

# Relationship Tempo for Bi+ Women Partnered with Cismen, Ciswomen, and Gender Minority Individuals

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## BACKGROUND

- “U-Hauling” is the stereotype that lesbian couples move-in together noticeably faster than other couples
- Some data suggest that lesbian relationships do develop at more a more rapid pace, but it is unclear if these findings are due to a relationship's gender composition or partner's sexuality (Rose & Zand, 2002)
- **Study Aim:** This study aimed to examine the effects of gender composition on relationship tempo, holding sexual identity constant (looking exclusively at bi+ women).

## HYPOTHESES:

1. Bi+ women partnered with ciswomen will have a faster relationship tempo than those partnered with cismen or gender minorities

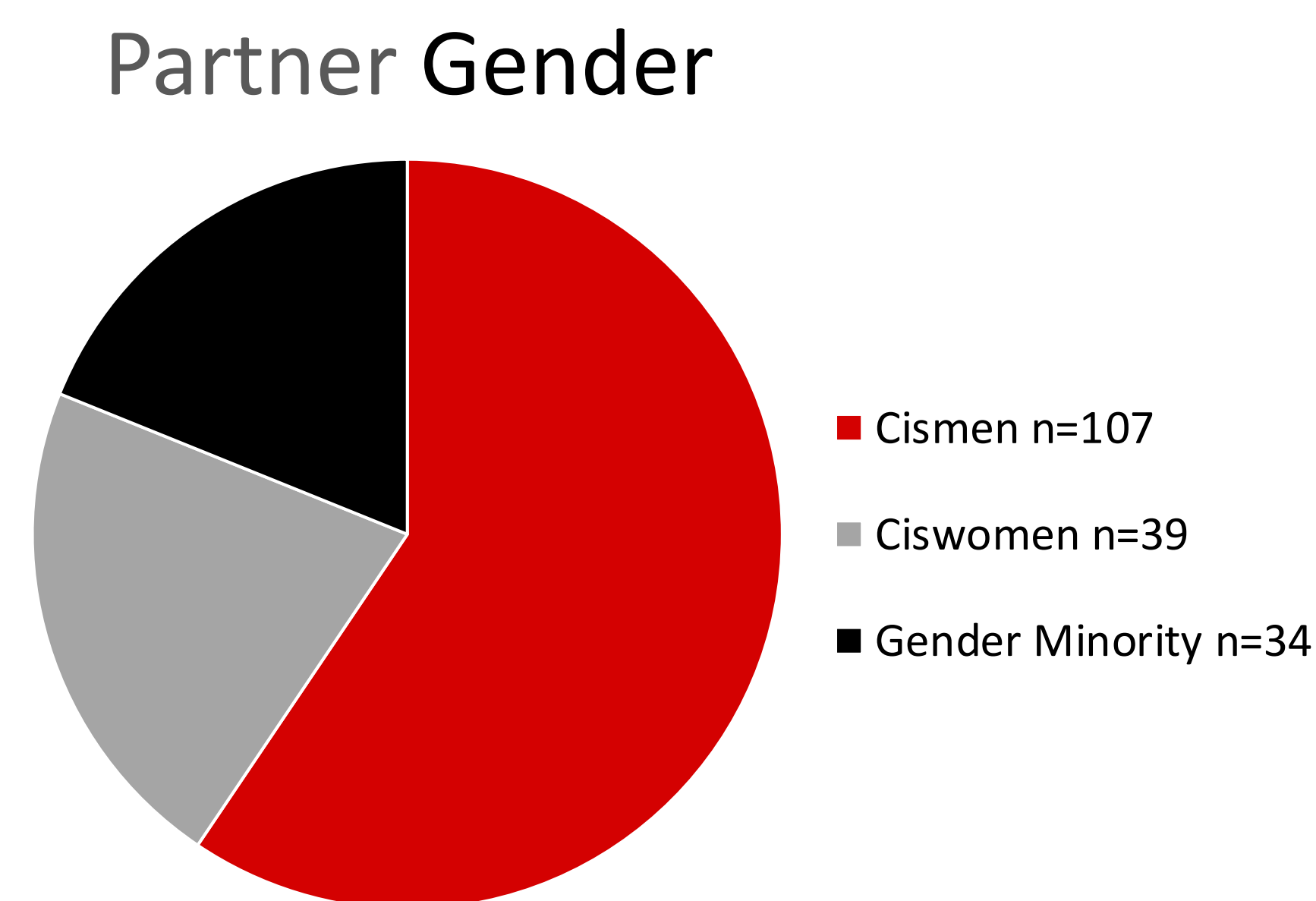
## PARTICIPANTS

- 180 Bi+ women (bisexual, pansexual, queer) assigned female at birth (19-35 years old; 35% Black; 29% white; 23% Hispanic/Latinx, 13% Other) in a romantic relationship

## MEASURES

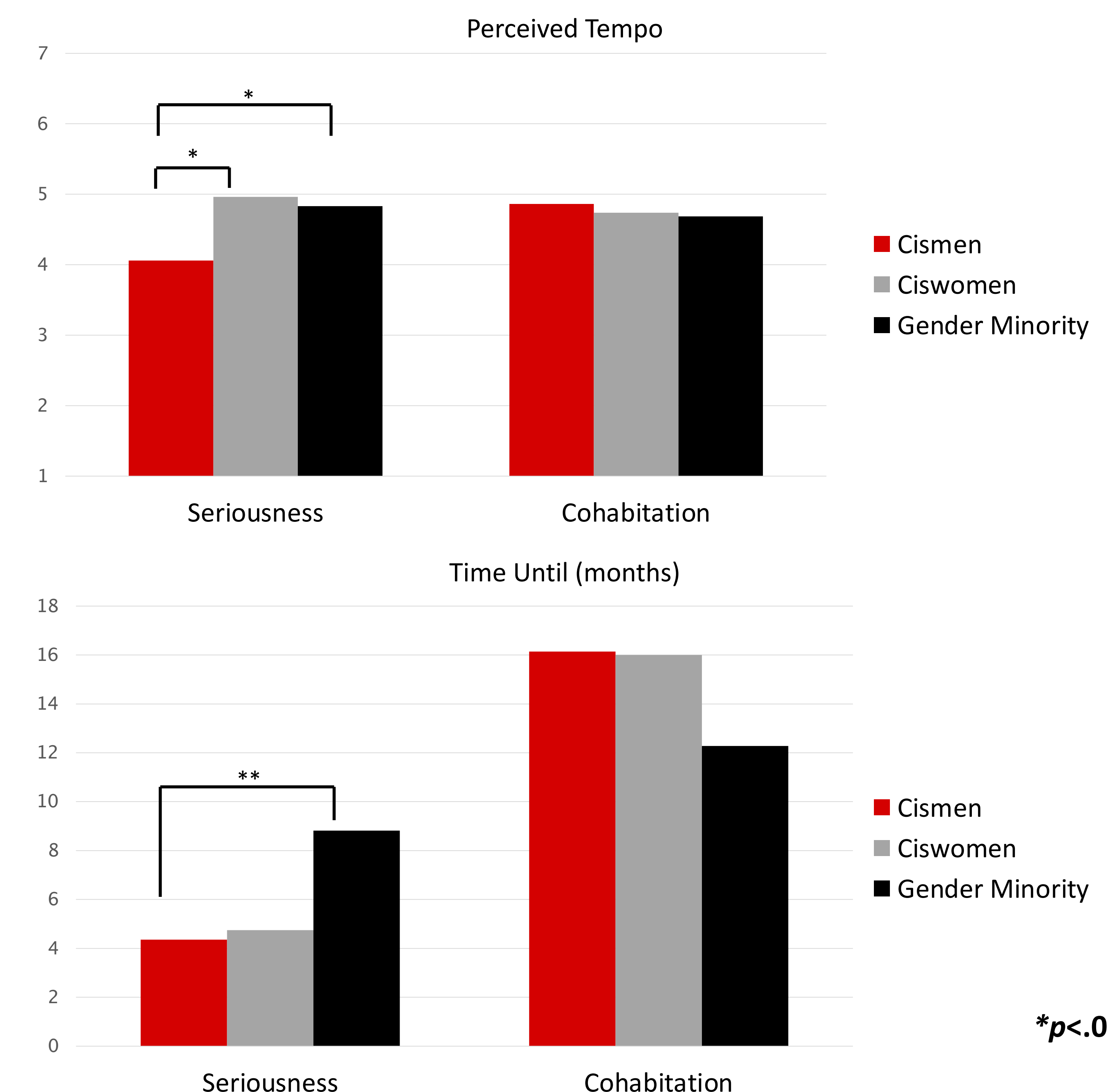
- **Tempo**
  - **Seriousness:**
    - 4-item scale assessing tempo taken to get serious
    - “We got serious very quickly”: 1(strongly disagree)-7(strongly agree)
  - **Cohabitation:**
    - 3-item scale assessing tempo of cohabitation
    - “We decided that we wanted to be together long-term before we chose to move-in together”: 1(strongly disagree)-7(strongly agree)
- **Time until (duration)**
  - 1-item assessing time together before getting serious or cohabitating (unit of time)

❖ Higher scores indicated slower tempos



## RESULTS

- **Analyses:** We conducted a one-way ANCOVA on each of the tempo measures, controlling for age and income. Partner gender showed a significant effect on tempo to get serious ( $F(2, 175) = 8.365, p = <.001$ ), but no significant effect on cohabitation tempo ( $F(2, 75) = 0.0009, p = 0.991$ )
- **Seriousness:** Seriousness tempo and time taken to become serious was quickest for those partnered with cismen
- **Cohabitation:** No significant effect of partner gender on cohabitation tempo or time taken



## DISCUSSION

- Contrary to our hypothesis, Bi+ women partnered with cismen had quicker seriousness tempo than Bi+ women partnered with ciswomen or gender minorities
  - There is no difference in cohabitation tempo by partner gender
- Future research: Quicker lesbian relationship tempos may not be due to partner gender, but due to some unique aspect of lesbian relationships. Future research should look to compare the tempos of lesbian relationships with bi+ women partnered with ciswomen to expand on this.
- Limitation: Disproportionate number of cismale partners