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Adults' Attitudes toward Childhood Gender Nonconformity
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This study examines attitudes people hold and outcomes they associate with childhood gender nonconformity. Participants were 646 undergraduates from introductory psychology courses who responded to online questionnaires. Participants were presented with one of 10 vignettes with a child target character (male or female) that varied in interests and behaviors from strongly masculine to moderately masculine, neutral, moderately feminine, or strongly feminine. Participants responded to 12 items assessing the target's current psychological adjustment as it relates to internalizing and externalizing psychological disorders. Participants also responded to 12 corresponding items predicting the target's psychological adjustment in adulthood. Participants predicted the target's sexual orientation based on attraction, behavior, and identity, and also rated whether or not the target would feel pressure to change. Finally, the short-version of the Attitudes Toward Women Scale (Spence, Helmreich, & Stapp, 1973) was used to measure liberal and conservative attitudes in participants. The collected data are currently being analyzed. It is hypothesized that participants will predict that gender nonconforming children will develop a nonheterosexual sexual orientation and be less psychologically well-adjusted in comparison to gender-typical targets. It is also hypothesized that overall evaluations of targets will differ for boys and girls. It is expected that participants' liberal or conservative attitudes may affect predictions of sexual orientation and psychological wellbeing.