Project Prospectus

PSYC 520

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Project Background and Research Question

As a group vulnerable to societal changes and main streams of cultural mode, racial/ethnic minority LGB people experience their unique risk factors that affect their reactions to mental illness stressors and efficiency in coping, which consequently and negatively results in suicide behaviors, compared to their White counterparts (Sutter & Perrin, 2016). A major consequence of heavier risk on mental health issues (i.e., mental disability) will lead to drug use (Salerno et al., 2020). In this study, I intend to conduct a statistical analysis on a public dataset of a LGB sample to investigate the relations between everyday discrimination, social well-being status, mental disability, and drug use disorder amongst LGB people, by using a latent interaction modeling approach to systematically incorporate multiple latent factors and explore their relations. Specifically, I hypothesized that mental disability would have greater effects on drug use disorders amongst LGB individuals who have lower social well-being status. In this model, four predictors were included (i.e., everyday discrimination, mental disability, social well-being, and the latent interaction predictor) in the model.

Design and structure of data

Data were retrieved from a five-year study, Generations, designed to examine the health and well-being across three generations of LGB people. In this study, only Wave I data were used (N = 1514). Refer to Table 1 for the sample’s demographic statistics. Data were first cleaned if participants were not self-reported as any one category from lesbians, gay, and bisexual people (N = 187).

*Everyday Discrimination Scale.* It consists of nice items scored by a 4-point scale (e.g., “Often”, “Sometimes”, “Rarely”, “Never”). *Social Well-being Scale.* The social well-being scale created by Keyes (1998) is composed by 15 items scored by a 7-point scale (e.g., “Strongly disagree”, “Moderately disagree”, “Slightly disagree”, “Neither agree nor disagree”, “Slightly agree”, “Moderately agree”, “Strongly agree”). *Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K6; Mental Disability).* The scoring type is a 5 Likert-points (e.g., “All of the time”, “Most of the time”, “Some of the time”, “A little of the time”, “None of the time”).

Preliminary Analytic Plan

I tend to apply reliability-adjusted product indicator method with four reliability estimates (i.e., alpha, omega, H, GLB) to test a latent interaction model in R, and see if there were interacting effects between social well-being and mental disability among LGB groups. If applicable, I would be interested in applying 2S-PA method to test the SEM model again, and compare the model fitting indices and parameter estimates.

Model Diagram

Diagram

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