

Note. PWB = Psychological Well-Being. *** $p < .001$, ** $p < .01$, * $p < .05$.

Analysis of moderation

We conducted a moderation analysis to examine whether gay pride moderated the relationship between microinvalidation experiences and psychological well-being (Table 3). The full predictive model for the moderating variable was significant, $F(4,120) = 7,604, p < .001, R^2 = .202$. The results showed the significant effect of the homonegative microinvalidations ($b = -.240, SE = .066, p < .001$), but not of gay pride ($b = .070, SE = .067, p = .300$) on gay men's psychological well-being. In addition, the moderation effect was significant ($b = .182, SE = .062, p = .004$). Simple slope estimates are presented at the bottom of Table 2 and the conditional effect is shown graphically in Figure 1.

Table 2

Moderating effect of Gay Pride on homonegative microinvalidations and psychological well-being relationship

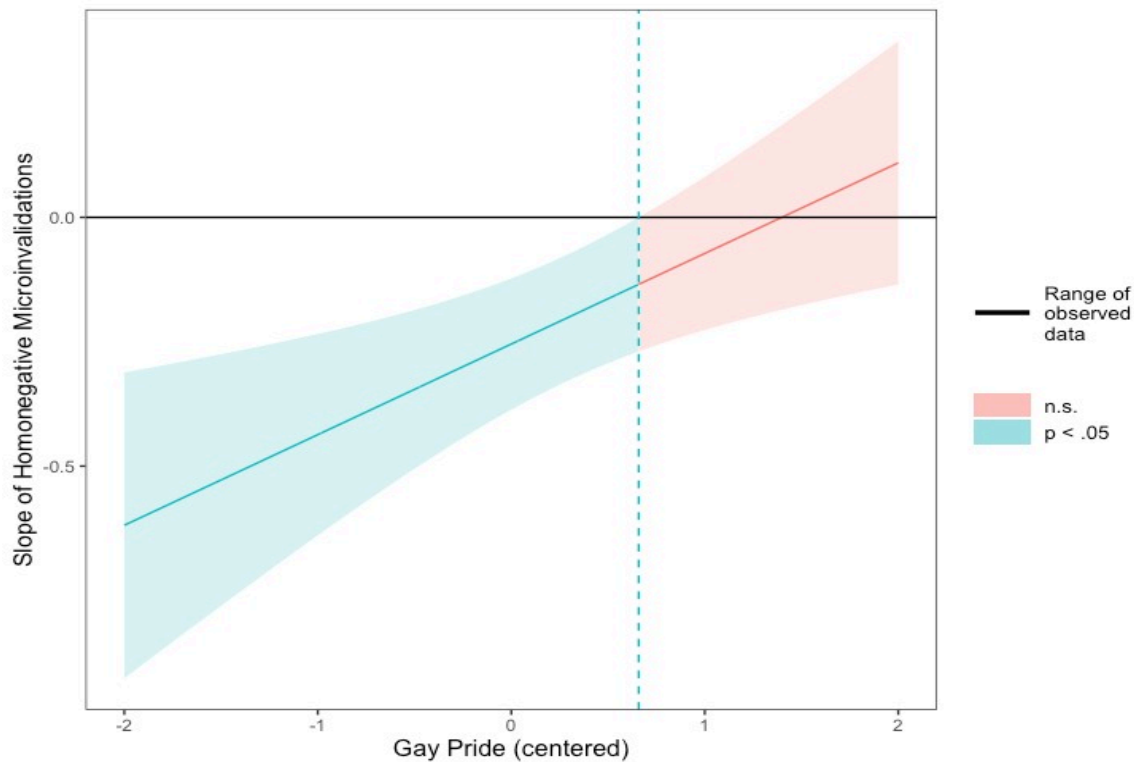
Moderation estimates	b	SE	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
Constant	2.358	.187	12.545	.000	1.979	2.721
H. Microinvalidations(M)	-.240	.066	-3.628	<.001	-.371	-.109
Gay Pride (GP)	.070	.067	1.040	.300	-.063	.203
M x GP	.182	.062	2.929	.004	.059	.306
Simple slope estimates	b	SE	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
Low (-1SD = -1.165)	-.451	.109	-4.127	<.001	-.668	-.235
High (+1SD = .846)	-.087	.072	-1.206	.230	-.230	.056

Note. b = unstandardized coefficients; H. Microinvalidations = Homonegative

microinvalidations; SD = Standard deviation; SE = standard error; LLCI = lower level of the 95% confidence interval; ULCI = upper level of the 95% confidence interval. Simple slope estimates show the effect of the predictor (Homonegative Microinvalidations) on the dependent variable (Psychological well-being) at high (+1SD) and low (-1SD) levels of the moderator (Gay Pride).

Figure 1

Simple slope analysis of homonegative microinvalidations predicting psychological well-being for low and high scores of gay pride



As shown in Figure 1, the simple slope analysis revealed a significant moderation effect of gay pride in the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and psychological well-being, but only at low level of the moderator. When participants had low levels of gay pride, the effect of homonegative microinvalidations on psychological well-being was significantly negative. However, when participants had high levels of gay pride, the impact of microinvalidations on their psychological well-being was not significant. Furthermore, the Johnson-Neyman technique showed that the effects of homonegative microinvalidations on psychological well-being were only significant when gay pride scores were below .599 (cutoff), as shown in the supplementary materials. In other words, the negative effects of homonegative microinvalidation experiences on gay men's psychological

well-being were only statistically significant for participants whose gay pride scores were between -5.070 and $.599$.

Discussion

In this study, we aimed to examine how experiences of microinvalidations affect gay men's overall psychological well-being and the role of gay pride (i.e., affirmation of minority identity, ingroup affect) in this relationship. First, we found that homonegative microinvalidations had a negative impact on participants' psychological well-being, confirming Hypothesis 1. The results showed that a higher homonegative microinvalidation experiences was associated with a decrease in gay men's overall psychological well-being. This finding is consistent with the minority stress framework (Meyer, 2003a, 2003b) and illustrates that subtle invalidations related to gay men's sexual identity can be understood as psychological stressors that significantly affect the psychological integrity of their victims.

Furthermore, we observed a significant interaction effect between homonegative microinvalidations and gay pride in predicting psychological well-being, confirming our moderation hypothesis (Hypothesis 2). The results show the buffering effect of gay pride on the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and psychological well-being in gay men. The negative impact of homonegative microinvalidation experiences on psychological well-being were only significant for participants with low levels of gay pride. However, participants with high levels of gay pride did not appear to be psychologically affected by the pervasive effects of homonegative microinvalidations. This finding was confirmed by the Johnson-Neyman technique, which showed that the lower the levels of gay pride, the greater the negative impact of homonegative microinvalidations on participants' psychological well-being.

In general, the results of this study underscore the protective role of minority social identity affirmation in the relationship between social victimization by microaggressions and

gay men's psychological well-being. However, it is still unclear whether gay pride could act as a moderator of the effects of homonegative microinvalidations on negative psychological outcomes in Brazilian gay men, such as self-hate and suicidal ideation. In this context, we propose the following study to investigate how experiences of homonegative microinvalidations are related to the development of self-hate and suicidal ideation and the influence of gay pride on these relationships.

Study 2. Homonegative Microinvalidations Experiences and Suicide Ideation: The Mediating Role of Self-Hate and the Moderating Role of Gay Pride

In the previous study, we examined the detrimental effects of homonegative microinvalidations on positive psychological outcomes for gay men (e.g., psychological well-being). In this subsequent study, we aim to examine the conditions under which the experience of homonegative microinvalidation may be associated with negative psychological outcomes in this group. Specifically, we aimed to analyze the positive association between homonegative microinvalidations and suicidal ideation via self-hate. In addition, we sought to investigate whether gay pride, indicative of social identity affirmation, might act as a protective factor moderating these relationships.

Our rationale stems from the findings that experiences of microaggressions are associated with increased psychological stressors, including suicidal ideation (Costa et al., 2023; Lui & Quezada, 2019). Therefore, we hypothesized that homonegative microinvalidation experiences would be associated with increased levels of suicidal ideation in gay men (H1). Considering that members of minority groups often resort to self-blaming coping strategies in response to microinvalidation experiences (see Marchi et al., 2023 for review), such as self-hate (Gale et al., 2020; Nappa et al., 2023), and given the strong association of these strategies with increased suicidality (Turnell et al., 2019), we further

hypothesized that the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and suicidal ideation would be mediated by self-hate (H2).

Moreover, based on the findings that social identity serves as a buffer against the effects of homonegative microinvalidations on gay men's mental health, as shown in the previous study (Kalb et al., 2022), we further expected that participants' level of gay pride would moderate the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and self-hate. Specifically, we hypothesized that lower levels of gay pride would be associated with higher levels of self-hate when individuals experience homonegative microinvalidations (H3).

Method

This is a correlational study with a cross-sectional design and an *ex-post facto* approach.

Participants

We calculated the required sample size using WebPower (Zhang & Yuan, 2018) specifying a median expected effect size ($f = .25$), setting alpha to .05, and power of .80, resulting in a minimum simple size of 99 participants for testing the mediating effect. In this sense, the sample was composed by 121 Brazilian gay men aged 18 to 62 years ($M = 29.95$, $SD = 7.25$). Most of them were single (74.4%), of white skin color (50.4%), and had a college degree (58.7%).

Measures

Demographic questionnaire. Participants completed an online form with questions about their social and personal characteristics, such as age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, and highest level of education completed.

Gay pride. We used the GPS (Paper 1) to capture participants' ingroup affect triggered by identification with the gay men's group, as described in previous study. In the present study, the scale had adequate internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = .921$, $\omega = .921$), and

the results of the confirmatory factor analysis conducted with a one-factor model showed a good fit: $ULS\chi^2 = 197.90$, $df = 54$, $p = .999$, $\chi^2/df = 3.66$, $CFI = .98$, $TLI = .98$, apart from the $RMSEA = .149$, $90\%CI [.127, .172]$.

Homonegative microinvalidations. To assess the extent of homonegative microinvalidation experiences among gay men, we again used the microinvalidation dimension of Nadal's (2019) Sexual Orientation Microaggression Scale, as described in the previous study. In the current study, the dimension demonstrated adequate internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = .918$; $\omega = .919$), and the results of confirmatory factor analysis conducted with a one-factor model showed acceptable fit: $DWLS\chi^2 = 25.077$, $df = 14$, $p = .034$, $\chi^2/df = 1.79$, $CFI = .95$, $TLI = .92$, $RMSEA = .081$, $90\%CI [.022, .132]$.

Self-hate. We used the Self-Hate Scale (SHS) developed by Turnell et al. (2019) to measure participants' level of self-hate. This scale comprises 7 items (e.g. "I hate myself", "I am a failure", "I feel disgusting when I think about myself"), which were rated on a 7-point scale from 1 (not at all true for me) to 7 (very true for me). A higher average total score (between 1 and 7) indicates greater self-hate. As there is no information on the psychometric properties of the SHS in the Brazilian context, a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was conducted to assess the dimensionality of the items, taking into account the original unidimensional factor structure. The results of the CFA, conducted with a one-factor model, showed good fit: $DWLS\chi^2 = 17.196$, $df = 14$, $p = .246$, $\chi^2/df = 1.01$, $CFI = .96$, $TLI = .94$, $RMSEA = .044$, $90\%CI [.000, .103]$. In addition, the scale exhibited strong internal consistency, as indicated by Cronbach's alpha ($\alpha = .936$) and McDonald's omega ($\omega = .942$) coefficients. These findings support the reliability and validity of the SHS in the Brazilian context to assess self-hate.

Suicidal ideation. We used the Brazilian adapted version of the Frequency of Suicidal Ideation Inventory (FSII; Chang & Chang, 2016; Teodoro et al., 2020). This scale comprises

5 items (e.g. “How often have you wished you did not exist?”, “How often have you wondered what would happen if you ended your own life?”), which were rated on a 5-point scale from 1 (never) to 5 (almost every day). The average total score ranges from 1 to 5, with higher scores indicating a greater suicidal ideation frequency. In the present study, the scale had adequate internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = .936$; $\omega = .942$), and the results of confirmatory factor analysis conducted with a one-factor model showed good fit: $ULS\chi^2 = 7.241$, $df = 5$, $p = .931$, $\chi^2/df = 1.44$, $CFI = .99$, $TLI = .99$, $RMSEA = .061$, $90\%CI [.000, .151]$.

Procedures

We followed the same procedures as described in the previous study.

Data analysis

We analyzed data using IBM SPSS and JASP software. In SPSS, we calculated descriptive statistics and partial correlations. In addition, within the SPSS environment, we used the PROCESS extension (Hayes, 2013) to perform mediation analyzes, specifically simple mediation (model 4) and moderated mediation (model 59). To improve the visual representation of the models, we used JASP.

Results

Preliminary analysis

Results of bivariate correlations (Table 3) show that the homonegative microinvalidations experiences correlated positively with gay pride ($r = .214$, $p = .019$), self-hate ($r = .272$, $p = .003$), and suicidal ideation ($r = .251$, $p = .006$). Gay pride was not correlated with self-hate ($r = .058$, $p = .532$) and suicidal ideation ($r = -.009$, $p = .921$). Finally, self-hate was positively and strongly correlated with suicidal ideation ($r = .750$, $p < .001$).

Table 3*Descriptive statistics and partial correlation matrix of the variables*

	Microinvalidations	Gay Pride	Self-Hate	Suicidal Ideation
Microinvalidations	1			
Gay Pride	.214*	1		
Self-Hate	.272**	.058	1	
Suicidal Ideation	.251**	-.009	.750***	1
Mean	2.51	6.30	2.52	1.94
Standard Deviation	.92	1.06	1.75	1.22

*** $p < .001$, ** $p < .01$, * $p < .05$.***Mediating role of self-hate***

First, we performed a simple mediation analysis to examine the mediating role of self-hate in the link of homonegative microinvalidations and suicidal ideation. The results showed a significant total effect of homonegative microinvalidation experiences on suicidal ideation ($b = .334$, $SE = .118$, $p = .005$, $95\%CI = .081; .470$). When introducing the mediating variable, we observed a significant indirect effect of homonegative microinvalidations on suicidal ideation through self-hate ($b = .267$, $SE = .198$, $95\%CI = .081, .470$), as the 95% CI did not contain 0 (see Figure 2).

Figure 2

Effects of homonegative microinvalidations experiences on gay men's suicide ideation levels mediated by self-hate



Note. All path coefficients are unstandardized regression weights. *** $p < .001$; ** $p < .01$.

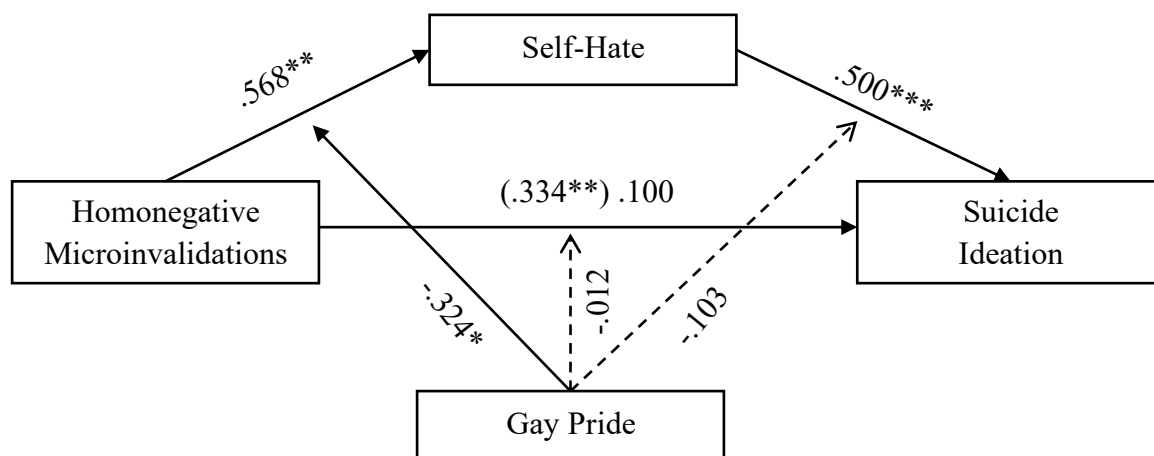
Mediation effect of self-hate conditional on gay pride

To examine whether gay pride plays a moderating role in the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and suicidal ideation mediated by self-hate, we conducted a moderated mediation analysis using the PROCESS macro (Model 59; Hayes, 2013) for bootstrapping conditional and non-conditional indirect effects, which provides estimates with 5,000 resamples in estimating the 95% bias-corrected confidence interval. The model included homonegative microinvalidations as a predictor (X), self-hate as a mediator (M), suicidal ideation as a dependent variable (Y), and gay pride as a moderator (W). Mediation effect occurs when the 95% confidence interval (CI) does not encompass zero (Hayes, 2013). Furthermore, considering Model 59 of PROCESS, moderated mediation is confirmed when the interaction effect of mediator and moderator is significant in any path of the model. The conditional effects are verified by examining the CI of each subgroup sample based on low (-1SD) and high (+1SD) levels of the moderator.

The results demonstrated a significant interaction effect only between homonegative microinvalidations and gay pride predicting self-hate ($b = -.324$, $SE = .161$, $p = .046$). The graphical representation of the moderated mediation model can be found in Figure 3.

Figure 3

Model of moderated-mediating effect of homonegative microinvalidations on suicide ideation

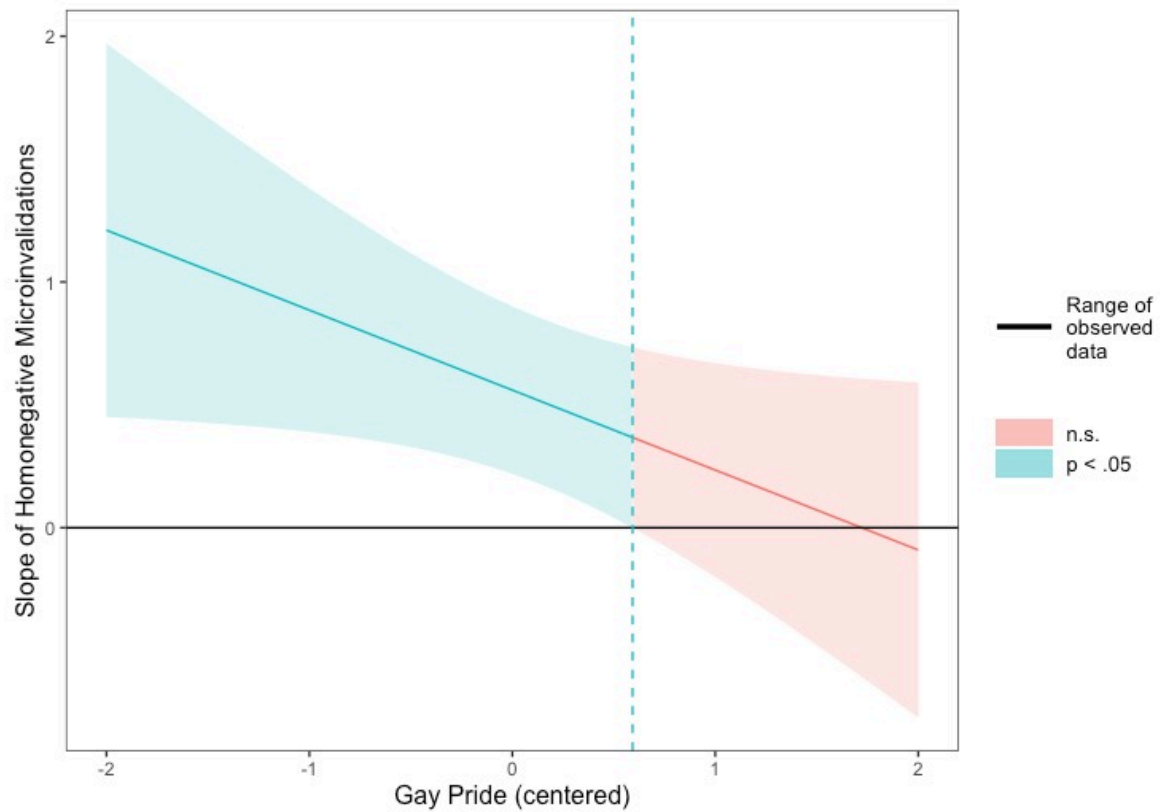


Note. Unstandardized coefficients are presented here. *** $p < .001$, ** $p < .01$, * $p < .05$.

The interaction effect between homonegative microinvalidations and gay pride shows that the effects of the predictor variable on the mediator differ at different levels of the moderating variable. Figure 4 shows the slope analysis of this interaction and indicates that the impact of homonegative microinvalidations on the increase in self-hate was only statistically significant for participants with low ($b = .913, SE = .254, p < .001$) levels of gay pride, but not for participants with high level of gay pride ($b = .223, SE = .224, p = .320$). As shown in Figure 4, the simple slope analysis revealed a significant moderation effect of gay pride in the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and self-hate, but only at low level of the moderator. When participants had low levels of gay pride, the effect of homonegative microinvalidations on self-hate was significantly negative. However, when participants had high levels of gay pride, the impact of microinvalidations on their self-hate levels was not significant. Furthermore, the Johnson-Neyman technique showed that the effects of homonegative microinvalidations on self-hate were only significant when gay pride scores were below .592 (cutoff), as shown in the supplementary materials. In other words, the positive effects of homonegative microinvalidation experiences on gay men's self-hate were only statistically significant for participants whose gay pride scores were between -4.723 and .592.

Figure 4

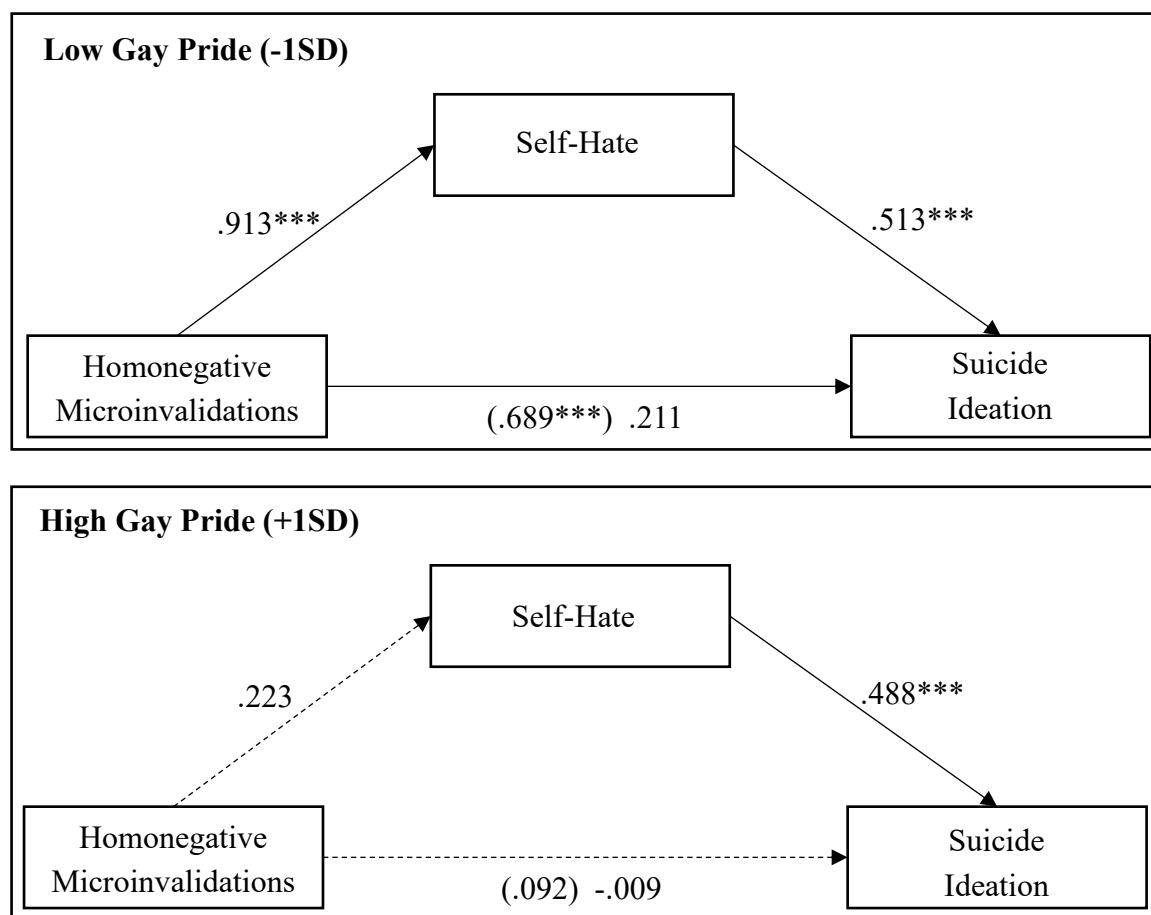
Simple slope analysis of homonegative microinvalidations to predict self-hate for low and high levels of Gay Pride



Conditional indirect effects of homonegative microinvalidations on suicidal ideation through self-hate were examined at different levels of gay pride (Figure 5). The conditional indirect effect was significant at low ($b = .469$, $SE = .157$, $95\%CI = .164, .788$), but not at high level of the gay pride ($b = .169$, $SE = .111$, $95\%CI = -.040, .395$), confirming the moderated mediation hypothesis.

Figure 5

Effect of homonegative microinvalidations on participant's suicidal ideation mediated by the self-hate in each level of Gay Pride



Note. Unstandardized coefficients are presented here. *** $p < .001$, ** $p < .01$, * $p < .05$.

Discussion

In this study, we examined the mediating role of self-hate in the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and suicidal ideation in gay men. In addition, we examined the moderating role of gay pride in the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and self-hate. Overall, our results showed a positive and significant association between experiences of homonegative microinvalidations and suicidal ideation in gay men, confirming our H1. The more frequently gay men experience subtle invalidations, the more they consider self-harm. We then verified that this effect also occurs indirectly through the development of

a negative coping strategy, confirming the mediating role of self-hate in the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and suicidal ideation (H2). Finally, we confirmed the moderating hypothesis of gay pride (H3). We found that the mediated effect of self-hate in the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and suicidal ideation was only significant for participants with low levels of gay pride.

These findings reveal a psychological process that explains how and under what conditions subtle victimization experiences can affect gay men's mental health. The mediation effect shows that the more microinvalidations gay men experience microinvalidations about their sexual identity, the more they try to cope with these situations through self-blame strategies by developing feelings of self-devaluation (e.g., self-hate), which subsequently leads to higher levels of suicidal ideation. However, this psychological process tends to be more pronounced in participants who identify less with their ingroup.

In summary, our findings consistently demonstrate the protective effect of social identity against the impact of experiences of social victimization on the mental health of sexual minorities. Based on our findings, we take studies based on social identity theory (Tajfel & Turner, 1979, 1986) and minority stress theory (Frost & Meyer, 2013; Meyer, 2003a; Meyer & Frost, 2013) a step further by proposing a theoretical and empirical model to explain a phenomenon experienced by gay men. This model can serve as a basis for psychosocial and scientific interventions. However, due to our study's correlational and cross-sectional design, causal relationships cannot be established, nor can we determine whether the relationships presented persist over time. This limitation justifies the design of the following study, which aims to replicate the model presented here by adopting a longitudinal perspective in data collection and analysis.

Study 3. A Cross-Lagged Panel Analysis of the Relationship Between Homonegative Microinvalidations Experiences and Suicide Ideation in Gay Men

In a previous study, we found that the positive effect of homonegative microinvalidations on suicidal ideation is mediated by self-hate and that this effect was conditioned by gay pride in participants. In other words, homonegative microinvalidation was positively associated with suicidal ideation in gay men via an increase in self-hate, particularly in participants with low levels of gay pride. However, a major methodological limitation in this study was the exclusive use of a correlational research design to investigate the moderated mediation effect. Since the analysis of mediation models requires a temporal sequence of data collection (Hayes, 2013), in addition to using a design that controls for the autoregressive effect and considers the possibility of a reverse direction of the process chain (Cole & Maxwell, 2003), we propose the following study to replicate and extend previous findings from a longitudinal perspective. Specifically, we aim to examine longitudinally the mediation effect of the self-hate on the relation of homonegative microinvalidations and suicidal ideation among gay men, using a cross-lagged panel analysis with data collected at three time points. In addition, we aim to examine whether gay pride serves as a protective mechanism for gay men's mental health over time by moderating the mediated relationship between homonegative microinvalidations, self-hate, and suicidal ideation, respectively.

Method

Participants

We calculated the required sample size using WebPower (Zhang & Yuan, 2018) specifying a median expected effect size ($f = .25$), setting alpha to .05, and power of .80, resulting in a minimum sample size of 220 participants for testing the expected effect. In this sense, the sample was composed by 225 Brazilian gay men aged 18 to 65 years ($M = 33.80$,

SD = 9.93). Most of them were single (64.4%), of white skin color (60%), and had a college degree (36.9%).

Procedures

Participants were invited via social media posts, with the study designed as an ongoing investigation into the attention levels and daily social lives of gay men. When participants clicked on the survey link, they were immediately redirected to the Informed Consent Form (ICF) and could proceed with the survey after completing it. The study was conducted using the Qualtrics platform and consisted of an initial block of questions and three measurement time points (five minutes for each time): Time 1 (T1, baseline), Time 2 (T2) and Time 3 (T3), as well as a final debriefing section.

In the initial block of questions, the participants answered the GPS scale and provided socio-demographic information. At T1, they answered three items measuring the following constructs: homonegative microinvalidations, self-hated and suicidal ideation. At T2, participants answered three different items for each construct and at T3 they answered another set of three different items for each construct. The items were selected from previously validated scales for homonegative microinvalidations (Nadal, 2019), self-hate (Turnell et al., 2019) and suicidal ideation (Chang & Chang, 2016; Teodoro et al., 2020).

To control for item repetition, systematic error variance and to attenuate fatigue and learning effects, the three items for each construct were randomly selected from the pool of scale items without repetition at each time point. Between T1 and T2 as well as T2 and T3, participants completed a color memory task to separate the measurement periods and ensure a constant time interval between measurements. In this intermediate task, participants were asked to observe a series of colored rectangles presented one after the other in the middle of the screen and to remember them, as they would later be asked about the frequency and order of the displayed colors. Between T1 and T2, participants answered questions about the colors

in the memory task, while between T2 and T3 they reported which color appeared most frequently among the displayed rectangles. Each measurement time block lasted about 5 minutes, so the total participation time was about 15 minutes, plus the time spent on the measurement tasks between the time blocks.

Measures¹

Gay Pride Scale. To assess identification with the gay group via social identity affirmation, we used the Gay Pride Scale (GPS, Paper 1). In the current study, it showed adequate internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = .899$, $\omega = .900$), and the results of a CFA with one-factor model showed a good fit, $ULS\chi^2 = 71.817$, $df = 54$, $p = 1.000$, $\chi^2/df = 1.329$, $CFI = .994$, $TLI = .992$, $RMSEA = .038$, $90\%CI = [.000, .060]$.

Homonegative microinvalidations. As previously, we used the microinvalidation component of the Sexual Orientation Microaggression Scale (Nadal, 2019). In this study, the scores of the three items used to assess that dimension showed adequate internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = .922$, $\omega = .924$).

Self-hate. To assess participants' degree of self-hate, we used again the Self-Hate Scale (SHS; Turnell et al., 2019). In this study, the scores of the three items used to assess that dimension showed adequate internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = .936$, $\omega = .939$).

Suicidal ideation. To assess the participants' suicide ideation frequency, we used the FSII (Chang & Chang, 2016; Teodoro et al., 2020). In this study, the scores of the three showed adequate internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = .971$, $\omega = .972$).

Data analysis

We analyzed the data using structural equation modeling in Mplus (Muthén & Muthén, 2017). First, we examined the relationship between homonegative

¹ As we used only three items of homonegative microinvalidations, self-hate and suicidal ideation scales, we could not perform a CFA on its scores due the model having zero degrees of freedom.

microinvalidations, self-hate and suicidal ideation at time points T1, T2 and T3 using descriptive statistical analysis (means and standard deviations) and the Pearson correlation coefficient. We then estimated a cross-lagged longitudinal analysis based on a two-specific model. In model 1, we tested a stability model (baseline model) that includes the autoregressive effects between time points 1 (T1), 2 (T2) and 3 (T3) for each variable. In this model and in subsequent models, each variable at time points T1 – homonegative microinvalidations, self-hatred and suicidal ideation – was linked to the same variables at time points T2 and T3. In Model 2 (proposed model), we tested the proposition that the relationship between microaggressions at T1 and suicidal ideation at T3 is longitudinally mediated by self-hate at T2. In running this model, we compared the estimates from this model with an alternative model predicting a full reverse process (suicidal ideation at T1 predicting microaggressions at T3 mediated by self-hatred at T2). After testing the mediation model, we conducted a longitudinal, cross-lagged moderated mediation analysis (Mulder & Hamaker, 2021) by re-estimating the model and including the interaction term between homonegative microinvalidations and gay pride at T1 to predict self-hate at T2. This multimodel lagged-effects test is commonly used to clarify causal relationships between variables in non-experimental, longitudinal research designs (Selig & Little, 2012). In each analysis, we estimated the autoregressive effects between Time 1 (T1), Time 2 (T2), and Time 3 (T3) for the corresponding variables (homonegative microinvalidations, self-hatred, and suicidal ideation) to account for the alternative temporal precedence between the variables (Finkel, 1995). All variables were specified as continuous latent variables measured by the respective item at each time point. We based the model on robust maximum likelihood (RML) estimation without accounting for missing values. Model fit was assessed using criteria such as the Comparative Fit Index (CFI) and the Tucker–Lewis Index (TLI) above

0.90 and the Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA) below 0.08 (Byrne, 2012; Hu & Bentler, 1999).

Results

Preliminary analysis

Table 4 shows the descriptive statistics and the correlation matrix for the model variables. The results of the correlation matrix showed positive correlations between homonegative microinvalidations and self-hate (i.e., higher frequencies of homonegative microinvalidations were associated with higher levels of self-hate), between homonegative microinvalidations and suicidal ideation (i.e., higher frequency of homonegative microinvalidations was associated with higher levels of suicidal ideation), and between self-hate and suicidal ideation (i.e., higher levels of self-hate corresponded with higher levels of suicidal ideation). In addition, gay pride was positively correlated with homonegative microinvalidations, suggesting that greater experiences of homonegative microinvalidations were associated with higher levels of gay pride among participants.

Table 4

Correlation matrix of variables at each point in time

	GP	HM1	HM2	HM3	SH1	SH2	SH3	SI1	SI2	SI3
Gay Pride (GP1)	1	.226***	.270***	.230***	.016	.032	.001	.045	.079	.082
Homonegative Microinvalidations:										
T1 (HM1)		1	.763***	.761***	.240***	.232***	.261***	.294***	.309***	.297***
T2 (HM2)			1	.872***	.252***	.243***	.255***	.321***	.332***	.329***
T3 (HM3)				1	.201**	.199**	.272***	.327***	.299***	.299***
Self-hate:										
T1 (SH1)					1	.828***	.764***	.550***	.600***	.633***
T2 (SH2)						1	.894***	.674***	.743***	.756***
T3 (SH3)							1	.684***	.728***	.732***
Suicidal ideation:										
T1 (SI1)								1	.911***	.887***
T2 (SI2)									1	.956***
T3 (SI3)										1
Mean	5.49	2.25	2.21	2.14	2.32	2.20	2.11	1.97	1.90	1.85
Standardized Deviation	.69	.95	.93	.96	1.57	1.66	1.64	1.14	1.15	1.19

Note. T1 = time 1. T2 = time 2. T3 = time 3. GP1: gay pride at T1. HM1, HM2 and HM3: homonegative microinvalidations at T1, T2 and T3, respectively. SH1, SH2 and SH3: self-hate at T1, T2 and T3, respectively. SI1, SI2 and SI3: suicidal ideation at T1, T2 and T3, respectively. Gay pride: minimum=1, maximum=6. Homonegative microinvalidations, self-hate and suicidal ideation: minimum=1, maximum=5. ** $p < .10$, *** $p < .001$.

Cross-lagged Analysis

Table 5 presents the goodness-of-fit for each tested model. We started by testing the stability model (Model 1) which estimates the auto-regressive effects between T1, T2 and T3 for each variable. This model fitted very well to the data, and it is useful to provide information about the stability of the measures over time.

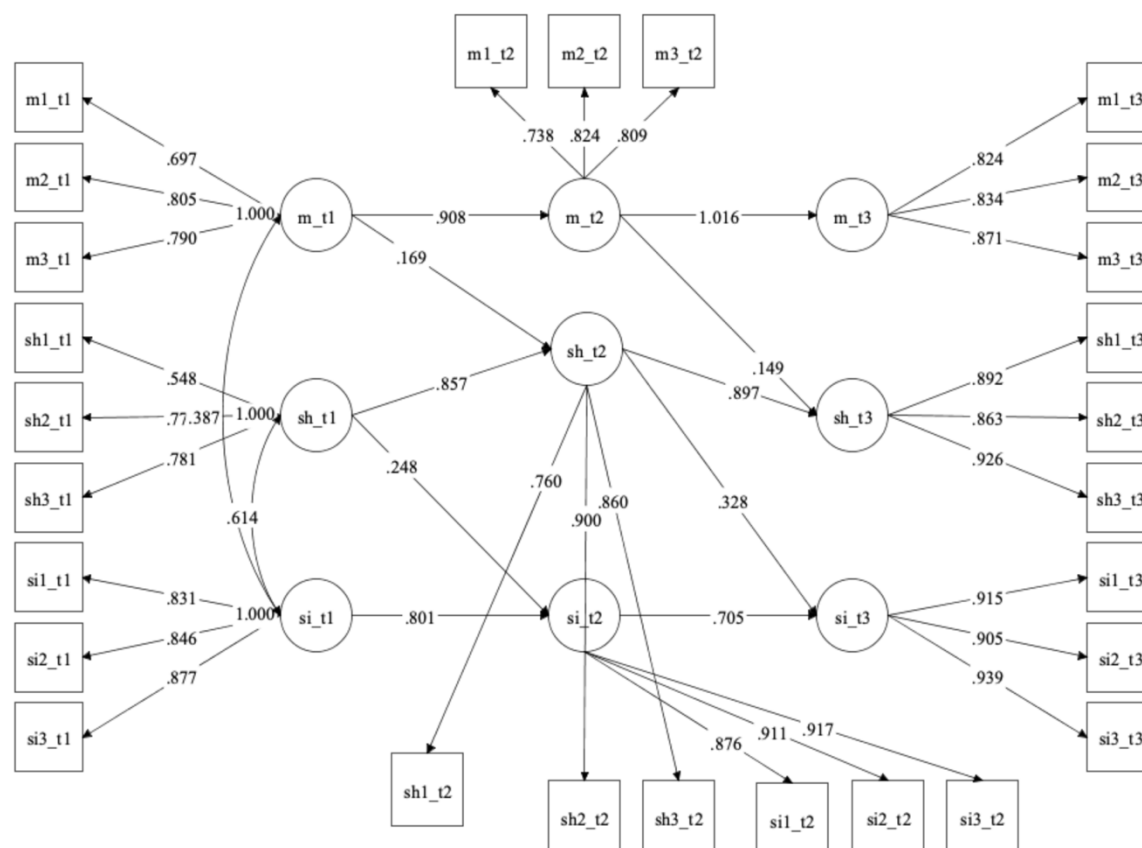
Table 5

Goodness-of-fit indices of the estimated models

	χ^2	df	CFI	TLI	RMSEA	p-close	$\Delta\chi^2$	BIC
Model 1	723.37	363	.905	.909	.066	<.001	-	15829.72
Model 2	576.62	351	.942	.943	.052	<.001	146.75***	15678.21

Note. Model 1: stability model (autoregressive baseline model). Model 2: cross-lagged longitudinal mediation model (self-hate as mediator). df: degrees of freedom. CFI: Comparative Fit Index. GFI: Goodness-of-Fit Index. RMSEA: Root Mean Square Error of Approximation. p-close (*p-value* for the closeness of RMSEA, probability RMSEA $\leq .05$). BIC: Bayesian Information Criterion. *** $p < .001$.

Model 2 proposed the self-hate as mediator between homonegative microaggressions and suicide ideation. This model showed a good fit to the data (see Table 5), and it was significantly better than the fit of the stability model ($\Delta\chi^2 = 146.75$, $\Delta df = 12$, $p < .001$). The indirect effect of self-hate on homonegative microaggressions and suicide ideation relationship was significant ($b = .010$, $SE = .004$, $p = .020$, $95\%CI = .003, .018$). As shown in Figure 5, estimated parameters indicated that homonegative microinvalidations at T1 implies more self-hate at T2 and more self-hate at T2 predict more frequency of suicidal ideation at T3. The indirect effect of the self-hate in the reverse process — suicidal ideation at T1 predicting microaggressions at T3 mediated by self-hatred at T2 — was not significant ($b = -.002$, $SE = .003$, $p = .477$, $95\%CI = -.007, .003$).

Figure 6*Cross-lagged longitudinal mediation analysis*

Note. Unstandardized regressions coefficients were significant at $p < .05$. m = homonegative microinvalidations; sh = self-hate; si = suicidal ideation.

We performed additional analyses to observe whether gay pride might moderate the longitudinal relation between homonegative microinvalidations at T1, self-hate at T2 and suicidal ideation at T3 (Table 6). Results showed a marginal interaction effect between homonegative microinvalidations and gay pride at T1 on self-hate at T2 ($b = -.171$, $SE = .090$, $p = .058$, $95\%CI = -.319, -.023$), indicating the positive association between homonegative microinvalidations and self-hate was significant for participants with low degree of gay pride ($b = .260$, $SE = .090$, $p = .004$, $95\%CI = .111, .408$), but not for individuals with high gay pride ($b = -.083$, $SE = .095$, $p = .387$, $95\%CI = -.239, .074$).

Table 6*Longitudinal moderated mediation estimates*

<i>Predictor</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
Suicide Ideation at T3			
Homonegative Microinvalidations at T1 (HM)	.100	.000	.999
Self-Hate at T2 (SH)	.336	.026	<.001
Self-Hate at T2			
HM	.088	.023	<.001
Gay Pride at T1 (GP)	-.178	.086	.040
HM x GP	-.171	.090	.058
<i>Gay Pride</i>	<i>Indirect effect</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
Conditional indirect effect at GP			
Low GP at T1 (-1SD)	.087	.031	.004
High GP at T1 (+1SD)	-.028	.032	.384

Note. Unstandardized regressions coefficients are reported.

In addition, we performed pairwise contrasts to compare the conditional longitudinal indirect effects among participants with low and high degree of gay pride. When comparing conditional indirect effects, we found that the longitudinal indirect effect of self-hate on homonegative microinvalidation and suicide ideation relationship was significant only for participants with low gay pride ($b = .087$, $SE = .031$, $p = .004$, $95\%CI = .037, .138$) but not for those with high degree of gay pride ($b = -.028$, $SE = .032$, $p = .384$, $95\%CI = -.080, .025$). In other words, self-hate mediates the relationship between homonegative microinvalidation and suicidal ideation over time only in participants with low gay pride.

Discussion

The results of this study shed light on the longitudinal dynamics between homonegative microinvalidations, self-hate, and suicidal ideation in gay men. A cross-lagged panel analysis revealed that homonegative microinvalidations at Time 1 (T1) led to an increase in self-hate at Time 2 (T2), which in turn predicted a higher frequency of suicidal ideation at Time 3 (T3). These findings support previous studies suggesting that experiences of discrimination and devaluation can contribute to deteriorating mental health through

internal processes of self-hate. Importantly, the estimated model proved to be better fitted than baseline model which predicted only the autoregressive estimates.

The marginal significance of the interaction between homonegative microinvalidations and gay pride at T1 suggests that gay pride may moderate this relationship. When examining the conditional indirect effect of longitudinal mediation, results showed that self-hate (T2) significantly mediated the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations (T1) and suicidal ideation (T3) at low levels of gay pride. In contrast, this mediation effect was not significant for participants with high levels of gay pride. This suggests that gay pride may serve as a longitudinal protective mechanism that buffers the negative effects of homonegative microinvalidations on mental health. In other words, individuals with high levels of gay pride may be more resilient to homonegative invalidations, possibly due to a stronger sense of positive identity and social support associated with gay pride. These findings highlight the importance of promoting gay pride as a potential strategy to mitigate the harmful effects of discriminatory experiences on gay men's mental health, i.e., a minority resilience mechanism (Frost & Meyer, 2023).

General Discussion

In this paper, we investigated how and under what conditions gay pride can buffer the harmful effects of experiences of homonegative microinvalidation on gay men's mental health. Overall, we found in Study 1 that the negative effects of microinvalidations on psychological well-being were more pronounced in participants with low levels of gay pride. This suggests that the impact of these microinvalidations on gay men's social identity depends on the extent to which participants affirm their minority identity. Stronger identification with the gay group protected participants with high levels of gay pride from the deleterious effects induced by subtle experiences of identity invalidation, as this effect was only observed in participants with low to moderate levels of gay pride.

Similarly, in Study 2, we found that the mediating effect of self-hate in the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and suicidal ideation was only significant in gay men with low levels of gay pride. From a psychological perspective, this result suggests that the link between the experience of subtle identity invalidation and the increase in suicidal ideation is indirect via self-hate. From a psychological perspective, this means that individuals who are frequently confronted with subtle invalidations related to their sexual orientation may not immediately and directly develop suicidal thoughts. Rather, the negative effects appear to be channeled through the lens of self-hate. However, this process depends on the extent of positive feelings towards belonging to a minority group (gay pride), with stronger identification with the group protecting individuals from the harmful effects of homonegative microinvalidations, as the conditional effects of moderated mediation were only significant in participants with low levels of gay pride. This protective effect occurs because stronger ingroup identification, as reflected by higher levels of gay pride, may act as a buffer against the negative effects of homonegative microinvalidations. When individuals have a strong sense of pride in their minority group identity, they are more resilient to external subtle invalidations and less likely to internalize negative attitudes directed towards their sexual orientation.

Strengths and implications of the studies

These results have direct implications for the further development of social identity theory (SIT) within the context of gay-straight intergroup relations. The results are consistent with the SIT propositions (Tajfel & Turner, 1979, 1986) about the importance of social identity in maintaining the integrity of the self. In our studies, we found that gay men with low identification with the group who experience recurrent identity invalidations tend to have lower psychological well-being (Study 1) and to develop negative coping strategies by blaming themselves for such situations (Study 2). Faced with the impossibility of changing

their social minority status due to the disadvantaged position they occupy in the social hierarchy compared to heterosexual individuals, these individuals are more likely to think about ceasing to exist (i.e., taking their own lives) as a possible solution to the suffering caused by the intersection of being socially invalidated due to their sexual orientation (e.g., Janković et al., 2020) and avoiding affirming their social belonging through low endorsement of gay pride, as they identify little with the group to which they belong (e.g., Kalb et al., 2022).

Although we cannot claim causality in the context of our finding, by looking at the experiences of identity invalidations faced by gay men from a subtle perspective, we contribute to the body of emerging studies highlighting the negative effects of this type of discrimination on the psychological outcomes of social minorities such as LGB people. To our knowledge, there are few studies examining the effects of social victimization through subtle discrimination processes on gay men's mental health compared to studies examining the effects of victimization through overt discrimination (see Marchi et al., 2023 for a review). By showing that the subtle invalidation of minority identities can directly affect psychological well-being and indirectly influence gay men's suicidal ideation through self-hate, we take a further step in the theoretical framework of SIT (Tajfel & Turner, 1979, 1986) by highlighting the protective and political role that pride in homosexuality plays in these relationships, in a context characterized by well-known social inequalities, as is the case in Brazil (ILGA, 2020).

Our findings have implications not only for SIT but also for Minority Stress Theory (MST; Meyer, 2003a, 2003b), as they are consistent with discussions suggesting that exposure to minority stressors, such as microinvalidations, may increase the risk of self-hate and suicidal ideation (Frost & Meyer, 2013). According to MST, in this context, one of the most common coping strategies in the face of victimization experiences is the development of

internalized oppression (David et al., 2019). After an experience of discrimination, a victim's first impulse is to look for the reasons for the incident (Löw et al., 2020). As microinvalidations are often perceived as unintentional and mistaken for jokes or playful banter, victims of such discrimination tend to internalize responsibility and attribute the cause to internal or personal issues (Nadal, 2023). The more frequently these invalidations occur, the more likely they are to blame themselves for the negative feelings triggered by the experience, leading to the phenomenon of self-hate (Barrita & Wong-Padoongpatt, 2023).

Rooted in the MST model (Meyer 2003a; Meyer & Frost, 2013), our second study is groundbreaking in proposing self-hate as a mediating mechanism in the relationship between microaggressions and suicidality in gay men. In this perspective, self-hate manifests as a pathological devaluation of the self that manifests in limiting beliefs and self-devaluation (Turnell et al., 2019). This psychological mechanism threatens the psychological integrity of victims of discrimination and reinforces the feeling of individual devaluation in the face of the invalidation of their social identity (Nappa et al., 2022). One of the most serious consequences is the increased frequency of suicidal thoughts (Leonard et al., 2022; Lieberman et al., 2023), as showed in our results. Thus, we advance the discussions proposed by MST by presenting a new theoretical and empirical model to explain how some psychological stressors may be related to the deterioration of mental health in sexual minorities (e.g., gay men).

Furthermore, although the studies were not examined in a clinical context, they have the potential to contribute to psychosocial interventions targeting the mental health of gay men. The results suggest ways to improve psychological well-being and reduce suicidal ideation by emphasizing identity affirmation as an important factor in maintaining the psychological integrity of this population. In this sense, the models proposed here, which show that the extent to which people are victims of subtle discrimination can have a negative effect on their mental health, can guide the work of health professionals caring for gay men.

Limitations and further directions

While recognizing the strengths and implications of our results, it is important to acknowledge some limitations. A first limitation concerns the methodological design of our studies. Because we are dealing with cross-sectional data analyzed through a correlational perspective, we cannot establish causal relationships. A second limitation is that the results discussed here are not generalizable as they are based on a random sample. Therefore, new studies are needed that replicate the results from other contexts with a more representative sample. Furthermore, although we have conducted studies with a very specific and hard-to-reach target group, we have focused our problem exclusively on one dimension of non-heterosexual sexual orientations. Because we exclusively analyzed how these effects occur only among gay men, we cannot generalize our findings to individuals who self-identify as lesbian or bisexual, for example. Finally, a fourth limitation concerns the sparse characterization of participants, which prevents us from analyzing our results through an intersectional lens and accounting for the various social, cultural, and demographic characteristics of each participant.

To mitigate these limitations, we suggest that future studies could use other methodological data collection and analysis designs to examine causal effects between the variables examined here. We suggest as one possibility for future studies the replication of the model developed in Study 2 from a longitudinal design in which the relationships between variables are observed from a temporal perspective, possibly using a cross-lagged panel model for this purpose. Furthermore, we posit that gay pride may be a protective strategy for the mental health of victims of microinvalidations. We suggest that future research experimentally manipulate this variable to observe whether the protective effect of this variable is stronger and more pronounced among participants exposed to conditions in which social identity affirmation is emphasized (compared to conditions in which gay social identity

is not emphasized). Furthermore, seeking to overcome the intersectional limitation of our findings, we hope that future studies can identify different social, cultural, and political variables to observe whether the effects found here can also be explained by other factors such as ethnicity.

Conclusions

The pattern of results is consistent with our prediction that the more homonegative microinvalidation the worse the well-being of gay men. This association is mediated by self-hate, suggesting that the effects of the subtle invalidations associated with non-straight sexual orientation occur indirectly through the development of self-hate in gay men. Importantly, the results underscore the protective role of gay pride against the pervasive effects of minority stressors on gay men's mental health. That is, gay men with low levels of pride are more susceptible to having their psychological well-being negatively impacted by homonegative microinvalidation experiences. In contrast, those with higher gay pride are less likely to experience the negative effects of microinvalidation because pride inhibit converting invalidation into self-hate. Our findings have potential implications for the further development of social identity theory and minority stress theory. Finally, by developing a new way of examining the relationship already studied in social psychology, we open avenues for new research framing gay pride as a psychosocial element in the development of positive social identity in men, as well as in the maintenance of psychological well-being in these individuals.

References

- Adedeji, A., Olonisakin, T. T., Metzner, F., Buchcik, J., Tsabedze, W., Boehnke, K., & Idemudia, E. S. (2023). Interpreting Microaggression as a Determinant of Wellbeing. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, 10, 2470-2481.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-022-01426-z>
- Aiken, L. S., West, S. G., & Reno, R. R. (1991). *Multiple Regression: Testing and Interpreting Interactions*. Sage.
- Albuja, A. F., Sanchez, D. T., & Gaither, S. E. (2019). Identity denied: Comparing American or White identity denial and psychological health outcomes among bicultural and biracial people. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 45(3), 416–430.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0146167218788553>
- Araújo, L., Ribeiro, O., & Paúl, C. (2017). Hedonic and eudaimonic well-being in old age through positive psychology studies: a scoping review. *Anales de Psicología*, 33(3), 568-577. <https://dx.doi.org/10.6018/analesps.33.2.265621>
- Badaan, V., & Jost, J. T. (2020). Conceptual, empirical, and practical problems with the claim that intolerance, prejudice, and discrimination are equivalent on the political left and right. *Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences*, 34, 229–238. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cobeha.2020.07.007>
- Barrita, A. M., & Wong-Padoongpatt, G. (2023). Ethnic identity and resilience: a moderated mediation analysis of protective factors for self-blame and racial microaggressions. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 14(e23), 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1198375>
- Branscombe, N. R., & Wann, D. L. (1994). Collective self-esteem consequences of outgroup derogation when a valued social identity is on trial. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 24(6), 641–657. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2420240603>

- Büge, B., & Bilge, Y. (2022). Reliability and Validity of Self-Hate Scale in Turkish Community Sample. *Journal of Happiness and Health*, 2(2), 61–69.
- Byrne, B. M. (2012). *Structural equation modeling with Mplus: Basic concepts, applications, and programming*. Routledge.
- Cameron, J. E. (2004). A three-factor model of social identity. *Self and Identity*, 3(3), 239–262. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13576500444000047>
- Cochran, S. D., & Mays, V. M. (2013). Sexual orientation and mental health. In C. J. Patterson & A. R. D'Augelli (Eds.), *Handbook of psychology and sexual orientation* (pp. 204–222). Oxford University Press.
- Cole, D. A., & Maxwell, S. E. (2003). Testing mediational models with longitudinal data: Questions and tips in the use of structural equation modeling. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 112(4), 558–577. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0021-843X.112.4.558>
- Costa, P., McDuffie, J. W., Brown, S. E. V., He, Y., Ikner, B. N., Sabat, I. E., & Miner, K. N. (2023). Microaggressions: Mega problems or micro issues? A meta-analysis. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 51(1), 137-153. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22885>
- David, E. J. R., Petalio, J., Crouch, M. C. (2019). Microaggressions and Internalized Oppression: Intrapersonal, Interpersonal, and Institutional Impacts of “Internalized Microaggressions”. In G. C. Torino, D. P. Rivera, C. M. Capodilupo, K. L. Nadal, & D. W. Sue (Eds.), *Microaggression Theory: Influence and Implications* (pp. 121-137). Wiley.
- Dovidio, J. F., & Gaertner, S. L. (1981). The effects of race, status, and ability on helping behavior. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 44(3), 192–203. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3033833>
- Dovidio, J. F., Gaertner, S. L., & Pearson, A. R. (2017). Aversive racism and contemporary bias. In C. G. Sibley & F. K. Barlow (Eds.), *The Cambridge handbook of the*

- psychology of prejudice* (pp. 267–294). Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316161579.012>
- Fergusson, D. M., Horwood, L. J., & Beautrais, A. L. (1999). Is sexual orientation related to mental health problems and suicidality in young people? *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 56(10), 876–880. <https://doi.org/10.1001/archpsyc.56.10.876>
- Finkel, S. E. (1995). *Causal analysis with panel data*. Sage Publications
- Flores A. R., Langton L., Meyer I. H., & Romero A. P. (2020). Victimization rates and traits of sexual and gender minorities in the United States: Results from the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2017. *Science Advances*, 6(40), eaba6910. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.aba6910>
- Frost, D. M., & Meyer, I. H. (2023). Minority stress theory: Application, critique, and continued relevance. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 51(101579), 1-6. 3 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2023.101579>
- Gale, M. M., Pieterse, A. L., Lee, D. L., Huynh, K., Powell, S., & Kirkinis, K. (2020). A Meta-Analysis of the Relationship Between Internalized Racial Oppression and Health-Related Outcomes. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 48(4), 498–525. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011000020904454>
- Garcia, M. R. V., Barros, C. R. S., Paiva, V. S. F., Corrochano, M. C., Barbosa, D., Reis, N. S. M., & Plácido, D. S. (2022). Prevalence and social determinants of suicidal ideation among Brazilian public high school students. *Portuguese Journal of Behavioral & Social Research*, 8(2), 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.31211/rpics.2022.8.2.250>
- Gmelin, J. H., Vries, Y. A., Baams, L., Aguilar-Gaxiola, S., Alonso, J., Borges, G., Bunting, B., Cardoso, G., Florescu, S., Gureje, O., Karam, E. G., Kawakami, N., Lee, S., Mneimneh, Z., Navarro-Mateu, F., Posada-Villa, J., Rapsey, C., Slade, T., Stagnaro, J. C., Torres, Y., Kessler, R. C., & Jonge, P. (2022). Increased risks for mental disorders

- among LGB individuals: cross-national evidence from the World Mental Health Surveys. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, 57, 2319–2332.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00127-022-02320-z>
- Grossi, E., Groth, N., Mosconi, P., Cerutti, R., Pace, F., Compare, A., & Apolone, G. (2006). Development and validation of the short version of the Psychological General Well-Being Index (PGWB-S). *Health and Quality of Life Outcomes*, 4(88), 1-8.
<https://doi.org/10.1186/1477-7525-4-88>
- Hayes, A. F. (2013). *Introduction to mediation, moderation, and conditional process analysis: A regression-based approach*. Guilford Press.
- Herek, G. M., Gillis, J. R., & Cogan, J. C. (1999). Psychological sequelae of hate-crime victimization among lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 67(6), 945–951. <https://doi.org/10.1037//0022-006x.67.6.945>
- Hershberger, S. L., & D'Augelli, A. R. (1995). The impact of victimization on the mental health and suicidality of lesbian, gay, and bisexual youths. *Developmental Psychology*, 31(1), 65–74. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0012-1649.31.1.65>
- Hillman, J. G., Fowlie, D. I., & MacDonald, T. K. (2023). Social Verification Theory: A New Way to Conceptualize Validation, Dissonance, and Belonging. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 27(3), 309–331. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10888683221138384>
- Hu, L.-t, & Bentler, P. M. (1999). Cutoff criteria for fit indexes in covariance structure analysis: Conventional criteria versus new alternatives. *Structural Equation Modeling*, 6(1), 1–55. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10705519909540118>.
- Huynh, V. (2012). Ethnic Microaggressions and the Depressive and Somatic Symptoms of Latino and Asian American Adolescents. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 41, 831-846. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-012-9756-9>

International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA). (2020).

Relatório Anual 2019: Discriminação contra pessoas LGBTI+. Observatório da Discriminação contra pessoas LGBTI+. ILGA.

Janković, J., Slijepčević, V., & Miletić, V. (2020). Depression and suicidal behavior in LGB and heterosexual populations in Serbia and their differences: Cross-sectional study.

PLoS One, 15(6), e0234188. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0234188>

Johnson, K. C., LeBlanc, A. J., Deardorff, J., & Bockting, W. O. (2020). Invalidation experiences among non-binary adolescents. *Journal of Sex Research*, 57(2), 222–233.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2019.1608422>

Kalb, N., Brodtkin, S., Goldstein, A. L., & Gills, J. R. (2022). We're in this together: LGBTQ social identity buffers the homonegative microaggressions–alcohol relationship.

Journal of LGBT Youth, 19(4), 379-395.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/19361653.2020.1782304>

Kaufman, T. M. L., Baams, L., & Dubas, J. S. (2017). Microaggressions and depressive symptoms in sexual minority youth: The roles of rumination and social support.

Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity, 4(2), 184-192.

<https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000219>

King, M., Semlyen, J., Tai, S. S., Killaspy, H., Osborn, D., Popelyuk, D., & Nazareth, I. (2008). A systematic review of mental disorder, suicide, and deliberate self harm in lesbian, gay and bisexual people. *BMC Psychiatry*, 8, Article

70. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-244X-8-70>

Kittiteerasack, P., Matthews, A. K., Steffen, A., Corte, C., McCreary, L. L., Bostwick, W., Park, C., & Johnson, T. P. (2021). The influence of minority stress on indicators of

suicidality among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adults in Thailand. *Journal of*

- Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*, 28(4), 656-669.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jpm.12713>
- Korman, J., Kim, B., Malle, B. F., & Sobel, D. M. (2022). Ambiguity Under Scrutiny: Moral Judgment of Microaggressions. *Social Cognition*, 40(6), 528-548.
<https://doi.org/10.1521/soco.2022.40.6.528>
- Lange, J., Baams, L., van Bergen, D., Bos, H. M. W., & Bosker, R. (2022). Minority Stress and Suicidal Ideation and Suicide Attempts Among LGBT Adolescents and Young Adults: A Meta-Analysis. *LGBT Health*, 9(4), 222-237.
<https://doi.org/10.1089/lgbt.2021.0106>
- Leonard, J., Gazzillon, F., Gorman, B., & Kealy, D. (2022). Understanding interpersonal guilt: Associations with attachment, altruism, and personality pathology. *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology*, 63(3), 573-580. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sjop.12854>
- Lieberman, A., Robison, M., Wonderlich, S. A., Crosby, R. D., Mitchell, J. E., Crow, S. J., Peterson, C. B., Grange, D. L., Bardone-Cone, A. M., Kolden, G., Joiner, T. E. (2023). Self-hate, dissociation, and suicidal behavior in bulimia nervosa. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 335(1), 44-48. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2023.05.015>
- Löw, C. A., Schauenburg, H., & Dinger, U. (2020). Self-criticism and psychotherapy outcome: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 75, 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpr.2019.101808>
- Lui, P. P., & Quezada, L. (2019). Associations between microaggression and adjustment outcomes: A meta-analytic and narrative review. *Psychological Bulletin*, 145(1), 45–78. <https://doi.org/10.1037/bul0000172>
- Marchi, M., Travascio, A., Uberti, D., Micheli, E., Quartaroli, F., Laquatra, G., Grenzi, P., Pingani, L., Ferrari, S., Fiorillo, A., Converti, M., Pinna, F., Amaddeo, F., Ventriglio, A., Mirandola, M., & Galeazzi, G. M. (2023). Microaggression toward LGBTIQ

- people and implications for mental health: A systematic review. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, 23(1), 1–13 <https://doi.org/10.1177/00207640231194478>
- Meyer, I. H. (2003a). Minority stress and mental health in gay men. In L. D. Garnets & D. C. Kimmel (Eds.), *Psychological perspectives on lesbian, gay, and bisexual experiences* (pp. 699–731). Columbia University Press.
- Meyer, I. H. (2003b). Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: conceptual issues and research evidence. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129(5), 674–697. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.129.5.674>
- Meyer, I. H., & Frost, D. M. (2013). Minority stress and the health of sexual minorities. In C. J. Patterson & A. R. D'Augelli (Eds.), *Handbook of psychology and sexual orientation* (pp 252–266). Oxford University Press.
- Mulder, J. D., & Hamaker, E. L. (2021). Three extensions of the random intercept cross-lagged panel model. *Structural Equation Modeling*, 28(4), 638–648. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10705511.2020.1784738>.
- Murrell, A. (2020). *Aversive Racism: Foundations, Impact, and Future Directions*. Oxford Research Encyclopedia: Business and Management. Oxford University Press.
- Muthén, L. K., & Muthén, B. O. (2017). *Mplus: Statistical Analysis with Latent Variables: User's Guide* (Version 8). Muthén & Muthén.
- Nadal, K. L. Y. (2023). A review of microaggression literature. In K. L. Y. Nadal, *Dismantling everyday discrimination: Microaggressions toward LGBTQ people* (pp. 41–53). American Psychological Association. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000335-003>
- Nadal, K. L. (2019). Measuring LGBTQ Microaggressions: The Sexual Orientation Microaggressions Scale (SOMS) and the Gender Identity Microaggressions Scale

- (GIMS). *Journal of Homosexuality*, 66(10), 1404-1414.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2018.1542206>
- Nadal, K. L., Griffin, K. E., Wong, Y., Hamit, S., & Rasmus, M. (2014). The impact of racial microaggressions on mental health: Counseling implications for clients of color. *Journal of Counseling & Development*, 92(1), 57–66. <https://doi.org/10.1002/j.1556-6676.2014.00130.x>
- Nadal, K. L., Wong, Y., Sriken, J., Griffin, K., & Fujii-Doe, W. (2015). Racial microaggressions and Asian Americans: An exploratory study on within-group differences and mental health. *Asian American Journal of Psychology*, 6(2), 136–144. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0038058>
- Nappa, M. R., Bartolo, M. G., Pistella, J., Petrocchi, N., Costabile, A., & Baiocco, R. (2023). “I Do Not Like Being Me”: the Impact of Self-hate on Increased Risky Sexual Behavior in Sexual Minority People. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, 19, 737-750. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13178-021-00590-x>
- Oliveira, E. T., & Vedana, K. G. G. (2020). Suicídio e depressão na população LGBT: postagens publicadas em blogs pessoais. *SMAD. Revista eletrônica saúde mental álcool e drogas*, 16(4), 39-48. <https://dx.doi.org/10.11606/issn.1806-6976.smad.2020.168145>
- Ong, A. D., Burrow, A. L., Fuller-Rowell, T. E., Ja, N. M., & Sue, D. W. (2013). Racial microaggressions and daily well-being among Asian Americans. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 60(2), 188–199. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0031736>
- Opinion Box (2023). *Relatório Orgulho LGBTQIA+ 2023: Dados, análises e as expectativas sobre a comunidade LGBTQIA+ no Brasil*. Opinion Box.

- Otis, M. D., & Skinner, W. F. (1996). The prevalence of victimization and its effect on mental well-being among lesbian and gay people. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 30(3), 93–121.
https://doi.org/10.1300/J082v30n03_05
- Pascoe, E. A., & Smart Richman, L. (2009). Perceived discrimination and health: A meta-analytic review. *Psychological Bulletin*, 135(4), 531–554. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0016059>
- Patten, M. Carmichael, H., Moore, A., & Velopulos, C. (2022). Circumstances of Suicide Among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Individuals. *Journal of Surgical Research*, 270, 522-529. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jss.2021.08.029>
- Pereira, H. (2021). Mental Health and Suicidal Behavior: The Role of Sexual Orientation. *Journal of Psychosexual Health*, 3(3) 212–215.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/26318318211025650>
- Pereira, M. C. A. R. S., Antunes, M. C. Q., Barroso, I. M. A. R. C., Correia, T. I. G., Brito, I. S., & Monteiro, J. F. S. P. M. (2018). Adaptação e validação do Questionário Geral de Bem-Estar Psicológico: análise fatorial confirmatória da versão reduzida. *Revista de Enfermagem Referência*, 18(4), 9–18. <https://doi.org/10.12707/RIV18001>
- Pierce, C. M., Carew, J. V., Pierce-Gonzalez, D., & Wills, D. (1977). An experiment in racism: TV commercials. *Education and Urban Society*, 10(1), 61– 87.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/001312457701000105>
- Ramchand, R., Schuler, M. S., Schoenbaum, M., Colpe, L., & Ayer, L. (2022). Suicidality Among Sexual Minority Adults: Gender, Age, and Race/Ethnicity Differences. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 62(2), 193-202.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2021.07.012>
- Riemer, M., & Brown, L. (2019). *We Are Everywhere: Protest, Power, and Pride in the History of Queer Liberation*. Ten Speed Press.

- Rostosky, R. R., Cardom, R. D., Hammer, J. H., & Riggle, E. D. B. (2018). LGB Positive Identity and Psychological Well-Being. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 5(4), 482-489. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000298>
- Sue, D. W. (2010). *Microaggressions and marginality: manifestation, dynamics, and impact*. Wiley.
- Sue, D. W., Capodilupo, C. M., Torino, G. C., Bucceri, J. M., Holder, A. M. B., Nadal, K. L., & Esquilin, M. (2007). Racial microaggressions in everyday life: Implications for clinical practice. *American Psychologist*, 62(4), 271–286. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.62.4.271>
- Swann, G., Minshew, R., Newcomb, M. E., & Mustanski, B. (2016). Validation of the Sexual Orientation Microaggression Inventory in Two Diverse Samples of LGBTQ Youth. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 45, 1289-1298. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-016-0718-2>
- Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1979). An integrative theory of intergroup conflict. In W. G. Austin, & S. Worchel (Eds.), *The social psychology of intergroup relations* (pp. 33-37). Brooks/Cole.
- Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1986). The social identity theory of intergroup behavior. In S. Worchel & W. G. Austin (Eds.), *Psychology of intergroup relations* (pp. 7–24). Nelson Hall.
- Torino, G. C., Rivera, D. P., Capodilupo, C. M., Nadal, K. L., & Sue, D. W. (2018). *Microaggression theory: Influence and implications*. Wiley & Sons.
- Torres-Harding, S., Torres, L., & Yeo, E. (2020). Depression and perceived stress as mediators between racial microaggressions and somatic symptoms in college students of color. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 90(1), 125–135. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000408>

- Transgender Europe (TGEU). (2022). *Trans Murder Monitoring (TMM): report 2021*. TGEU.
- Turnell, A. I., Fassnacht, D. B., Batterham, P. J., Calex, A. L., & Kyrios, M. (2019). The Self-Hate Scale: Development and validation of a brief measure and its relationship to suicidal ideation. *Journal of Affective Disorders, 245*, 779-787.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2018.11.047>
- Umaña-Taylor, A. J., Wong, J. J., Gonzales, N. A., & Dumka, L. E. (2012). Ethnic identity and gender as moderators of the association between discrimination and academic adjustment among Mexican-origin adolescents. *Journal of Adolescence, 35*, 773–786.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2011.11.003>
- Warr, P. (1978). A study of psychological well-being. *British Journal of Psychology, 69*(1), 111-121. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.2044-8295.1978.tb01638.x>
- Wilton-Harding, B., Windsor, T. W. (2022). Awareness of Age-Related Gains and Losses and Their Associations With Psychological Well-Being: A Longitudinal Examination. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B, 77*(4), 661-672.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbab155>
- Wittgens, C., Fischer, M. M., Buspavanich, P., Theobald, S., Schweizer, K., & Trautmann, S. (2022). Mental health in people with minority sexual orientations: A meta-analysis of population-based studies. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica, 145*(4), 357-372.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/acps.13405>
- Woodford, M. R., Chonody, J. M., Kulick, A., Brennan, D. J., & Renn, K. (2015). The LGBTQ microaggressions on campus scale: A scale development and validation study. *Journal of Homosexuality, 62*(12), 1660–1687.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2015.1078205>
- World Health Organization (WHO). (2019). *Suicide in the world: Global Health Estimates*. World Health Organization.

- Wright, A. J., & Wegner, R. T. (2012). Homonegative microaggressions and their impact on LGB individuals: A measure validity study. *Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling*, 6(1), 34–54. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15538605.2012.648578>
- Zhang, Z., & Yuan, K. H. (2018). *Practical statistical power analysis using Webpower and R*. ISDSA Press.
- Ziller, C., & Helbling, M. (2019). Antidiscrimination Laws, Policy Knowledge and Political Support. *British Journal of Political Science*, 49(3), 1027-1044. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123417000163>

Transitional Remarks (paper 2 to paper 3)

In Paper 2, we showed that gay pride can act as a "minority coping" mechanism' to mitigate the effects of homonegative microinvalidations on gay men's mental health. Specifically, we observed that gay pride moderated the effects of homonegative microinvalidations on psychological well-being (Study 1) and the mediated effect of self-hate on suicidal ideation (Study 2) in gay men. In this context, we confirmed the potential effect of social identity affirmation on reducing psychological stressors in gay men. In light of the overarching thesis, we have only tested the first and second hypotheses to date.

Next, we will deepen our analysis of these propositions by testing our third and final hypothesis that we have posited in this thesis. In general, our hypotheses state that gay pride is not only a psychological construct that can be defined and measured (Article 1), but also correlates with other psychological variables and plays a protective role in the impact of social victimization experiences on gay men's mental health (Article 2) but can also act as a social and political competitive mechanism to effect social change for the gay men's group. To test this hypothesis, we developed a new theoretical and statistical model in which we examine whether the indirect effect of homonegative microinvalidation on attitudes favoring change in the social value of the group could be mediated by gay pride and moderated by participants' level of system justification. We analyzed this phenomenon in a single-study presented in the following article (Paper 3).

Paper 3:

Social Change Endorsement: A Moderated Mediation Analysis of the Relationship between
Homonegative Microinvalidations, Gay Pride, and System Justification

**Social Change Endorsement: A Moderated Mediation Analysis of the Relationship
between Homonegative Microinvalidations, Gay Pride, and System Justification**

Abstract

Drawing on Social Identity Theory's predictions for the development of minority identities, we examined how and under what conditions gay pride can function as a social competitive strategy used by gay men to change the social value ascribed to their group. In minority contexts, experiences of oppression tend to reinforce group identity, and consequently, leads to greater motivation to engage in collective action on behalf of the ingroup. We hypothesized that gay pride might mediate the relationship between social victimization (homonegative microinvalidation) and group attitudes and behaviors in favor of the gay ingroup (vs. heterosexual outgroup). Considering that engagement in social change actions occurs when minorities perceive social hierarchies as illegitimate, we further hypothesized that the mediated effect of gay pride would depend on individuals' levels of system justification. To test this hypothesis, we conducted a correlational study to observe the moderating mediation effect in the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations, gay pride, endorsement of social equality, and system justification. A total of 132 gay male participants from the United States participated in the study. Results indicated that gay pride mediated the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and pro-ingroup attitudes and behaviors, with this effect being significant only when levels of system justification were low. We discuss these findings in light of theories and conceptual models of social psychology.

Keywords: gay pride, social change, microaggressions, system justification.

Social Change Endorsement: A Moderated Mediation Analysis of the Relationship between Homonegative Microinvalidations, Gay Pride, and System Justification

Historically, the gay pride movement emerged as a means of affirming non-heterosexual identity in the face of ongoing social and political efforts to deny and erase gay identities (Bernstein, 1997; Bratschi, 1996). Inspired by the motto "gay is good" (McHenry, 2022), LGBTQ+ people from different regions of the world are joining together to affirm their non-heterosexual identity and transform what was once considered a source of social shame (i.e., their minority social belonging) into a proclamation of pride (Riemer & Brown, 2019). As Shelley (1969/1992) describes, gay pride represents a counterpoint to the self-hatred that homosexuals had to cope with due to heterosexist oppression. Thus, while it is understood as an emotion arising from an individual sense of dignity (Sullivan, 2014; Tracy & Robins, 2007), gay pride is also expressed politically in the struggle for equality of gay individuals with heterosexuals in terms of social rights (Branscombe et al., 1999).

Gay pride challenges heterosexist systems that traditionally marginalize gay people (Johnston, 2007). It functions as a competitive strategy to change the social value associated with gay identity (e.g., Gay Activists Alliance, Gosse et al., 2005) by endeavoring to ensure that non-straight individuals are recognized, accepted, and valued in society (Day, 2022). It is a mechanism by which gay individuals reclaim a positive social identity and oppose the social system that prioritizes the identity implications of heterosexual individuals to the detriment of marginalizing gay identities. Bruce (2016, p. 31) claims, "By marching through the public streets, refusing to censor their gay identities, the participants [LGBT people] challenged and destabilized the heteronormative cultural code." Thus, the political and emotional engagement in gay pride strategies can be understood as a crucial tool for the development of a positive social identity among gay men (Rostosky et al., 2018). In social psychology, social identity theory (SIT; Tajfel & Turner, 1979) provides a valuable theoretical approach to understanding

how members of social minorities, such as gay men, attempt to construct a positive social identity.

Minority Positive Social Identity

In social identity theory (SIT), Tajfel and Turner (1979) predict that members of social minorities to attain a positive social identity, they may resort to individual and collective strategies of social identity management in their search for positive distinctiveness (e.g., Camposano et al., 2023). According to SIT, the individual strategy is referred to as social mobility and is pursued when individuals from minority groups perceive the socially imposed structure as legitimate and the boundaries separating them from individuals of a socially advantageous group are flexible (Jackson et al., 1996). In general, processes of social mobility take place by individuals belonging to devalued groups without changing the social status of the ingroup in the social hierarchy compared to the favored outgroup (Destin & Debrosse, 2017). Individuals therefore behave in such a way that they identify less and less with the devalued ingroup and more identified with the highly valued outgroup.

Among collective strategies, those aimed at social change through collective behaviors directed at changing group status are called competitive strategies for social change (Tajfel & Turner, 1979). Strategies for social change are activated when individuals from social minority groups perceive that the boundaries separating their group from socially advantaged groups are impermeable and they realize that the social arrangements are not legitimate (Tajfel & Turner, 1986; Jackson et al., 1996). Faced with these problems and in search of a socially positive identity, members of socially disadvantaged groups exhibit competitive behavior toward socially advantaged groups with the goal of changing the social value of the entire group, not just that of an individual or a small subset of the group. These competitive acts can manifest as social and collective behavior that challenges the status quo, as in the Black is Beautiful movement (Camp, 2015; Hrabá & Grant, 1970).

The "Black is Beautiful" movement, which was launched in the 1960s, was characterised by the anti-racist struggle of African Americans for equal rights vis-à-vis whites (Anderson & Cromwell, 1977; Camp, 2015). In this context, one of the strategies was to challenge Eurocentric beauty stereotypes and focus on accepting and celebrating Black aesthetics (Tate, 2007). In light of SIT (Tajfel & Turner, 1979, 1986), such strategies can be understood as social competition contesting the societal legitimacy of white hegemony in beauty standards, which saw straight hair as beautiful and frizzy hair as ugly and typical of people viewed negatively by society.

The Black is Beautiful movement aimed not only at the advancement of the individual, but at a broader social change in the perception of the worth and dignity of Black people through the celebration of the culture and aesthetics of their own group (Hraba & Grant, 1970). In this sense, the parallel with the "Black is Beautiful" movement seems instructive for our proposal of gay pride as a strategy for social change. While the Black is Beautiful movement challenges racist arrangements (Taylor, 2013), the gay pride movement seeks to challenge the heterosexist social structure (Wolowic et al., 2017) and aims to break the heteronormative legitimacy that views heterosexuality as the desired norm of sexuality and homosexuality as undesirable and socially deviant. Both movements emerge as the antithesis of stable social oppression and demonstrate the increasing identification with one's own group among members of disadvantaged groups resulting from historical discrimination, as the Rejection-Identification Model (RIM; Branscombe et al., 1999) asserts.

The Mediating Role of Gay Pride

The Rejection-Identification Model (RIM) posits that individuals who are rejected because of their identity may develop a stronger identification with the stigmatized group as an adaptive response (e.g., Branscombe et al., 1999; Hambour et al., 2023). The RIM has also been used to understand how group identification can explain the relationship between

perceived stable discrimination and collective behavior in favor of the minority ingroup (e.g., Cronin et al., 2012). According to the RIM, members of disadvantaged groups tend to cope with experiences of social victimization by using group-based strategies (Ferguson et al., 2019; Schmitt & Branscombe, 2002; Schmitt et al., 2003). These strategies favor the ingroup when members of social minorities are confronted with discrimination (e.g., gay pride) and collectively engage in strategies that challenge the status quo (Jetten et al., 2018).

Studies conducted on the RIM perspective have demonstrated the mediating role of group identification in the relationship between perceived discrimination and collective action. In Friedman and Leaper's (2011) study, for example, it was observed that identification with sexual minority identities mediated the relationship between heterosexual discrimination and collective action. The higher the level of identification with the ingroup, the greater the tendency to engage in political actions aimed at improving the social value of the group (Bourguignon et al., 2020), i.e., collective action.

According to the definition of Chan et al. (2022), collective actions are “the involvement in group-oriented actions by members of a group in the pursuit of common goals and interests, usually with the aim to improve the social conditions of the group” (p. 237). Essentially, these are behavioral strategies motivated by the identity-based sense of competition for social changes in group status (Tajfel & Turner, 1979). In the case of social minorities, examples of collective action include attitudes that affirm equality of rights (e.g., social change endorsement) and behaviors that favor the ingroup (vs. outgroup), such as a greater propensity for financial support and volunteerism for causes specific to the minority ingroup (e.g., homosexuals) at the expense of less time and money spent on outgroup (heterosexual group) causes.

In this sense, considering that experiences of oppression can lead to a stronger identification with a minority identity (Branscombe et al., 1999) and, consequently, to a

stronger preference for one's group through collective action (Ferguson et al., 2019), we will try to analyze this phenomenon in this study, focusing on gay pride as an affective component of gay men's social identity. In this context, we propose to investigate whether gay pride can mediate the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and collective action variables, both at the attitudinal level (operationalized by the endorsement of social change strategies) and at the behavioral level (actual favoritism behaviors toward the gay group through more time and money spent on a hypothesized cause related to the gay group compared to the heterosexual group).

However, considering that one of the preconditions for members of minority groups to engage in strategies of competition for social change (e.g., Gay Pride Movement) is the perception of the illegitimacy of social arrangements (i.e., challenging the status quo) (Tajfel & Turner, 1986), it is likely that the effects of social victimization (e.g., homonegative microinvalidations) on increased identification with the gay group (e.g., gay pride) are moderated by the motivation to challenge the status quo (Jetten et al., 2018). In other words, if perceptions of the illegitimacy of the social system are indeed a determinant of engagement in strategies of competition for social change (e.g., gay pride), the mediation hypothesis proposed above only likely holds for individuals highly motivated to challenge the status quo.

In this sense, we hypothesize not only that there is a mediating effect of gay pride but also that the indirect effect of gay pride on the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and collective action can be moderated by legitimizing the status quo. We hypothesize that the psychological process that leads to increased engagement in social change strategies via homonegative microinvalidations and gay pride will only occur among members of the gay group with low endorsement of the legitimacy of the status quo. In social psychology, one of the most common ways to assess the extent to which a person is motivated to legitimize the social hierarchies in which they are inserted is through system justification.

The Moderating Role of System Justification

System Justification is a psychological motivation to consider socially unequal arrangements as fair, legitimate, and necessary (Jost & Banaji, 1994). It is thus a mechanism for legitimizing the status quo (Jost, 2020). Individuals who are strongly motivated to justify the system are those who believe that social hierarchies are natural and legitimate, and who maintain the belief that things are as they should be (Jost, 2019). In contrast, those who are less motivated to justify the system tend to recognize that social arrangements are systematically illegitimate (Jost & van der Toorn, 2012). The lower the system justification, the more inclined people are to engage in collective strategies for social change (Jost et al., 2017), such as political behaviors that advocate for the rights of socially marginalized groups (De Cristofaro et al., 2022; Osborne et al., 2019).

In the case of sexual arrangements such as the heterosexist hierarchization of social values in favor of heterosexual individuals and the devaluation of gay men, a likely form of challenging the status quo is social mobilization for equal rights (Jetten et al., 2018), as seen in the gay pride movement. To investigate this phenomenon, we aim to establish a research program (currently underway) to assess how and under what conditions gay pride can function as a mechanism used by gay men to change the social value of the ingroup.

Although experiences of social victimization among gay men can lead to a stronger identification with the ingroup (Branscombe et al., 1999) and greater political participation in defense of their interests (Chan, 2022), especially among those with high motivation to challenge the status quo (Jetten et al., 2018), we propose that the impact of homonegative microinvalidations on attitudes and behaviors aimed at changing the social value of the gay group will be mediated by gay pride (i.e., indirect effects of homonegative microinvalidations) and moderated by system justification. Furthermore, as one of the prerequisites for the use of collective strategies for a positive social identity is the perception

of the illegitimacy of the system, we also suggest that the indirect effects of homonegative microinvalidations are conditioned on system justification, with significant effects only in cases of low system justification (i.e., moderated mediation effect).

Method

Participants

We determined the sample size using WebPower (Zhang & Yuan, 2018) by specifying a median expected effect size ($f = .25$), setting alpha to .05, power of .80, resulting in a minimum required sample size of 99 participants. This study engaged a total of 132 gay male participants from the United States. These individuals spanned a broad age range from 21 to 81 years ($M = 38.59$, $SD = 12.95$).

Measures

System Justification. To assess participants' levels of perception regarding the legitimacy of the status quo, we employed the General System Justification Scale (Kay & Jost, 2003; Vesper et al., 2022). This scale is designed to assess perceptions of the prevailing social system's fairness, legitimacy, and justifiability. The eight items (e.g., "In general, you find society to be fair," "The United States is the best country in the world to live in," and "Everyone has a fair shot at wealth and happiness") are organized in a unifactorial structure and were responded to on a scale ranging from 1 (strong disagreement) to 5 (strong agreement). The higher the mean score, the greater the participant's perception of the legitimacy of social hierarchies. The confirmatory factor analysis results conducted with a one-factor model showed a good fit., $ULS\chi^2 = 29.774$, $df = 20$, $p = .880$, $\chi^2/df = 1.48$, $CFI = .99$, $TLI = .99$, $RMSEA = .061$, $90\%CI [.000, .104]$. In addition, the scale exhibited strong internal consistency, as indicated by Cronbach's alpha ($\alpha = .890$) and McDonald's omega ($\omega = .896$) coefficients.

Homonegative Microinvalidations. We utilized the "microinvalidations" component of the Nadal Sexual Orientation Microaggressions Scale (2019). This dimension comprises seven items (e.g., "I have been told I was overreacting when I confronted someone about their heterosexist behaviors/slights," "When I thought something was heterosexist or homophobic, a heterosexual person provided alternative rationales") aimed at assessing the frequency with which gay men have experienced subtle invalidation of their identity in recent times. Participants respond to these items on a scale ranging from 1 (not very often) to 4 (very often), with a higher overall mean indicating a greater frequency of experiences with homonegative microinvalidations. The confirmatory factor analysis results conducted with a one-factor model showed a good fit, $DWLS\chi^2 = 3.247$, $df = 14$, $p = .999$, $\chi^2/df = .23$, $CFI = .99$, $TLI = .99$, $RMSEA = .001$, $90\%CI [.000, .048]$. In addition, the dimension exhibited strong internal consistency, as indicated by Cronbach's alpha ($\alpha = .940$) and McDonald's omega ($\omega = .941$) coefficients.

Gay Pride. We employed the Gay Pride Scale (Silva et al., Paper 1) to assess the affirmation of social identity among gay men. This scale comprises 12 items (e.g., "I am proud of being gay when I see other gay people fighting for their civil rights," "I am proud of being gay when I see other gay people standing up against LGBTQIA+ phobia or any other form of prejudice and discrimination," "I am proud of being gay when I realize that other gay people come together to stand up for the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community") that evaluate the extent to which behaviors of gay group members can elicit a sense of pride in group belonging among respondents. Participants responded to items on a scale ranging from 0 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), with a higher overall mean indicating a greater level of gay pride. Results of the confirmatory factor analysis conducted with a one-factor model showed a good fit, $ULS\chi^2 = 66.726$, $df = 54$, $p = .999$, $\chi^2/df = 1.26$, $CFI = .99$, $TLI = .99$, $RMSEA = .042$, $90\%CI [.000, .073]$. In addition, the scale exhibited strong internal

consistency, as indicated by Cronbach's alpha ($\alpha = .943$) and McDonald's omega ($\omega = .946$) coefficients.

Social Change Endorsement. We assessed participants' attitudes towards supporting measures to promote social equality between homosexuals and heterosexuals (endorsement of social change) using a scale developed for this study, the Diversity Equality Affirmation Scale. The scale comprises six items (see supplementary materials) designed to assess the extent to which participants are inclined to support egalitarian policies that favor change in the social value ascribed to the gay group. Participants responded to items on a scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), with a higher overall mean indicating greater support for positive policies that promote social equality between gay and straight people. The results of the confirmatory factor analysis, which was conducted using a one-factor model, showed good fit, $DWLS\chi^2 = 1.226$, $df = 9$, $p = .999$, $\chi^2/df = .136$, $CFI = .99$, $TLI = .99$, $RMSEA = .001$, $90\%CI [.000, .119]$. Cronbach's alpha ($\alpha = .940$) and McDonald's omega ($\omega = .941$) coefficients demonstrated the strong internal consistency of the measure.

Behavior-based collective actions. We observed participants behavior to determine the extent to which gay men donate their time (volunteering) and money (financial support) to fund a hypothetical event designed to improve the social status of the gay group (versus hypothetical events designed to maintain the legitimacy of heterosexual individuals' superior status) (see supplementary materials). It is an attempt to evaluate the competitive behavior of gay men in more significant favoritism of the ingroup to the detriment of less evaluation of the outgroup. To analyze this bias, we calculated the difference in potential time (ingroup time bias) and money (ingroup money bias) spent on the gay cause compared to the straight cause. Looking at the equations for the ingroup time bias (Ingroup Time Bias (ITB) = $\text{TimeGay} - \text{TimeStraight}$) and the ingroup money bias (Ingroup Money Bias (IMB) = $\text{MoneyGay} - \text{MoneyStraight}$), positive results demonstrate ingroup favoritism (i.e., more time

and money spent on the gay cause than on the straight cause) and negative results indicate outgroup favoritism (i.e., more time and money spent on the straight cause than on the gay cause). On average, the ITB was 7.38 hours ($SD = 10.07$), and the IMB was \$108.27 ($SD = 470.08$) more for the gay cause than for the straight cause.

Procedures

We recruited potential participants via the Prolific platform by sending them the link to our online survey organized in Qualtrics. Our inclusion criteria required participants to be at least 18 years old, self-identify as gay and be male. At the beginning of the survey, we presented respondents with the consent form in which they had to declare their agreement to participate. As for the measurements, we first administered the General System Justification Scale. Then we presented the participants with a filler distractor tasks (a memory task) to avoid any previous salience of system justification before participants respond to the other instruments. We then successively presented the measures of homonegative microinvalidations, gay pride, the social change endorsement, and collective action questions, i.e., support for the LGBT community movement (vs. heterosexist causes). We used some items as attention controls in addition to the questionnaire. Only the responses of participants who answered the attention control correctly were considered.

Data analysis

We used the Mplus version 8.3 (Muthén & Muthén, 2017) to analyze the data. We tested the hypothesized model in two steps. First, we examined the indirect effect of homonegative microinvalidations on social change endorsement through gay pride without the hypothesized interaction (i.e., the mediating effect of gay pride). Mediating effect is confirmed when the indirect effect is significant. Second, we tested the moderated mediation model by inserting the interaction between homonegative microinvalidations and system justification on gay pride in the previous model. Moderated mediation effect is confirmed

when the interaction effects are significant at a hypothesized path, or the indirect effects are conditioned at the different levels of moderator by examining CI of each of the subgroup samples, or when the index of moderated mediation is significant, or also when the fit of the moderated mediation model is good (Muller et al., 2005; Preacher et al., 2007; Valente et al., 2023). In all cases, the significance of the effects is confirmed when 95% confidence interval (CI) does not include 0 (Hayes, 2013). Model fit was examined using Maximum Likelihood (ML) as estimator and considering the indices of comparative fit index (CFI), Tucker-Lewis index (TLI), standardized root-mean-square residual (SRMR), and root-mean-square error of approximation (RMSEA). Goodness-fit of the model was assessed considering values of CFI and TLI > 0.95, SRMR < 0.08, and RMSEA < 0.06 (Hu & Bentler, 1999). Before running the analyses, we centered all model variables to facilitate the interpretation of results.

Results

Preliminary analysis

Results of bivariate correlations show that after controlling for participants' age, there was significant correlations between gay pride with homonegative microinvalidations ($r = .305, p < .001$), and gay pride with social change scale ($r = .618, p < .001$). There was no correlation between the other variables (see supplementary materials).

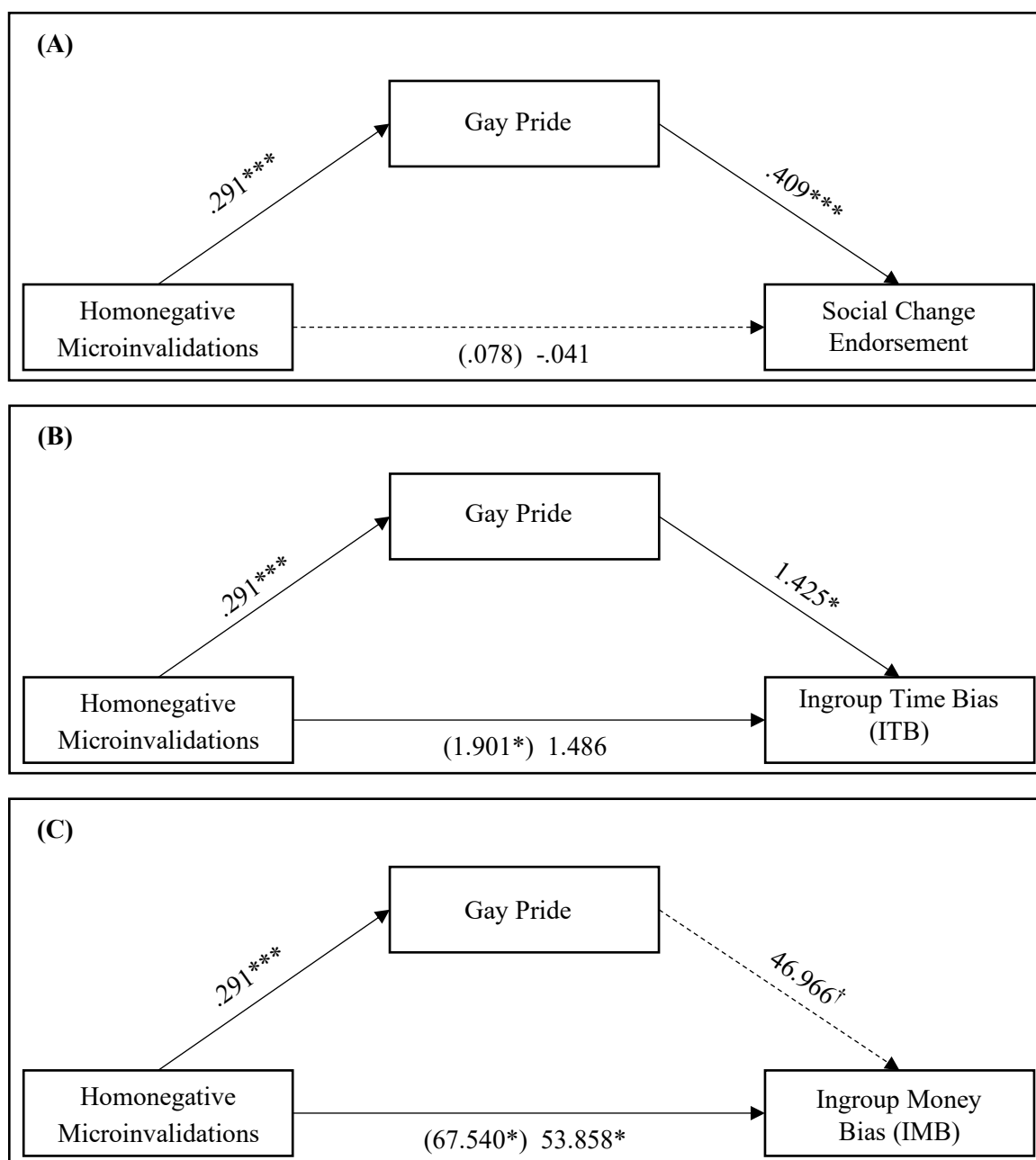
Mediating role of gay pride

Initially, we first tested baselines models (full meditation) to assess the mediating role of gay pride. Results revealed that the indirect effect of homonegative microinvalidations on social change endorsement via gay pride was significant ($b = .119, SE = .040, 95\%CI = .054, .213$). Moreover, the indirect effect of homonegative microinvalidations on ITB via gay pride was significant ($b = .415, SE = .025, 95\%CI = .020, .811$). However, the indirect effect of homonegative microinvalidations on IMB via gay pride was not significant ($b = 13.686, SE = 8.348, 95\%CI = -.050, .27.414$). Figure 1 presents the mediation analysis considering the (A)

mediating role gay pride on the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and social change endorsement (A), ingroup time bias (B), and ingroup money bias (C). After analyzed the full mediation model, we then tested the moderated mediational hypothesis.

Figure 1

Mediating effect of gay pride on the homonegative microinvalidations and social change endorsement (A), ingroup time bias (B), and ingroup money bias (C)



Note. Unstandardized coefficients are presented here $^{***}p < .001$, $^{**}p < .01$, $^*p < .05$, $^\dagger p < .06$.

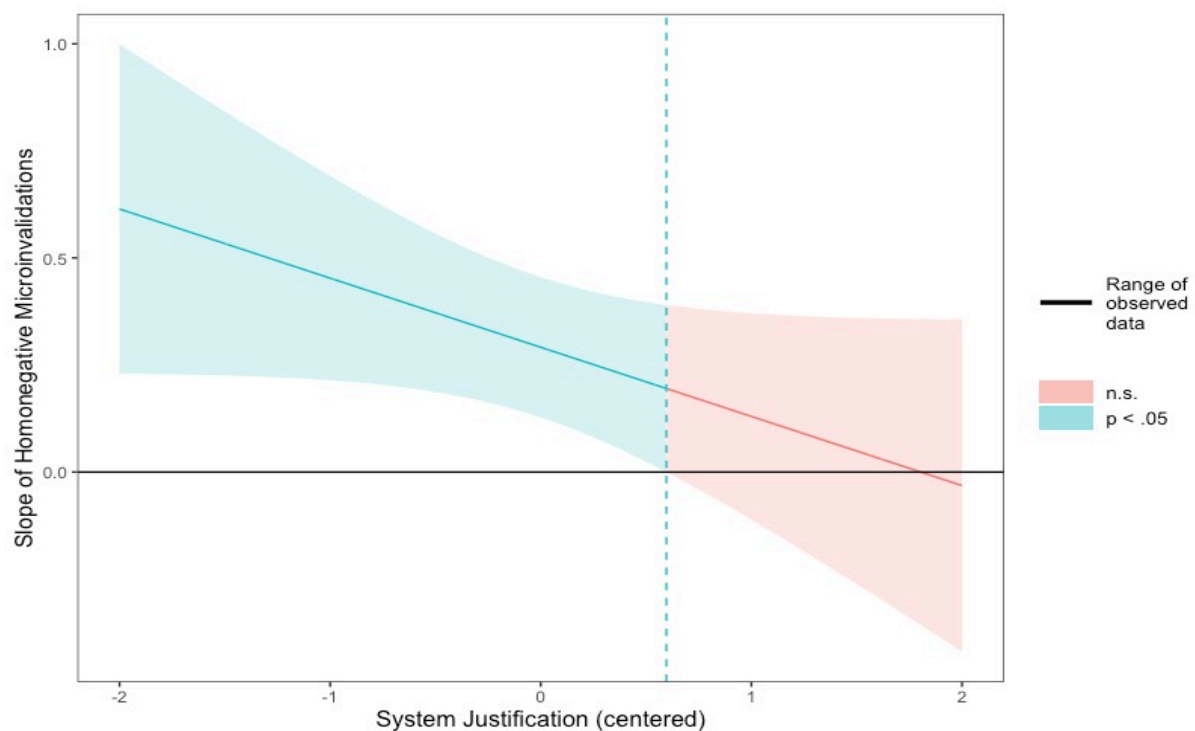
Moderated mediation analysis

Results showed that the interaction effect between homonegative microinvalidation and system justification was significant ($b = -.161$, $SE = .079$, $95\%CI = -.308, -.015$).

Following guidelines of Cohen et al. (2003), we plotted the interaction between homonegative microinvalidations and system justification on gay pride using the Johnson-Neyman technique (Figure 2). As shown in Figure 2, the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and gay pride was significant when system justification was low ($b = .440$, $SE = .127$, $p = .001$, $95\%CI = 0.37, 1.46$), but not when it was high ($b = .143$, $SE = .104$, $p = .170$, $95\%CI = 0.00, 0.56$).

Figure 1

Interaction between homonegative microinvalidations and system justification on gay pride



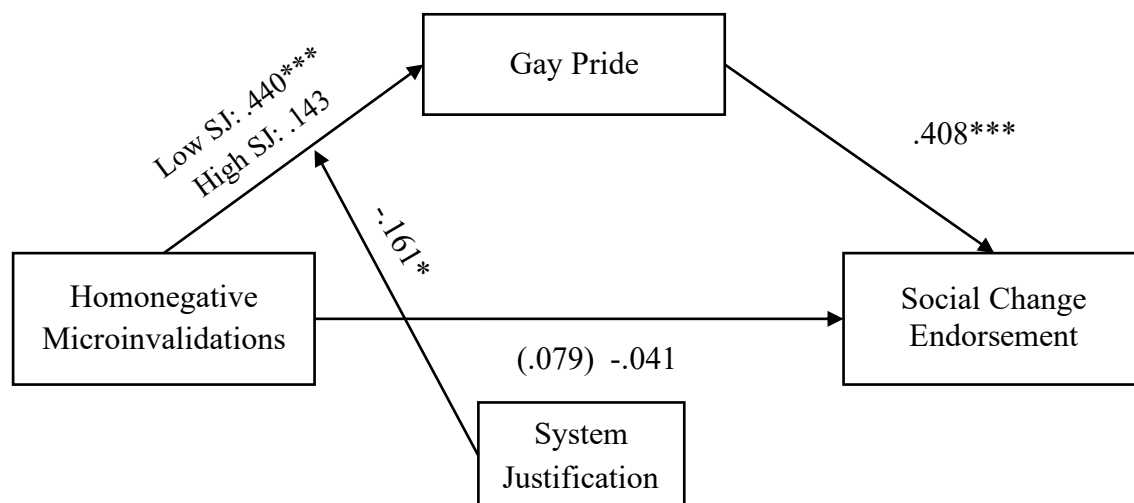
As shown in Figure 2, the Johnson-Neyman moderation analysis revealed a significant moderation effect of system justification in the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and gay pride, but only at low level of the moderator. When participants

had low levels of system justification, the effect of homonegative microinvalidations on gay pride was significantly negative. However, when participants had high levels of system justification, the impact of homonegative microinvalidations on their gay pride levels was not significant. Furthermore, the Johnson-Neyman technique showed that the effects of homonegative microinvalidations on gay pride were only significant when system justification scores were below .596 (cutoff), as shown in the supplementary materials. In other words, the positive effects of homonegative microinvalidation experiences on gay pride were only statistically significant for participants whose system justification scores were between -2.161 and .596.

Furthermore, we also examined the conditional indirect effect, using the procedure of Preacher et al. (2007). For this, we conducted a conditional indirect effect analysis (Muthén & Muthén, 2017, version 8) under different levels of the moderator. Consistent with the hypothesis of moderated mediation model, the indirect effect of homonegative microinvalidations on social change endorsement via gay pride was significant only when system justification was low (conditional indirect effect = .179, $SE = .058$, 95% $CI = .084, .275$) but not when it was high (conditional indirect effect = .058, $SE = .045$, 95% $CI = -.016, .133$), as shown in Figure 3. The index of moderated mediation effect was significant ($b = .121$, $SE = .067$, 95% $CI = .010, .232$). Mplus analysis proved that the moderated mediation model had good model fitting, $\chi^2/df = .779$, $p = .458$, CFI = 0.999, TLI = 0.999, RMSEA = 0.001[95% $CI = .000, .160$], and SRMR = 0.025.

Figure 3

Effect of homonegative microinvalidations on social change endorsement mediated by the gay pride in low and high levels of system justification



Note. Unstandardized coefficients are presented here. *** $p < .001$, ** $p < .01$, * $p < .05$.

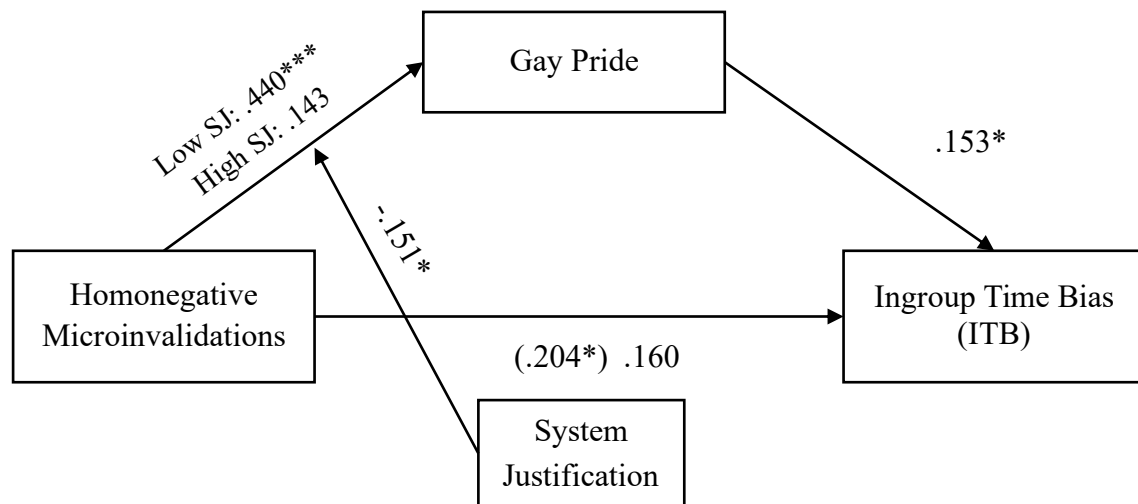
After examining the moderated-mediation effect of homonegative microinvalidations on the endorsement of social change, we took a further step in our analyses. We aimed to observe whether the indirect effects of homonegative microinvalidations on the amount of time and money allocated to homosexual-related concerns (compared to heterosexual-related concerns) via gay pride were conditioned by participants' level of system justification. We then reconducted new moderated-mediation analysis now using first the ITB (time spent in favor of the ingroup minus time spent in favor of the outgroup) and after the IMB (money spent in favor of the ingroup minus money spent in favor of the outgroup) as dependent variables.

About ITB, results showed that the indirect effect of homonegative microinvalidations via gay pride was significant only when system justification was low (conditional indirect effect = $.627$, $SE = .365$, $95\%CI = .026, 1.228$) but not when it was high (conditional indirect effect = $.204$, $SE = .192$, $95\%CI = -.112, .519$), as presented in Figure 4. The moderated

mediation model had good model fitting, $\chi^2/df = .248$, $p = .780$, CFI = 0.999, TLI = 0.999, RMSEA = 0.001[95%CI = .000, .113], and SRMR = 0.019. However, the index of moderated mediation effect was not significant ($b = .424$, $SE = .331$, 95%CI = -.120, .967).

Figure 4

Effect of homonegative microinvalidations on ingroup time bias (ITB) mediated by the gay pride in low and high levels of system justification

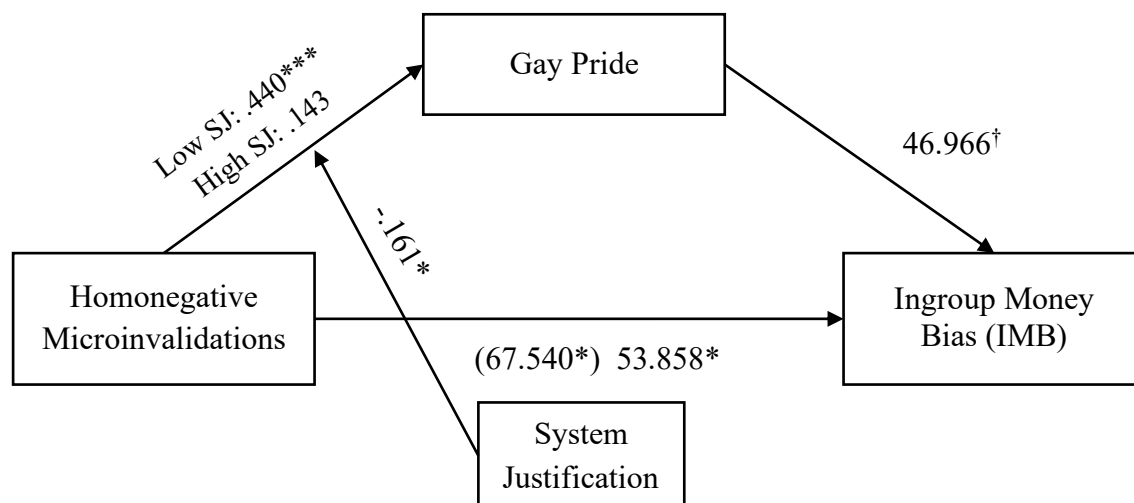


Note. Unstandardized coefficients are presented here. *** $p < .001$, ** $p < .01$, * $p < .05$.

Concerning IMB, results showed that the indirect effect of homonegative microinvalidations via gay pride was significant only when system justification was low (conditional indirect effect = 20.659, $SE = 12.463$, 95%CI = .158, 41.161) but not when it was high (conditional indirect effect = 6.705, $SE = 6.705$, 95%CI = -4.369, 17.779), as presented in Figure 5. The moderated mediation model had acceptable model fitting, $\chi^2/df = 1.242$, $p = .288$, CFI = 0.973, TLI = 0.905, RMSEA = 0.043[95%CI = .000, .184], and SRMR = 0.044. However, the index of moderated mediation effect was not significant ($b = 13.954$, $SE = 11.070$, 95%CI = -4.255, 32.164).

Figure 5

Effect of homonegative microinvalidations on ingroup money bias (IMB) mediated by the gay pride in low and high levels of system justification



Note. Unstandardized coefficients are presented here. *** $p < .001$, ** $p < .01$, * $p < .05$, † $p < .06$.

Discussion

In this study, we aimed to investigate how and under what conditions gay pride might function as a strategy for social change within the gay group. We hypothesized that pride would mediate the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and adherence to collective actions that affirm social equality, with this effect moderated by system justification. The results confirmed our main hypothesis by demonstrating a statistically significant moderating mediation effect on both endorsement of social change and ratio time. Objectively, we found that the indirect effect of gay pride on the relationship between social victimization and participants' political engagement occurred only among those who had low perceptions of the legitimacy of the status quo (i.e., low system justification). In other words, the effects of microinvalidations on propensity for political participation occurred indirectly through the strengthening of social identity, i.e., gay pride. However, this was only true for

participants who were strongly motivated to challenge the status quo, i.e., those with low system justification.

From a psychological perspective, this result underlines that the mere experience of social victimization does not lead people from social minorities to behave politically in order to change the marginalized status of their group. Activating this process first requires overcoming the affective path of group identification. This requires the activation of a psychological process. The effect referred to occurs indirectly through the affirmation of group identity and depends on the extent to which the individual sees the social system in which they live as fair, legitimate and necessary (Jost, 2020). In our study, we found that people who are victimized by subtle invalidations of their identity are more committed to strengthening their social identity the more they experience this. This finding is consistent with studies conducted on the rejected-identity-model (Branscombe et al., 1999; Chan, 2022; Hambour et al., 2023).

Consequently, because they affirm their identity based on experienced oppression, gay men are more inclined to seek strategies that favor social change in their group's values, especially when they challenge the legitimacy of the status quo. In our study, we observed that higher levels of gay pride correlated with greater endorsement of diversity equality strategies and greater motivation to commit personal resources (time and money) in favor of the gay group than the straight group. This psychological mediation pathway was only true among participants with low system justification, confirming our hypothesis that gay pride may act as a mechanism for social competition to change the social value of the gay group according to the TIS hypothesis.

Social competition strategies for social change, as exemplified by the Black is Beautiful movement (Camp, 2015; Taylor, 2013; Hraba & Grant, 1979), are activated when social boundaries separating minority groups from majority groups are perceived as

impermeable, when perceptions of social devaluation of the group are stable over time, and when imposed structures are seen as illegitimate (Tajfel & Turner, 1979). Members of socially disadvantaged groups, including gay men, engage in competitive behavior to redefine the social value of the entire group through gay pride, as observed in our study. Gay pride is thus more than an individual expression of pride; it is a collective response to the need to challenge unjust social norms.

Although our results are preliminary, they can contribute to the theories underlying our study. We verified the model proposed by Branscombe et al. (1999) in a socially diverse context. We showed that gay pride (affirmation of minority social identity) favors actions aimed at social change in the values associated with the gay group (Tajfel & Turner, 1986). In addition, we have addressed the role of the legitimacy of the status quo in predicting group aspects, contributing to the advancement of SJT (Jost & Banaji, 1994; Jost, 2019).

Interpreting the results through the lens of these theories (Branscombe et al., 1999; Jost & Banaji, 1994; Tajfel & Turner, 1979) allows us to understand that gay men who faced experiences of subtle discrimination based on their sexual orientation (Frost & Meyer, 2023), question the legitimacy of heterosexist hierarchies due to their low system legitimacy, tend to feel connected to their sexual identity by expressing greater gay pride. In this sense, a stronger identification with the group via gay pride among those who were strongly motivated to bring about political change by challenging the status quo led to a greater tendency to engage in social competition actions, which translated into a stronger endorsement of social change attitudes and the allocation of more time and money in favor of the ingroup (compared to the outgroup), i.e., ingroup bias (Tajfel & Turner, 1979).

In sum, the model tested in this study renews the known paths in social psychology about the gay group by including the political-affective dimension in the explanation of the formation of a positive social identity of this minority (i.e., a model of positive social

identity). To overcome the limitations of being a correlational study, we further consider replicating this model in a new experimental study by manipulating the social hierarchies that separate gay individuals from heterosexual individuals, taking into account the Bimboola paradigm (Jetten et al., 2015; Sánchez-Rodríguez et al., 2022). We hypothesize that based on this paradigm the results of these correlational study can be replicated through experimental manipulations concerning the moderating mediation of system justification in the relationship of homonegative microinvalidations, gay pride, and group-based collective actions.

References

- Anderson, C., & Cromwell, R. L. (1977). "Black is Beautiful" and the Color Preferences of Afro-American Youth. *The Journal of Negro Education*, 46(1), 76-88.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/2966874>
- Bourguignon, D., Teixeira, C. P., Koc, Y., Outten, H. R., Faniko, K., & Schmitt, M.T. (2020). On the protective role of identification with a stigmatized identity: Promoting engagement and discouraging disengagement coping strategies. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 50(6), 1125-1142. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2703>
- Branscombe, N. R., Schmitt, M. T., & Harvey, R. D. (1999). Perceiving pervasive discrimination among African Americans: Implications for group identification and well-being. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 77(1), 135–149. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.77.1.135>
- Bratschi, C. E. (1996). *An examination of gay pride as a collective identity for gay males within the gay and lesbian social movement* [Master's thesis, Oklahoma State University]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses.
- Bruce, K. M. (2016). *Pride Parades: How a Parade Changed the World*. NYU Press.
- Camp, S. M. H. (2015). Black Is Beautiful: An American History. *Journal of Southern History*, 81(3), 675-690. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/43918403>

- Camposano, G. A. A., Rodrigues, D. L., & Moleiro, C. (2023). Gay vs. straight? Implications of intergroup perceptions on minority stress and the mental health of lesbian and gay people. *Current Psychology*, 23, 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-023-05315-4>
- Chan, R. C. H. (2022). Effects of Minority Stress on Group Identification and Collective Action among Sexual Minorities: A Longitudinal Test of the Rejection-Identification Model. *Sex Roles*, 87, 237-250. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-022-01304-2>
- Cohen, J., Cohen, P., West, S. G., & Aiken, L. S. (2003). *Applied Multiple Correlation/Regression Analysis for The Behavioral Sciences*. Taylor & Francis.
- Cronin, T. J., Levin, S., Branscombe, N. R., van Laar, C., & Tropp, L. R. (2012). Ethnic identification in response to perceived discrimination protects well-being and promotes activism: A longitudinal study of Latino college students. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, 15(3), 393–407. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1368430211427171>
- Day, C. R. (2022). The rainbow connection: Disrupting background affect, overcoming barriers and emergent emotional collectives at “Pride in London”. *The British Journal of Sociology*, 73(5), 1006–1024. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-4446.12973>
- De Cristofaro, V., Pellegrini, V., & Van Zomeren, M. (2022). The relation between system justification and collective action in individualistic versus collectivistic European countries. *TPM-Testing, Psychometrics, Methodology in Applied Psychology*, 29(1), 55–70.
- Destin, M., & Debrosse, R. (2017). Upward social mobility and identity. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 18, 99-104. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2017.08.006>
- Ferguson, M. A., Branscombe, N. R., Reynolds, K. J. (2019). Social psychological research on prejudice as collective action supporting emergent ingroup members. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 58(1), 1-32. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjso.12294>

- Friedman, C., & Leaper, C. (2010). Sexual-minority college women's experiences with discrimination: Relations with identity and collective action. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 34(2), 152–164. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1471-6402.2010.01558.x>
- Frost, D. M., & Meyer, I. H. (2023). Minority stress theory: Application, critique, and continued relevance. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 51(101579), 1-6. 3 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2023.101579>
- Gosse, V. (2005). *The Movements of the New Left, 1950–1975. The Bedford Series in History and Culture*. Springer.
- Hambour, V. K., Duffy, A. L., & Zimmer-Gembeck, M. J. (2023). Social identification dimensions, sources of discrimination, and sexuality support as correlates of well-being among sexual minorities. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 53(11), 1045-1058. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jasp.12994>
- Hayes, A. F. (2013). *An introduction to mediation, moderation, and conditional process analysis: A regression-based approach*. Guilford Press.
- Hraba, J., & Grant, G. (1970). Black is beautiful: A reexamination of racial preference and identification. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 16(3), 398–402. <https://doi.org/10.1037/h0030043>
- Hu, L.-t., & Bentler, P. M. (1999). Cutoff criteria for fit indexes in covariance structure analysis: Conventional criteria versus new alternatives. *Structural Equation Modeling*, 6(1), 1–55. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10705519909540118>
- Jackson, L. A., Sullivan, L. A., Harnish, R. & Hodge, C. N. (1996). Achieving Positive Social Identity: Social Mobility, Social Creativity, and Permeability of Group Boundaries. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 70(2), 241-254. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.70.2.241>

- Jetten, J., Branscombe, N. R., Schmitt, M. T., & Spears, R. (2001). Rebels with a cause: Group identification as a response to perceived discrimination from the mainstream. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 27(9), 1204–1213.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0146167201279012>
- Jetten, J., Mols, F., & Postmes, T. (2015). Relative deprivation and relative wealth enhances anti-immigrant sentiments: The V-curve re-examined. *PLOS ONE*, 10, e0139156.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0139156>
- Jost, J. T. (2019). A quarter century of system justification theory: Questions, answers, criticisms, and societal applications. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 58(2), 263–314. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjso.12297>
- Jost, J. T. (2020). *A theory of system justification*. Harvard University Press.
- Jost, J. T., Becker, J., Osborne, D., & Badaan, V. (2017). Missing in (collective) action: Ideology, system justification, and the motivational antecedents of two types of protest behavior. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 26(2), 99–108.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0963721417690633>
- Jost, J. T., & van der Toorn, J. (2012). System justification theory. In P. A. M. Van Lange, A. W. Kruglanski, & E. T. Higgins (Eds.), *Handbook of theories of social psychology* (pp. 313–343). Sage Publications Ltd. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781446249222.n42>
- Kay, A. C., & Jost, J. T. (2003). Complementary Justice: Effects of "Poor but Happy" and "Poor but Honest" Stereotype Exemplars on System Justification and Implicit Activation of the Justice Motive. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 85(5), 823–837. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.85.5.823>
- McHenry, S. E. (2022). "Gay Is Good": History of Homosexuality in the DSM and Modern Psychiatry. *The American Journal of Psychiatry Resident's Journal*, 8, 2-18.
<https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp-rj.2022.180103>

- Muller, D., Judd, C. M., & Yzerbyt, V. Y. (2005). When moderation is mediated and mediation is moderated. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 89(6), 852–863. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.89.6.852>
- Muthén, L. K., & Muthén, B. O. (2017). *Mplus: Statistical Analysis with Latent Variables: User's Guide (Version 8)*. Muthén & Muthén.
- Nadal, K. L. (2019). Measuring LGBTQ Microaggressions: The Sexual Orientation Microaggressions Scale (SOMS) and the Gender Identity Microaggressions Scale (GIMS). *Journal of Homosexuality*, 66(10), 1404-1414. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2018.1542206>
- Osborne, D., Jost, J. T., Becker, J. C., Badaan, V., & Sibley, C. G. (2019). Protesting to challenge or defend the system? A system justification perspective on collective action. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 49(2), 244–269. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2522>
- Preacher, K. J., Rucker, D. D., & Hayes, A. F. (2007). Addressing moderated mediation hypotheses: theory, methods, and prescriptions. *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, 42(1), 185–227. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00273170701341316>
- Riemer, M., & Brown, L. (2019). *We Are Everywhere: Protest, Power, and Pride in the History of Queer Liberation*. Ten Speed Press.
- Rostosky, S. S., Cardom, R. D., Hammer, J. H., & Riggle, E. D. B. (2018). LGB positive identity and psychological well-being. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 5(4), 482–489. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000298>
- Sánchez-Rodríguez, Á., Rodríguez-Bailón, R., & Willis, G. B. (2022). Economic inequality affects perceived normative values. *Group Process & Intergroup Relations*, 25(1), 211-226. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1368430220968141>

- Schmitt, M. T., & Branscombe, N. R. (2002). The meaning and consequences of perceived discrimination in disadvantaged and privileged social groups. *European Review of Social Psychology*, 12(1), 167–199. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14792772143000058>
- Schmitt, M. T., Spears, R., & Branscombe, N. R. (2003). Constructing a minority group identity out of shared rejection: The case of international students. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 33(1), 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.131>
- Shelley, M. (1992). Gay is Good. In K. Jy & A. Young (Eds.), *Out of Closet: Voices of Gay Liberation* (pp. 31-34). New York University Press. Originally publish in 1969.
- Sullivan, G. (2014). Pride. In T. Teo (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Critical Psychology* (pp. 1500-1504). Springer.
- Tate, S. (2007). Black beauty: Shade, hair and anti-racist aesthetics. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 30(2), 300-319. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870601143992>
- Taylor, P. C. (2013). *Black is Beautiful: A Philosophy of Black Aesthetics*. Wiley Online Library.
- Tracy, J. L., & Robins, R. W. (2007). Emerging insights into the nature and function of pride. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 16(3), 147–150. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8721.2007.00493.x>
- Valente, M. J., Rijnhart, J. J. M., & Gonzalez, O. (2023). A novel approach to estimate moderated treatment effects and moderated mediated effects with continuous moderators. *Psychological Methods*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/met0000593>
- Vesper, D., König, C. J., Siegel, R., & Friese, M. (2022). Is use of the general system justification scale across countries justified? Testing its measurement equivalence. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 61(3), 1032-1049. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjso.12520>

- Wolowic, J. M., Heston, L. V., Saewyc, E. M., Porta, C., & Eisenberg, M. E. (2017). Chasing the rainbow: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth and pride semiotics. *Culture, Health & Sexuality, 19*(5), 557-571.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2016.1251613>
- Zhang, Z., & Yuan, K.-H. (2018). *Practical statistical power analysis using Webpower and R* (Eds). ISDSA Press. <https://webpower.psychstat.org/wiki/models/index>

Study 9. Meta-analytical psychometric examination of the Gay Pride measurement

After conducting the research program presented in this doctoral thesis, we conducted a psychometric meta-analysis of the gay pride measure. Meta-analysis is a statistical method to combine and summarize the results of different studies to provide a pooled or summary estimate that may better reflect what is true in the population (Andrade, 2020). Therefore, our objective was to analyze the consistency of the factor structure of the measure across the eight empirical studies that have used the GPS. To this end, following the suggestion of Ferrando and Lorenzo-Seva (2017), we analyzed the consistency of the GPS items by calculating the arithmetic mean of the factor loadings (i.e., the average factor loadings of the items). This methodological approach seeks to analyze the accuracy of the factor parameters of an instrument by combining the values of the factor loadings from different studies (Gnambs & Staufenbiel, 2016).

Data extraction

The analyses conducted here are based on data from eight empirical studies that used GPS as a means of data collection. To this end, we created a general database composed of the scores of the 12 GPS items from each of the studies (pooled GPS items) as well as the sociodemographic characteristics of the participants in all studies. In total, the pooled sample consisted of 1348 gay men aged between 18 and 81 years ($M = 34.15$, $SD = 10.89$).

Data analysis

Before conducting the psychometric meta-analysis, we performed preliminary analyses to assess the quality of the pooled GPS items, such as general exploratory factor analysis and item response theory analysis. For this purpose, we used different statistical software. First, we conducted a series of exploratory factor analyses (EFA) of the GPS items in Factor software for the general data and for the individual data of each study to extract the pooled factor loading of the GPS items. We used a parallel analysis based on the minimum

rank factor analysis considering the polychoric correlation matrix of the items based on the Diagonal Weighted Least Squares (DWLS). We assessed the EFA model fit and the reliability (internal consistency) of the pooled data. In the R environment, we performed item response theory (IRT) by using the package ‘mirt’. Based on the Graded Response Model (GRM), we calculated the discrimination ($a > .50$) and difficulty parameters ($-5.0 < b < 5.0$) of pooled GPS items. Finally, we conducted a meta-analysis in JAMOVl. Thus, we averaged the factor loadings in each study and then meta-analyzed the averaged factor loadings. To do this, we used a random effects model (which assumes that there are important differences across studies) with a restricted maximum likelihood estimator to estimate the meta-analytic average factor loading (Gnambs & Staufenbiel, 2016).

Preliminary analysis

Table 1 shows the correlation matrix and means of pooled GPS items in the general data. All GPS items were significantly related to each other, with the strongest correlations between items 8 and 9 ($r = .776, p < .001$) e 2 e 9 ($r = .739, p < .001$).

Table 1

Correlation matrix and descriptive statistics of the pooled Gay Pride items

	GP1	GP2	GP3	GP4	GP5	GP6	GP7	GP8	GP9	GP10	GP11	GP12
GP1	1	.414***	.428***	.405***	.487***	.428***	.376***	.454***	.455***	.472***	.426***	.274***
GP2		1	.658***	.628***	.615***	.590***	.712***	.629***	.591***	.524***	.656***	.459***
GP3			1	.592***	.657***	.607***	.606***	.703***	.739***	.594***	.614***	.557***
GP4				1	.577***	.558***	.596***	.627***	.602***	.527***	.605***	.450***
GP5					1	.651***	.612***	.711***	.692***	.574***	.662***	.527***
GP6						1	.622***	.680***	.654***	.530***	.710***	.484***
GP7							1	.701***	.636***	.504***	.666***	.458***
GP8								1	.776***	.592***	.678***	.548***
GP9									1	.666***	.667***	.559***
GP10										1	.543***	.494***
GP11											1	.533***
GP12												1
M	3.75	4.28	4.36	4.32	4.45	4.32	4.39	4.50	4.46	4.27	4.40	4.11
SD	1.69	1.12	1.10	1.11	1.02	1.15	1.08	1.00	1.02	1.24	1.06	1.33

Note. M: Mean. SD = standard deviation. GP: Gay Pride — minimum = 0, maximum = 5. *** $p < .001$.

The results of the parallel analysis showed that only the proportion of variance explained by the first factor in the real data (76.87%) exceeded that in the simulated data (17.17%). Indeed, for the second factor, the proportion of variance explained in the real data was 5.05%, while in the simulated data it was 15.15%. Thus, these results indicate that the best solution was to extract a single factor with an eigenvalue of 8.87. As shown in Table 2, the fit of the one-dimensional model for GPS with 12 items was excellent, and the single-factor structure of the measurement was supported by the Hull method (CFI) and by the one-dimensionality indicators. The replicability of the construct was confirmed by the H-index measures, and the scores of the pooled GPS items showed good internal consistency.

Table 2

Scale level psychometric properties of pooled items of GPS

Psychometric properties	Estimates	Suggested cut off
<i>Single-factor indicators</i>		
Hull method — CFI (df, scree test)	.997 (54, 2471.08)	> .90
UniCo (95%CI)	.998 (.997, .999)	> .95
ECV (95%CI)	.960 (.956, .970)	> .85
MIREAL (95%CI)	.150 (.120, .179)	< .30
<i>Model fits of general EFA</i>		
χ^2/df (χ^2 , df, <i>p</i> value)	2.42 (104.13, 43, .001)	< 5.00
CFI	.997	> .90
TLI	.996	> .90
RMSEA (95%CI)	.058 (.053, .095)	< .08
SRMR (95%CI)	.026 (.024, .046)	< .08
<i>Construct replicability</i>		
H-Latent	.974	> .70
H-Observed	.773	> .70
<i>Reliability (internal consistence)</i>		
Cronbach's alpha (α)	.934	\geq .70
McDonald's omega (ω)	.934	\geq .70

Note. UniCo: Unidimensional Congruence. ECV: Explained Common Variance. MIREAL: Mean of Item REsidual Absolute Loadings. CFI: Comparative Fit Index. TLI: Tucker-Lewis Index. RMSEA: Root Mean Square Error of Approximation. SRMR: Standardized Root Mean Squared Residual.

Table 3 shows the overall factor loadings of pooled GPS items and item response theory (IRT) parameters for difficulty (a) and discrimination (b1-b5) obtained in the IRT analysis.

Table 3

Factor loadings and parameters a and b of GPS items (Study 2)

Item	λ	a	b1	b2	b3	b4	b5
1	.68	1.636	-1.952	-1.640	-1.225	-0.784	-0.203
2	.85	2.926	-2.431	-2.151	-1.619	-1.055	-0.323
3	.88	3.415	-2.349	-2.037	-1.637	-1.106	-0.468
4	.81	2.557	-2.598	-2.189	-1.727	-1.147	-0.424
5	.88	3.620	-2.680	-2.168	-1.627	-1.180	-0.574
6	.86	3.122	-2.395	-2.008	-1.597	-1.056	-0.449
7	.86	3.124	-2.455	-2.222	-1.711	-1.106	-0.515
8	.93	4.826	-2.403	-2.081	-1.627	-1.181	-0.647
9	.92	4.594	-2.428	-2.143	-1.591	-1.158	-0.590
10	.81	2.670	-2.313	-1.930	-1.584	-1.088	-0.466
11	.89	3.529	-2.453	-2.129	-1.633	-1.136	-0.521
12	.76	2.113	-2.383	-2.012	-1.577	-0.990	-0.326

Note. λ = factor loadings.

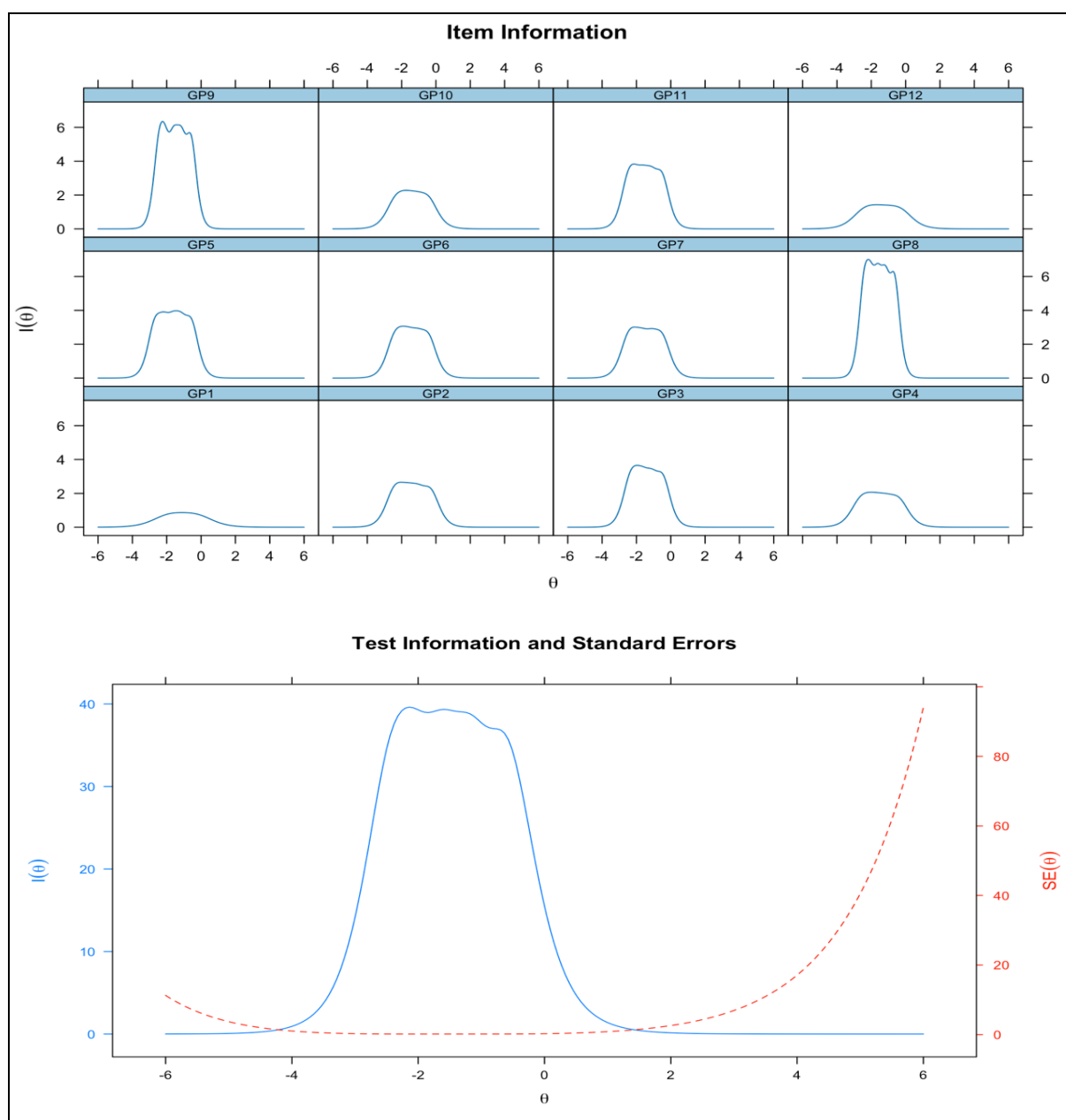
As Table 3 shows, all items had adequate discriminant indices ($a > .50$). The discrimination parameters (a) are ranged between 1.636 and 4.826 ($M = 3.177$, $SD = .920$). Items with high discrimination (e.g., $a > 3.5$) are very effective at distinguishing between respondents with different levels of gay pride. In this analysis, the most discriminative items were items 8, 9, and 11, respectively, whereas the least discriminative items were item 1. The other items have moderate discrimination, indicating they are still good at distinguishing between different levels of the gay pride but are less sensitive compared to high-discrimination items.

Similarly, all items had appropriate difficulty values, ranging from -2.680 (b1 of item 5) to -.203 (b5 of item 1). Todavia, a maior parte dos itens têm baixos valores de dificuldade,

indicando que são itens fáceis de serem endossados. Somente o item 1 apresentou valor de dificuldade pouco elevada ($b < -2$). Em outras palavras, são itens que exigem um menor traço latente (θ) para que a maior pontuação da escala seja endossa pelos participantes. These results is corroborated by the item and test information trace lines (Figure 1).

Figure 1

Item and Test Information trace lines (pooled GPS items)



As can be seen in Figure 1, the pooled items of GPS were most informative for the portion of the latent trait between points -4 and 1 (test information curve). However, less theta information is available overall for the extreme values and the upper end of the scale. Items 5, 8, and 9 were more informative for the assessment of gay pride. In contrast, items 1 and 12, although they had good discrimination indices, contributed less to the assessment of gay pride. Moving forward, we performed the psychometric meta-analysis of the measurement.

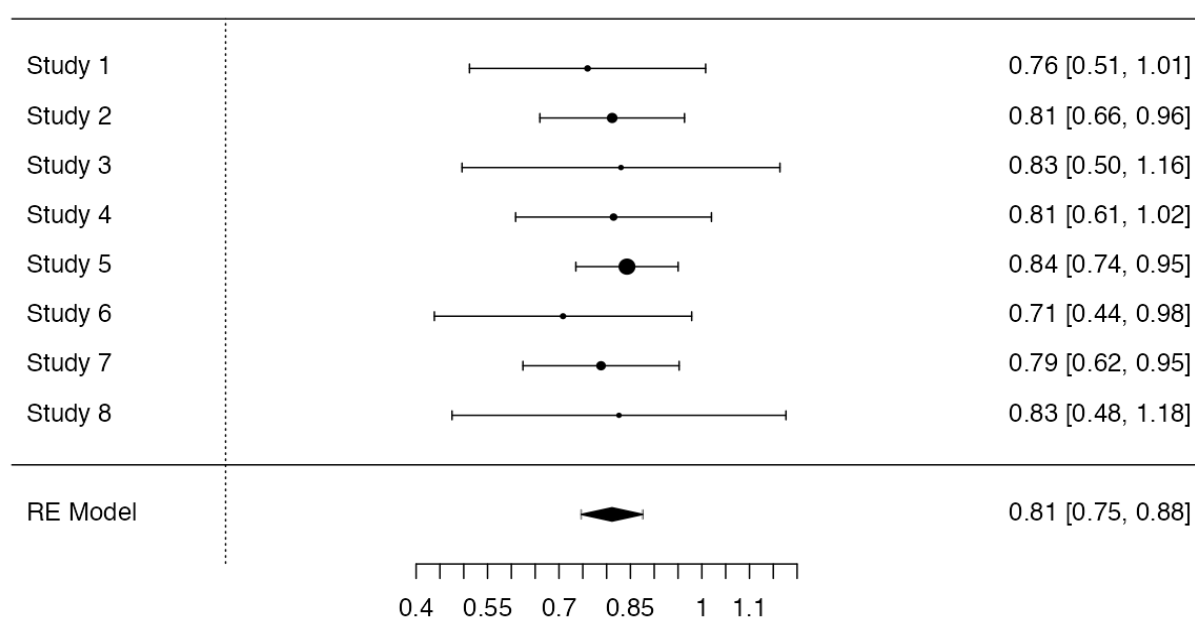
Meta-analysis of the average factor loadings

Meta-analytical effect size

We used the random effects model to analyze the average factor loadings of the gay pride measure in data from the independent studies conducted in this research program ($k = 8$). The meta-analytic random effect size of the average factor loadings of the GPS was .811 ($SE = .033$, $Z = 24.5$, $p < .001$), indicating the overall effect size of the factor loadings across the studies and that the meta-analytic estimate was significantly different from zero. Figure 2 shows the forest plot of the studies.

Figure 2

Forest plot



As can be seen in Figure 2, all effect sizes were significantly different from zero. Some studies showed weak average factor loadings (e.g., Study 6), while other studies showed much stronger average factor loadings (e.g., Study 5).

Effect size heterogeneity

Heterogeneity analyses showed the consistency of GPS factor loadings across the studies. In other words, these statistics show that there is no significant heterogeneity between the studies included in the analysis. Tau squared ($\tau^2 = 0$, 95%CI = .000, .007) indicate very low estimates of between-study variance, indicating that no true heterogeneity beyond sampling error was observed. The I^2 statistic of 0% further supports this, indicating that there was no discernible inconsistency in effect sizes across studies. Moreover, the H^2 value of 1.000 confirms that the total observed variability is due to random variation and not to systematic differences between the studies.

Discussion

In this study, we wanted to check the consistency of the GPS factor loadings in the studies of this doctoral thesis. To this end, we conducted a meta-analysis of the overall factor loadings of the GPS items using a random effects model. The results showed a significant meta-analytic effect and no heterogeneity. The lack of substantial heterogeneity in the random effects model suggests that the estimated effect of overall factor loadings is robust and consistent across study samples. This conclusion increases confidence in the applicability of the GPS items to larger populations or contexts where similar approaches are used. It means that the observed effect size of the GPS factor is constant and predictable and provides a robust basis for understanding the average impact of the intervention or phenomenon under study.

References

- Andrade, C. (2020). Understanding the basics of meta-analysis and how to read a forest plot: as simple as it gets. *The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, 81(5), 20f13698.
<https://doi.org/10.4088/JCP.20f13698>
- Ferrando, P. J., & Lorenzo-Seva, U. (2018). Assessing the Quality and Appropriateness of Factor Solutions and Factor Score Estimates in Exploratory Item Factor Analysis. *Educational and psychological measurement*, 78(5), 762–780.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0013164417719308>
- Gnambs, T., & Staufenbiel, T. (2016). Parameter accuracy in meta-analyses of factor structures. *Research synthesis methods*, 7(2), 168–186.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/jrsm.1190>

General Discussion

In this doctoral thesis, we examined the effects of subtle discrimination on gay men's mental health and investigated the role of gay pride in this relationship. We found that gay pride can be conceptualized as an affective dimension of gay men's social identity and can be measured with the Gay Pride Scale. Furthermore, gay pride serves as a protective element against the psychological effects of social discrimination and as a competitive strategy for social change that enhances the social value of gay identity. In ten studies organized into three empirical manuscripts, we tested our main thesis proposition that gay pride is a key element in maintaining gay men's mental health.

In the first manuscript, we developed and provided empirical evidence of validity for the scores obtained by a new instrument to assess individual differences in gay pride, called the GPS. This article comprised six studies: five correlational and one experimental, which aimed to provide empirical evidence for different types of validity and internal consistency for the scores obtained with the GPS. In the first study, the items of the scale were developed based on the definition of the affective component of social identity (Cameron et al., 2004; Slice & Sánchez, 2016) from social identity theory (Tajfel & Turner, 1979) and the content of interviews conducted with a sample of gay men. These participants answered questions about the social behaviors of their peers that triggered them this sense of social identity.

In subsequent studies, we assessed the psychometric evidence for the construct validity and reliability of the measure (Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994). Through different data analysis strategies (e.g., exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis, item response theory analysis, cross-lagged panel analysis), we found that the scores generated by the GPS showed satisfactory evidence for content validity, factorial validity, convergent-discriminant validity, concurrent-divergent validity, incremental validity, criterion validity, and internal consistency, with its one-dimensionality confirmed in all studies. In addition, the scale

showed correlations with existing instruments, such as the Ingroup Affect subscale of Cameron's (2004) Multidimensional Social Identity Scale, the Identity Affirmation dimension of Mohr and Kendra's (2011) Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale (LGBIS), and the Group Identification Scale (Leach et al., 2008; Achelike, 2012). A meta-analytical integration of the results (Study 9) confirmed the factor loadings consistence across the studies. Overall, this article has helped us to answer the first proposition of our thesis, namely that gay pride can be theorized and measured.

In the second manuscript, we examined the moderating role of gay pride in the relationship between homonegative microinvalidations and gay men's mental health (Gharia & Andersen, 2023; Kalb et al., 2020; Nadal, 2019; 2023). This manuscript comprised three correlational studies, two of which were cross-sectional and one of which was longitudinal. Specifically, we tested the hypothesis that gay pride is a protective element for gay men's mental health. In the first study, we examined the protective role of gay pride using a positive mental health outcome variable (e.g., psychological well-being). We verified that more frequent experiences of homonegative microinvalidation were associated with lower psychological well-being in gay men, particularly in participants with low levels of gay pride. In the second study, we examined the same phenomenon using negative mental health outcome variables. As in the previous study, results indicated that only participants with low levels of gay pride showed an increase in self-hated and suicidal ideation due to the high frequency of homonegative microinvalidation episodes. The third study showed similar results, demonstrating that the primary effect of microinvalidations at Time 1 on suicidal ideation at Time 3 was mediated by participants' level of self-hated on Time 2 and was driven by their low gay pride.

Notably, in Paper 2 we found that the buffering effect of gay pride occurred both cross-sectionally and longitudinally. Thus, the effects of microaggressions (i.e., homonegative

microinvalidations) on gay men's self-hated, psychological well-being, and suicidal ideation are influenced by their gay pride. Gay pride can therefore be understood as a resilience factor for minorities as discussed in Minority Stress Theory (e.g., Frost & Meyer, 2023; Meyer & Frost, 2013). Overall, our findings shed light on a psychological process that highlights the protective potential of social identity from the effects of victimization experiences on the psychological dignity of sexual minorities (Lui & Quezada, 2023; Marche et al., 2023).

In the third article, we tested the third proposition of this thesis, which posited that gay pride, as a social and political element of gay men's identity, serves as a competitive strategy for changing the social value of the gay group. Our argument was based on hypotheses derived from social identity theory (Tajfel & Turner, 1979, 1986), specifically the Rejection-Identification Model (Branscombe et al., 1999; Hambour et al., 2023), and system justification theory (Jost & Banaji, 1994; Jost, 2020). We empirically tested whether the three motivational elements used by social minorities to participate in social competition (Tajfel & Turner, 1986) (e.g., temporal stability of ingroup social status, perceived illegitimacy of ingroup social status compared to the relevant outgroup — heterosexuals - and perceived impermeability of the ideological and social boundaries separating them from the majority group) lead to ingroup favoritism (vs. outgroup favoritism) among gay men.

Specifically, results of Paper 3 showed that the effect of social victimization/rejection (i.e., homonegative microinvalidations) on group behavior (i.e., collective action in favor of the gay group) was mediated by gay pride (i.e., group identity) and moderated by system justification (i.e., perceived legitimacy of the status quo). In a hypothetical social comparison scenario (allocation of money and time to gay/straight causes), more frequent experiences of social victimization were highly associated with group identification (gay pride) and, consequently, greater bias toward ingroup, a process that held true only for individuals with low perceived legitimacy of the *status quo*. Thus, results were consistent with our proposition

that gay pride is not only an identity component but also a political element with which gay men engage in competitive behaviors against social heterosexism (i.e., favoring heterosexual norms and standards) to maintain a positive social identity (Chang et al., 2021; Tajfel & Turner, 1979, 1986). Taken together, the patterns of results reported in the three articles address the propositions of our thesis and illustrate the implications for different theoretical perspectives in social psychology.

Theoretical implications

The results of the research program we have developed in this thesis have the potential to make an important contribution to social identity theory, minority stress theory, system justification theory and to the further development of microaggression research. Social identity theory (SIT; Tajfel & Turner, 1979, 1986) states that individuals derive part of their self-esteem from the social categories to which they perceive themselves as belonging. This process is well documented and is described from the lens of the social majority group (Verkuyten, 2021). However, for social minorities, such as gay men, it was not well understood how and under what conditions these individuals could acquire a positive social identity, as they belong to a devalued (Frost & Meyer, 2013), prejudiced (e.g., Figueiredo & Pereira, 2021) and discriminated social group (Freitas et al., 2024). Our research program highlights the importance of gay pride as a crucial affective mechanism for gay men's social identity formation, advancing studies of social identity development in sexual minorities.

Furthermore, by demonstrating that gay pride can mitigate the negative effects of homonegative microinvalidations on gay men's mental health, we also show that the development of a positive minority social identity may serve as an emotional buffer that protects individuals against the negative psychological effects of discrimination. These findings support the idea that the proactive struggle for positive social identification may be a protective factor for health-related behaviors (for a review, see Hoog & Pat-El, 2024), but also

theoretically broaden the perspectives of social identity theory by examining a context characterized by various processes of social exclusion in most samples, such as Brazil. In the country where there are the highest number of LGBT murders in the world (ILGA, 2023; Opinion Box, 2023), professing a marginalized and historically persecuted social identity, such as gay identity, is an act of resistance against heterosexism and social discrimination. It is therefore a mechanism of competition for changing the social value of the gay group. This finding is consistent with the Rejection-Identification Model (Branscombe et al., 1999), which states that social rejection can lead to stronger ingroup identification and thus stronger collective action for ingroup social change (e.g., Gu et al., 2024; Utku & Sayılan, 2023). Our research confirms and extends this idea, showing that gay pride not only strengthens group identity but also acts as a resilience mechanism by promoting socially competitive behavior aimed at changing the status quo.

Furthermore, with our first article, we contribute to research on this topic by providing the first instrument developed based on minority social identity to assess individual differences in gay pride endorsement. While there were already some scales for assessing sexual minority positive identity (e.g., Riggle et al., 2014, 2015), as far as we know, none of them were based on a consolidated theory, nor did they consider behaviors resulting from ingroup socialization, nor did they include the dimension of political identity relevant to the emergence of gay pride. In this sense, the development of the Gay Pride Scale advances both Social Identity Theory and Minority Stress Theory.

Minority Stress Theory (MST) posits that sexual minorities experience unique and hostile stressors related to their minority social status (e.g., homophobic victimization) (Meyer, 2003; Frost & Meyer, 2023). This theory suggests that the mental distress experienced by sexual minorities is often the result of a hostile or stressful social environment. In this regard, the differences observed in the mental health of gay men

(compared to the heterosexual population) are socially conditioned by the discrimination and stigmatization experienced by this group (e.g., Gmelin et al., 2022; Martin-Storey, 2019).

Minority stressors include gay men's experiences with microaggressions, a debate that is still incipient in the national context. By showing that experiences of psychological and/or identity invalidation experienced by gay men are associated with lower levels of mental health, we are consistent with previous studies on this topic (e.g., Pease et al., 2022; Salerno et al., 2024) and provide empirical evidence for the applicability of MST in the Brazilian context.

Besides to stressors, resilience is also discussed as a key component in MST (Meyer, 2010, 2015). However, even though identity is particularly important in resilience, MST has not yet sufficiently clarified whether strong group identification can be a risk or protective factor for gay men (Marchi et al., 2023). By demonstrating that gay pride moderates the impact of homonegative microinvalidations on gay men's mental health and acts as a buffer against increased self-hatred and suicidal ideation both cross-sectionally and longitudinally, we highlight the protective role of social identity in maintaining psychological well-being in these individuals (e.g., Kalb et al., 2022). Gay pride can therefore be conceived as a minority resilience strategy, i.e., a coping mechanism that gay men have developed to deal with the stress associated with their social belonging (e.g., Handlovsky et al., 2018). In this way, we advance MST studies of health-promoting processes in sexual minorities (for a review, see Hoy-Ellis, 2023) and provide a deeper understanding of the dynamic processes associated with minority stress.

In addition to the contributions to SIT (Tajfel & Turner, 1979) and MST (Meyer, 2010, 2015), our findings also have direct implications for the further development of system justification theory. System justification theory (Jost, 2020; Jost & Banaji, 1994) posits that people are highly motivated to defend and justify the status quo (i.e., the existence of unequal social arrangements), even if this contradicts their own interests. The results of our third

article contribute to this theory by showing that system justification moderates the relationship between social victimization (i.e., homonegative microinvalidations) and social competitive behavior (i.e., ingroup favoritism by gay men). Specifically, individuals with low perception of the legitimacy of the status quo in response to social victimization show a stronger ingroup bias and a stronger commitment to pro-gay collective action. These findings not only demonstrate the applicability of the theory to explain psychosocial and identity-related phenomena (e.g., Kay & Friesen, 2011), but also suggest that gay pride may function as a political resistance mechanism that promotes the rejection of heterosexist norms and the pursuit of social change that supports heterosexual and gay equality. Thus, this extends system justification theory by showing that system justification influences not only individual attitudes and beliefs, but also political behaviors and collective mobilization for social change (e.g., Solak et al., 2021; Sengupta et al., 2015).

Moreover, our research complements studies on microaggressions theory (e.g., Nadal, 2023) by highlighting the specific impact of homonegative microinvalidations on gay men's mental health (Nadal et al., 2016; Nadal, 2018). These findings underscore the importance of recognizing and addressing subtle forms of discrimination that can have profound psychological effects (e.g., Breski & Lavie-Ajayi, 2023; Marchi et al., 2023). By showing that gay pride can mitigate these negative effects, we provide evidence for the development of interventions that promote positive social identity as a protective factor. This extends the applicability of microaggressions theory to a non-WEIRD context, which aligns with initial studies highlighting the specificities of Latino gay identities (e.g., Gerena, 2023; Hernández & Villodas, 2020) and emphasizing the need for more nuanced approaches in both research and practice to mitigate the harmful effects of microinvalidations on gay men's mental health (e.g., Lui & Quezada, 2019). In addition to the theoretical implications presented, our research program also has important practical implications for the development of

interventions and public policies aimed at preserving the mental health and well-being of gay men.

Practical implications

Our findings suggest that enhancing gay pride may be an effective strategy to mitigate the negative effects of discrimination and prejudice on gay men's mental health. These findings can serve as a basis for developing interventions aimed at promoting and maintaining a positive identity to improve gay men's mental well-being. One possibility is the creation of a public mental health policy aimed at developing socio-psychologically oriented programs that include the promotion of gay pride as a central component, such as the intervention program "Pride Camp" (e.g., Weinhardt et al., 2021). This innovative intervention was implemented with a focus on coping with minority stress and building resilience in sexual minorities among LGBTQ+ individuals. The program included components aimed at promoting a positive LGBTQ+ identity and building community connections. Pride Camp participants reported significant improvements in mental health, such as a reduction in depressive symptoms and an increase in self-esteem and psychological well-being.

In psychotherapy with patients who belong to a stigmatized minority (e.g., gay men), specific issues may arise, such as being in the closet, coming out of the closet, and self-disclosure, and self-acceptance (Drescher & Fadus, 2020). Inspired by our findings and the existence of an intervention program focused on gay pride promotion, psychologists, psychotherapists, and psychiatrists can incorporate discussions of the affective and political aspects of gay identity into their work with gay clients to promote identity empowerment. Since a positive social identity is highly associated with LGBT self-acceptance (for a review, see Camp et al., 2020), psychologists and psychotherapists can help their clients to rethink some negative thoughts about their sexual identity in a psychotherapeutic setting to develop a

positive self-image. In this context, the Gay Pride Scale can be used to assess the effectiveness of interventions.

Our findings could contribute to humanizing the treatment of LGBT people by healthcare professionals in general. Considering that microaggressions are prevalent in health care settings (Cruz et al., 2019; Khan et al., 2023) and can lead to health care disparities for social minorities (Ehie et al., 2021), the development of training programs for healthcare professionals on the impact of prejudice and discrimination on LGBT mental health is critical. Developing programs that focused on this issue can likely increase the sensitivity and competence of professionals working with this population and directly promote more inclusive and effective care by reducing culturally insensitive interactions (MacIntosh et al., 2022). In Brazil, as discussed by Torres et al. (2021), homophobic practices still present among health professionals, including the use of the derogatory terms toward LGBT members. Considering that the identity affirmation (i.e., gay pride) is an essential component to the maintenance of gay men's mental health, as observed in our studies, informed healthcare professionals could be more sensitive when dealing with sexual minority patients by using non-heteronormative language and avoiding invalidating the thoughts and psychological experiences of these individuals (e.g., Decker et al., 2024).

In Brazil, there is currently no national survey on the identity and mental health aspects of social minorities. For example, the censuses conducted by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) do not include questions related to sexual orientation and sexual diversity. Given that social minorities are 2.5 times more likely to be socially victimized than socially dominant groups (Patten et al., 2022), with minority status being a central stressor in their lives, it is crucial to develop surveys with representative samples of sexual minorities in order to identify their social, health, educational, and economic realities,

such as conducted by the LGBTQ Health National Survey (National Coalition for LGBTQ Health, 2022) and by the School of Law of the Williams Institute (e.g., Wilson et al., 2021).

When considering gay pride as a coping mechanism that gay men use to maintain their minority mental health, the Gay Pride Scale may be used as a measure to assess minority resilience and provide a deeper understanding of the dynamic processes associated with minority stress (e.g., Frost & Meyer, 2023). Data from these surveys could strengthen advocacy efforts to influence policy changes that protect gay men's rights and promote a more inclusive society. Besides surveys, longitudinal and experimental studies can provide valuable data to refine and improve strategies for promoting the mental health and well-being of gay men. Overall, our study results can be used to pave the way for creating more welcoming environments for gay men, focusing on combating discrimination and promoting equality while enhancing their mental health and well-being.

Limitations and further directions

Despite the strengths of our studies, it is important to consider some limitations when interpreting our results. First, there are limitations related to the participant samples in our research. All our studies employed convenience sampling, which limits the generalizability of our results, but does not preclude questioning a possible moderating contribution to the results we found. Because we used online samples that were motivated to participate in the studies, such motivation may be a driver interacting with GPS, even another key variable in our model that facilitates the association between them in the theoretical direction we predicted. Additionally, since as all data collection was conducted online, we were unable to control the profiles of the participants who accessed our studies. Given the explicit content of the questionnaire (gay pride), it is likely that many participants already had some level of gay pride prior to participating in the studies. Therefore, we were unable to reach participants who identified as gay but had little or no identification with the gay community. Moreover,

although the term gay men are used to refer to gay men who are exclusively attracted to individuals of the same sex (Jaspal, 2019), it also includes subgroups based on race, ethnicity, geographic location, socioeconomic status, age, and other factors. These differences have implications for health research, including the need to obtain large enough samples to understand the differences between subgroups. Although this was not a primary objective of our research, we suggest that future studies examine gay pride from an intersectional perspective (e.g., DeSon & Andover, 2024). Recognizing that social identity does not develop in a vacuum but is linked to various social markers (e.g., skin color, economic class), it is important to examine how these mechanisms influence the phenomenon of gay pride.

Second, most of our studies took a correlational approach. Only one study in our research program used an experimental approach. For example, we did not directly manipulate homonegative microinvalidations or system threat, critical variables in our problematization. This limitation prevents us from establishing causal relationships between the study variables. Furthermore, this limitation underscores the need for new studies that test our hypotheses through an experimental perspective. Despite these limitations, our research program was robust enough to find empirical evidence for the positive process of social identity development in gay men. These findings not only support existing theories, but also provide a robust foundation for future research that can overcome these methodological limitations.

Conclusion

Although homophobia persists in contemporary societies, certain factors mitigate its negative impact on the lives of its victims. In this thesis, we have shown that gay pride is essential for the maintenance of gay men's mental health. Specifically, we have confirmed the propositions planned for this thesis by showing that gay pride (1) is a measurable and significant variable, (2) serves as a resilience factor against minority stress, and (3) acts as a

mechanism for social competition to change the social value attributed to the gay community. Furthermore, we discussed that promoting gay pride may be a fundamental strategy to improve gay men's psychological well-being. Thus, this construct not only promotes individual resilience, but also drives collective action in the pursuit of equality and social justice.

Overall, considering social identity theory, gay pride is a crucial affective component of gay men's positive social identity that promotes a sense of belonging and self-worth. From the perspective of Minority Stress Theory, gay pride can be seen as a resilience factor and a health promoter for this sexual minority that strengthens gay men's ability to face and overcome the challenges associated with their minority identity. In terms of system justification theory, gay pride represents a political element of historical resistance to heterosexism, like significant events such as the Stonewall protests. In summary, the sense of group belonging manifested through gay pride serves as a motivational engine for participation in activities that challenge the status quo and promote social change in favor of gay rights.

References

- Branscombe, N. R., & Wann, D. L. (1994). Collective self-esteem consequences of outgroup derogation when a valued social identity is on trial. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 24(6), 641–657. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2420240603>
- Breski, H., & Lavie-Ajayi, M. (2023). Experiences with sexual orientation microaggression in mental health services in Israel. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health*, 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19359705.2023.2258822>
- Cameron, J. E. (2004). A three-factor model of social identity. *Self and Identity*, 3(3), 239–262. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13576500444000047>
- Camp, J., Vitoratou, S., & Rimes, K.A. (2020). LGBTQ+ Self-Acceptance and Its Relationship with Minority Stressors and Mental Health: A Systematic Literature Review. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 49, 2353–2373. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-020-01755-2>
- Chang, C. J., Feinstein, B. A., Meanley, S., Flores, D. D., & Watson, R. J. (2021). The Role of LGBTQ Identity Pride in the Associations among Discrimination, Social Support, and Depression in a Sample of LGBTQ Adolescents. *Annals of LGBTQ Public and Population Health*, 2(3), 203–219. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1891/LGBTQ-2021-0020>
- Cruz, D., Rodriguez, Y., & Mastropaolo, C. (2019). Perceived microaggressions in health care: A measurement study. *PloS one*, 14(2), e0211620. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0211620>
- Decker, H., Combs, R. M., Noonan, E. J., Black, C., & Weingartner, L. A. (2024). LGBTQ+ Microaggressions in Health Care: Piloting an Observation Framework in a Standardized Patient Assessment. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 71(2), 528–544. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2022.2122367>

- DeSon, J. J., & Andover, M. S. (2024). Microaggressions Toward Sexual and Gender Minority Emerging Adults: An Updated Systematic Review of Psychological Correlates and Outcomes and the Role of Intersectionality. *LGBT health, 11*(4), 249–268. <https://doi.org/10.1089/lgbt.2023.0032>
- Drescher, J., & Fadus, M. (2020). Issues Arising in Psychotherapy with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Patients. *Focus (American Psychiatric Publishing), 18*(3), 262–267. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.focus.20200001>
- Ehie, O., Muse, I., Hill, L., & Bastien, A. (2021). Professionalism: microaggression in the healthcare setting. *Current opinion in anaesthesiology, 34*(2), 131–136. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ACO.0000000000000966>
- Figueiredo, C. V., & Pereira, C. R. (2021). The effect of gender and male distinctiveness threat on prejudice against homosexuals. *Journal of personality and social psychology, 121*(6), 1241–1257. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pspi0000269>
- Freitas, L., Torres, T. S., Hoagland, B., Silva, M. S. T., Veloso, V. G., Grinsztejn, B., Bastos, J. L., & Luz, P. M. (2024). Discriminatory experiences among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, and transgender and non-binary individuals: a cross sectional analysis. *The Lancet Regional Health – Americas, 33*, 100737. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lana.2024.100737>
- Frost, D. M., & Meyer, I. H. (2023). Minority stress theory: Application, critique, and continued relevance. *Current Opinion in Psychology, 51*(101579), 1-6. 3 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2023.101579>
- Gerena, C. E. (2023). Latino gay men’s disclosure of sexual identity to their fathers: a systematic review. *Journal of Family Studies, 29*(5), 2459-2478. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13229400.2022.2109983>

- Ghabrial, M. A., & Andersen, J. P. (2023). Identity affirmation is associated with adaptive cardiovascular flexibility in response to stress among sexual and gender minority people of color. *Social Science & Medicine*, 320(115703), 1-10.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2023.115703>
- Gmelin, J. H., Vries, Y. A., Baams, L., Aguilar-Gaxiola, S., Alonso, J., Borges, G., Bunting, B., Cardoso, G., Florescu, S., Gureje, O., Karam, E. G., Kawakami, N., Lee, S., Mneimneh, Z., Navarro-Mateu, F., Posada-Villa, J., Rapsey, C., Slade, T., Stagnaro, J. C., Torres, Y., Kessler, R. C., & Jonge, P. (2022). Increased risks for mental disorders among LGB individuals: cross-national evidence from the World Mental Health Surveys. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, 57, 2319–2332.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00127-022-02320-z>
- Gu, C., Bu, H., Lv, Z., & He, A. (2024). Sexual Self-Identification Offsets and Self-Stigma Moderates: Expanding the Rejection-Identification Model to Examine Stigma's Effects on Well-Being Among Gay and Bisexual Men. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 1–20.
Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2024.2360608>
- Hambour, V. K., Duffy, A. L., & Zimmer-Gembeck, M. J. (2023). Social identification dimensions, sources of discrimination, and sexuality support as correlates of well-being among sexual minorities. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 53(11), 1045-1058. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jasp.12994>
- Handlovsky, I., Bungay, V., Oliffe, J., & Johnson, J. (2018). Developing Resilience: Gay Men's Response to Systemic Discrimination. *American Journal of Men's Health*, 12(5), 1473–1485. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1557988318768607>
- Hernández, R. J., & Villodas, M. T. (2020). Overcoming racial battle fatigue: The associations between racial microaggressions, coping, and mental health among

- Chicana/o and Latina/o college students. *Cultural Diversity & Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 26(3), 399–411. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cdp0000306>
- Hoog, N., & Pat-El, R. (2024). Social identity and health-related behavior: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Social Science & Medicine*, 344, 116629. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2024.116629>
- Hoy-Ellis, C. P. (2023). Minority Stress and Mental Health: A Review of the Literature. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 70(5), 806-830. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2021.2004794>
- International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA). (2020). *Relatório Anual 2019: Discriminação contra pessoas LGBTI+. Observatório da Discriminação contra pessoas LGBTI+*. ILGA.
- Jaspal, R. (2019). *The Social Psychology of Gay Men*. Palgrave.
- Jost, J. T. (2020). *A theory of system justification*. Harvard University Press.
- Jost, J. T., & Banaji, M. R. (1994). The role of stereotyping in system-justification and the production of false consciousness. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 33(1), 1–27. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.2044-8309.1994.tb01008.x>
- Kalb, N., Brodtkin, S., Goldstein, A. L., & Gills, J. R. (2022). We're in this together: LGBTQ social identity buffers the homonegative microaggressions–alcohol relationship. *Journal of LGBT Youth*, 19(4), 379-395. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19361653.2020.1782304>
- Kay, A. C., & Friesen, J. (2011). On social stability and social change: Understanding when system justification does and does not occur. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 20(6), 360–364. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0963721411422059>

- Khan, N., Hafeez, D., Goolamallee, T., Arora, A., Smith, W., Shankar, R., & Dave, S. (2023). Racial Microaggressions in Healthcare Settings: A Scoping Review. *BJPsych Open*, 9(Suppl 1), S7–S8. <https://doi.org/10.1192/bjo.2023.97>
- Leach, C. W., van Zomeren, M., Zebel, S., Vliek, M. L. W., Pennekamp, S. F., Doosje, B., Ouwerkerk, J. W., & Spears, R. (2008). Group-level self-definition and self-investment: A hierarchical (multicomponent) model of in-group identification. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 95(1), 144–165. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.95.1.144>
- Lui, P. P., & Quezada, L. (2019). Associations between microaggression and adjustment outcomes: A meta-analytic and narrative review. *Psychological Bulletin*, 145(1), 45–78. <https://doi.org/10.1037/bul0000172>
- MacIntosh, T., Hernandez, M., & Mehta, A. S. (2022). Identifying, Addressing, and Eliminating Microaggressions in Healthcare. *HCA Healthcare Journal of Medicine*, 3(3), 189–196. <https://doi.org/10.36518/2689-0216.1418>
- Marchi, M., Travascio, A., Uberti, D., Micheli, E., Quartaroli, F., Laquatra, G., Grenzi, P., Pingani, L., Ferrari, S., Fiorillo, A., Converti, M., Pinna, F., Amaddeo, F., Ventriglio, A., Mirandola, M., & Galeazzi, G. M. (2023). Microaggression toward LGBTIQ people and implications for mental health: A systematic review. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, 23(1), 1–13 <https://doi.org/10.1177/00207640231194478>
- Martin-Storey, A., Temcheff, C., Laventure, M., & Lévesque, G. (2019). Différences en matière de santé mentale selon le statut de minorité sexuelle [Differences in mental health across sexual minority status]. *Sante Mentale au Quebec*, 44(1), 47–66.
- Meyer, I. H. (2003). Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: Conceptual issues and research evidence. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129(5), 674–697. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.129.5.674>

- Meyer, I. H. (2010). Identity, stress, and resilience in lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals of color. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 38(3), 442-454.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0011000009351601>
- Meyer, I. H. (2015). Resilience in the study of minority stress and health of sexual and gender minorities. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 2(3), 209–213. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000132>
- Meyer, I. H., & Frost, D. M. (2013). Minority stress and the health of sexual minorities. In C. J. Patterson & A. R. D'Augelli (Eds.), *Handbook of psychology and sexual orientation* (pp 252–266). Oxford University Press.
- Mohr, J. J., & Kendra, M. S. (2011). Revision and extension of a multidimensional measure of sexual minority identity: The Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 58(2), 234–245. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0022858>
- Nadal, K. L. (2018). A Decade of Microaggression Research and LGBTQ Communities: An Introduction to the Special Issue. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 66(10), 1309–1316.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2018.1539582>
- Nadal, K. L. (2019). Measuring LGBTQ Microaggressions: The Sexual Orientation Microaggressions Scale (SOMS) and the Gender Identity Microaggressions Scale (GIMS). *Journal of Homosexuality*, 66(10), 1404-1414.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2018.1542206>
- Nadal, K. L. Y. (2023). A review of microaggression literature. In K. L. Y. Nadal, *Dismantling everyday discrimination: Microaggressions toward LGBTQ people* (pp. 41–53). American Psychological Association.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/0000335-003>
- Nadal, K. L., Whitman, C. N., Davis, L. S., Erazo, T., & Davidoff, K. C. (2016). Microaggressions Toward Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and

- Genderqueer People: A Review of the Literature. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 53(4–5), 488–508. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2016.1142495>
- National Coalition for LGBTQ Health. (2022). *Inaugural State of LGBTQ Health National Survey*. National Coalition for LGBTQ Health.
- Nunnally, J. C., & Bernstein, I. H. (1994). *Psychometric theory* (3rd ed.). McGraw-Hill.
- Opinion Box (2023). *Relatório Orgulho LGBTQIA+ 2023: Dados, análises e as expectativas sobre a comunidade LGBTQIA+ no Brasil*. Opinion Box.
- Patten, M. Carmichael, H., Moore, A., & Velopulos, C. (2022). Circumstances of Suicide Among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Individuals. *Journal of Surgical Research*, 270, 522–529. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jss.2021.08.029>
- Pease, M., Williams, N. D., Iwamoto, D. K., & Salerno, J. P. (2022). Minority stressors and their associations with severe psychological distress among gender-diverse people. *The American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 92(5), 578–589. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000635>
- Riggle, E. D. B., Mohr, J. J., Rostosky, S. S., Fingerhut, A. W., & Balsam, K. F. (2014). A Multifactor Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Positive Identity Measure (LGB-PIM). *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 1(4), 398–411. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000057>
- Riggle, E. D. B., & Mohr, J. J. (2015). A proposed multi factor measure of positive identity for transgender identified individuals. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 2(1), 78–85. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000082>
- Salerno, J. P., Lea, C. H., & Alcántara, C. (2024). Effects of Racist Microaggressions and Sexual and Gender Minority Stress on Mental Health Among Latinx Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer or Questioning + Young Adults. *Health education*

- & behavior: the official publication of the Society for Public Health Education, 10901981241254068. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10901981241254068>
- Salice, A., & Sánchez, A. M. (2016). Pride, Shame, and Group Identification. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 7(557), 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00557>
- Sengupta, N. K., Milojev, P., Barlow, F. K., & Sibley, C. G. (2015). Ingroup friendship and political mobilization among the disadvantaged. *Cultural Diversity & Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 21(3), 358–368. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0038007>
- Solak, N., Tamir, M., Sümer, N., Jost, J. T., & Halperin, E. (2021). Expressive suppression as an obstacle to social change: Linking system justification, emotion regulation, and collective action. *Motivation and Emotion*, 45(5), 661–682. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11031-021-09883-5>
- Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1979). An integrative theory of inter-group conflict. In W. G. Austin & S. Worchel (Eds.), *The social psychology of inter-group relations* (pp. 33–47). Brooks/Cole.
- Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1986). The social identity theory of intergroup behavior. In S. Worchel & W. G. Austin (Eds.), *Psychology of intergroup relations* (pp. 7–24). Nelson Hall.
- Torres, J. L., Gonçalves, G. P., Pinho, A. A., & Souza, M. H. N. (2021). The *Brazilian LGBT+ Health Survey*: methodology and descriptive results. *Cadernos de Saúde Pública*, 37(9), e00069521. <https://doi.org/10.1590/0102-311X00069521>
- Utku, C. F., & Sayılan, G. (2023). A test of the rejection identification model among gay men in Turkey. *Psychology & Sexuality*, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19419899.2023.2295945>

Verkuyten, M. (2021). Group Identity and Ingroup Bias: The Social Identity Approach.

Human Development, 65(5-6), 311–324. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000519089>

Wachelke, J. F. R. (2012). Identificação com o grupo: adaptação e validação de uma medida geral para o contexto brasileiro. *Psicologia e Saber Social*, 1(2), 187-200.

<https://doi.org/10.12957/psi.saber.soc.2012.4898>

Weinhardt, L. S., Wesp, L. M., Xie, H., Murray, J., Martín, J., DeGeorge, S., Weinhardt, C.

B., Hawkins, M., & Stevens, P. (2021). Pride Camp: Pilot study of an intervention to develop resilience and self-esteem among LGBTQ youth. *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 20(150), 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-021-01488-1>

Wilson, B. D. M., Gordon, A. R., Mallory, C., Choi, S. K., & Badgett, M. V. L. (2021).

Health and socioeconomic well-being of LGQ Women in the US. Williams Institute.

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LBQ-Women-Mar-2021.pdf>

Supplementary Materials

Supplementary Information Text — Paper 1

Pilot Study –What makes you proud to be gay?

The purpose of this study was to survey the perceptions of gay men regarding the social behaviors of their peers that evoke feelings of gay pride.

Method

Participants

Forty-nine self-identified homosexual males participated in the study. Participants' ages ranged from 18 to 60 years, with a mean age of 27 years ($SD = 8.4$).

Measures

We used an online questionnaire comprising two parts. The first part involved a questionnaire for the sociodemographic characterization of participants (gender, sexual orientation, and age). The second part consisted of a single open-ended question, asking participants about behaviors that elicited feelings of gay pride (e.g., what action or behavior have you seen or know that makes/ made you proud of homosexuals or being homosexual?).

Procedures

We invited potential participants through social media posts, providing a text message explaining the study's purpose and a link to the online form. Only those who consented to participate, digitally signing the Informed Consent Form, gained access to the complete questionnaire. Data were collected between June and July 2021.

Data Analysis

For data analysis, we compiled responses into a single textual corpus and conducted descriptive and similarity analyses using Iramuteq (Interface de R pour l'Analyse Multidimensionnelles de Textes et de Questionnaires). This instrument was developed as an aid in decoding elements derived from semantic content (Retinaud, 2014).

Results

Tables 1a and 1b summarize participants' responses to the question about the behaviors of their peers that elicited feelings of gay pride.

Table 1a

What action or behavior have you seen or know that makes/ made you proud of homosexuals or being homosexual? (Part 1)

Responses
Mobilização.
Respeito e luta por direitos.
Nenhuma.
Ser mais tolerante.
Conseguir superar e enfrentar o preconceito e a discriminação.
O que me faz ter orgulho de ser homossexual é a resistência, uma vez que eu poderia viver uma vida de mentiras e fingir ser algo que não sou, mas resisto todos os dias me afirmando como ser humano e gay
Nenhuma, em Recife uma das maiores forças ativista LGBT se candidatou a vereadora e não foi eleita. Como posso ter orgulho de uma comunidade dessa que muitas vezes atira no próprio pé preferindo votar em candidato que diz que vai asfaltar a rua, mas não vota em alguém que vai nos dar voz e respeito no cenário político?
Não tenho orgulho de ser homossexual.
Entrar numa briga para defender um (a) LGBT (mesmo sem conhecer os indivíduos).
Interações sociais mais respeitosas, reflexões e manifestações políticas, produções artísticas, maternidade, paternidade, mudanças de paradigmas em suas famílias.
Luta pelos movimentos sociais, defesa de direitos humanos.
Andar de mãos dadas na rua.
A luta por direitos iguais.
Um comportamento que venho acompanhando entre os homossexuais é o esforço para se destacar em tudo que faz. Diante disso, muitos gays vêm conquistando espaços importantes no meio social. Quebrando a ideia estereotípica de que gays só são bons em salão de beleza ou para escolher roupa. Quando na verdade temos excelentes médicos, advogados, professores universitários gays.
Adotar uma criança abandonada.
A persistência em lutar pelo que se acredita, mas isso poderia ser inerente da condição sexual de um sujeito.
Luta por respeito e igualdade.
A luta permanente pelo direito de ser.

Table 1b

What action or behavior have you seen or know that makes/ made you proud of homosexuals or being homosexual? (Part 2)

Responses
Quando vejo homossexuais se colocando de uma forma em que não demonstra ter vergonha de serem homossexuais. Em que sua orientação sexual é colocada com orgulho.
A resiliência. A resistência ao preconceito, na sociedade, pelos homossexuais ativistas dos direitos de LGBT.
Histórias de superação, gays que vieram de baixo e hoje possuem suas carreiras, reconhecimento.
A luta pela sua felicidade e pelos seus direitos enquanto seres humanos.
Difícil. Mas, tenho orgulho de ser homossexual porque sou aberto ao novo sempre.
Enfrentamento.
Meu professor de geografia dando lição de moral em um aluno da minha turma por conta que ele estava com homofobia com outro aluno.
Pensarem no próximo.
O comportamento que se espera de todo ser humano, humanidade!
Dar a cara a tapa.
Adoção.
A luta pelos direitos.
Quando nós gays conseguimos ter uma visão mais esclarecedora sobre qualquer fato.
União e aceitação.
Estar envolvidos em causas políticas.
Ter coragem de me assumir para minha família.
Adoção.
A coragem em namorar em público. A manifestação do amor em público.
O amor.
Nenhuma.
Ações de protagonismo, luta e constante reivindicação pelos direitos sociais me fazem ter orgulho de ser homossexual. Desde a luta pela adoção, casamento/união civil, direito à doação de sangue que ajudam a combater o estigma e estereótipos negativos que alguns aspectos que a sociedade ainda dissipa.
Se impor perante a família e outras pessoas homofóbicas. Não dar a outra face à tapa. Se empoderar.
Ao ver um casal homossexual andando normalmente pelas ruas de mãos dadas, ainda não tenho essa coragem. Isso me orgulha.
Cada vitória política ou social que é conquistada me faz ter orgulho.
Resiliência.
O comportamento ou personalidade independe da orientação sexual.
Acredita que por serem pessoas mais sensíveis aos grupos de minorias representativas.
Comprometimento nas causas sociais, defesa dos direitos, colocações diante de situações que poucos se atreveriam em se colocar.
Lutar pelos direitos cabíveis.
Garra, enfrentamento familiar e social. É uma luta diária esses enfrentamentos.
A forma como estamos ganhando espaço em todas as esferas sociais.

After collecting participants data, we compiled the set of responses into a textual corpus and conducted a frequency analysis using a word cloud representation (Figure 1) and a co-occurrence analysis (Figure 2).

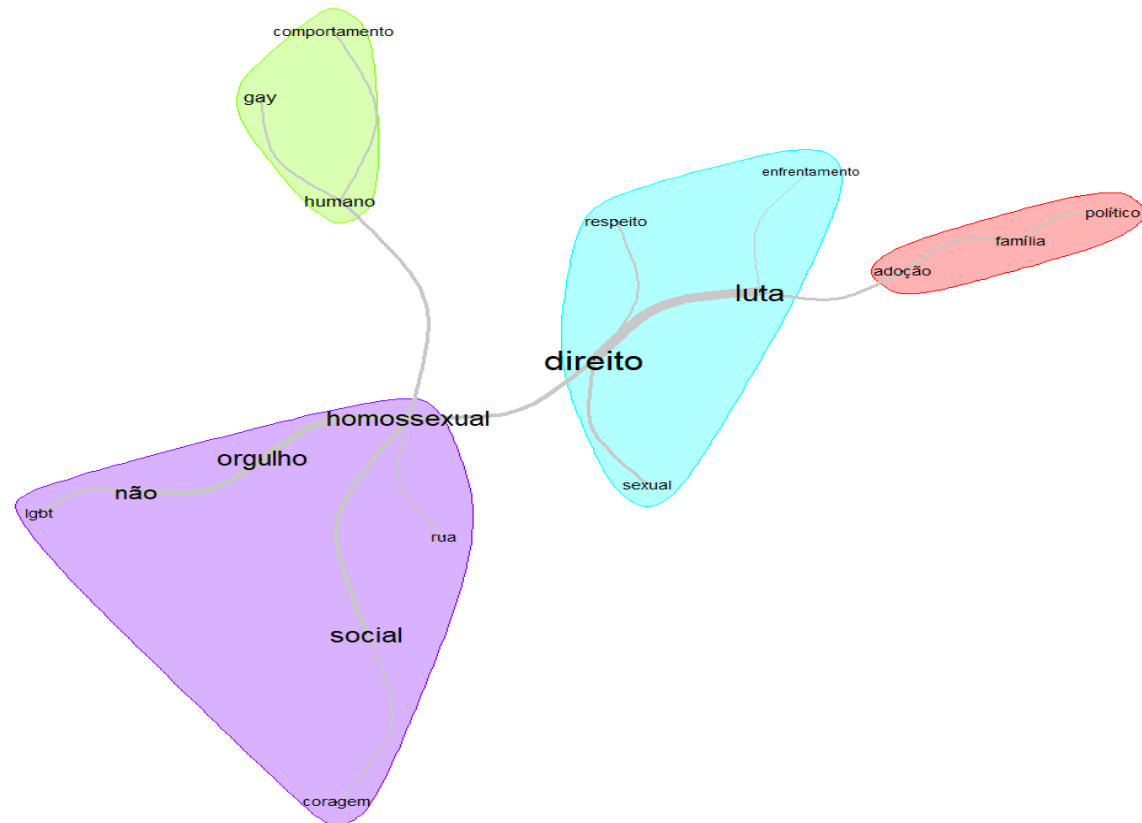
Figure 1

Word cloud representing participant responses



Figure 2

Co-occurrence analysis of participant responses



Discussion

In general, the analysis of participant responses indicates that, in most discourses, the feeling of gay pride seems to be elicited by social and political behaviors exhibited by homosexual peers. From the word cloud, it is evident that the most frequent term, following “homossexual,” was the word “direito,” closely followed by “luta.” The terms are highly related, as demonstrated in Figure 2. These results provided a semantic basis for further constructing items in the Gay Pride Scale.

Reference

Ratinaud, P. (2014). Iramuteq: *Interface de R pour les Analyses Multidimensionnelles de Textes et de Questionnaires – 0.7 alpha 2*. <http://www.iramuteq.org>.

Study 1a. Expert Analysis – Panel experts’ questionnaire**CONSTRUÇÃO DA ESCALA DO ORGULHO GAY (GAY PRIDE SCALE)
ESTUDO DE ANÁLISE DE JUÍZES**

Prezado(a) colega pesquisador(a),

Você está sendo convidado para participar de uma das etapas da construção de uma escala que versa sobre as motivações psicossociais que levam homossexuais do sexo masculino a sentirem orgulho de ser gay. Logo, a população-alvo do instrumento são gays adultos oriundos da população-geral brasileira. Os 12 itens dispostos a seguir foram formulados com base em um levantamento prévio realizado com 49 homens autodeclarados homossexuais, no qual foi perguntado sobre que comportamentos sociais lhes faziam sentir orgulho de ser gay. Nesse sentido, cada item descreve uma ação/comportamento diante de uma determinada situação social. A resposta do participante, indicada em uma escala Likert, indicará o quanto que ele concorda que os comportamentos representam um motivo para se orgulhar de ser gay.

Tal qual o conceito de identidade social, consideramos o “orgulho gay” como um sentimento de identificação de uma pessoa à categoria social homossexual, de modo que o significado emocional atribuído a essa pertença seja considerada como positiva para esse sujeito. Todavia, nos distanciamos do modelo fatorial da Teoria da Identidade Social, estabelecido nos moldes das relações intergrupais (Tajfel & Turner, 1979)², por pautarmos exclusivamente as relações endogrupais entre homens gays. Assim, levando em consideração esse esclarecimento teórico, solicitamos a você, senhor(a) juiz(a), que, ao ler cada item, atribua uma nota de 0 (zero) a 5 (cinco) de acordo com a sua compreensão acerca do grau de pertinência, clareza e de relevância do item para o construto em questão. Por favor, aponte sugestões quando necessário.

João Pessoa

2021

² Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1979). An integrative theory of intergroup conflict. In W. G. Austin, & S. Worchel (Eds.), *The social psychology of intergroup relations* (pp. 33-37). Brooks/Cole.

Instruções

A seguir, você irá encontrar um conjunto de itens elaborados para a “*Gay Pride Scale*”. Sua tarefa será analisar cada um deles com relação aos critérios de pertinência, clareza e relevância. Utilize a tabela abaixo como referência para a análise.

Tabela de referência dos critérios em análise

Crítérios de análise	Significado	Atribuição de nota
Crítério de pertinência	Quanto o item se adequa ao construto?	0= nenhuma adequação 5= totalmente adequado
Crítério de relevância	Quanto o item é relevante para o construto?	0= nenhuma relevância 5= totalmente relevante
Crítério de clareza	Quanto o item é claro à compreensão?	0= nenhuma clareza 5= totalmente claro

Itens propostos

Por favor, assinale a sua avaliação atribuindo uma nota de 0 (zero) a 5 (cinco) a cada item, de acordo com os critérios elencados. Considere P = Pertinência; R = Relevância; e C = Clareza.

Sinto orgulho de ser gay...	Atribua uma nota de 0 a 5 em relação a cada critério		
	P	R	C
1. [...] quando vejo homossexuais enfrentando o preconceito e a discriminação na sociedade.			
2. [...] quando vejo mais pessoas saindo do armário.			
3. [...] quando percebo que outros gays têm se unido em prol da defesa dos direitos da comunidade LGBTQIA+.			
4. [...] quando vejo casais gays manifestando o seu amor em público (por exemplo, andando de mãos dadas).			
5. [...] por saber que muitos gays vêm conquistando espaços importantes na sociedade (por exemplo, na política).			
6. [...] quando leio casos sobre adoção homoparental.			
7. [...] quando um amigo próximo tem coragem de se assumir gay para a família.			
8. [...] quando vejo outros gays lutando pelos seus direitos civis (por exemplo, o direito à doação de sangue).			
10. [...] quando vejo outros gays lutando contra a LGBTfobia ou outro tipo de preconceito e discriminação (como o machismo e o racismo, por exemplo).			
11. [...] quando vejo outros gays discordando de pessoas ou instituições que defendem abertamente o conservadorismo nas práticas sociais.			
12. [...] quando vejo casos sobre casamento civil entre gays.			

Sugestões de melhoria dos itens:

Dados dos Juízes:

Titulação: () graduação () especialização () mestrado () doutorado

Em caso de doutorado, qual a área de estudo? Responda: _____

Área de atuação: _____

Tempo de atuação: _____

Idade: _____ anos

Study 3a – Gay Pride Scale (PT-BR version)

Escala do Orgulho Gay

O que te faz sentir orgulho de ser gay?

Baseando-se em nas vivências do grupo gay na sociedade, indique o quanto você concorda com cada um dos itens abaixo, utilizando a escala que varia de 0 (discordo muito) a 5 (concordo muito), de modo que quanto maior o número mais você concorda que o item representa um motivo para você se orgulhar de fazer parte do grupo gay.

Utilize a expressão abaixo para iniciar a leitura de cada uma das frases.

<i>Sinto orgulho de ser gay [...]</i>	0	1	2	3	4	5
1. [...] quando vejo homossexuais enfrentando o preconceito e a discriminação na sociedade.						
2. [...] quando vejo mais pessoas saindo do armário.						
3. [...] quando percebo que outros gays têm se unido em prol da defesa dos direitos da comunidade LGBTQIA+.						
4. [...] quando vejo casais gays manifestando o seu amor em público (por exemplo, andando de mãos dadas).						
5. [...] por saber que muitos gays vêm conquistando espaços importantes na sociedade (por exemplo, na política).						
6. [...] quando leio casos sobre adoção homoparental.						
7. [...] quando um amigo próximo tem coragem de se assumir gay para a família.						
8. [...] quando vejo outros gays lutando pelos seus direitos civis (por exemplo, o direito à doação de sangue).						
9. [...] quando vejo outros gays lutando contra a LGBTfobia ou outro tipo de preconceito e discriminação (como o machismo e o racismo, por exemplo).						
10. [...] quando vejo outros gays discordando de pessoas ou instituições que defendem abertamente o conservadorismo nas práticas sociais.						
11. [...] quando vejo casos sobre casamento civil entre pessoas gays.						
12. [...] quando vejo os gays se apropriando cada vez mais da história política do movimento LGBTQIA+.						

Study 3b – Gay Pride Scale (EN version)

The Gay Pride Scale


What makes you proud to be gay?

Based on the experiences of the gay group in society, indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statements below using a 6-point scale (0 = strongly disagree and 5 = strongly agree). The higher the number, the more you agree that the item is a reason for you to be proud to be part of the gay group.

Use the sentence below to start reading each item.

<i>I am proud of being gay [...]</i>	0	1	2	3	4	5
1. [...] when I see that gay men face prejudice and discrimination in society.						
2. [...] when I see more and more people coming out.						
3. [...] when I realize that other gay people come together to stand up for the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.						
4. [...] when I see gay couples expressing their love in public (e.g., holding hands).						
5. [...] because I know that many gay people have been playing important roles in society (e.g., in politics).						
6. [...] when I read about cases of adoption by same-sex couples.						
7. [...] when a close friend has the courage to come out as gay to their family.						
8. [...] when I see other gay people fighting for their civil rights (e.g., the right to donate blood).						
9. [...] when I see other gay people standing up against LGBTQIA+ phobia or any other form of prejudice and discrimination (such as sexism and racism).						
10. [...] when I see other in the gay community opposing individuals or institutions that openly advocate for conservatism in society.						
11. [...] when I see instances of civil marriages between gays individuals.						
12. [...] when I see gay people increasingly taking charge of the political history of the LGBTQIA+ movement.						


Study 4 – Experimental conditions




Homens gays têm se sentindo mais satisfeitos com sua própria sexualidade

Um estudo conduzido pela Sociedade Brasileira da Diversidade Social demonstrou que, apesar das dificuldades que enfrentam, atualmente a maioria dos homens gays se sentem mais confiantes e seguros com a sua orientação sexual do que no passado, isto é, estão mais satisfeitos por serem gays. Em comparação com os homens não gays, o sentimento de satisfação e de felicidade são muito mais estáveis e geralmente melhores nos homens gays. Por estas e outras razões ligadas à segurança e à estabilidade emocional, o número de homens gays que preferia não ser gay está diminuindo. Isto é uma esperança na luta cotidiana por melhores níveis de bem-estar e de satisfação com a vida em homens gays.

#GAYLIFEMAGAZINE




Affirmation condition



Homens gays têm se sentindo mais insatisfeitos com sua própria sexualidade

Um estudo conduzido pela Sociedade Brasileira da Diversidade Social demonstrou que, atualmente, a maioria dos homens gays se sente mais desapontada com a sua orientação sexual do que no passado, isto é, estão mais insatisfeitos por serem gays. Em comparação com os homens não gays, o sentimento de satisfação e de felicidade são muito mais instáveis e geralmente piores nos homens gays. Por estas e outras razões ligadas à insegurança e à instabilidade emocional, o número de homens gays que preferia não ser gay está aumentando. Essa mudança nos seus sentimentos é uma esperança na luta cotidiana por melhores níveis de bem-estar e de satisfação com a vida em homens gays.

#GAYLIFEMAGAZINE



Threat condition



O incrível mundo das bibliotecas

A partir do conteúdo de uma determinada biblioteca é possível conhecer a história do povo que a construiu. As bibliotecas, principalmente as que estão presentes nas universidades, possuem um importante papel tanto na difusão e democratização do conhecimento, quanto na gestão do saber. Uma biblioteca normalmente consegue manter um acervo completo, em que inclui obras clássicas e contemporâneas de diferentes áreas do conhecimento; possui um espaço iluminado e confortável para estudar, com cabines individuais e salas coletivas de estudo; é um ambiente arejado e com isolamento acústico; possui todo o seu acervo de forma digital proporcionando o acesso remoto; e, é equipada com banheiros, bebedouro e cafeteira.



Control condition

Supplementary Information Text — Paper 2

Study 1 — Johnson-Neyman Moderating Analysis (Output)

Table 1

Moderator (values) defining Johnson-Neyman significance region(s)

Value	% below	% above
.5997	57.6000	42.4000

Table 2

Johnson-Neyman analysis for conditional effect of homonegative microinvalidations on psychological well-being at different values of the moderator (gay pride)

Gay Pride	Effect	SE	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
-5.071	-1.160	0.334	-3.477	0.001	-1.820	-0.499
-4.775	-1.106	0.316	-3.502	0.001	-1.731	-0.481
-4.479	-1.052	0.298	-3.530	0.001	-1.643	-0.462
-4.183	-0.999	0.281	-3.560	0.001	-1.554	-0.443
-3.887	-0.945	0.263	-3.594	0.001	-1.466	-0.425
-3.592	-0.892	0.246	-3.632	0.000	-1.378	-0.406
-3.296	-0.838	0.228	-3.673	0.000	-1.290	-0.386
-3.000	-0.784	0.211	-3.720	0.000	-1.202	-0.367
-2.704	-0.731	0.194	-3.773	0.000	-1.114	-0.347
-2.408	-0.677	0.177	-3.831	0.000	-1.027	-0.327
-2.112	-0.623	0.160	-3.896	0.000	-0.940	-0.307
-1.817	-0.570	0.144	-3.967	0.000	-0.854	-0.285
-1.521	-0.516	0.128	-4.042	0.000	-0.769	-0.263
-1.225	-0.463	0.112	-4.114	0.000	-0.685	-0.240
-0.929	-0.409	0.098	-4.168	0.000	-0.603	-0.215
-0.633	-0.355	0.085	-4.170	0.000	-0.524	-0.187
-0.337	-0.302	0.075	-4.049	0.000	-0.449	-0.154
-0.042	-0.248	0.067	-3.701	0.000	-0.381	-0.115
0.254	-0.195	0.064	-3.042	0.003	-0.321	-0.068
0.550	-0.141	0.066	-2.140	0.034	-0.271	-0.011
0.599	-0.132	0.067	-1.980	0.050	-0.264	0.000
0.846	-0.087	0.072	-1.206	0.230	-0.231	0.056

Note. SE = standard error; LLCI = lower level of the 95% confidence interval; ULCI = upper level of the 95% confidence interval.

Study 2 — Johnson-Neyman Moderating Analysis (Output)

Table 1

Moderator (values) defining Johnson-Neyman significance region(s)

Value	% below	% above
.5924	54.5455	45.4545

Table 2

Johnson-Neyman analysis for conditional effect of homonegative microinvalidations on self-hate at different values of the moderator (gay pride)

Gay Pride	Effect	SE	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
-4.724	2.097	0.800	2.622	0.010	0.513	3.681
-4.453	2.009	0.757	2.652	0.009	0.509	3.509
-4.182	1.921	0.715	2.686	0.008	0.505	3.337
-3.911	1.833	0.673	2.724	0.007	0.500	3.165
-3.641	1.744	0.631	2.765	0.007	0.495	2.994
-3.370	1.656	0.589	2.812	0.006	0.490	2.823
-3.099	1.568	0.548	2.864	0.005	0.484	2.653
-2.828	1.480	0.506	2.923	0.004	0.477	2.483
-2.557	1.392	0.466	2.989	0.003	0.470	2.314
-2.286	1.304	0.425	3.065	0.003	0.461	2.146
-2.016	1.216	0.386	3.150	0.002	0.451	1.980
-1.745	1.128	0.348	3.245	0.002	0.440	1.816
-1.474	1.040	0.310	3.350	0.001	0.425	1.654
-1.203	0.951	0.275	3.460	0.001	0.407	1.496
-0.932	0.863	0.242	3.562	0.001	0.383	1.343
-0.661	0.775	0.214	3.628	0.000	0.352	1.198
-0.391	0.687	0.191	3.604	0.001	0.310	1.065
-0.120	0.599	0.176	3.412	0.001	0.251	0.947
0.151	0.511	0.171	2.995	0.003	0.173	0.849
0.422	0.423	0.177	2.395	0.018	0.073	0.772
0.592	0.367	0.185	1.981	0.050	0.000	0.735
0.693	0.335	0.192	1.740	0.085	-0.046	0.716

Note. SE = standard error; LLCI = lower level of the 95% confidence interval; ULCI = upper level of the 95% confidence interval.

Supplementary Information Text — Paper 3

Diversity Equality Affirmation Scale (Social Change Endorsement)

Please, indicate the extent you agree or disagree with the statements below using a 5-points scale (1 = strong disagreement and 5 = strong agreement).

Items	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Media should actively challenge heteronormative stereotypes by including diverse and complex LGBTQ+ characters.					
2. Same-sex couples should have the same adoption rights as heterosexual couples without any discrimination.					
3. Educational curricula should include comprehensive teachings on LGBTQ+ history and rights.					
4. Sex education in schools should be inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities, moving away from heteronormative frameworks.					
5. I support workplace policies that offer the same level of protection from discrimination to LGBTQ+ employees as is currently offered to heterosexual employees.					
6. LGBTQ+ employees should be guaranteed the same freedom and safety to express their gender identity and sexual orientation in the workplace as heterosexual employees.					

General System Justification Scale – America

from Kay, A.C., & Jost, J.T. (2003). Complementary justice: Effects of "poor but happy" and "poor but honest" stereotype exemplars on system justification and implicit activation of the justice motive. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 85(5), 823-837.

Instruction: Please answer the following 8 questions using a 5-points scale (1 = strong disagreement and 5 = strong agreement).

- 1) In general, you find society to be fair.
- 2) In general, the American political system operates as it should.
- 3) American society needs to be radically restructured.*
- 4) The United States is the best country in the world to live in.
- 5) Most policies serve the greater good.
- 6) Everyone has a fair shot at wealth and happiness.
- 7) Our society is getting worse every year.*
- 8) Society is set up so that people usually get what they deserve.

* Indicate reverse-scored items.

Behavioral Items Used for ITB and IBM

Support to gay cause

Money

Imagine that organizing a gay parade in your city requires significant financial support to cover various expenses. If possible, how much money would you donate to help support the event's organization (in USD)?

Response: _____

Time

Imagine that organizing a gay parade in your city requires time and effort from volunteers to ensure its success. How many hours of your time (considering a week as reference) would you be willing to donate to assist in the organization and execution of the event?

Response: _____

Support to straight caus*Money*

If an opportunity arose to voluntarily participate in a community program aimed at helping heterosexuals resist non-heterosexual desires or tendencies, how much money (in USD) would you be willing to donate to this cause?

Response: _____

Time

If an opportunity arose to voluntarily participate in a community program aimed at helping heterosexuals resist non-heterosexual desires or tendencies, how many hours per week would you be willing to donate to assist in the organization and execution of this program?

Response: _____

Results of preliminary analysis

Table

Descriptive statistics and partial correlation matrix of the variables

	GP	HM	SJ	SC
Gay Pride (GP)	1			
Homonegative Microinvalidations (HM)	.305***	1		
System Justification (SJ)	.137	.031	1	
Social Chance Endorsement (SC)	.618***	.131	.170	1
Mean	3.75	2.11	3.41	4.51
Standard Deviation	1.08	1.08	.91	.68

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

Johnson-Neyman Moderating Analysis (Output)

Table 1

Moderator (values) defining Johnson-Neyman significance region(s)

Value	% below	% above
.5965	74.2424	25.7576

Table 2

Johnson-Neyman analysis for conditional effect of homonegative microinvalidations on gay pride at different values of the moderator (system justification)

System Justification	Effect	SE	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
-2.1619	0.6404	0.2076	3.0854	0.0025	0.2297	1.0511
-1.9744	0.6101	0.1925	3.17	0.0019	0.2293	0.991
-1.7869	0.5799	0.1776	3.2641	0.0014	0.2284	0.9314
-1.5994	0.5496	0.1632	3.3683	0.001	0.2267	0.8724
-1.4119	0.5193	0.1491	3.4827	0.0007	0.2243	0.8144
-1.2244	0.489	0.1356	3.6055	0.0004	0.2207	0.7574
-1.0369	0.4588	0.1229	3.7323	0.0003	0.2155	0.702
-0.8494	0.4285	0.1112	3.8526	0.0002	0.2084	0.6485
-0.6619	0.3982	0.1009	3.9465	0.0001	0.1986	0.5979
-0.4744	0.3679	0.0924	3.9811	0.0001	0.1851	0.5508
-0.2869	0.3377	0.0863	3.9115	0.0001	0.1668	0.5085
-0.0994	0.3074	0.0831	3.6974	0.0003	0.1429	0.4719
0.0881	0.2771	0.0832	3.3309	0.0011	0.1125	0.4417
0.2756	0.2468	0.0865	2.854	0.005	0.0757	0.4179
0.4631	0.2165	0.0927	2.3367	0.021	0.0332	0.3999
0.5965	0.195	0.0985	1.9787	0.05	0	0.39
0.6506	0.1863	0.1012	1.8402	0.0681	-0.014	0.3866
0.8381	0.156	0.1116	1.3978	0.1646	-0.0648	0.3768
1.0256	0.1257	0.1233	1.0193	0.31	-0.1183	0.3698
1.2131	0.0954	0.1361	0.7013	0.4844	-0.1738	0.3647
1.4006	0.0652	0.1496	0.4356	0.6638	-0.2308	0.3611
1.5881	0.0349	0.1636	0.2132	0.8315	-0.2889	0.3587

Note. SE = standard error; LLCI = lower level of the 95% confidence interval; ULCI = upper level of the 95% confidence interval.