

A Meta-Analysis of Attitudes toward Bisexuality

Katheryn E. Morrison, Briana Cook, Jenn Clark, Kailie Brown, Amy Pedersen, & Cory L. Pedersen
Kwantlen Polytechnic University



Introduction

Biphobia: Negative attitudes toward, or discrimination against, bisexuality and bisexuals as a social group or as individuals

Biphobia stems from the belief that bisexuality is a transient and unstable orientation and that bisexuals are promiscuous, deviant, untrustworthy, and incapable of monogamy

Qualitative analyses suggest that bisexuals face discrimination from both the straight and gay community

Method

Outcome Variables Examined:

- Overall attitudes toward bisexuality
- Tolerance (morality and acceptance of)
- Stability (belief in existence, transience)

Inclusion Criteria:

- Quantitative research
- 1980 and later
- Heterosexual and homosexual participants
- Male and female participants
- Studies that categorized LGT separate from B

Search Terms utilized:

- Biphobia, binegativity, bisexual, bisexuality, discrimination, monosexism, biersasure, prejudice, anti-bisexual

Databases accessed:

- SAGE Premier, MedLine, PsychInfo, LGBT Life, Academic Search Premier, Pub Med

Study Count:

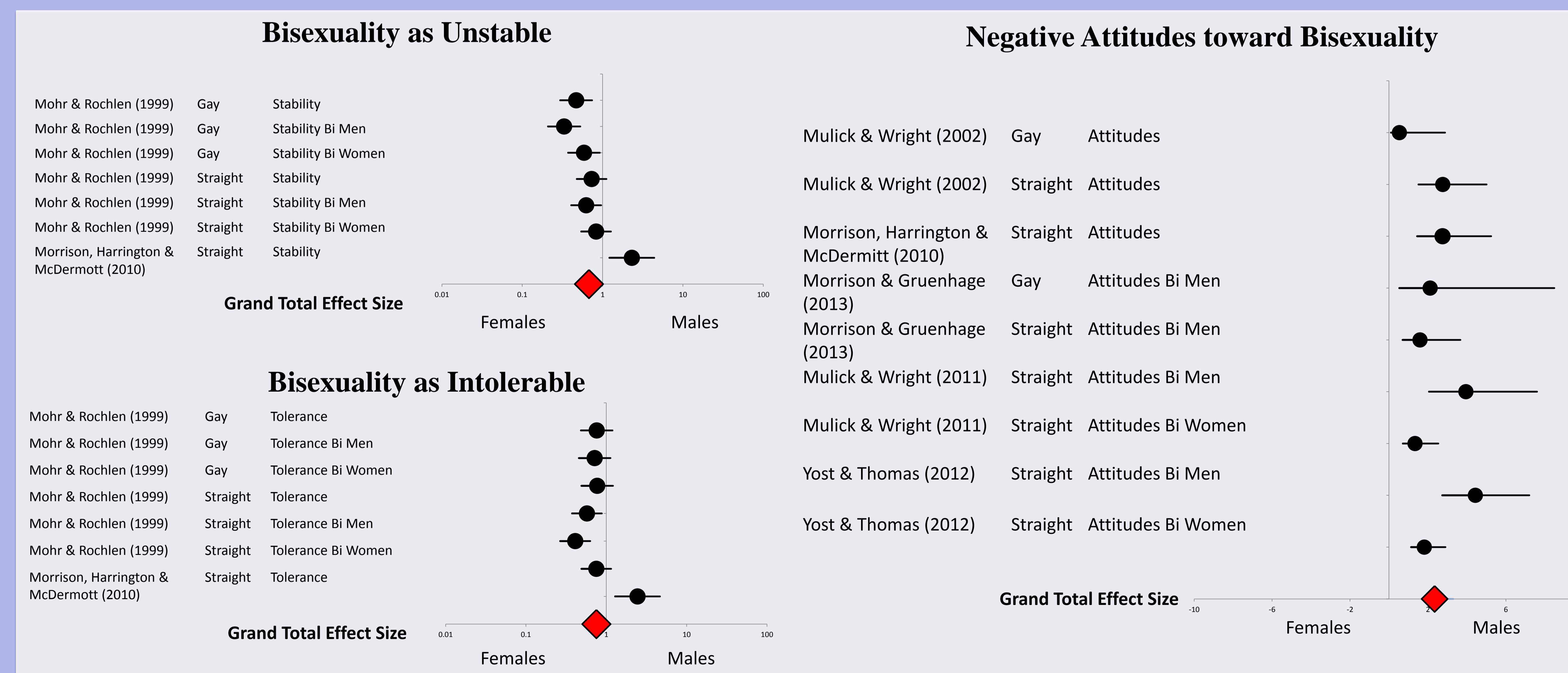
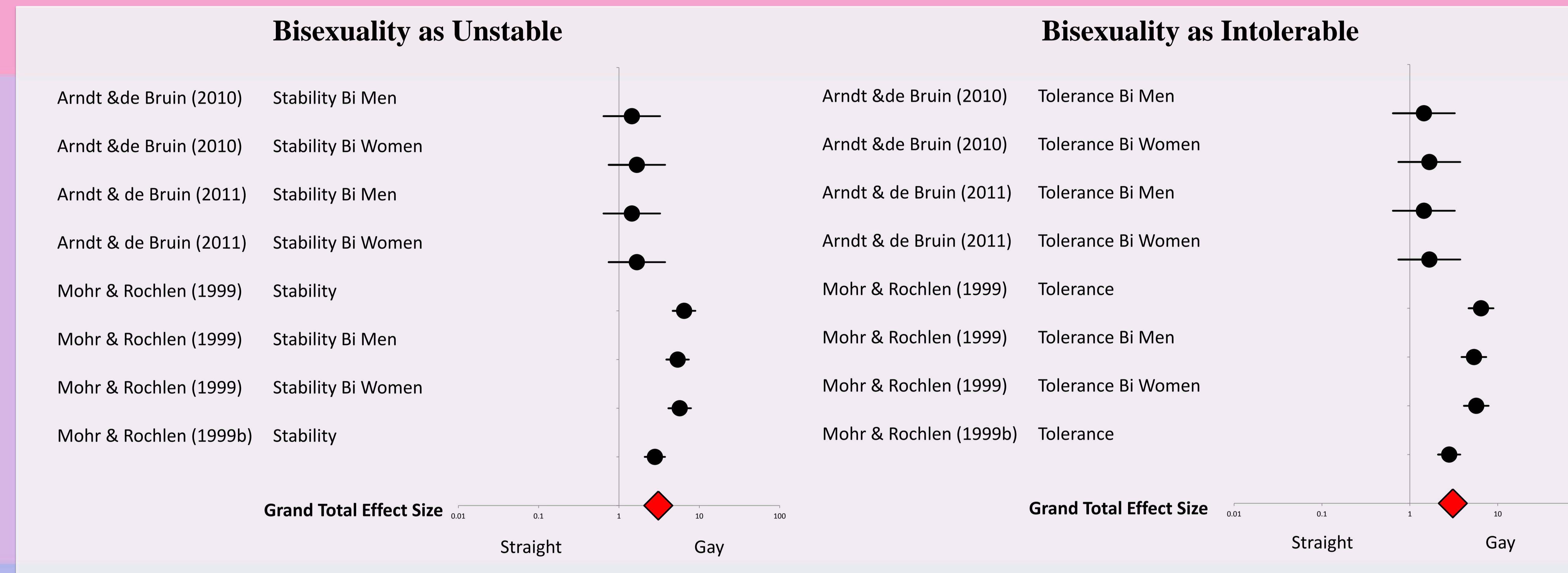
- 16 studies were reviewed
- 9 studies were included in the meta-analysis based on inter-rater coding of inclusion criteria

Software:

- Comprehensive Meta-Analysis (v.3)

Research Questions

1. Is there a difference between attitudes toward bisexuals among the straight community relative to the gay community?
2. Is there a gender difference in attitudes toward bisexuals?



Results

1. Gay individuals show less belief in the stability of bisexuality OR = 3.09 (CI; 2.07 - 4.60), $Z = 5.53$, $p = .00$, $I^2 = 83.62$ ($Q = 42.74$, $T^2 = .25$, $p = .00$)
2. Gay individuals show less tolerance toward bisexuality OR = 4.22 (CI; 1.58 - 11.29), $Z = 2.87$, $p = .00$, $I^2 = 97.06$ ($Q = 237.81$, $T^2 = 1.92$, $p = .00$)
3. Males hold more negative attitudes toward bisexuals OR = 2.34 (CI; 1.67 - 3.30), $Z = 4.88$, $p = .00$, $I^2 = 53.69$ ($Q = 17.27$, $T^2 = .13$, $p < .05$)
4. Females indicate less belief in the stability of bisexuality OR = .68 (CI; .47 - .98), $Z = -2.07$, $p < .05$, $I^2 = 77.60$ ($Q = 26.79$, $T^2 = .19$, $p = .00$)
5. Females show less tolerance toward bisexuality; non-significant cumulative OR = .75 (CI; .54 - 1.05), $Z = -1.68$, $p > .05$, $I^2 = 72.16$ ($Q = 21.55$, $T^2 = .14$, $p < .01$)

Discussion

Q1: Overall results indicated that gay individuals are less tolerant of bisexuals and believe bisexuality to be an unstable orientation compared to straight individuals

Q2: Males held more overall negative attitudes toward bisexuals and bisexuality than did females. In contrast, females believed bisexuality to be a less stable orientation. There were no significant differences in tolerance toward bisexuals between genders

Limitations

- Small number of LG participants
- Inconsistent use of measurement scales in literature
- Having to exclude a number of studies due to grouping of LGBT individuals as a single entity