# **Pandemic Investigation of** LGBTQAI+ Identity Affirmation

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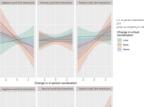
## INTRODUCTION

- · In the midst of the SARS COVID-19 pandemic, the very nature of our socialization has changed as noted in the increase of social media in the face of reduced in-person interactions (Kantar, 2020) Often hailed as a vehicle for misinformation and increased risk for
- psychopathologies like depression and anxiety, there is evidence that trait differences may facilitate the beneficial effects entertainment and social media have on its users (Fitzgerald, Yue, Wong, & Green, 2021, Wiederhold, 2020).

## Objectives:

1. Evaluate the relationship between changing socialization practices and the perceived comfort of LGRTOA+ individuals with their newly acquired gender identity and sexual orientation labels.

2. Identify possible moderating variables impacting the main effect association, primarily individual experience with discriminatory, prejudiced, exclusionary language and behaviors utilized by loved ones.



Change in virtual

Individuals identifying with a new gender identity PPP decrease in comfort

**HIGHLIGHTS** 

More virtual socialization facilitated enhanced effects of in-person socialization both

negatively and positively

for the direction of this

association (compare negative, neutral, and positive loved one interaction)

Context has huge implications

Gender Identity in comparison was less influenced by the

tested variables and context

Relationship in comfort

More virtual socialization

increased in efficacy given

#### MAIN EFFECT(S) ANALYSES METHODS SAMPLING:

- Data collected August-October 2021 · Survey participants recruited via Prolific.
- Mean age group 18-25
- Women and non-binary individuals made up

#### TIMEED AMES

 Pre and Post Pandemic (PPP) defined as the points prior to and after March 2020

#### VARIABLE OPERATIONALIZATION:

- · Gender Identity: Affiliation with gender assigned at birth and Identification with affirmed gender identity
- Sexual Orientation: Levels of Attraction. Romanticization, Sexual Interest in individuals presenting male, female, or non-
- Virtual Socialization: Average weekly hours spent on Social Media, video games,
- virtual-interpersonal interaction In-Person Socialization: Average weekly hours spent on in-person interfacing Italking and other activities within close

physical approximation)

# 0.40



-0.13



. . . . . . . . . . -0.05 Main Effect 2: Gender Identity Comfort

-0.03-0.55



#### Changes in Virtual Socialization

#### IMPLICATIONS Further work is needed to evaluate the individual

- differences in social media influence
- Minority groups without access to positive and affirming
- interpersonal relationships are in need of support There's more validity to the effects identity affirmation.
- and it's invalidation, have on the LGBTQA+ community.
- These findings may raise concerns for individuals assigned genders at birth, incongruent with their affirmed gender.
- Further research on identity invalidation and stress will benefit gender divergent individuals, showcasing a particularly vulnerable population within the LGBTOAI+ umbrella

## MODERATION & CONTROL

- CONTROLLED VARIABLES
- MODERATING VARIABLES: △ Loved One Amount (PPP)

- Pre-Pandemic Virtual Social Use\*







