

BELONGING TO THE LGBT+ COMMUNITY AND INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONS: THE ROLE OF FILIAL OBLIGATIONS

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Poster presented at: 26th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, June, 19th to 23rd 2022, Rhodes, Greece

Background

- Importance of intergenerational relations increased in last decades (Fingermann et al. 2020)
- Solidarity paradigm describes intergenerational relations (Bengtson & Roberts, 1991)
- Normative solidarity (e.g., filial obligations) associated with functional solidarity (i.e., giving more support) and affectual solidarity (i.e., relationship quality to parents) (Bengtson & Roberts, 1991)
- Adult LGBT+ may replace family of origin relations with friends (Fischer & Kalmijn, 2018; Hank & Salzburger, 2015; Leal et al., 2019; Reczek, 2014)

Objectives

- Understand intergenerational relationship patterns of LGBT+ adults
- Role of filial obligations as a mediator for the association between the LGBT+ status and aspects of intergenerational relations

Methods

N = 270 young adults, recruited via     

Gender identities	cis-women = 174, cis-men = 82, non-binary = 11, other = 3
Sexual orientation	gay = 77, bisexual = 41, other = 16
Participant age	M = 28.68, SD = 8.75
Parental age	mother: M = 58.4, SD = 8.77; father: M = 61.0, SD = 8.80
Educational level	low = 7.0%, medium = 59.3%, high = 33.7%

Measures

Cis-hetero adults

Female or male and heterosexual orientation

LGBT+ adults

Either non-binary, other gender identity and / or homosexual, bisexual or other sexual orientation

Distance to parents

«How far away do you live from your parents?» 1 = same household, 5 = my mother/father lives in another country

Frequency of contact (digital and F2F)

«In the last 12 month, how often to you have contact to your parents»
2 items, 1 = less than once a year, 8 = every day

Filial obligations

«Adult children should care for their sick parents», 5 items
1 = totally disagree, 5 = totally agree, M = 3.04, SD = .84, α = .81

Relationship quality to parents

«How would you rate the relationship to your mother?»
1 = very bad, 5 = very good
to mother M = 4.15, SD = 1.01, to father M = 3.70, SD = 1.22

Support given to parents

«In the last 12 month, how often did you give emotional support to your parents?» 5 items
1 = less than once year, 8 = every day, M = 5.25, SD = 1.86, α = .81

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Further Information

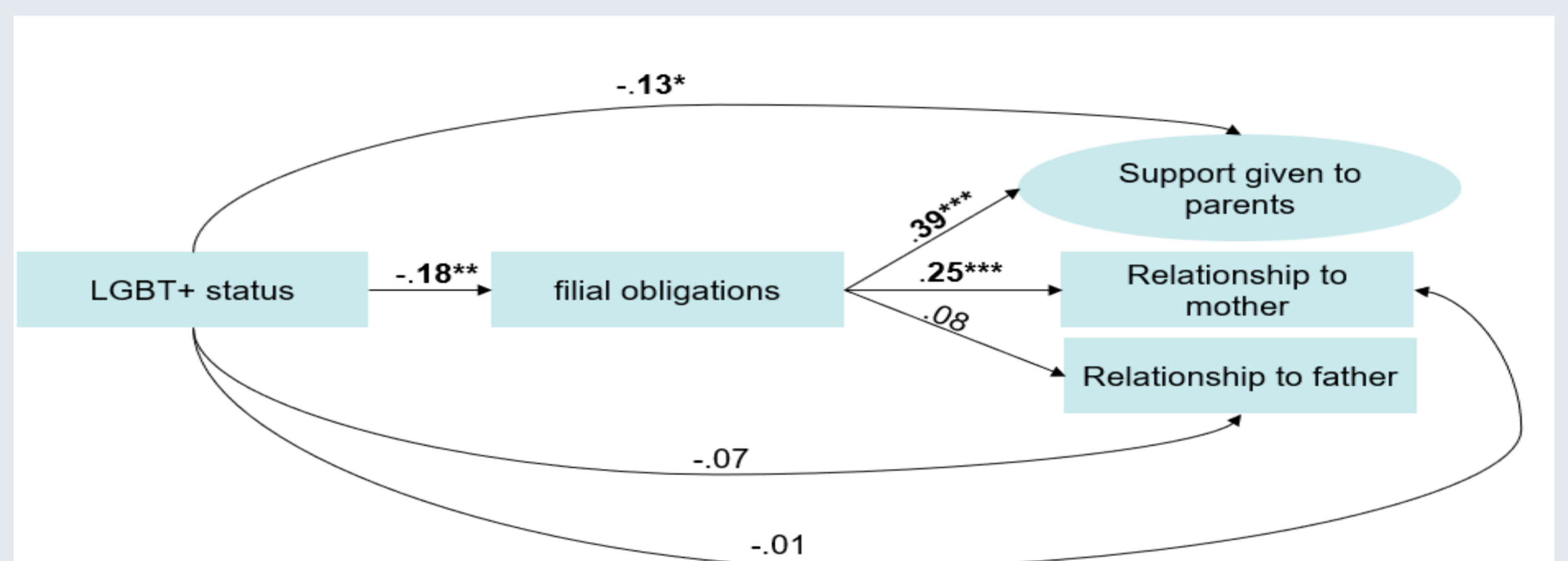
The authors declare no conflict of interest. The research was conducted in line with national law. LGBT+ = Members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and other sexual orientation or gender-identity minorities. Reczek, 2020

Results

Group Differences on Filial Obligations and Aspects of Intergenerational Relations Between Cis-hetero and LGBT+ Adults

Variable	Cis-hetero		LGBT+		t(134)	p	Cohen's d
	M	SD	M	SD			
Distance to mother ¹	2.52	1.14	3.01	1.17	3.32	.001	.43
Distance to father ¹	2.66	1.21	3.21	1.15	3.60	<.001	.47
Digital contact ²	5.32	1.48	5.08	1.50	1.29	.198	
F2F contact ²	4.59	1.69	3.94	1.76	2.87	.004	.38
Filial obligations	3.19	.84	2.89	.81	3.04	.002	.37
Relation to mother	4.21	.95	4.09	1.05	.97	.333	
Relation to father	3.81	1.20	3.59	1.23	1.37	.172	
Support given to parents	4.74	1.37	4.36	1.51	2.08	.039	.27

Note. Cis-hetero = cisgender, heterosexual; F2F contact = in person contact with parents. ¹ 1 = same household, 5 = in another country. ² 1 = less than once a year, 7 = every day



Note. standardized coefficients. N = 270, $\chi^2 = 39.881$, $df = 19$, $\chi^2/df = 2.09$, $p < .001$, CFI = .972, TLI = .946, RMSEA = .064 [.037 - .090], $p = .181$, SRMR = .043, estimator = Robust Maximum-Likelihood. ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$

Indirect Effects Between LGBT+ Status and Aspects of Intergenerational Relations

	B (SE)	β	p-Value
LGBT+ → FO → support given to parents	-.210 (.075)	-.071	.005
LGBT+ → FO → relationship quality to mother	-.091 (.035)	-.045	.010
LGBT+ → FO → relationship quality to father	-.035 (.031)	-.014	.255

Discussion

- Lower filial obligations → relevance of family for LGBT+ different?
- LGBT+ may avoid contact with their parents, due to tension and conflict
- Relationship quality toward mother may stabilize again after coming out
- Role of societal and political acceptance on family relations unclear

Limitations

- Cross-sectional study
- Role of Coming Out status not included
- Other social relations of LGBT+ adults not included
- Reasons for lower contact and importance of family not included