The Effect of Sexual Minority Identification and Religious Affiliation on Suicide Risk Factors in a South Korean American Sample

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BACKGROUND:
- Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death (Hedegaard, 2018)
- Perceived burdensomeness and Thwarted Belongingness are considered proximal risk factors of suicide ideation (Joiner, 2007)
- Sexual minority individuals are at greater risk for suicide ideation and attempts (Grossman et al., 2016)
- Religious affiliation serves as a protective factor for the general population, but not for sexual minority population (Lytle et al., 2018)

AIMS
1. Examine the effect of sexual minority identification and religious affiliation on perceived burdensomeness and thwarted belongingness
2. Examine whether sexual minority identification in a South Korean sample is associated with higher levels of perceived burdensomeness and thwarted belongingness

METHODS
- MTurk Sample
- 150 South Korean adult participants currently residing in the U.S.
- Interpersonal Needs Questionnaire (INQ-15)
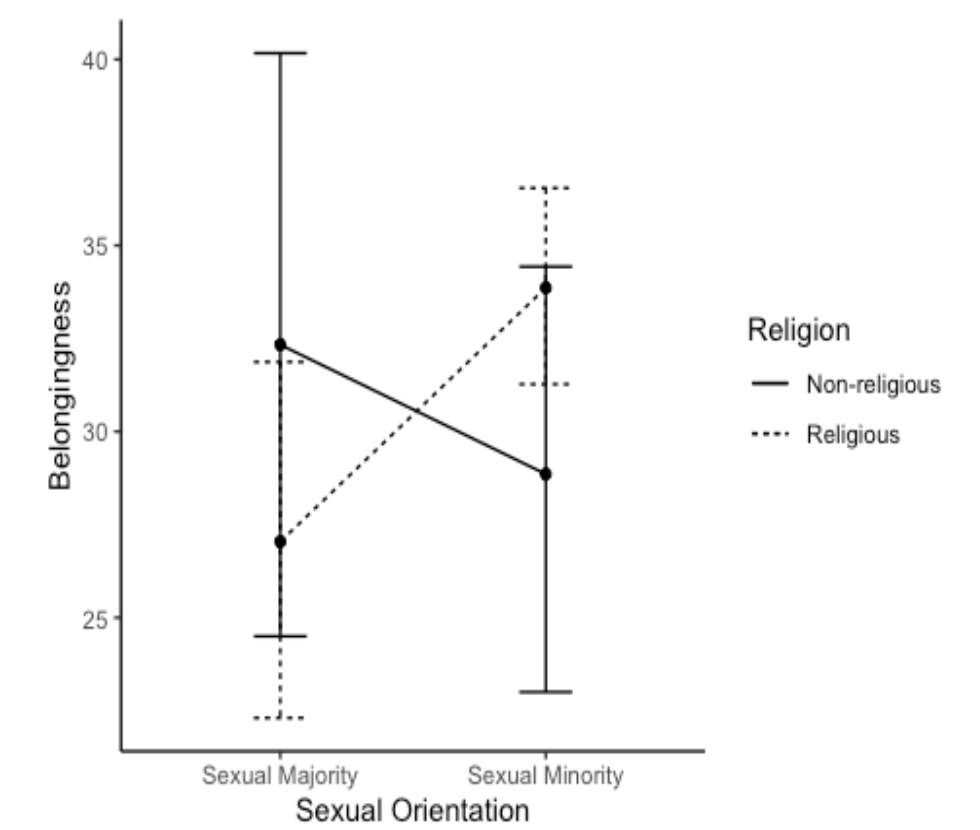- 2 x 2 Factorial ANOVA

RESULTS
- Non-significant main effect for sexual minority identification for both perceived burdensomeness and thwarted belongingness
- Non-significant main effect for religious affiliation for both perceived burdensomeness and thwarted belongingness
- Non-significant interaction effect between sexual minority identification and religious affiliation
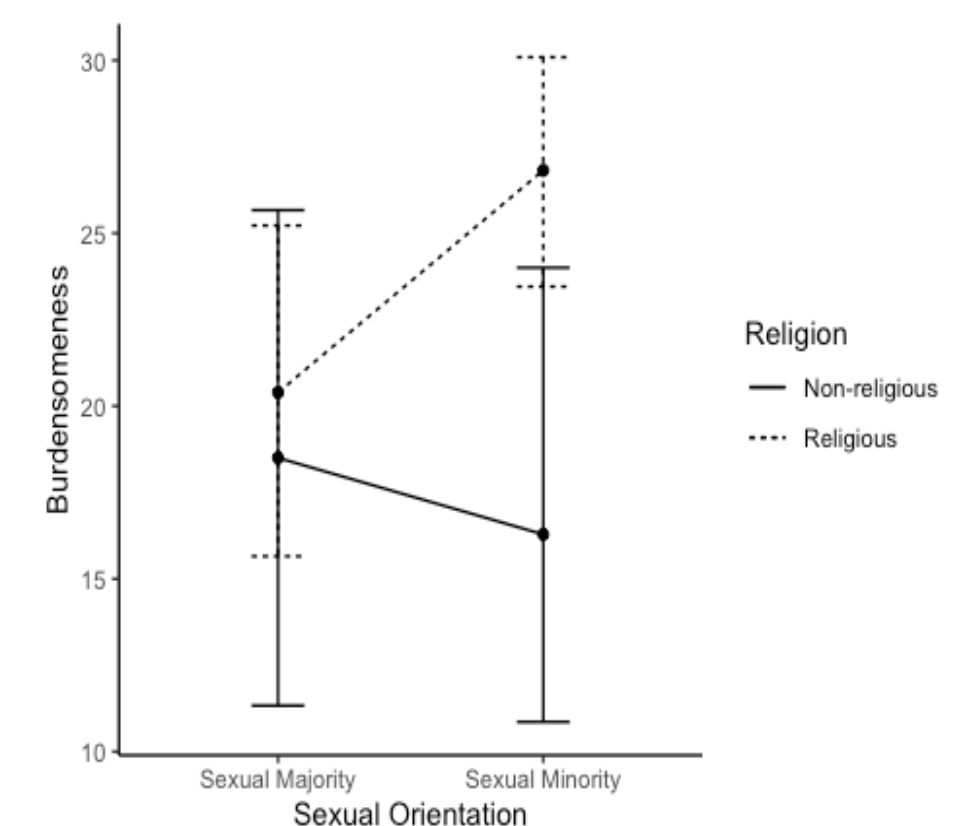
DISCUSSION
- Further investigate intersecting identities and their impact on thwarted belongingness and perceived burdensomeness in East Asian populations
- Assess other aspects of religion and its impact on risk of suicide ideation in East Asian populations, such as engagement in specific religious practices, social connectedness in religious groups, and level of commitment to their religious beliefs

Sexual minority individuals who were affiliated with a **religion** exhibited **higher levels** of **perceived burdensomeness** and **thwarted belongingness.**

Belongingness Model

Burdensomeness Model

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