Poster Presentation
Parental Disapproval of Children’s “Coming-Out-of-the-Closet”:
The Role of Right-Wing Authoritarianism, Social Dominance,
Religiosity and Parenting Style
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The purpose of this study was to examine the contributing factors of social dominance orientation (SDO), right-wing authoritarianism (RWA), parenting style, and religiosity on parental reactions towards their adolescent child once the child has disclosed a homosexual orientation to them. Perhaps with a better understanding of these contributing influences parental disapproval can be better addressed in a way that may prevent a child from becoming homeless after coming out of the closet to an unaccepting parent. Participants included 62 (75.8% women) undergraduate students. The mean age was 20.24 (SD = 3.63). Of the sample, 45.2% identified as White, 32.3% identified as African American, 9.7% identified as Hispanic, 5% identified as multi-racial, and 3% identified as Asian-Pacific Islander. Analyses revealed that religiosity significantly predicted the degree to which participants would tell their gay or lesbian child to hide their sexual orientation and not engage in romantic relationships. Religiosity did not predict the degree to which participants stated that they would evict their gay or lesbian child from the home. Analyses also revealed significant relations between RWA, SDO, and participants’ attitudes toward evicting their gay or lesbian child, and their reported desire to restrict him or her from coming out or engaging in romantic relationships. These and other findings will be discussed, along with their implications, limitations of the study, and directions for future research.