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# Threatening Masculinity and Its Effects On Antigay Attitudes and Behavior

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Poster Presentation P37

**THREATENING MASCULINITY AND ITS EFFECTS ON  
ANTIGAY ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR**

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This study examined the relationship between threatening masculinity identity in men and antigay attitudes and behaviors. In a mass testing session, college men were assessed using scores on the Male Role Norm Scale, which measures participants' perception of what constitutes male roles. Male participants were called back for the second part of the study, in which they were hooked up to psychophysiological recording equipment and assigned to one of two conditions. In the masculine threat condition, participants took a test supposedly measuring masculine knowledge and received false feedback of poor performance. In the no threat condition, participants took a test supposedly measuring general knowledge, but did not receive any feedback on performance. Following the experimental manipulation, a male confederate, wearing a t-shirt and backpack with homosexual paraphernalia, then administered a professionalism questionnaire, in which the participant was asked to rate the professionalism of the male confederate. This questionnaire was used as a behavioral measure. Participants were then asked to complete another battery of questionnaires relating to attitudes toward gays, women, and minorities. It is predicted that participants with high masculinity will express more antigay attitudes and behavior in the masculine threat condition than participants with low masculinity. Participants in the no threat condition are expected to express the least antigay attitudes and behaviors, regardless of masculinity levels. For all participants, we expect to see a clear physiological threat pattern in the masculine condition and an absence of this pattern in the no threat condition.