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Poster

Neurodevelopmental and Familial Influences on Sexual Orientation Subgroups in Women

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ABSTRACT

Previous studies suggest gay men can form several subgroups based on putative biomarkers of genetic (nonheterosexual relatives), neurohormonal (handedness) and immunological (older brothers) influences of sexual orientation formation. Moreover, the subgroups differ in gender nonconformity, masculinity, femininity, and the Big Five characteristics. Our aim was to detect potential subgroups in nonheterosexual women, which have not yet been investigated.

A total of 1576 self-identified heterosexual, 450 homosexual, 1055 bisexual, and 402 pansexual Czech and Slovak women participated in an online survey. They reported the number of siblings, number and sexual orientation of family relatives and their handedness. Proportions of each variable were computed, and latent profile analysis was performed. Subsequently, we explored differences in psychological characteristics between identified profiles.

The best fit was found in the model with 3 subgroups, the first characterized by a high proportion of left-handedness (7.8 %), the second by a high number of nonheterosexual relatives (4.9 %), and a subgroup without biomarkers (87.3 %). Subgroups differed in masculinity ($p = 0.007$) and extraversion ($p = 0.046$) with higher scores in a subgroup with nonheterosexual relatives.

Our analysis showed that nonheterosexual women could be divided into 3 subgroups suggesting the existence of distinct developmental trajectories characterized by the psychological differences. While these subgroups exhibited subtle psychological differences, this is the first study to explore such grouping in women, and further research is needed to validate and expand upon these results.