

Queering Black Activism: Exploring the Relationship Between Racial Identity and Black Activist Orientation among Black LGBTQ Youth

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Introduction

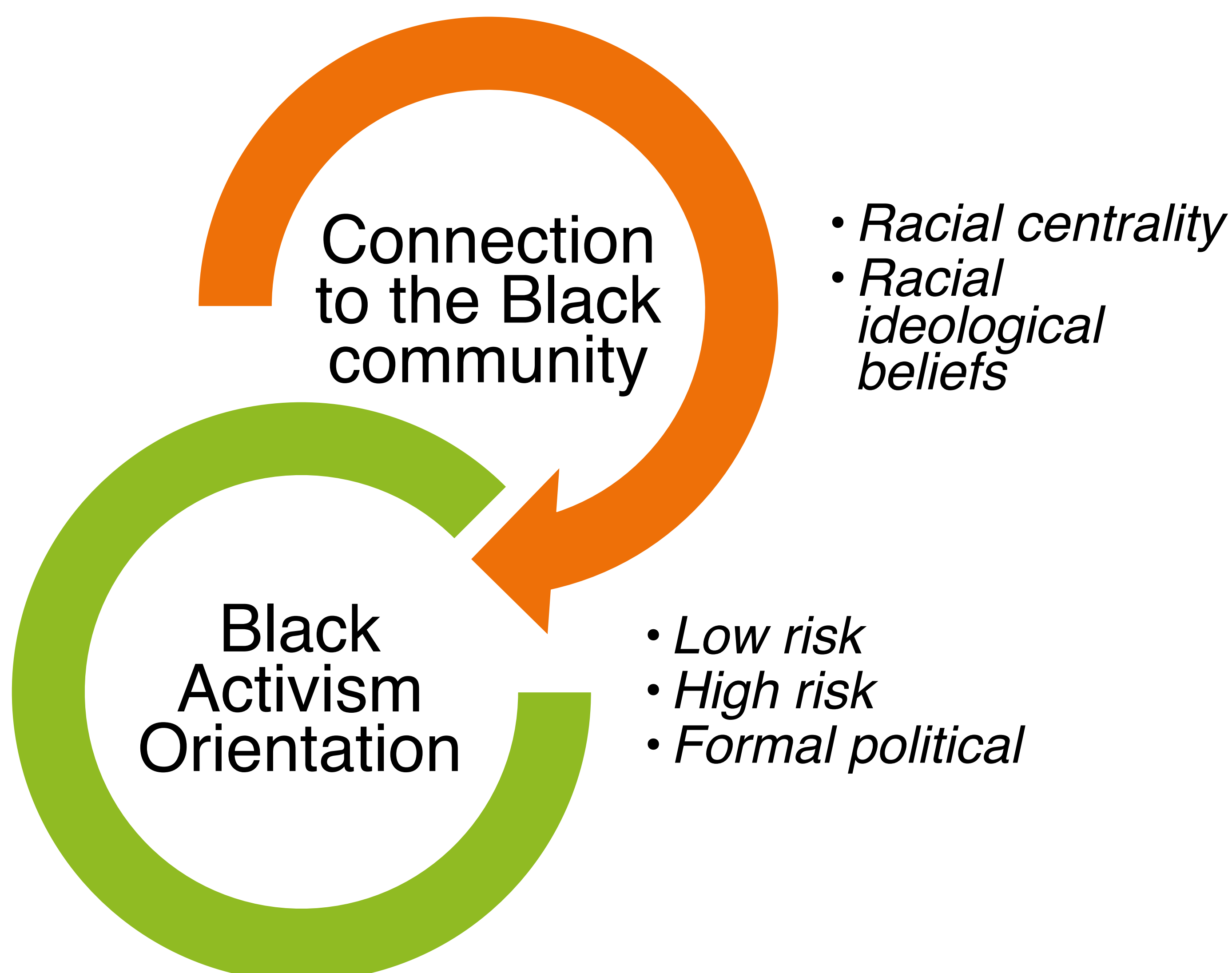
- Black queer (LGBTQ) youth experience disproportionate rates of economic insecurity and lack of protection under state and federal laws.
- Critical awareness of oppression encourages activism, an important mechanism for social change (Watts, Griffith, & Abdul-Adil, 1999)
- Black youth with high racial centrality are more aware of structural racism and motivated to support racial equity (White-Johnson, 2012).
- Given their unique marginalization, it is important to understand the role of racial identity in predicting activism for Black liberation among Black queer youth.

Research Questions

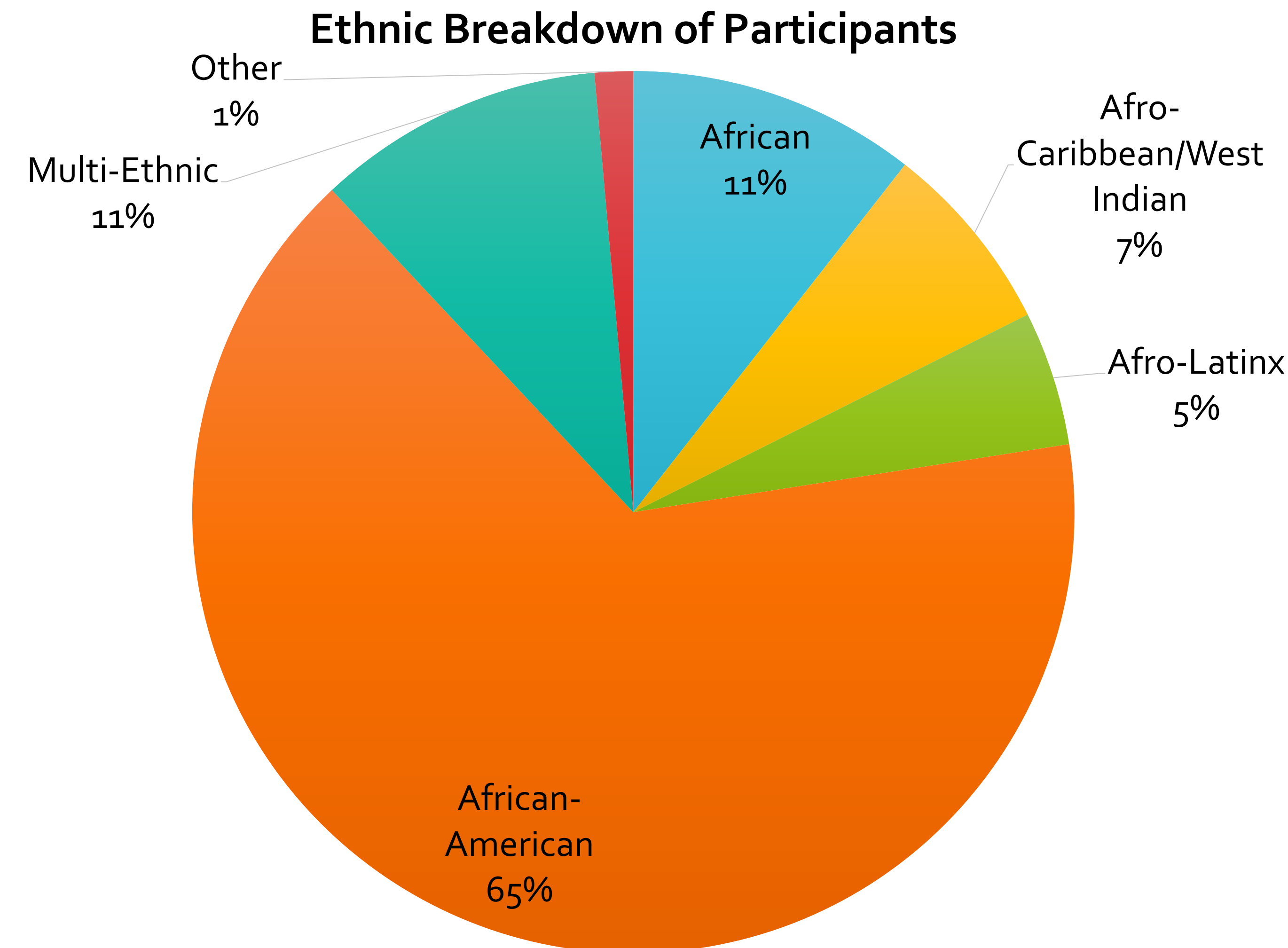
RQ₁: Does racial centrality and racial ideology predict orientation towards activism in and for the Black community?

RQ₂: Does racial ideology strengthen or weaken the relationship between racial centrality and Black activism orientation?

Conceptual Model



Participants



- N=142
- Self-identified Black LGBTQ (ages 14 – 29, M_{age} = 20.23)
- 69.5% female
- 74% currently enrolled as students
- Highest state representation: Georgia (12%) and Florida (11.3%)

Results

Table 3. Hierarchical Model Summary Predicting High Risk Black Community Activism Orientation (N = 142)

	ΔR^2	Model 1		
		B	SE	β
Step 1	.389			
Age		0.02	0.02	0.10
Genderb		-0.10	0.18	-0.04
Student		0.03	0.07	0.04
Volunteer		0.12***	0.04	0.22
Past HR		1.97***	0.31	0.47
Step 2	.017			
Centrality (C)		0.12*	0.06	0.14
Step 3	.032			
Assimilationist (A)		-0.09	0.13	-0.07
Humanist (H)		-0.02	0.11	-0.02
Oppressed Minority (OM)		0.04	0.10	0.04
Nationalist (N)		0.21*	0.08	0.21
Step 4	.022			
A x C		0.27*	0.13	0.24
H x C		-0.04	0.09	-0.05
OM x C		-0.14	0.09	-0.16
N x C		-0.02	0.06	-0.03

Note. Genderb = Binary gender. Past HR = Past high risk Black community activism. * $p < .05$; *** $p < .001$

Results

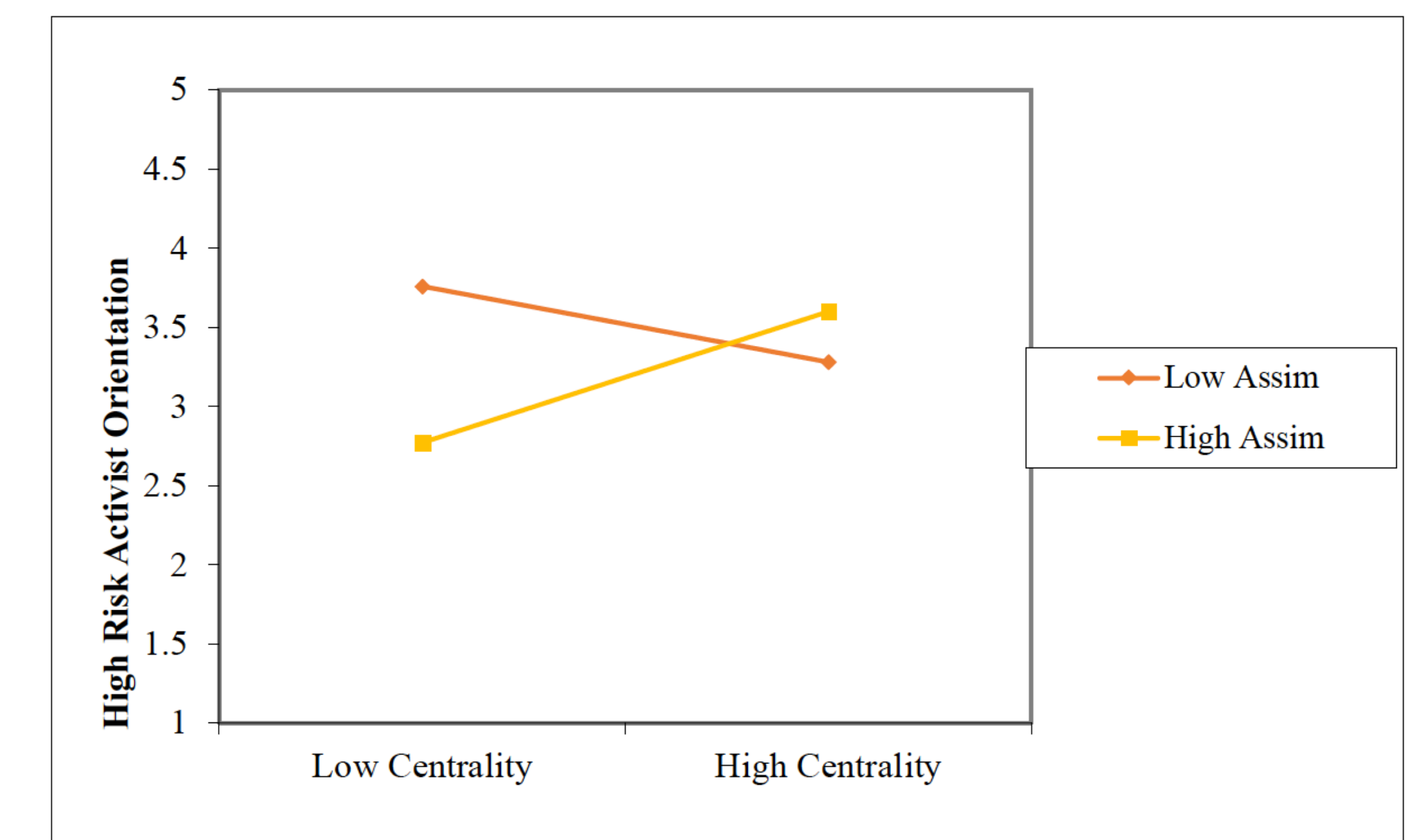
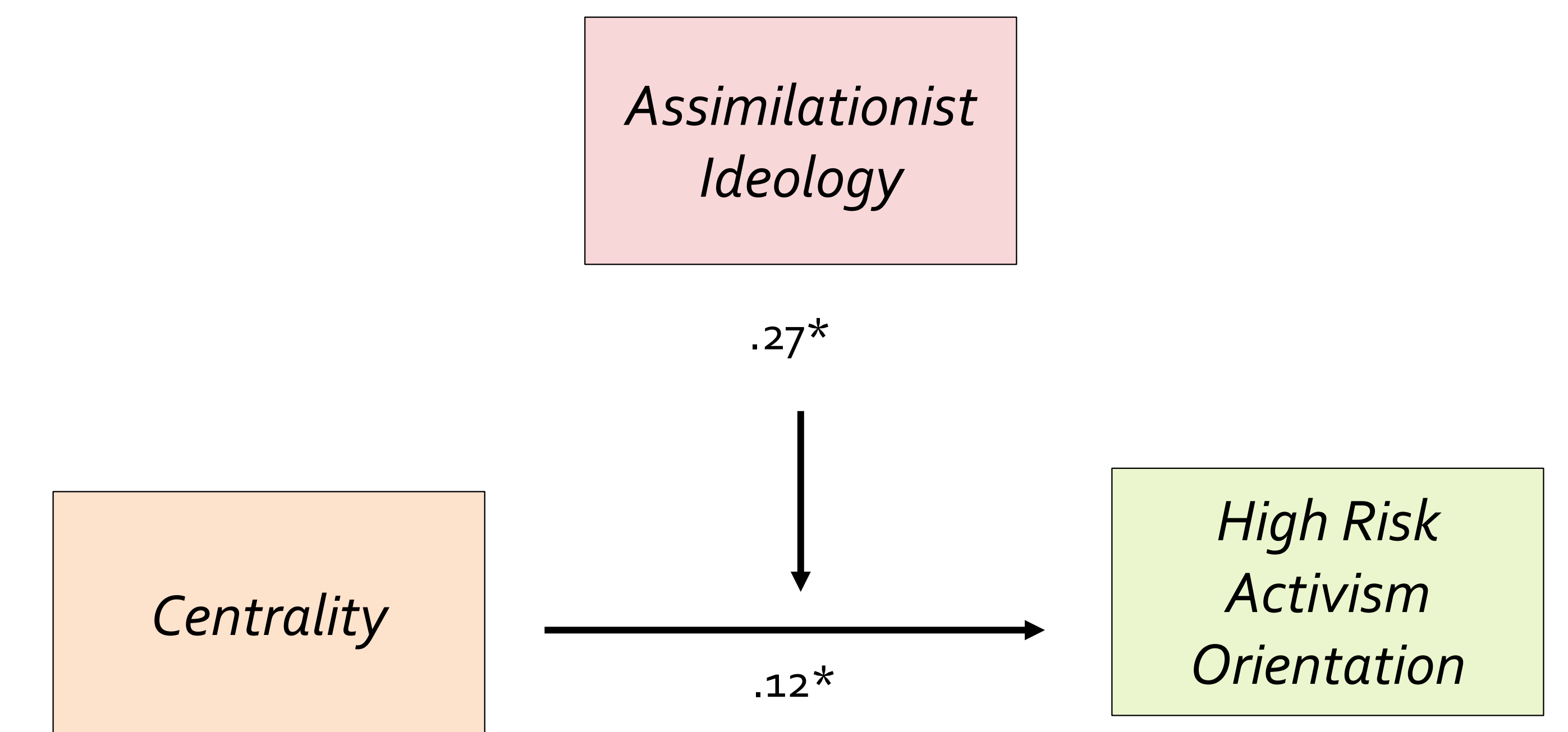


Figure 1. Relationship Between Centrality and High Risk Black Activist Orientation by Assimilationist Ideology. This figure depicts how assimilationist ideology moderates the relationship between high risk activist orientation. Note. Assim = Assimilationist ideology.

Discussion

- Perceived level of risk associated with Black activism and the importance of race to one's identity both matter to Black activism orientation.
- Having an ideological stance that strongly regards the uniquely distinct experience of being Black in the US (high nationalist) predicted a stronger likelihood to pursue unconventional and risky sociopolitical action for Black liberation.
- When Black queer youth strongly believe in the importance of asserting their Americanness (high assimilationist) while also believing that being Black is important to the self (high centrality), they are still oriented toward high risk activism to support the uplift of the Black community.