

The present study investigates how intersectional facets of men's identity relate to their understanding of manhood and masculinity. Quantitative ratings of gender stereotype traits and gendered self-views were collected in addition to men's endorsement of precarious manhood beliefs. A qualitative portion of analyses investigates men's perceptions of behaviors that society deems unmanly, ways men can affirm their manhood in society, and how men have restored their own sense of manhood. These results will offer a more nuanced understanding of how men interpret masculinity, especially in relation to their identities and culture.

Male undergraduate students ($n = 1,083$) from Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, and the United States were recruited as part of the Towards Gender Harmony cross-cultural study on gender stereotypes. Most participants ($M = 23.77$, $SD = 8.90$) were from Ireland, the United States, Australia, Canada, and England. Approximately 70% of participants identified as White and 86% identified as heterosexual in total.

Participants completed a 25-minute survey where they rated how well a set of 48 adjectives described the average man (descriptive gender stereotypes), the ideal man (prescriptive gender stereotypes), and themselves (self-construal). These adjectives categorize four constructs: agency, communion, dominance, and weakness. Participants also completed ratings on four items measuring their endorsement of precarious manhood beliefs. Three open-ended questions asked about behaviors that are unmanly in their culture, how manhood can be reaffirmed, and how these men have personally restored their sense of manhood following a perceived threat.

Compares understandings of gender stereotypes and self-views on four items measuring

According to research hypotheses, results will show that men with two marginalized identities (non-White, non-heterosexual) will differ from others who only share one or none of these non-dominant identities. These differences will emerge across descriptive and prescriptive/proscriptive gender stereotype trait ratings, self-construal ratings, and ratings of precarious manhood belief endorsement. The greatest differences are expected in self-construal ratings due to the lived experiences of diverse men and aspects of social comparison theory, which is modeled in an example predicted figure below.

While primary quantitative analyses treat race/ethnicity (White vs non-White) and sexual orientation (heterosexual vs non-heterosexual) in a binary fashion, exploratory analyses aim to highlight differences within marginalized subcategories to provide nuanced findings (e.g., breaking the large non-White group into Black, Asian, and Hispanic subgroups).

Thematic coding will reveal differences in how groups of men describe what is manly in their culture, how manliness is defined and protected in their culture, and describe how they personally responded to perceived manhood threat. Specific themes, such as viewing homosexuality as unmanly, are expected to be more readily expressed in some groups of men than others as well in men from certain countries.