Norms, attitudes and behaviors among young men in an urban slum: Observational outcomes and results from an experiment

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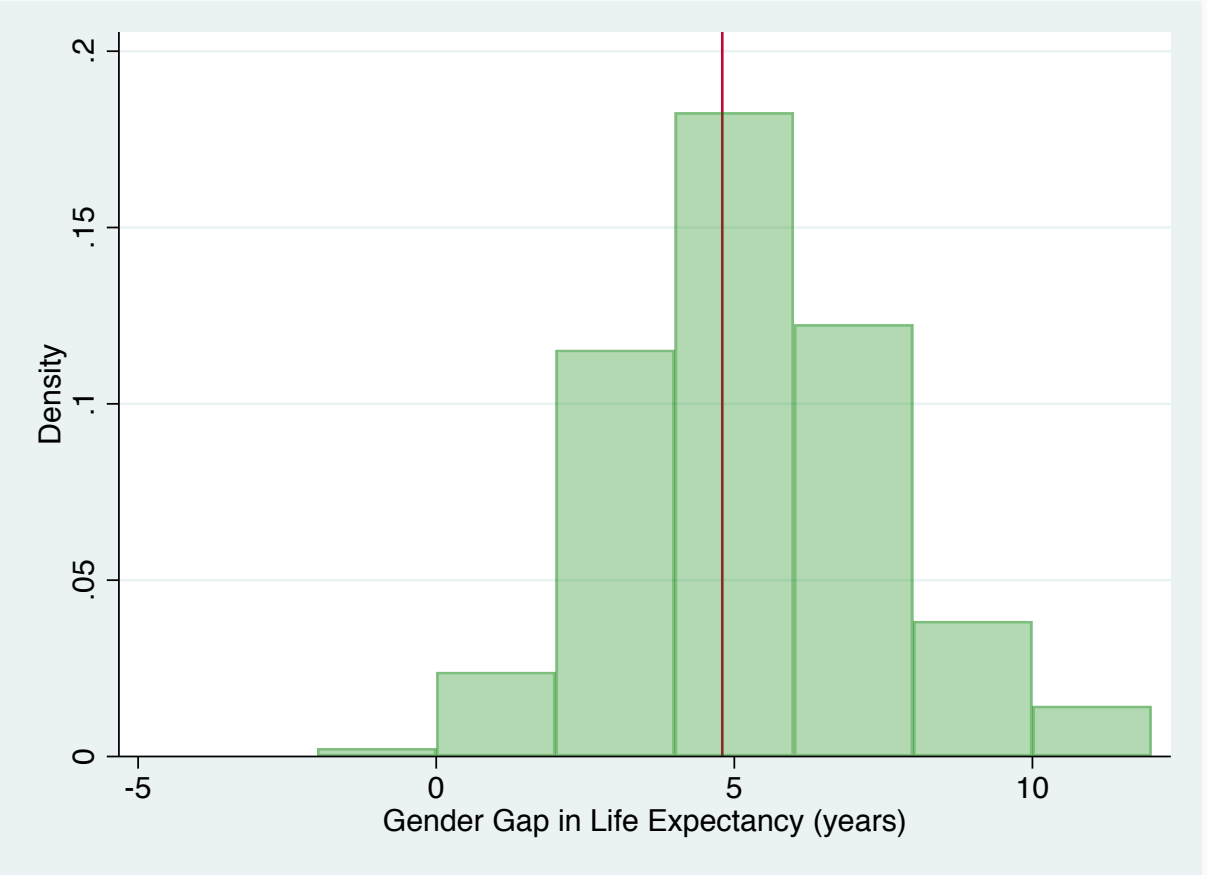
Introduction

Distribution of Gender Life Expectancy Gap

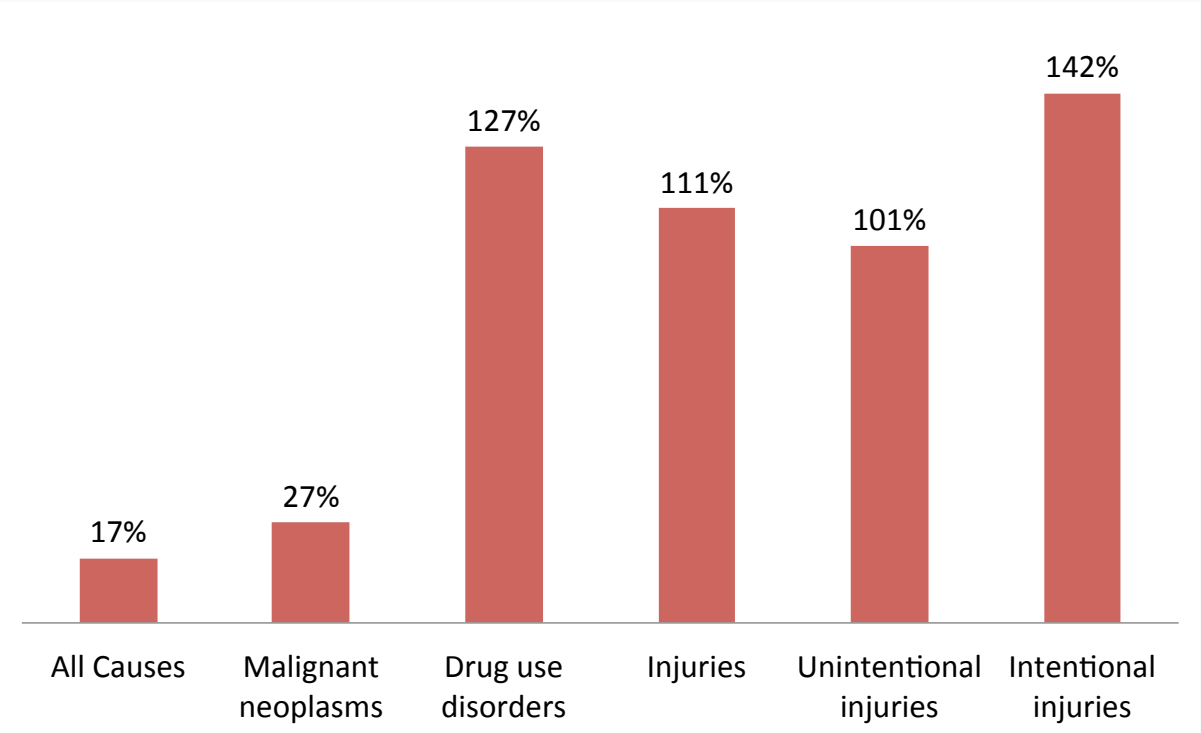
- Men on average lives about five years less.
- Wide variation in gender gaps in longevity suggests underlying socio-economic factors may have relevant roles.



Source: World Bank Data.

Excess Disease Burden by Gender

- Burdens from different diseases are higher for men.
- Sometimes excessively so.



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- Within men unobserved trait differences can also be helpful (even for aggression among women, see Reidy, Sloan and Zeichner, 2009)

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- In particular negotiating the social power and status for men can shed some insights in this, which can either undermine or promote health behavior.
- Within men unobserved trait differences can also be helpful (even for aggression among women, see Reidy, Sloan and Zeichner, 2009)
- We will use one such trait (masculine norm conformity) to understand risk taking behavior in the context of sex (Fleming, 2018).

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- We pay attention to the social construction of certain masculine norm and conformity to the idealized (hegemonic?) concept of what is expected of men.
- We explicitly model the roles of (a) the relative conformity factor and (b) social structure (agent's network) in a choice-theoretic framework.
- We empirically test some of the implications of the model using a novel dataset.

Model

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A representative agent chooses s_i to optimize the following welfare function:

$$u(y_i - s_i) + \theta_i \, v(s_i) \left(1 + \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \mathbf{1}(m_i - \bar{m}_{-i})\right) \tag{1}$$

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- $\bar{m}_{-i}$ is an average of m_i over his peer.
- $\alpha \in (1, \infty)$ defines how much "kick" he gets from having a higher masculine norm conformity compared to his peer: the *mucho*-ness, so to speak!

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Optimal choice is governed by

$$u'(y_i - s_i^*) = \theta_i \, v'(s_i^*) \left(1 + \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \mathbf{1}(m_i - \bar{m}_{-i})\right) \tag{2}$$

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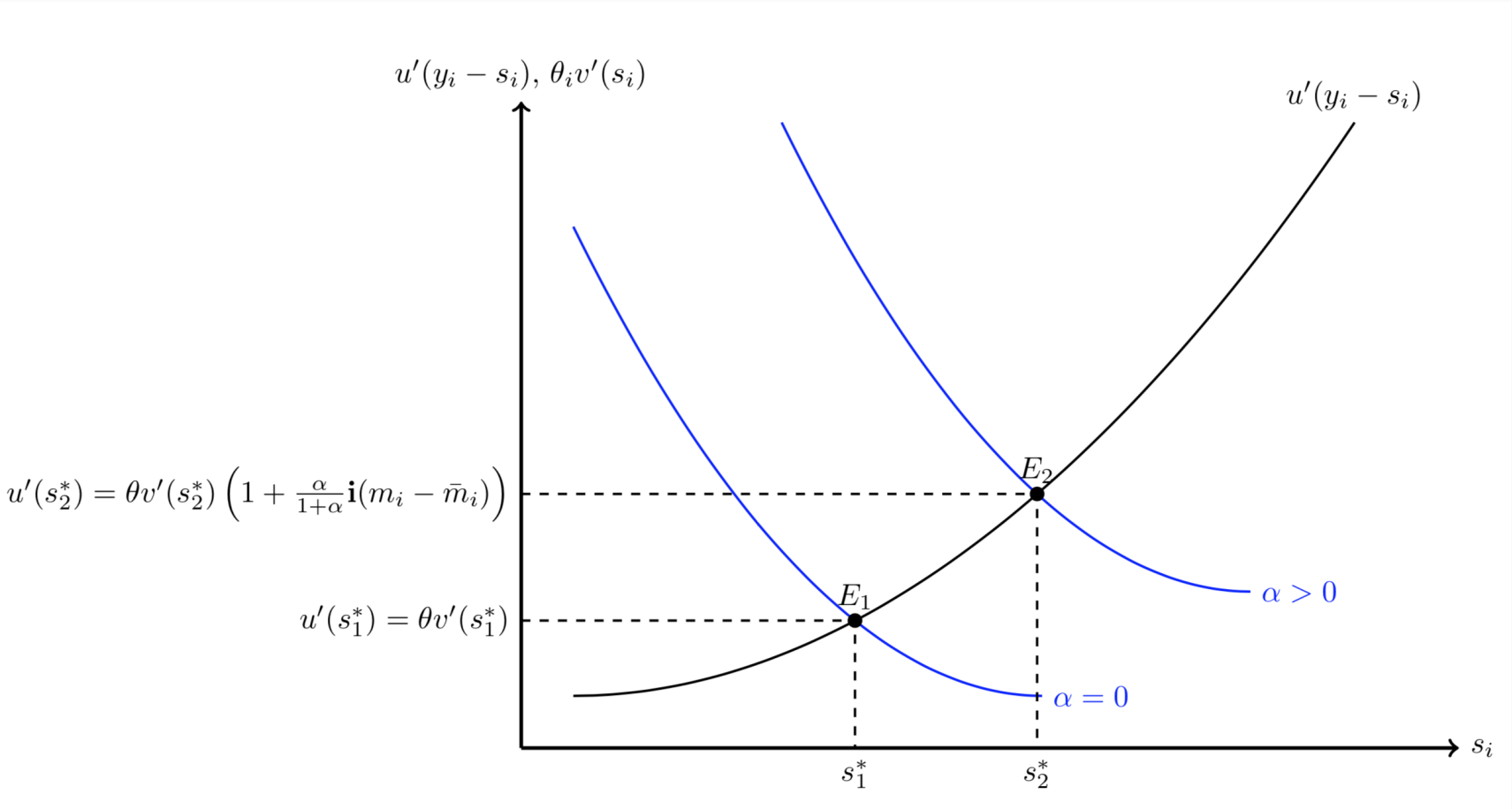
So the *sociology* of decision making requires

- the masculine norm conformity playing a role.
- positive marginal utility from riskier sex: $\theta_i v'(s_i)$
- the relative position within one's social network matters if $\alpha > 0$, we test this in the data.

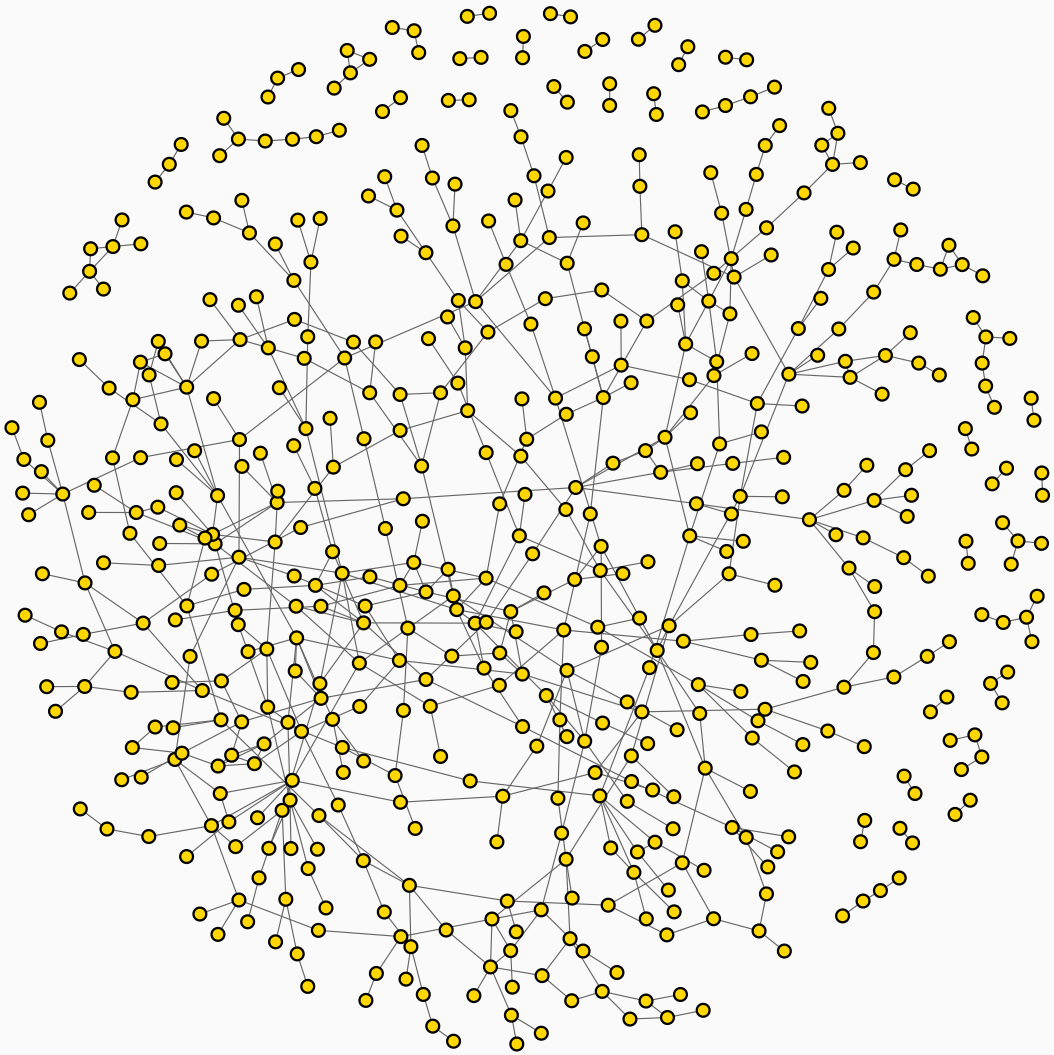
Comparative Statics



Data

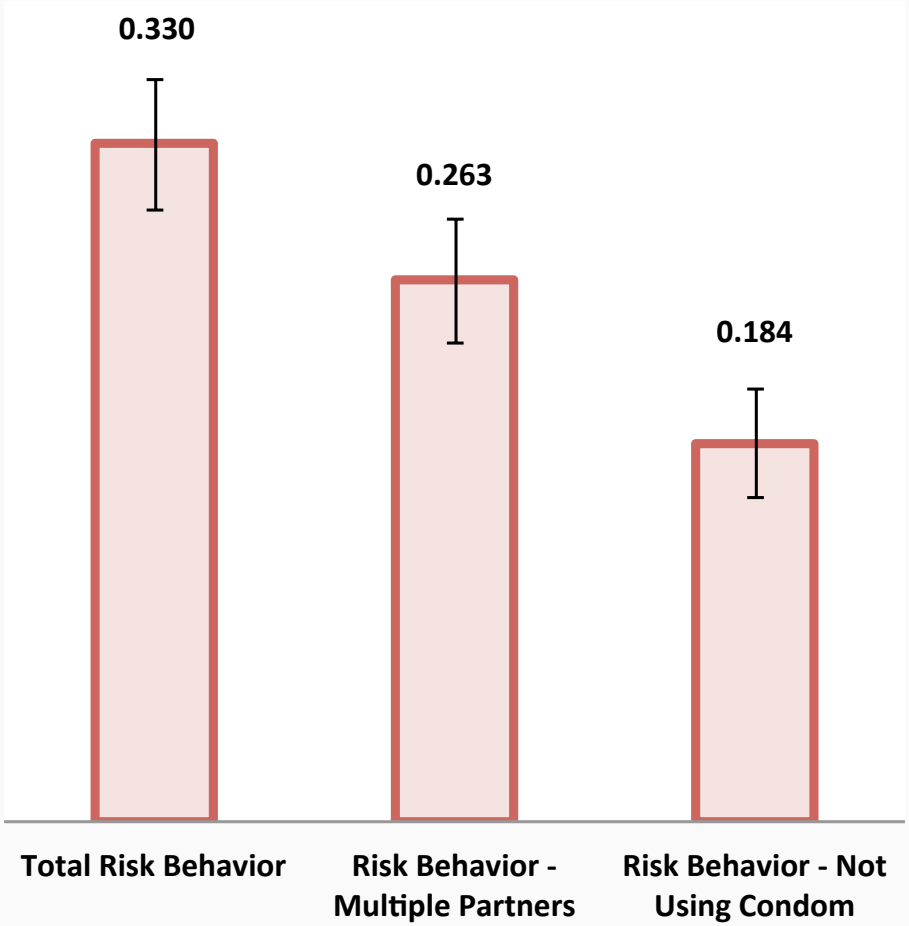
Social Network Data

- We have interviewed 824 young men between 18 and 29 years old.
- We have carefully mapped the entire social network (see the sociogram on the left).
- Only 557 respondents are included who has at least one tie.



Risky Sexual Behavior

- We have very detailed self-reports on sexual behaviors.
  - Number of partners.
  - Intermittent use of condoms
  - Visiting female sex workers



Gender Role Conflict Scale

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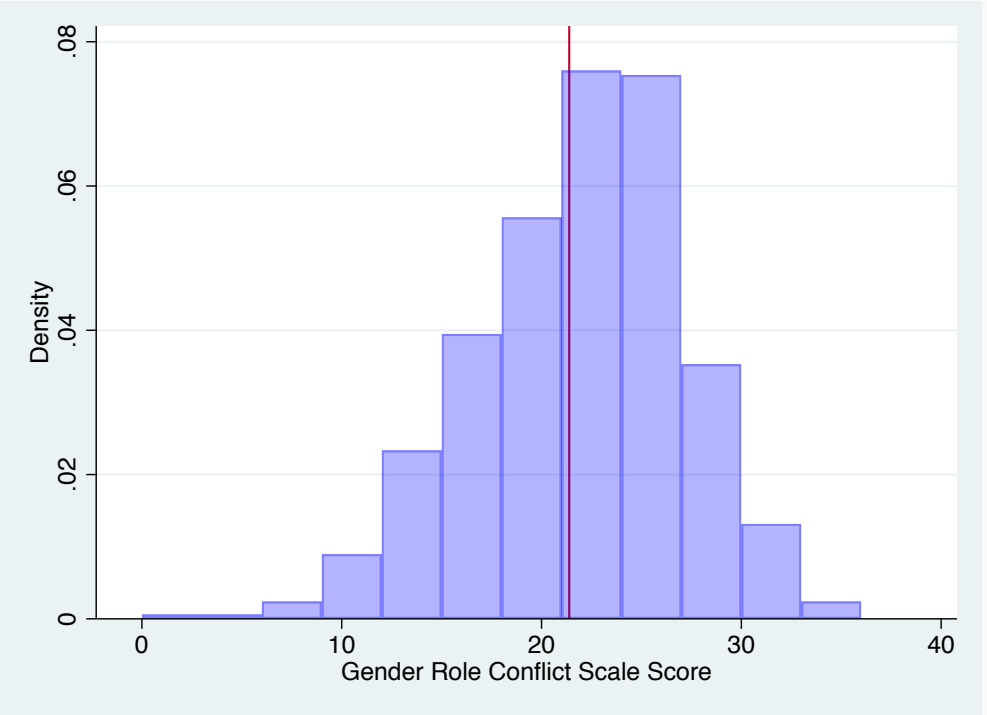
- Suggests restrictive emotionality, obsession with achievement and success, socialized control, power, and competition issues



Econometric Model

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We can linearize the optimal decision in the following empirical model

$$Pr(D_i = 1) = a + bm_i + c\mathbf{1}(m_i - \bar{m}_{-i}) + X_i + \varepsilon_i \tag{3}$$

Here,

- $D_i = 1$ if the respondent reported being engaged risky sexual behavior in the last three months, $D_i = 0$ otherwise
- m_i is the GRC/S score for respondent i
- $\mathbf{1}(m_i - \bar{m}_{-i})$ is a variable indicating if own m_i is higher than the group $\bar{m}_{-i}$
- X_i includes bunch of covariates such as marital status, education, age, occupations, being born in the community, wealth index.

Findings

Regression Results for Risky Sexual Behaviors

	= 1 if Risky Sexual Behavior Reported			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Own GRC/S Score (standardized)	1.233*	1.288**	1.357***	1.085
	(0.055)	(0.023)	(0.008)	(0.543)
Friends Average Risky Sexual Behavior (standardized)		1.275**	1.310***	1.286**
		(0.013)	(0.007)	(0.011)
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- Among other variables:
  - Education and wealth do not play any roles.
  - Being married is positively associated with risky sexual behavior.
  - More connected people also exhibit risky sexual behavior.

Some Robustness Checks

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Risk Behavior - Multiple Partners	Risk Behavior - Not Using Condom	= 1 if Risky Sexual Behavior Reported			
			Only Sexually Active	Married	Alternate Measures of Relative Masculinity Score	
Own GRC/S Score (standardized)	1.021	1.085	1.146	0.893	1.378*	1.333**
	(0.893)	(0.587)	(0.364)	(0.556)	(0.065)	(0.019)
Friends' Average GRC/S Score (standardized)	1.691*	1.618*	1.497	2.149**	1.272**	1.314***
	(0.060)	(0.083)	(0.140)	(0.022)	(0.014)	(0.009)
= 1 if Own GRC/S Score > Average Peer GRC/S Score	1.262**	1.200	1.234**	1.329**		
	(0.038)	(0.108)	(0.049)	(0.032)		
= 1 if Own GRC/S Score > Median GRC/S Score for the Community					0.846	
					(0.609)	
= 1 if Own GRC/S Score > Average GRC/S Score for Random Peer						1.026
						(0.457)
Observations	557	557	384	259	557	493

Note. We report the p-values in parentheses. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1.

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- We extend the basic rational agent model by adding a socially constructed gender role concept, particularly gender specific role conformity.
- In addition to what has previously been seen in the literature (Fleming, 2018), we find one's relative position in the conformity hierarchy is a strong predictor.
- We cannot claim causality based on observational data, however, the relationship appears robust and not susceptible to falsification test.

Psychodrama as an experiment

Psychodramatic Interventions

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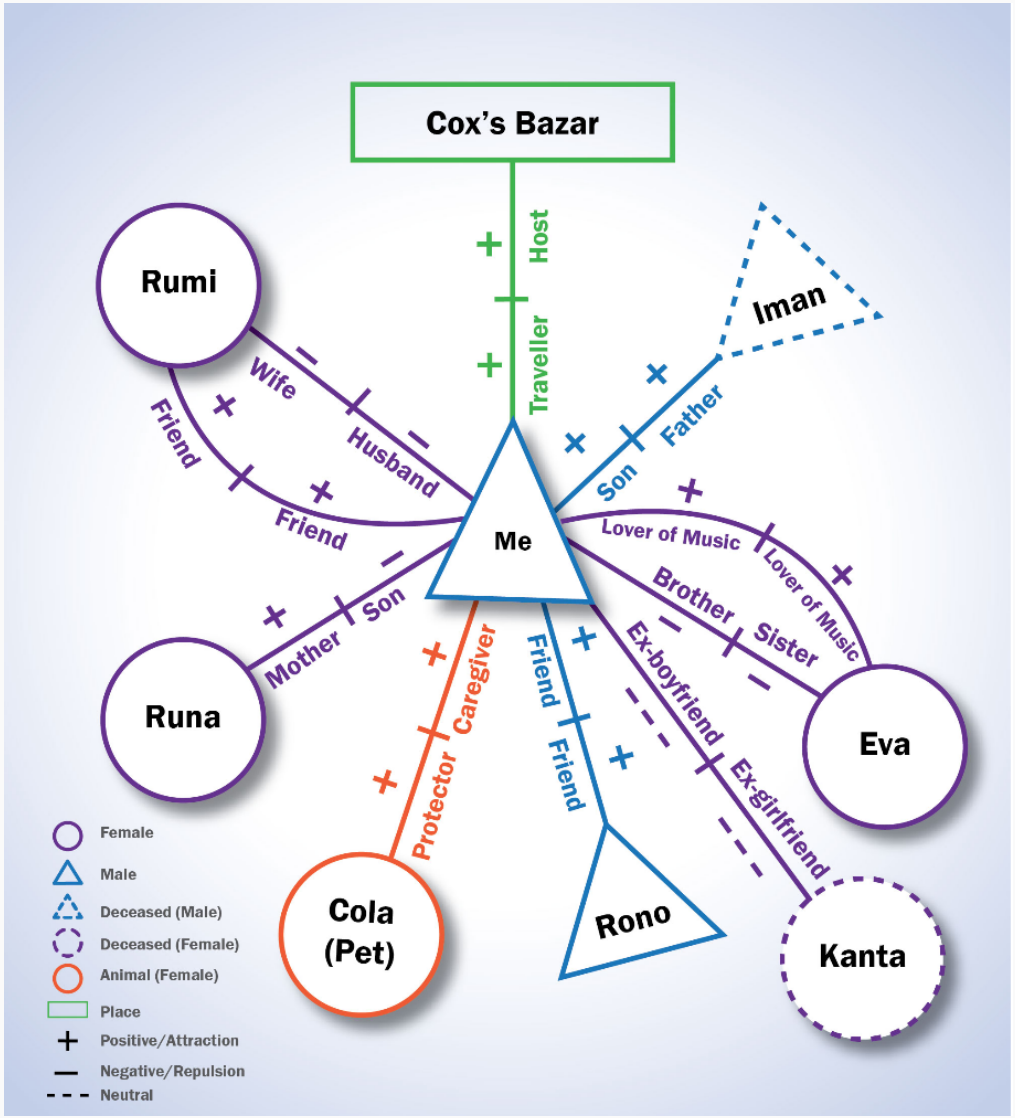
Psychodramatic Interventions

- Recall: social norms around masculinity or gender roles are associated with risky sexual behaviors.
  - In a follow up paper, we have also looked at aggression and engagement in violence.
- Making these strict norms salient and empathizing (e.g. changing perspectives) can alter attitudes towards traditional gender norms.
- We involved 40 young men from the same population in *psychodramatic* interventions which involve sociometry, social atom, role playing, games, group activities, and resolutions.

Psychodramatic Interventions



Psychodramatic Interventions

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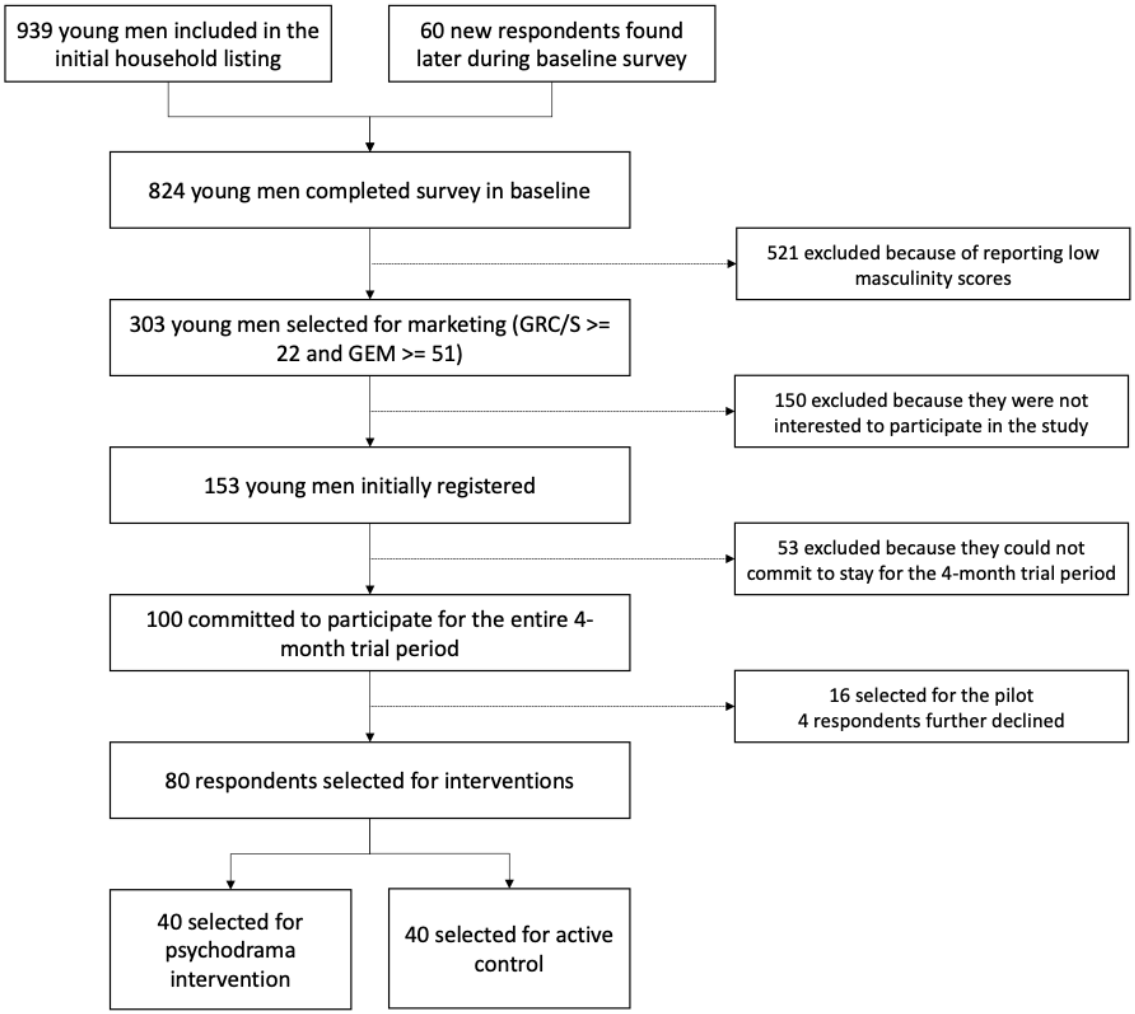
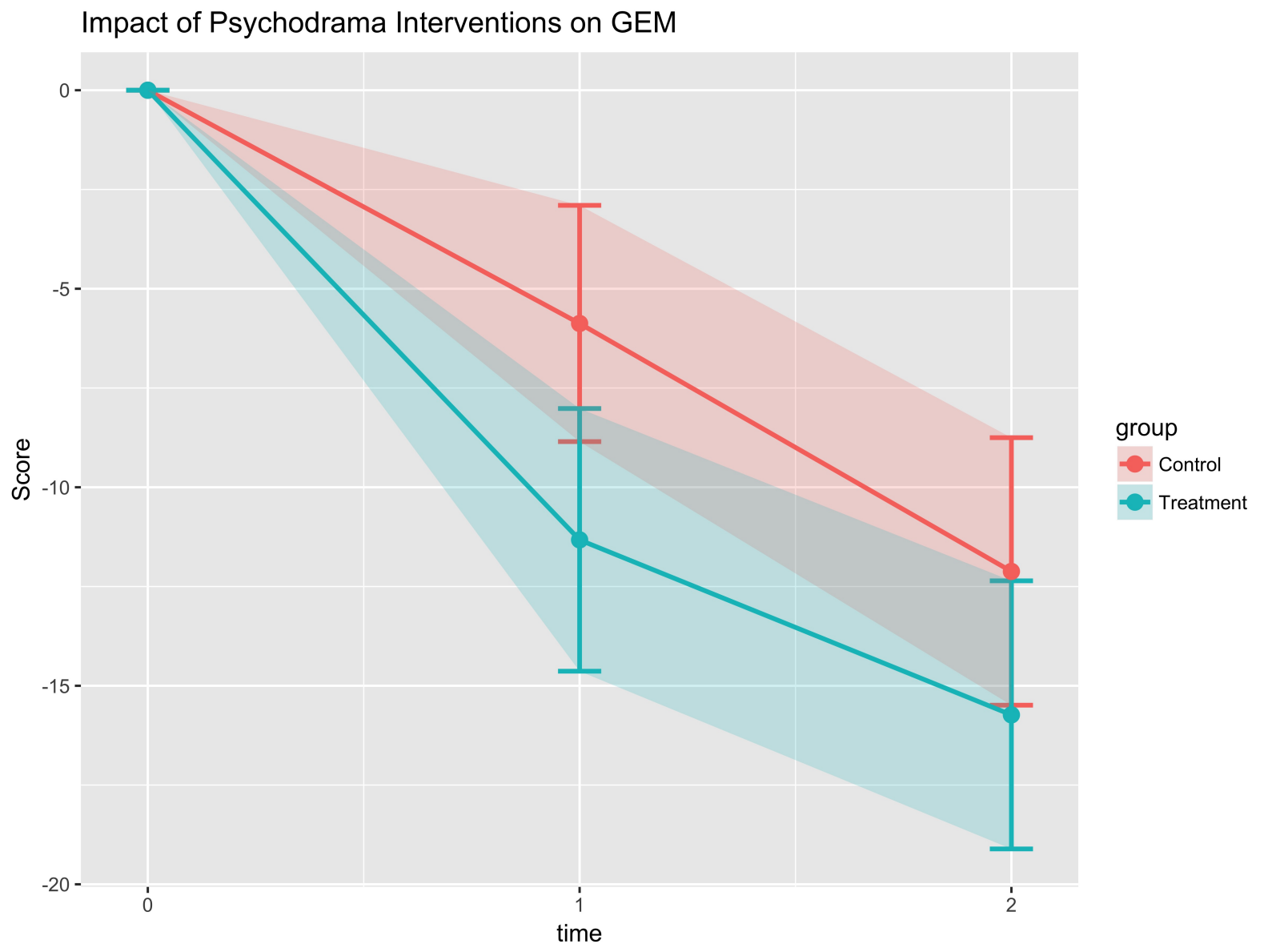
Psychodramatic Interventions: Sampling



Outcome: Gender Equitable Men (GEM) Scale

- Has four domains:
  - **Violence domain:** There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten./A woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together./It is alright for a man to beat his wife if she is unfaithful, *among others*.
  - **Sexual relationships domain:** It is the man who decides what type of sex to have./It disgusts me when I see a man acting like a woman./A woman who has sex before she marries does not deserve respect, *among others*.
  - **Reproductive health and disease prevention domain:** Men should be outraged if their wives ask them to use a condom./It is a womans responsibility to avoid getting pregnant, *among others*.
  - **Domestic chores and daily life domain:** A womans role is taking care of her home and family./A man should have the final word about decisions in his home, *among others*.
- Coded as higher values mean higher traditional gender role conformity.

Preliminary Results

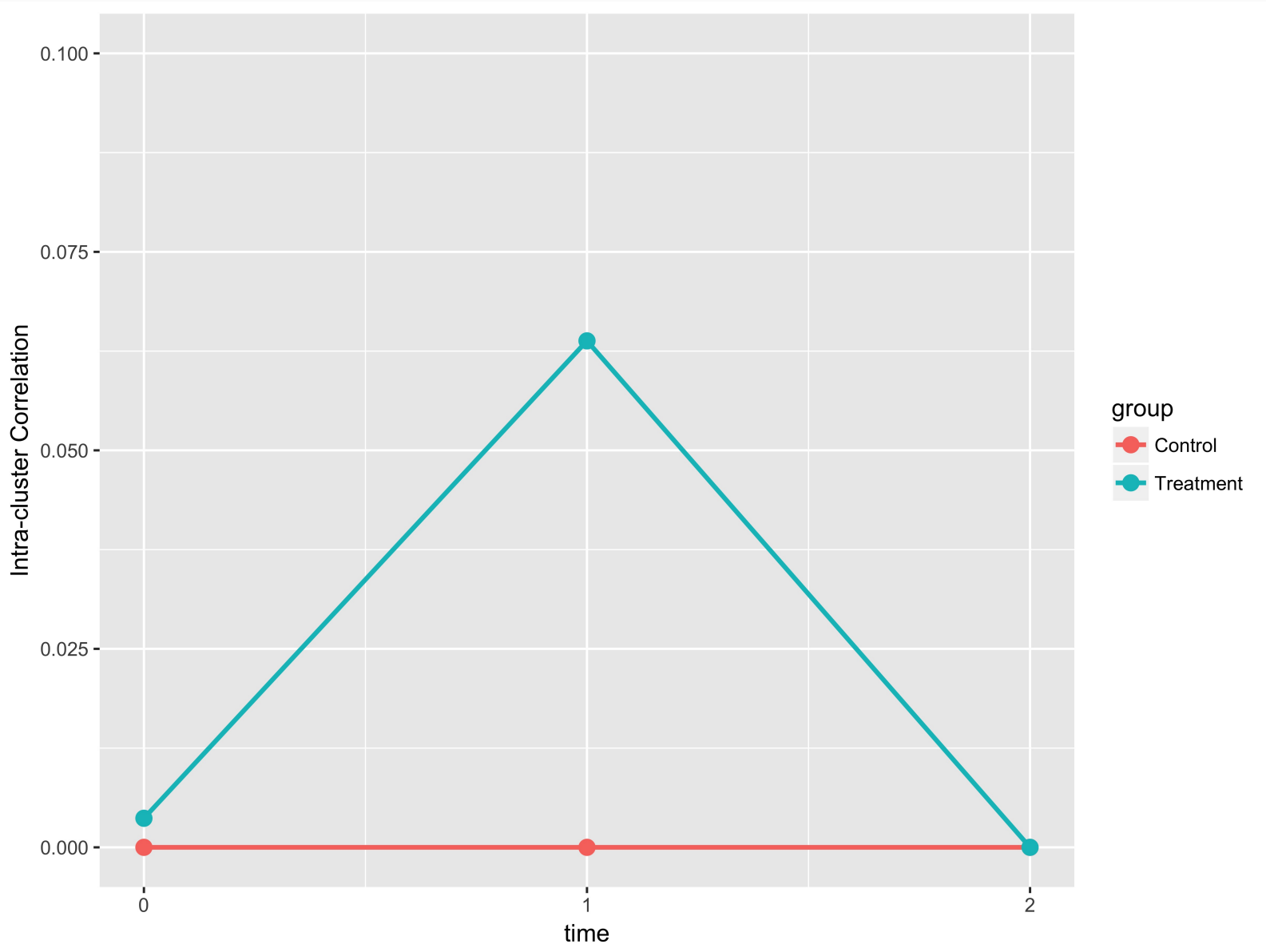


Preliminary Results

VARIABLES	(1) sdgem	(2) sdgema	(3) sdgemb	(4) sdgemc	(5) sdgemd
$t = 1$	-5.619***	-0.778***	-1.960***	-2.218***	-8.817***
	(0.224)	(0.224)	(0.140)	(0.180)	(0.283)
$t = 2$	-6.789***	-3.295***	-1.579***	-2.209***	-10.04***
	(0.225)	(0.225)	(0.181)	(0.224)	(0.288)
$d = 1$	0.237	1.740***	-0.0297	1.573***	-3.855***
	(0.224)	(0.224)	(0.146)	(0.203)	(0.307)
$t = 1 \times d = 1$	-1.144***	-3.526***	0.0601	-1.989***	3.090***
	(0.316)	(0.316)	(0.201)	(0.267)	(0.341)
$t = 2 \times d = 1$	-0.365	-2.494***	-0.162	-1.203***	3.882***
	(0.319)	(0.319)	(0.261)	(0.347)	(0.355)
Observations	237	237	237	237	237
R-squared	0.910	0.804	0.573	0.707	0.939

Robust standard errors in parentheses. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Preliminary Results: ICC



Conclusions

Acknowledgements

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- Specially our *Psychodrama* team
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Thank you

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