

Glossary

A

Abstract - A 150-250-word summary of a research article

Agender – When someone does not identify with a gender

Aggression - Defined as any behavior, whether physical or verbal, that is carried out with the intent to harm another person

Alternative activity – A different task students must be offered in lieu of participating in a research study

Archival research - When the researcher analyzes data that has already been collected and for another purpose

Asexuality - A sexual orientation characterized by the lack of sexual attraction to another individual – it is **not** a sexual disorder

Authoritarian personality – Occurs when a person displays an exaggerated submission to authority, is intolerant of weakness, endorses the use of punitive measures toward outgroup members or deviants, and conformity to ingroup leaders

B

C

Cisgender – When a person’s gender identity matches their assigned sex at birth

Communal relationships - There is an expectation of mutual responsiveness from each member as it relates to tending to member’s needs

Confederate – An individual who is part of a study without the participant knowing

Confound - When a factor other than the independent variable leads to changes in the dependent variable

Contact hypothesis - States that contact between groups can promote acceptance and tolerance

Content validity - To what degree a measure covers the construct of interest

Convenience sample – A sample that is readily available and easy to obtain

Correlational Research – A research method which examines the relationship between two variables or two groups of variables

Courtesy stigma - When stigma affects people associated with the person with a mental disorder, physical disability, or who is overweight or obese

Criterion validity – When we expect a person’s scores on one measure to be correlated with scores on another measure that we expect it to be related to

Critical thinking - Our ability to assess claims made by others and make objective judgments that are independent of emotion and anecdote and based on hard evidence

D

Debriefed - When the true purpose of a study is revealed and participants are told where to go if they need assistance and how to reach the researcher if they have questions

Deception – When researchers intentionally withhold the true purpose of the study from participants

Dependent variable – The variable in an experiment that is measured

Descriptive statistics – A type of statistic that provides a means of summarizing or describing data, and presenting the data in a usable form

Discrimination - When a person *acts* in a way that is negative against a group of people

E

Exchange relationships - Involve the expectation of reciprocity in a form of tit-for-tat strategy

Experimental group – The group in an experiment that does receive the treatment or manipulation

Experiments – A controlled test of a hypothesis in which a researcher manipulates one variable and measures its effect on another variable

Explicit attitudes - Attitudes that are obvious and known or at the level of conscious awareness

External validity - If our results do generalize from the circumstances under which our study was conducted to similar situations

F

Face validity - The extent to which a measurement method appears “on its face” to measure the construct of interest

Feminism – Ideology which states that men and women should be equal socially, economically, and politically

FtM – When a person is assigned a female sex at birth but whose gender identity is boy/man

G

Gaps - Holes in the literature; or topics needing additional research

Gender – A social construction leading to terms such as masculinity or femininity and their related behaviors

Generalizability – In research, when we can make statements about the population from our sample

Genderfluid – When a person’s gender changes over time; they view gender as dynamic and changing

Genderqueer – Anyone who does not identify with conventional gender identities, roles, expectations, or expression

Gender congruence - When we feel a sense of harmony in our gender

Gender dysphoria – When a person is unhappy or dissatisfied with their gender and can occur in relation to any dimension of gender. The person may experience mild discomfort to unbearable distress

Gender equality - “The absence of discrimination on the basis of a person's sex in opportunities, the allocation of resources and benefits, or access to services”

Gender equity - “The fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits and responsibilities between women and men.”

Gender expansive - An umbrella term used for individuals who broaden their own culture’s commonly held definitions of gender, including expectations for its expression, identities, roles, and/or other perceived gender norms

Gender expression – Our way of showing our gender through clothes, hairstyles, and behavior

Gender identity - Our internal perception and expression of who we are as a person

Gender literacy - the ability to participate knowledgeably in discussions of gender and gender-related topics

Gender role – All the activities, functions, and behaviors that are expected of males and females by society

Gender role conflict (GRC) theory - Asserts that to understand aggression and violence, one has to look beyond mere gender role stress and examine sociopsychological factors that influence a man's conception of masculinity in a patriarchal and sexist society

Gender role stress – Adhering to gender roles causes stress that is an explanation for violence

Gender tracking - When students are channeled into different areas of focus/paths solely based on their gender

Glass cliff phenomenon - The overrepresentation of women being promoted to leadership positions in companies that are underperforming or are severely unstable

H

Halo effect - When we hold a favorable attitude to traits that are unrelated

Heterosexual - Defined as being attracted to the opposite gender

Homophily – States that we tend to spend time with people who are similar to us

Hookup - An event in which two individuals that are not committed to each other, or dating, engage in sexual behavior, which can include intercourse but may also include oral sex, digital penetration, kissing, etc.

Hypothesis - A specific, testable prediction

I

Implicit attitude – An attitude that we hold that we are not aware of

Independent variable – The variable in an experiment that is manipulated

Inferential statistics – A type of statistics that allows for the analysis of two or more sets of numerical data

Informed consent - When the person agrees to participate because they are told what will happen to them

Internal consistency - The consistency of people's responses across the items on multiple-item measures

Internal validity - When we can confidently say that the effect on the dependent variable was due solely to our manipulation or the independent variable

Interpersonal attraction - Showing a preference for another person

Inter-rater reliability - How consistent different observers are when making judgments

Intimate or romantic relationships – Relationships in which you feel a very strong sense of attraction to another person in terms of their personality and physical features

Introduction – The first section of a research article designed to provide a summary of the current literature as it relates to the topic

J

Jealousy - A negative emotional state arising due to a perceived threat to one's relationship

K

L

Laboratory observation - Involves observing people or animals in a laboratory setting

Literature review - When we conduct a literature search through our university library or a search engine such as Google Scholar to see what questions have been investigated already and what answers have been found

Loneliness - Occurs when our interpersonal relationships are not fulfilling and can lead to psychological discomfort

Love withdrawal – A strategy some mothers use to punish bad behavior by withdrawing displays of affection to the child until he/she behaves again

M

Matching hypothesis – Says we date others who are similar to us in terms of how attractive they are

Mere exposure effect - The more we are exposed to novel stimuli, the greater our liking of them will be

Meta-analysis - A statistical procedure that allows a researcher to combine data from more than one study

Method – The section of a research article in which participants, materials or apparatus, and procedure are described in detail; it is like a cookbook

MtF - When a person is assigned a male sex at birth but whose gender identity is girl/woman

Multi-method research – When several approaches or research designs are used to provide the clearest picture of what is affecting behavior or mental processes

N

Naturalistic observation – When a scientist studies human or animal behavior in its natural environment

Need to affiliate/belong - Our motive to establish, maintain, or restore social relationships with others, whether individually or through groups

Non-binary – When a gender identity is not exclusively masculine or feminine

Q

Observational learning - Learning by simply watching others

Outgroup homogeneity effect – Says we tend to see members of the outgroup as similar to one another while our ingroup is seen as varied

P

Prejudice - Occurs when someone holds a negative *feeling* about a group of people, representing the affective component

Propinquity – States that we spend time with people who are close to us due to spatial proximity

Psychology - The scientific study of behavior and mental processes

Q

R

Random assignment – When participants have an equal chance of being placed in the control or experimental group

Random sampling - When everyone in the population has an equal chance of being included in the sample

Realistic group conflict theory – Says competition comes about due to real imbalances of power and resources

Reciprocity – When we self-disclose and expect that our friends will do the same

Relative deprivation – Says competition comes about due to perceived imbalances

Reliability - Describes how consistent a measure is

Replication - Repeating the study to confirm its results

Research design – Our plan of action of how we will go about testing the hypothesis

Results – In this section of a research article the researcher states the outcome of the experiment and whether it was statistically significant or not

S

Scientific method - A systematic method for gathering knowledge about the world around us

Self-disclosure - Telling another person about our deepest held secrets, experiences, and beliefs that we do not usually share with others

Sex - The biological aspects of a person due to their anatomy.

Sexual dimorphism - When the sexes of the same species display different characteristics beyond just differences in their sexual organs

Sexual fluidity - A concept in which we move away from thinking in binary ways (heterosexual or homosexual) and move into a more fluid understanding – essentially the entire premise behind the Genderbread Person

Sexual orientation - Concerns who we are physically, emotionally, and/or romantically attracted to

Sexual script theory - Posits that we engage in particular sexual behaviors due to learned interactions and patterns

Sex-typing - When we hold the belief that men and women are suitable for specific jobs, based on their biological sex, and thus, occupations are segregated into gender-typical categories

Social cognitive model of career self-management (CSM) - Posits that person dependent factors (e.g., gender, abilities, race) and societal background impacts learning experiences which is where we obtain some information about efficacy

Social competence - The ability to interpret and evaluate social situations and make decisions about acceptable ways to respond

Social desirability - When a participant answers questions on a survey dishonestly so that he/she is seen in a more favorable light

Social dominance orientation (SDO) – Says those with this view see their ingroup as dominant and superior to outgroups and seek to enforce the hierarchy as it exists now

Social identity theory - Asserts that people have a proclivity to categorize their social world into meaningfully simplistic representations of groups of people

Statistical significance - An indication of how confident we are that our results are due to our manipulation or design and not chance

Stereotype - Our beliefs about what are the typical traits or characteristics of members of a specific group

Stereotype content model - The perception of warmth and competence leads to perceived competition and status

Stereotype threat - The social-psychological predicament that arises from widely known negative stereotypes about one's group

Stigma - When negative stereotyping, labeling, rejection, devaluation, and/or loss of status occur due to membership in a particular social group

Surveys – A questionnaire consisting of at least one scale with some number of questions which assess a psychological construct of interest

System justification theory - Proposes that people are motivated to varying degrees, to defend, bolster, and justify existing social, political, and economic arrangements, also known as the status quo, to maintain their advantaged position

T

Test-retest reliability - How reliable a measure is across time

Theory – The systematic explanation of a phenomenon

Transgender – When a person’s gender identity differs from their assigned sex

Transition - When a person moves from the traditional binary view of gender to transgender, agender, or non-binary

Triangular theory of love – States that love is composed of three main parts: intimacy, commitment, and passion

U

V

Valid – When a questionnaire’s scores represent the variable it is said to measure

W

X

Y

Z