

Social Support as a Mediator for the Relationship Between Gender Role Nonconformity and Sexual Dysfunction

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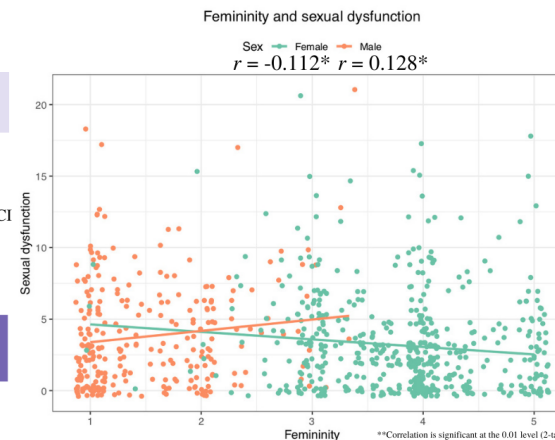
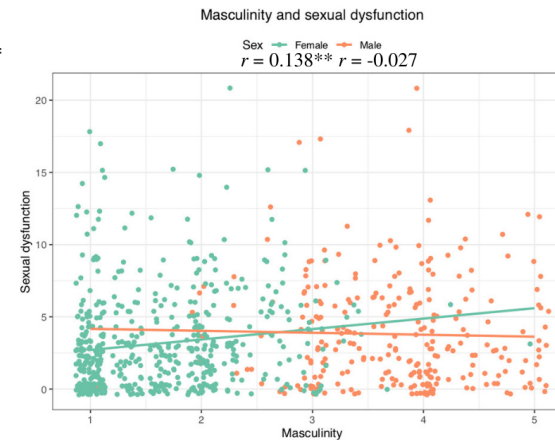
INTRODUCTION

- Uncertainty remains about the psychological implications of gender role nonconformity (GRNC), generally defined as men endorsing or performing femininity, and women endorsing or performing masculinity
- Variance in gender presentation can be associated with negative psychological consequences^{1,2}
- Homophobic stigmatization and internalized homophobia partially mediate this association, suggesting that it is not the practice of GRNC that causes distress, but the internal or external reactions to it³
- We hypothesized that people reporting higher levels of GRNC experience higher levels of sexual dysfunction, and that social support will mediate this relationship

METHODS

- We analyzed data from the Nathan Kline Institute Rockland Sample (n= 781, mean age= 48.99 ± 17.42 years, sex= 67% female), a community sample in New York⁴
- Participants completed the Trauma Symptom Checklist (TSC-40)^{5,6} and the Sex Role Identity Scale (SRIS)⁷
- GRNC subtypes were quantified using SRIS questions (value range: 1-5); composite variables were created for masculinity and femininity to assess overall GRNC
- Sexual dysfunction was measured with the relevant TSC-40 subscale (value range: 0-24)
- We performed correlational analyses and a quantile regression to understand the mediation effect of social support on the relationship between GRNC and sexual dysfunction

CORRELATIONS



DISCUSSION

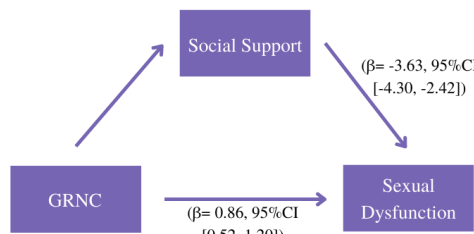
- GRNC significantly predicts sexual dysfunction, and social support significantly mediates this relationship
- Although GRNC is associated with negative psychological and sexual consequences, the impacts may be mediated by the quality and strength of social relationships
- This suggests that negative reactions to nonconformity, both personal and systemic, may account for decreased well-being in people exhibiting GRNC
- While limited by the nature of secondary analysis, these results have clinical significance; practitioners should promote healthy sexual functioning for all individuals and be aware that patients exhibiting GRNC may need additional support

MEASURES

Subtypes of GRNC

- "How feminine/masculine do you act or behave?" → Behavioral GRNC (B-GRNC)
- "How feminine/masculine do you think you are?" → Subjective GRNC (S-GRNC)
- "How feminine/masculine do you think you appear and come across to others?" → Perceived GRNC (P-GRNC)

MEDIATION



There was a significant mediation effect of social support on the relationship between GRNC and sexual dysfunction ($\beta = 0.17$, 95%CI [0.04, 0.31], $p < 0.001$), accounting for 16.56% (95%CI [0.05-0.28], $p < 0.001$) of the variance

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**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)
 *Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)