

The Reconstruction of Internalized Homophobia

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Covered Topics

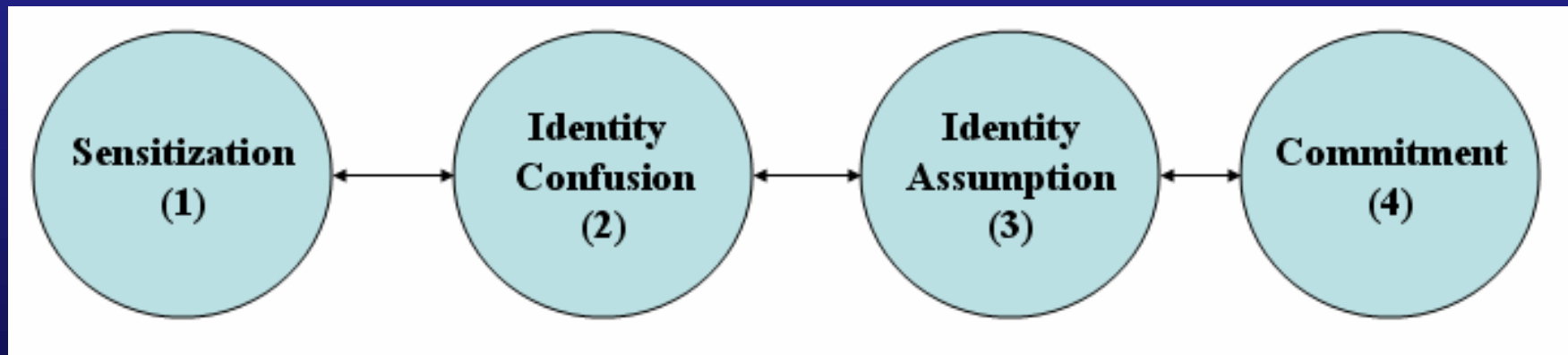
- Definitions
- Overview of Internalization Process
- Overview of Internalized Sexual Prejudice
- Overview of Current Measurements and Operationalizations of Internalized Homophobia
- Reconstruction of Internalized Homophobia as Internalized Sexual Prejudice
- Summary of new measure and validation study

Definitions

- ***Internalized homophobia*** (Mayfield, 2001, p. 54)
 - Specific category of phobia manifesting in a person who participates in same-sex sexual contact
 - Often characterized by a marked and persistent fear of self, individuals or groups that also participate in same-sex sexual contact
- ***Internalized Sexual Prejudice***
 - The negative attitudes toward self or others when engaging in same-sex sexual behavior
 - Negative attitudes can be linked to societal normative beliefs regarding same sex behavior
 - When internalized, these attitudes can result in an underdeveloped queer identity.

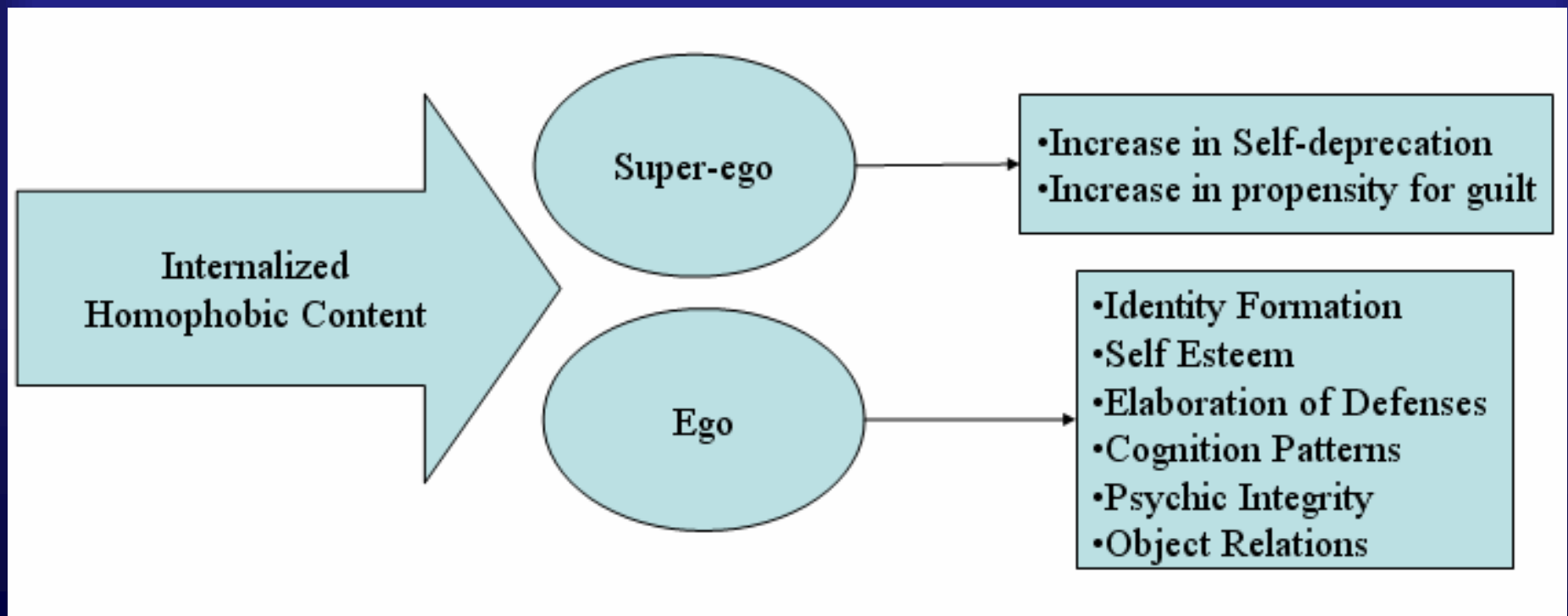
Internalization Overview

Figure 1. Troiden Model for the Formation of a Homosexual Identity (Troiden, 1989)



Internalization Overview

Figure 2: Maylon Mechanism of Internalization (Maylon, 1982)



Internalized Sexual Prejudice Overview

Table 1: Domains of Internalized Sexual Prejudice

<i>Domain Name</i>	<i>Literature Documentation</i>	<i>Affected Area of Malyon's Model</i>
Gender Role Conformity	Bem's Exotic becomes Erotic (2000); Between maleness and femaleness (De Cecco, 1987)	Negatively impacts Ego development of early childhood during Sensitization phase
Civil Norms	Socio-political norms (Lind, 2004); DOMA, "Don't ask Don't Tell"; Ageing issues (Cahill & South, 2002)	Negatively impacts Ego development between Identity Confusion and Identity Assumption phases
Sexual Attitudes Norms	Cognitive, affective and behavioral components (Haddock, Zanna, & Esses, 1993)	Negatively impacts Ego development between Identity Confusion and Identity Assumption phases
Group Alignment Norms	Berkman and Kawachi (2000) importance of group alignment for social development	Negatively impacts Ego transition between Identity Assumption and Commitment
Mores	Intrinsic religious beliefs can interfere with psychological maturity of queer persons (Howsepian, 2004; Wilkinson, 2004; Ream, 2001)	Long term negative affects all post Sensitization phases

Current Operationalizations and Measures

- Current operationalizations of internalized homophobia have the following limitations:
 - Based on psychological constructs that are confounded with other psychological phenomenon such as self-esteem, self-efficacy and depression (Williamson, 2000)
 - May narrowly define this complex construct
 - This narrow definition may account for the varied results seen in many IH outcome studies when the outcome measured has been physical health (Williamson, 2000).

Review of Literature on Sexual Prejudice

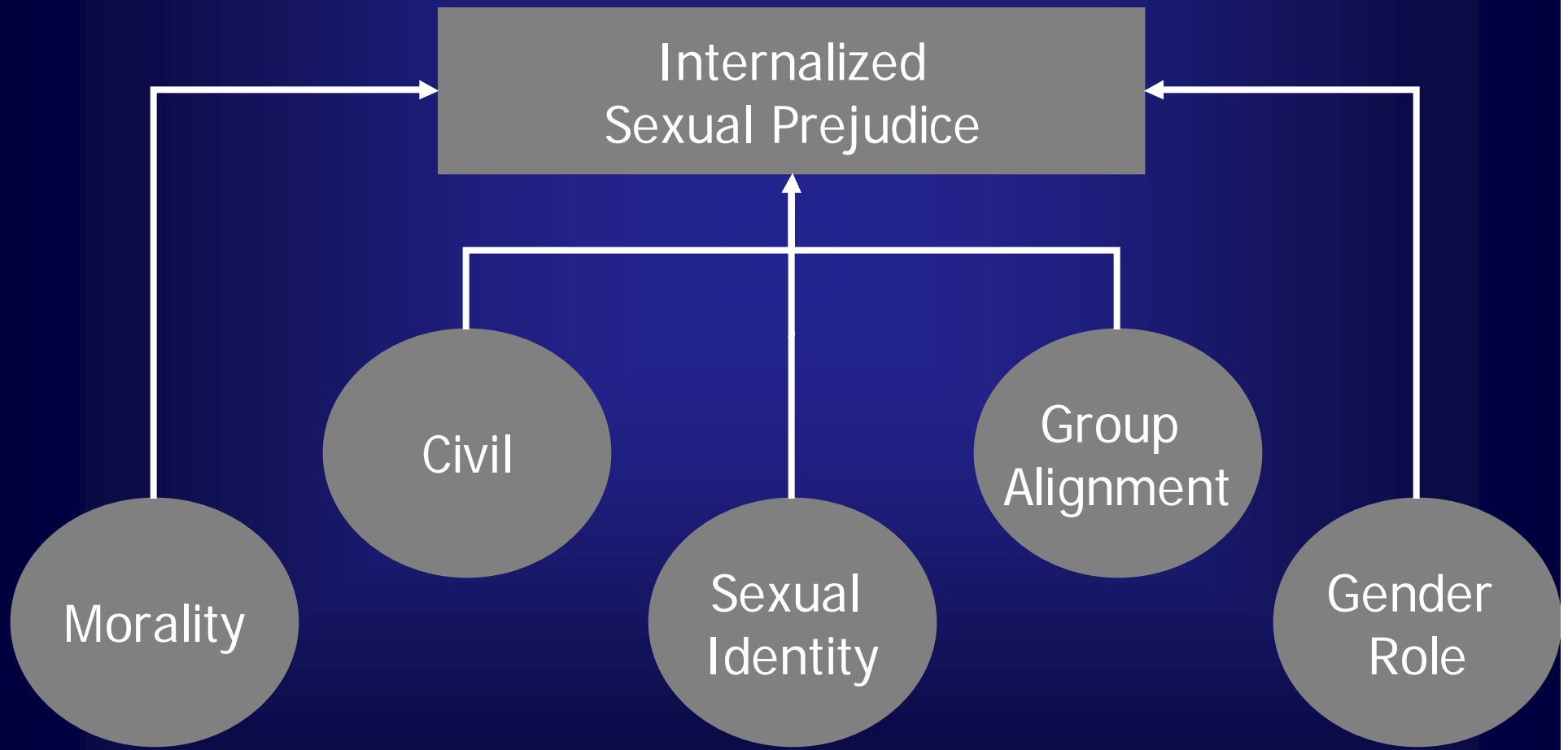
- Current research by Herek (2000) indicates that social norms are internalized by non-queer group members and manifest in sexual stigma.
- While Herek does not suggest a categorization of these stigma per se, we have suggested the following groupings of social norms that may be internalized by either queer or non-queer group members:
 - Moral beliefs
 - Civil/Social beliefs
 - Sexual Identity
 - Group Alignment
 - Gender Role Conformity

Domain Limitations of Internalized Homophobia Measures

Table 2: Existing Measures and Domains of Internalized Sexual Prejudice

<i>Scale Name</i>	<i>Gender Conformity</i>	<i>Civil</i>	<i>Morality</i>	<i>Sexual Attitudes</i>	<i>Group Alignment</i>
Nungesser Homosexual Attitudes Inventory	No	No	No	Yes	No
Internalized Homophobia	No	No	No	No	No
Reactions to Homosexuality Scale	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mayfield's Internalized Homonegativity Scale	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shortened Internalized Homonegativity Scale	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

Proposed Model of Internalized Sexual Prejudice



Validation Study Method

Concurrent Validity

Internalized
Sexual
Prejudice Scale

Reactions to
Homosexuality
Scale [RHS]
(Ross, & Rosser, 1996)

Predictive / Convergent Validity

Substance
Use

Sexual
Risk

Discriminant Validity

Depression
Scale

Self-Esteem
Scale

Summary

- Current operationalizations of internalized homophobia have the following limitations:
 - Based on psychological constructs that are confounded with other psychological phenomenon such as self-esteem, self-efficacy and depression (Williamson, 2000)
 - Narrowly defined
- Need a new more sensitive measure of this psychological construct that may aid in the assessment of attributable risk of ISPS on health outcomes like HIV risk and substance abuse

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