



Responses to Disclosures of Sexual Orientation: Are Recipient's Responses as Accepting as They Think?

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Study 1 Background

- Disclosers (people with CSIs) reported more positive disclosure experiences when they received more direct responses (i.e., those that discuss the identity)¹
- Study 1 examines why more direct responses may be more positive for disclosers

Study 1 Sample, Design and Measures

$N = 212$ LGB+ MTurkers were randomly assigned to 1 of 4 videos.
2(Disclosure Style) x 2(Response style) design.

Video Script Disclosure Responses

More Direct: "Oh, I didn't know you were gay. How long have you been dating your boyfriend?"

Less Direct: "Oh, that sounds good. What movie are we seeing?"

Participants rated all measures rated on a 1(Not at all) to 7(Completely) scales

- 1) How positive the recipient's response was (1 item, $M = 5.85$, $SD = 1.23$)
- 2) How supportive the response was (2 items, $M = 5.69$, $SD = 1.24$)
- 3) How much the recipient had a motivation to foster a better relationship with the discloser (1 item, $M = 4.71$, $SD = 1.49$)

Demographics: Age: $M = 33.89$, $SD = 11.31$, Majority White (70%). 43% Gay /Lesbian, 53% Bisexual, 8% other. 59% Female, 38% Male, 4% Other.

Study 2 Background

- Past research shows that recipients tend to match disclosers' disclosure style, but also report low levels of using more direct responses²
- Study 2 looks heterosexual participants' beliefs about less direct responses to examine if there is an influence on anticipated response style

Study 2 Sample, Design and Measures

$N = 234$ heterosexual MTurkers were randomly assigned to 1 of 2 vignettes wherein a friend disclosed to them in a more direct way or in a less direct way.

Response Options Participants Rated

More Direct: "That sounds cool. How long ago did you and Sharon meet?"

Less Direct: "That sounds cool. Who was playing at the concert?"

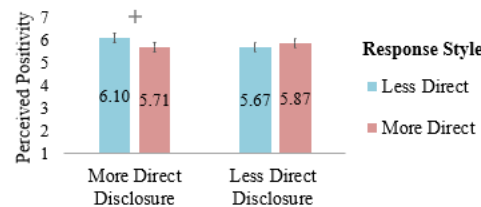
Participants rated all measures rated on a 1(Not at all) to 7(Very much) scale unless otherwise noted

- 1) How likely they would be to use a direct response (1 item, $M = 4.72$, $SD = 1.83$, 1(Extremely unlikely) to 7(Extremely likely)
- 2) If they thought the discloser preferred a direct response (3 items, $\alpha = .90$, $M = 3.58$, $SD = 1.68$), e.g., "Do you think that your friend wanted you to talk about their sexual orientation?"
- 3) How much the less direct response shows acceptance (3 items, $\alpha = .91$, $M = 4.43$, $SD = 1.72$), e.g., "...that you want to support them and their relationships?"

Demographics: Age: $M = 40.03$, $SD = 13.15$, Majority White (79%). 57% Female

Study 1 Results

Hypothesis 1: Sexual minority participants would rate more direct responses as more positive than less direct responses.

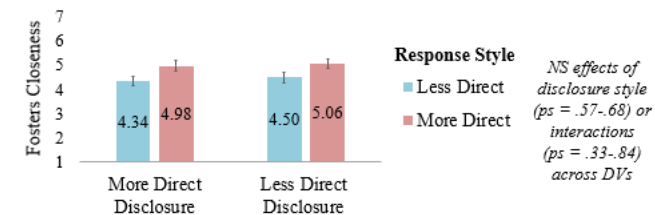


2x2 ANOVA revealed NS effect of response style ($p = .59$), NS effect of disclosure style ($p = .43$), marginal interaction ($p = .08$)

Hypothesis 2 & 3: Sexual minority participants would rate more direct responses as more supportive and as displaying a greater interest in fostering closeness

2) NS in differences in supportiveness by response style ($p = .59$).

3) More direct responses were perceived as motivated by a desire to foster closeness, $F(1, 208) = 8.62$, $p < .01$.

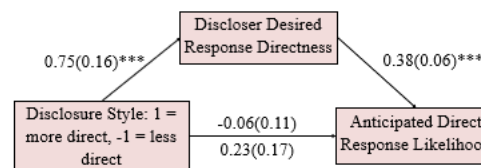


Take Away Finding

Responses that discussed the disclosed identity were not viewed as more positive than less direct responses, but made the recipient appear more interested in fostering a relationship with the discloser.

Study 2 Results

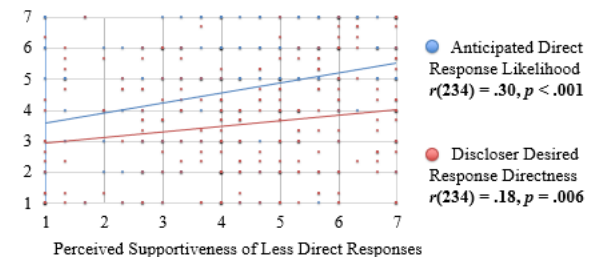
Hypothesis 1: Participants will believe that disclosers want a similar response style to their disclosure style, which will influence participants' anticipated response.



Significant indirect effect:
 $B = 0.18$, $SE = 0.05$, 95% CI = [0.09, 0.28]

Hypothesis 2: Participants ratings of less direct response as supportive will moderate the proposed mediation model.

NS interaction between disclosure style and ratings of less direct responses as supportive (R^2 change = .008, $p = .15$).



Correlations displayed above are in the opposite to hypothesized direction.

Take Away Finding

Participants use more direct responses when they receive more direct disclosures, but this is not significantly impacted by their beliefs of less direct responses.

Future Research

- How ratings of surprise or closeness influence perceptions of more direct responses
- How disclosers' motivations influence which response style is more supportive
- Use in lab studies to simulate a disclosure experience to observe recipients' actual response instead of anticipated responses

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References available upon request