

A Moderation Model Associating BAS
and Emotional Intimacy with Stress Among Bi-Sexual and Heterosexual Women

ABSTRACT

The study focuses on the possible interactions between a women's sexual attraction and the effects of bi-sexual relationships on overall stress levels. The study uses emotional intimacy and body appreciation as moderators of the dependent variable of stress. The body appreciation variable was deemed appropriate for the study due to the different opinions that bi-sexual women may receive from both sexes. Emotional intimacy was also deemed appropriate for the study because of the effects that a bi-sexual lifestyle will have on emotional intimacy with other people who may not accept their sexual preferences. The sample consist of 235 females who have completed the Psychological Audit for Interpersonal Relationships (PAIR) test, Depression Anxiety Stress Scales (DASS) 21 test, and Body Appreciation Scale test. Of the 235 participants in the study, 52 females identified as being attracted to women and men while the other 183 females identified as being attracted to men only. The data results were run through a Hayes macro regression program to determine any significant interactions between sexual attraction, emotional intimacy and body appreciation. The results signified that there was a significant interaction between emotional intimacy and stress but no significant interaction with body appreciation and its overall effect on stress. These results suggest that females who identify as being attracted to men and women differ in dealing with stress and its interactions towards body appreciation and emotional intimacy.