

## The Predictive and Discriminant Validity of Masculinity Ideology

Jeffrey S. Sinn

*Old Dominion University*

Masculinity ideology is the extent to which an individual endorses traditional male-role norms. The present study examined the discriminant validity of this construct relative to other gender-related constructs. The subjects were 269 male participants who completed measures of masculinity ideology, sex-role orientation, gender-relation attitudes, and several outcome variables (e.g., homophobia) potentially related to these gender-related constructs. Masculinity ideology demonstrated substantial predictive validity and good discriminant validity by accounting for unique variance in several outcome variables such as homophobia, hostility, adversarial views of sexual relationships, and reported sexual activity. In addition, confirmatory factor analysis of Male Role Norms Scale (Thompson & Pleck, 1986) replicated its *a priori*, three-factor structure. The results suggest that masculinity ideology offers a useful perspective for understanding the relation between male-role norms and important outcome variables. © 1997 Academic Press

The common admonishment directed at males to “Be a man!” implies that there are a set of norms governing acceptable male behavior. Moreover, the admonishment implies that males have some degree of choice in responding to these norms. The degree of endorsement given to particular male-role norms has been referred to as an individual’s “masculinity ideology” (Pleck, Sonenstein, & Ku, 1994). The present paper will review the theory behind the construct and report the results of an empirical study of its predictive and discriminant validity.

The concept of masculinity ideology has evolved from the theories of social construction (Kimmel, 1987) and sex-role strain (Pleck, 1981). These theories hold that gender roles are socially constructed rather than biologically determined and that males vary in their support for traditional male-role norms. Brannon (1976) identified specific themes suggested by the traditional male role. Based on an empirical examination of Brannon’s themes, Thompson and Pleck (1986) identified three distinct factors comprising a

My sincere thanks to Valerian Derlega, Andrea Berndt, Terry Dickinson, Peter Mikulka, Robin Lewis, Donald Davis, Johanna Merritt, and the anonymous reviewers for their valuable assistance. Address correspondence and reprint requests to Jeffrey S. Sinn, Old Dominion University, College of Sciences, Department of Psychology, Norfolk, VA 23529-0267.

traditional masculinity ideology: status, toughness, and anti-femininity. A person has a traditional masculinity ideology to the extent that he or she believes men should try to attain high status, be physically tough, and not behave in a feminine way.

Although developed independently, masculinity ideology is consistent with multifactorial gender identity theory (Spence, 1985). Spence has argued that most people have a stable sense of gender identity (i.e., a sense of their own masculinity or femininity) and yet base this identity on an idiosyncratic constellation of multiple factors. Traditional masculinity ideology is a particular constellation of factors (i.e., status, toughness, and anti-femininity) upon which some individuals base their conception of masculinity. Therefore, rather than assessing an individual's masculinity *per se*, a measure of traditional masculinity ideology measures the extent to which an individual includes a particular set of characteristics in his or her conception of masculinity. Although the logic of multifactorial gender theory suggests that there are multiple masculinity ideologies upon which individuals can base their conception of masculinity, "masculinity ideology" in the present paper will refer to a traditional masculinity ideology based on status, toughness, and anti-femininity. Incidentally, it should be noted that the label of "traditional" is inadequate in some respects because of its ambiguity and normative bias.

The purpose of this paper is to report the results of an empirical assessment of the predictive and discriminant validity of a measure of masculinity ideology. More specifically, two questions will be considered. First, can masculinity ideology account for variance in other attitudes and behaviors? Second, can masculinity ideology account for variance in these attitudes and behaviors that is not explained by other gender-related constructs?

### ESTABLISHING PREDICTIVE VALIDITY

Pleck (1981) has argued that endorsement of particular aspects of the traditional male role can lead to potentially dysfunctional attitudes and behaviors. For example, males that believe men should strive for status might be more likely to see sexual relationships in terms of conquest. Past research has shown, for example, that males high in masculinity ideology tend to be more homophobic (Pleck *et al.*, 1994; Stark, 1991; Thompson, Grisanti, & Pleck, 1985), more Type A in their behavior (Thompson *et al.*, 1985), more likely to believe sexual relationships are inherently adversarial (Pleck, Sonenstein, & Ku, 1993b), less self-disclosing to male friends (Thompson *et al.*, 1985), more sexually active (Pleck, Sonenstein, & Ku, 1993a), and more likely to engage in delinquent behaviors as adolescents (Pleck *et al.*, 1993a). Overall, these results suggest that masculinity ideology may be an important factor in understanding the etiology of several potentially dysfunctional attitudes and behaviors.

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

**ISI**Articles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات