



The Effects of I-Sharing with Same and Opposite Sex Partners on Sexist Beliefs

Ollie Ansley, Bao Han L. Tran, Cathy R. Cox
Texas Christian University

LOUISE DILWORTH DAVIS
COLLEGE of
SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

INTRODUCTION

Literature

- I-sharing is the belief in having a shared subjective experience with another individual. Past research has found I-sharing to reduce existential isolation and the effects of ingroup bias.
- Since I-sharing has an effect on intergroup processes, it is possible that it can have an effect on broader intergroup beliefs.
- Hostile sexism, benevolent sexism and gender essentialism reflect attitudes on gender and sex. These outcomes may be buffered in men when they I-share with women since it has been shown to reduce the effects of in-group bias.

Purpose

- The purpose of this study was to explore the relationships between I-sharing with same and opposite-sex partners, existential isolation, hostile sexism, benevolent sexism, and gender essentialism.

Hypotheses

- Men who I-share with women will show reduced hostile sexism and reduced existential isolation, as compared to men who do not I-share. I-sharing will have no effect on benevolent sexism.

METHODS

Participants:

Male SONA and Prolific participants ($N=400$), ages 18+

Materials:

I-Sharing Task (Espinosa & Cox, under review)

- Manipulation of shared subjective experience

Existential Isolation Scale (Pinel et al., 2017)

- “Other people usually do not understand my experiences”

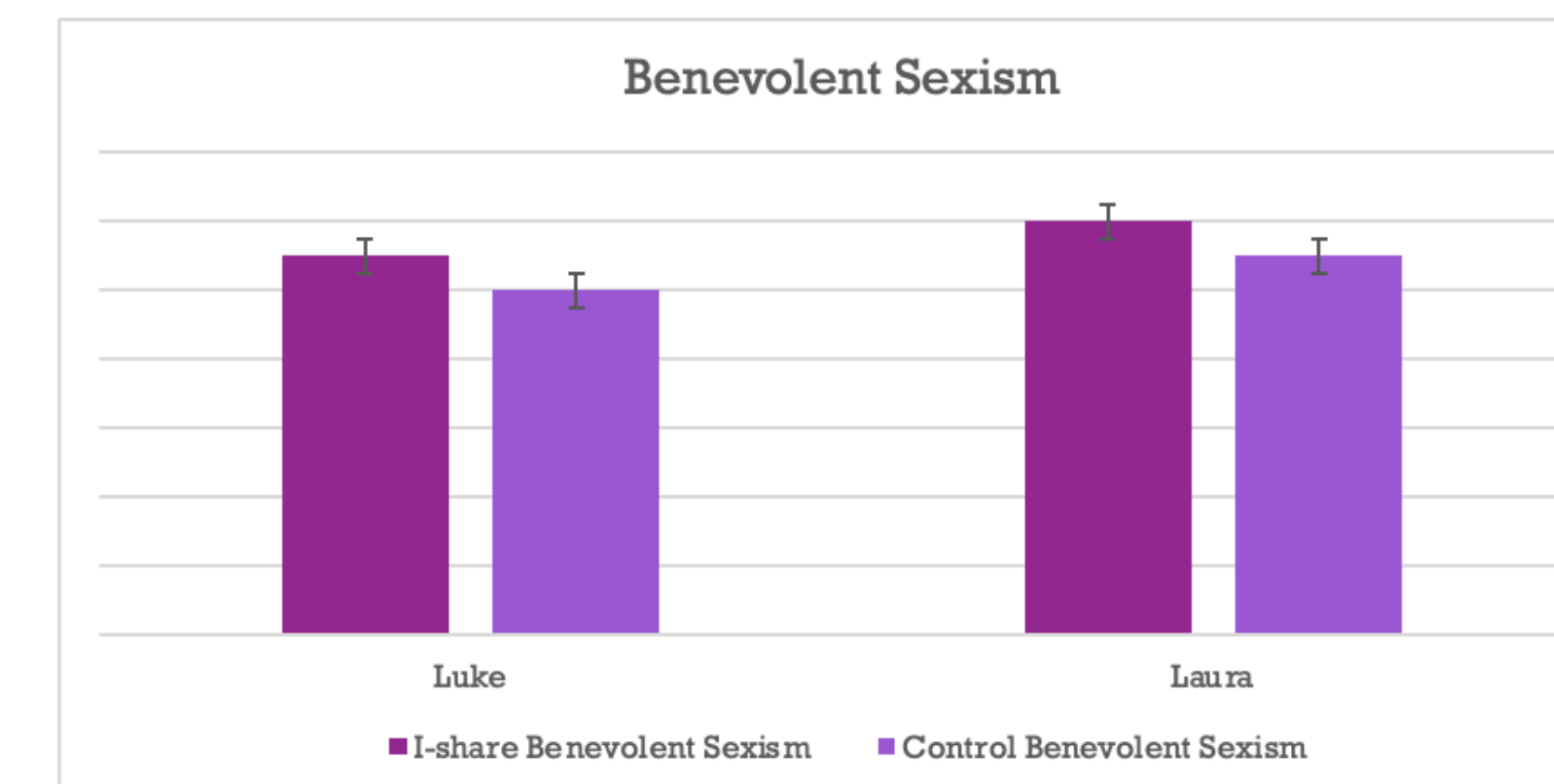
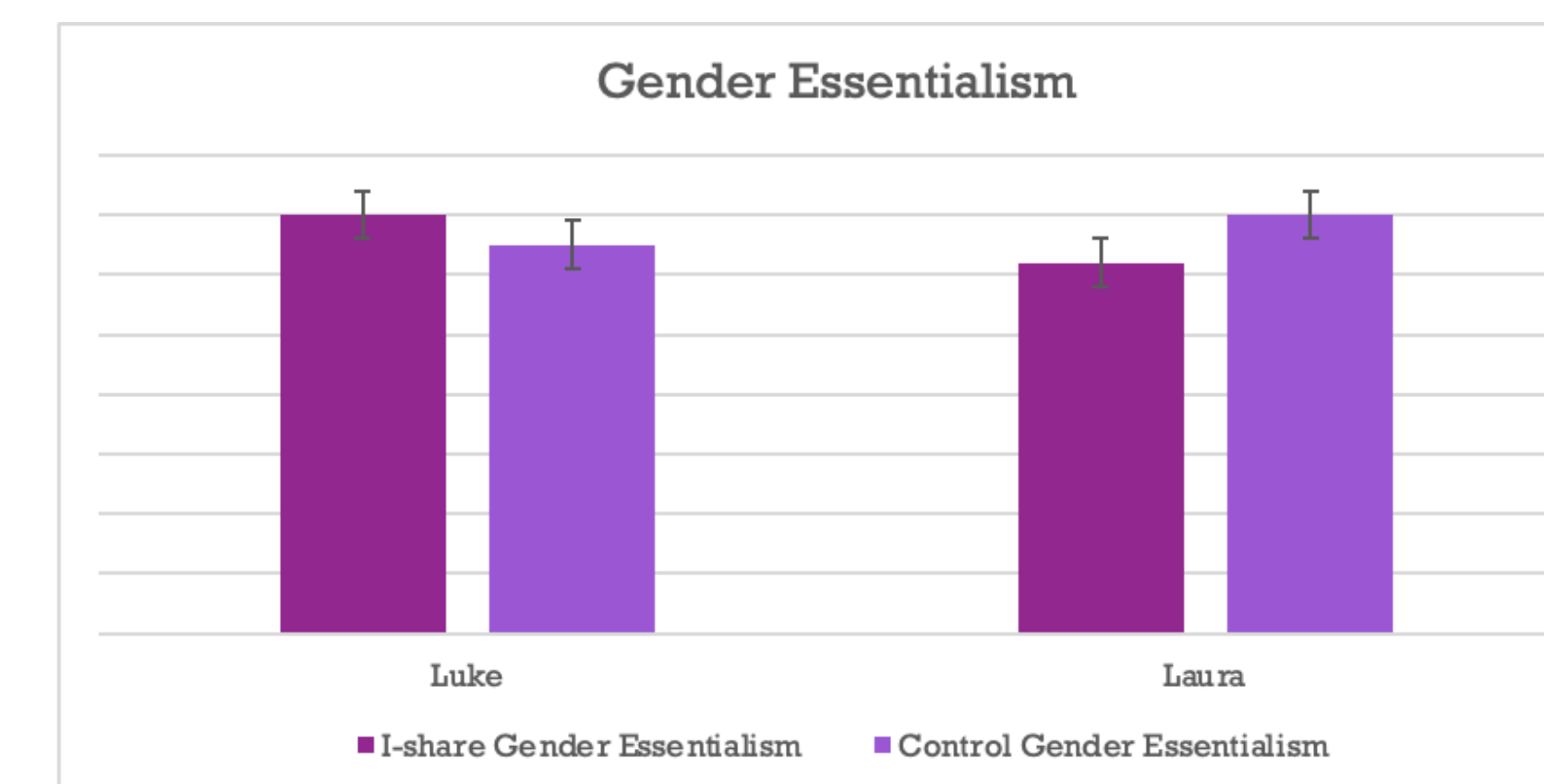
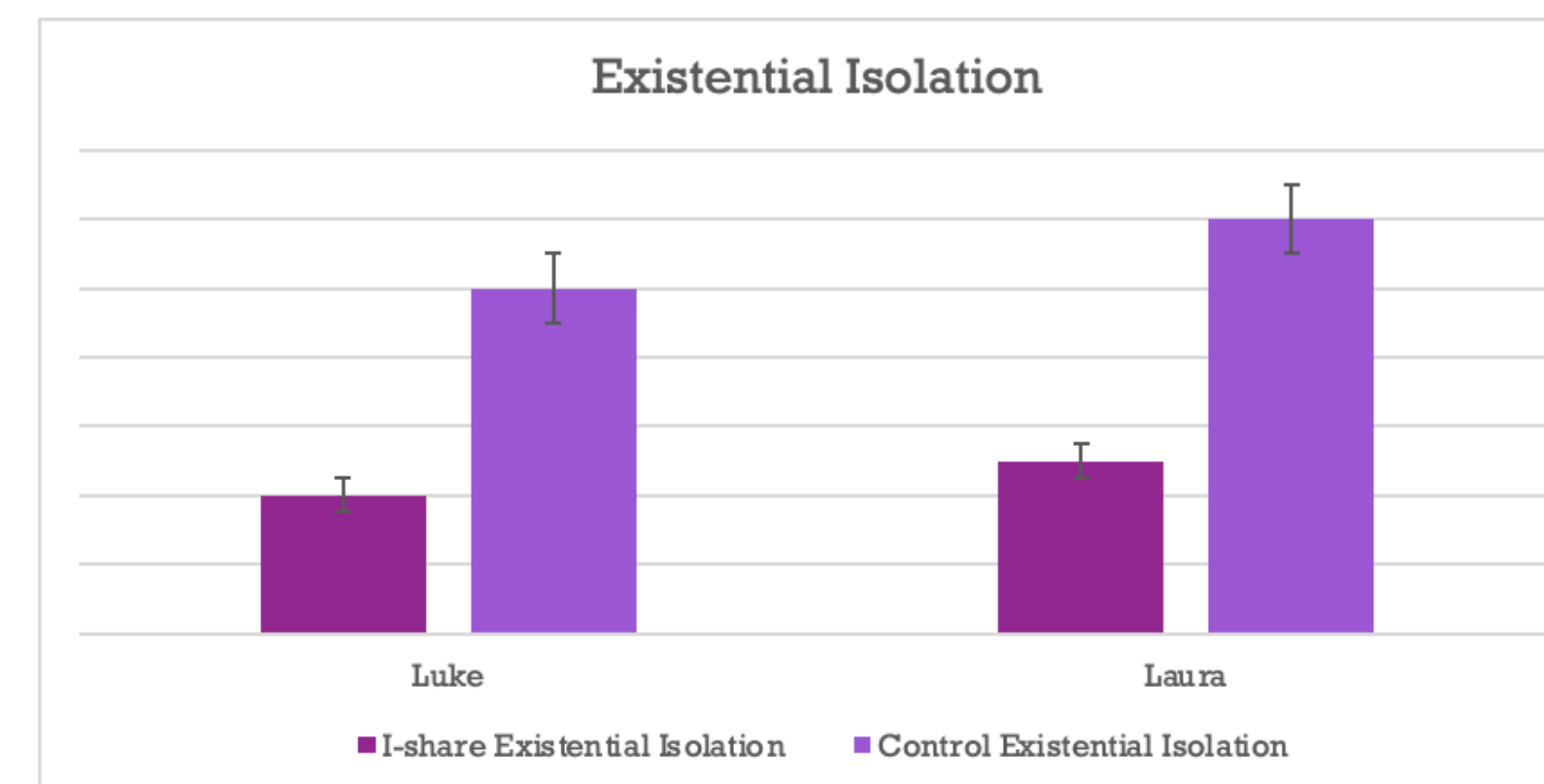
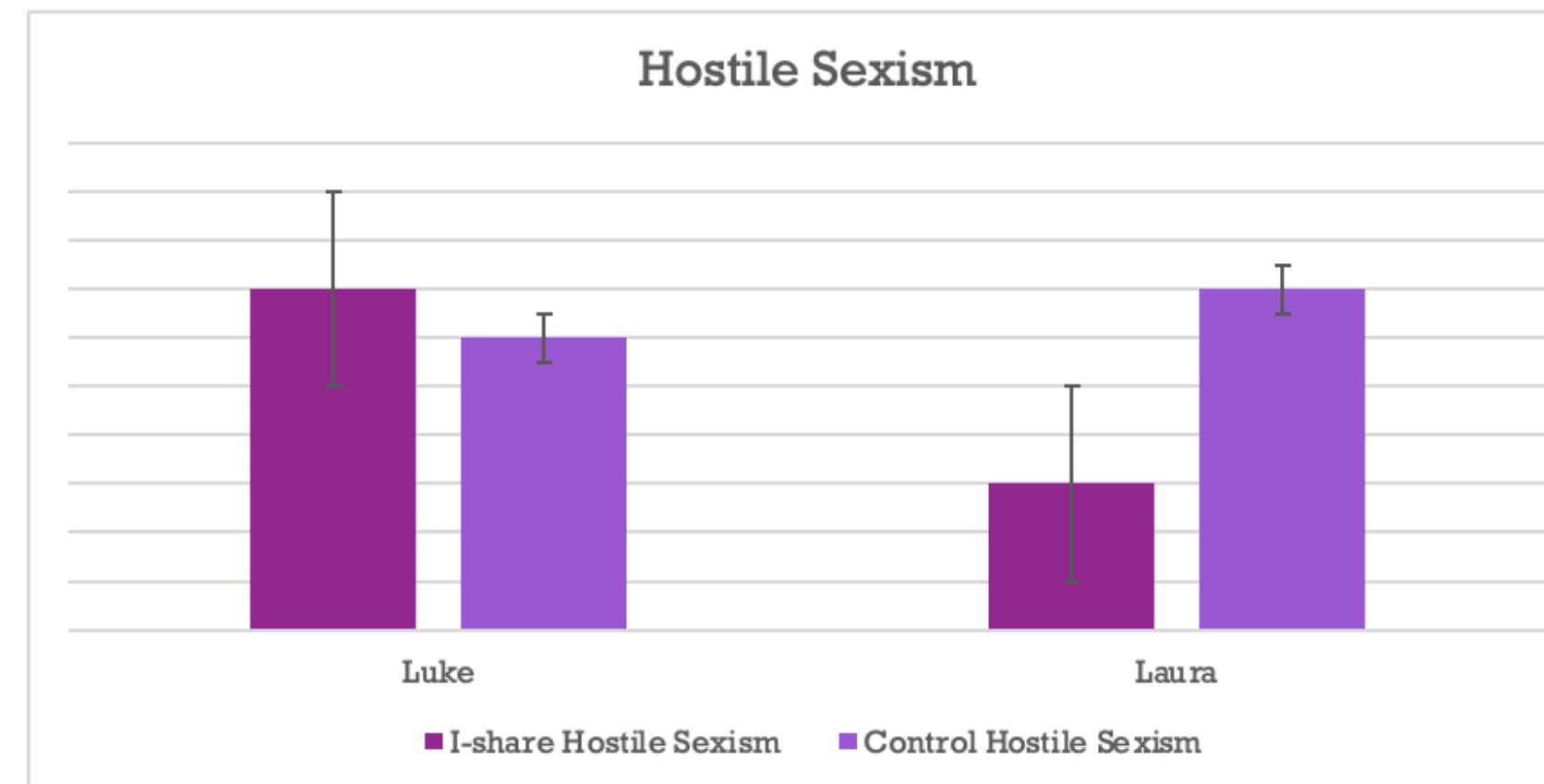
Ambivalent Sexism Inventory (Glick & Fiske, 1996)

- Hostile Sexism - “Women seek to gain power by getting control over men.”
- Benevolent Sexism - “A good woman should be set on a pedestal by her man”

Gender Essentialism scale (Skewes et al., 2018)

- “Differences between men and women are primarily determined by biology”

EXPECTED RESULTS



DISCUSSION

Summary

- We expect that men who I-shared with women will show reduced EI and hostile sexism whereas men who I-share with men will show only reduced EI. We do not expect I-sharing or partner gender to have an effect on benevolent sexism or gender essentialism.

Discussion

- If the hypotheses are supported, then this would contribute to the intergroup processes literature by showing that there is a connection between state existential isolation and sexist beliefs.
- These findings have implications for existential isolation-based interventions, where I-sharing could buffer the negative effects of existential isolation.
- We believe that gender essentialism and benevolent sexism will not be affected as they are more grounded in stable ideology.

Future Directions

- Future studies should utilize more personal experiences to buffer existential isolation and sexist beliefs. For example, a writing task where male participants recall positive platonic interactions with women may induce similar effects.
- Future studies could also take a developmental perspective and look into how early-life existential isolation may lead to the development of sexist beliefs.
- More research is needed on the relationship between gender essentialism and benevolent sexism as well.
- The relationship between benevolent sexism, gender essentialism and existential isolation also needs more investigation. It is possible that they act a barrier to I-sharing with opposite sex partners.

SELECTED REFERENCES

1. Pinel, E. C., Long, A. E., Landau, M. J., Alexander, K., & Pyszczynski, T. (2006). Seeing I to I: A pathway to interpersonal connectedness. *Journal of personality and social psychology, 90*(2), 243.
2. Espinosa, M. & Cox, C. (under review) Feedback to video stimuli: A novel paradigm for manipulating existential isolation. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology.*