

University of Texas of the Permian Basin

FalconCommons

College of Arts & Sciences

Dissertations & Theses

Spring 5-2014

Do Culture and Biological Sex Influence People Who Engage in Non-Suicidal Self-Injury?

Rachel Berger

University of Texas Permian Basin

Follow this and additional works at: <https://falconcommons.utpb.edu/utpb-cas>



Part of the [Applied Behavior Analysis Commons](#), [Behavior and Behavior Mechanisms Commons](#), [Cognitive Psychology Commons](#), [Gender and Sexuality Commons](#), and the [Social Psychology and Interaction Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

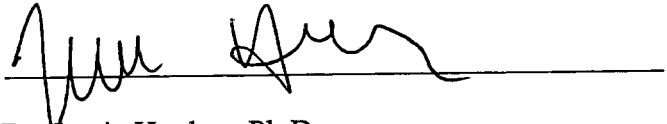
Berger, Rachel, "Do Culture and Biological Sex Influence People Who Engage in Non-Suicidal Self-Injury?" (2014). *College of Arts & Sciences*. 1.

<https://falconcommons.utpb.edu/utpb-cas/1>

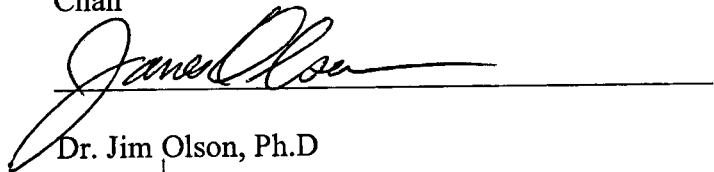
This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Dissertations & Theses at FalconCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in College of Arts & Sciences by an authorized administrator of FalconCommons. For more information, please contact pappas_j@utpb.edu.

DO CULTURE AND BIOLOGICAL SEX INFLUENCE
PEOPLE WHO ENGAGE IN NON-SUICIDAL
SELF-INJURY?

APPROVED BY SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE:



Dr. Jamie Hughes, Ph.D
Chair



Dr. Jim Olson, Ph.D



Dr. Kevin Harris, Ph.D



Dr. Janet Carter, Ph.D
Graduate Faculty Representative

DO CULTURE AND BIOLOGICAL SEX INFLUENCE
PEOPLE WHO ENGAGE IN NON-SUICIDAL
SELF-INJURY?

By

RACHEL BERGER, B.A.

THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Faculty of Psychology

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin In partial Fulfillment

Of Requirements

For the Degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

May 2014

Abstract

Non-Suicidal Self-Injury (NSSI) refers to behaviors in which a person intentionally harms and causes tissue damage to oneself, without the desire to end his or her life. There have been contradictory findings with regard to differences in NSSI by biological sex and culture. In this study, I sought to examine if adults with independent cultural self-construals would report more occurrences of NSSI in comparison to those with interdependent cultural self-construals. Furthermore, I was interested in whether females would report more instances of NSSI in comparison to males in independent based cultures, and I examined whether the methods and reasons for using NSSI would differ for those with independent and interdependent self-construals. Participants completed the Inventory of Statements about Self-Injury (ISAS), an assessment for people who use NSSI, and the Self-Construal Scale (SCS), a questionnaire that asks about one's cultural beliefs. Due to an insufficient number of male participants, hypotheses related to biological sex could not be tested. There were no significant differences in the prevalence of NSSI between independent and interdependent self-construals found. The results showed that the method of cutting was higher among people with independent self-construal in comparison to people with interdependent self-construal. Some of the reasons for using NSSI were higher among independent versus interdependent self-construal participants. More replications of this study need to be conducted before these findings can be generalized.