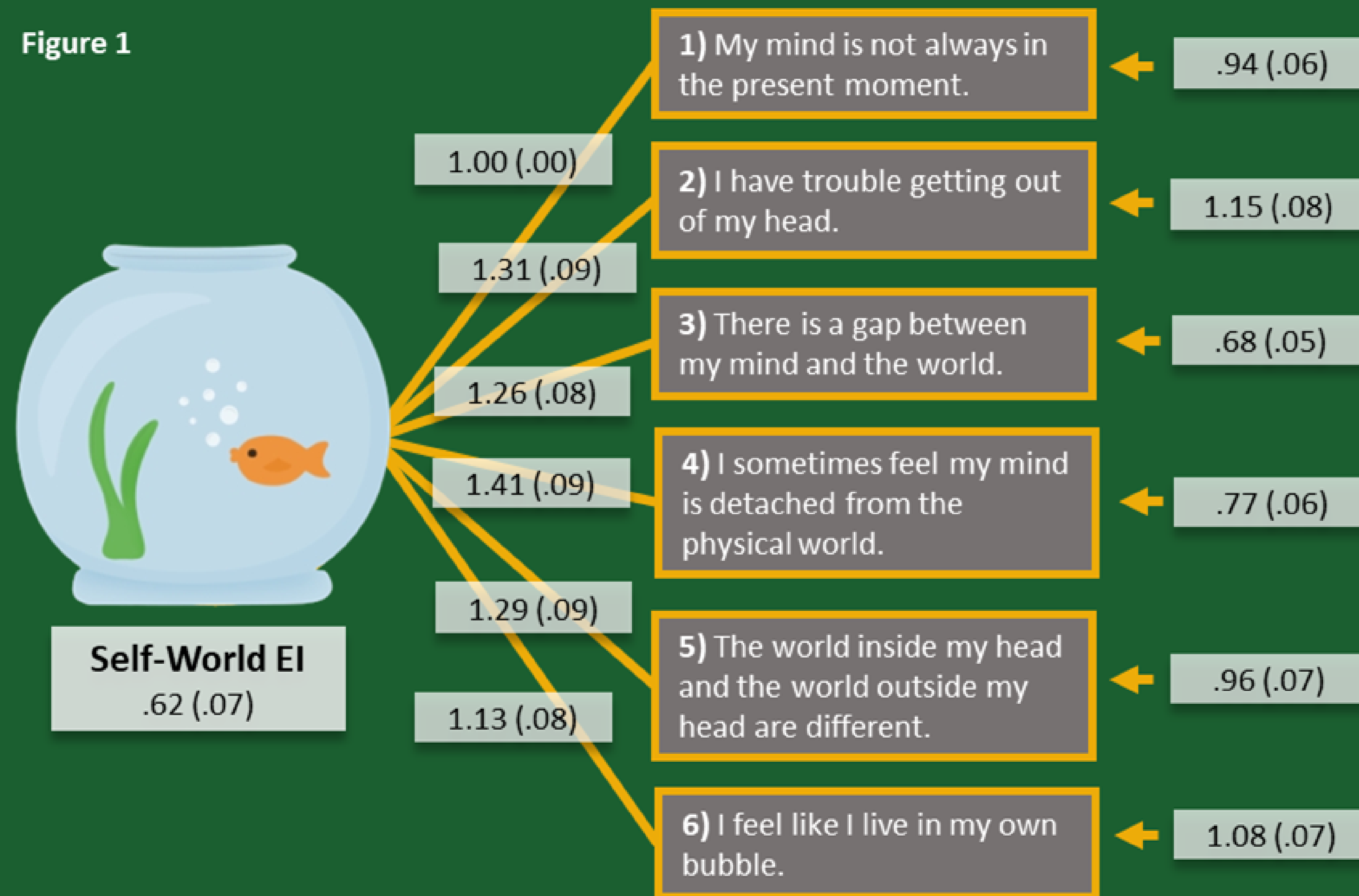


Subjective Opacity Theory: Exploring the Ontological Gap Between The Mind and World as a Psychological Experience

Roger Young, Jennifer Bosson, Maximilian Wright, Dan Nguyen, Delnaz Taherkalateh, Andrew McMillan, Connor Strady

People differ in the extents to which they feel disconnected from the world.

Figure 1



Women ($M = 3.89$) reported higher SWEI than men ($M = 3.69$), $t(604) = 2.12$, $p < .05$.



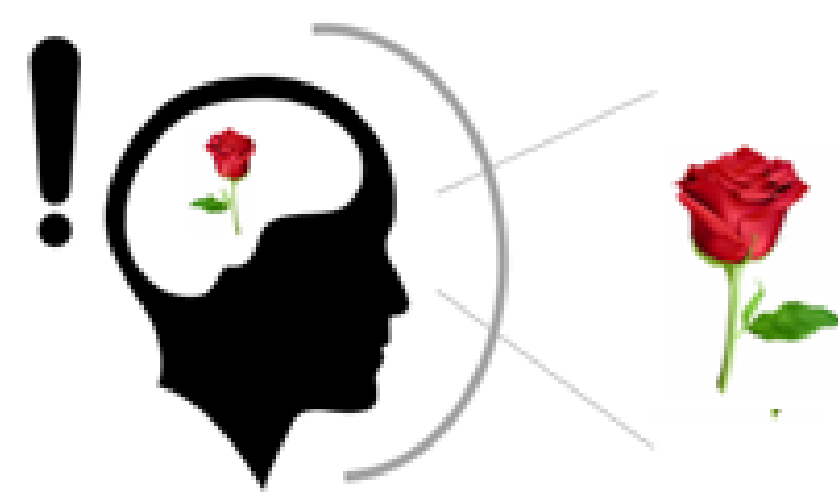
Liberals ($M = 4.04$) reported higher SWEI than conservatives ($M = 3.61$), $t(239) = 2.85$, $p < .01$.



Self-reported daily **screen time** is positively associated with SWEI ($r = .16$, $p < .05$).

Intro

Four studies explored the self-world dimension of existential isolation.



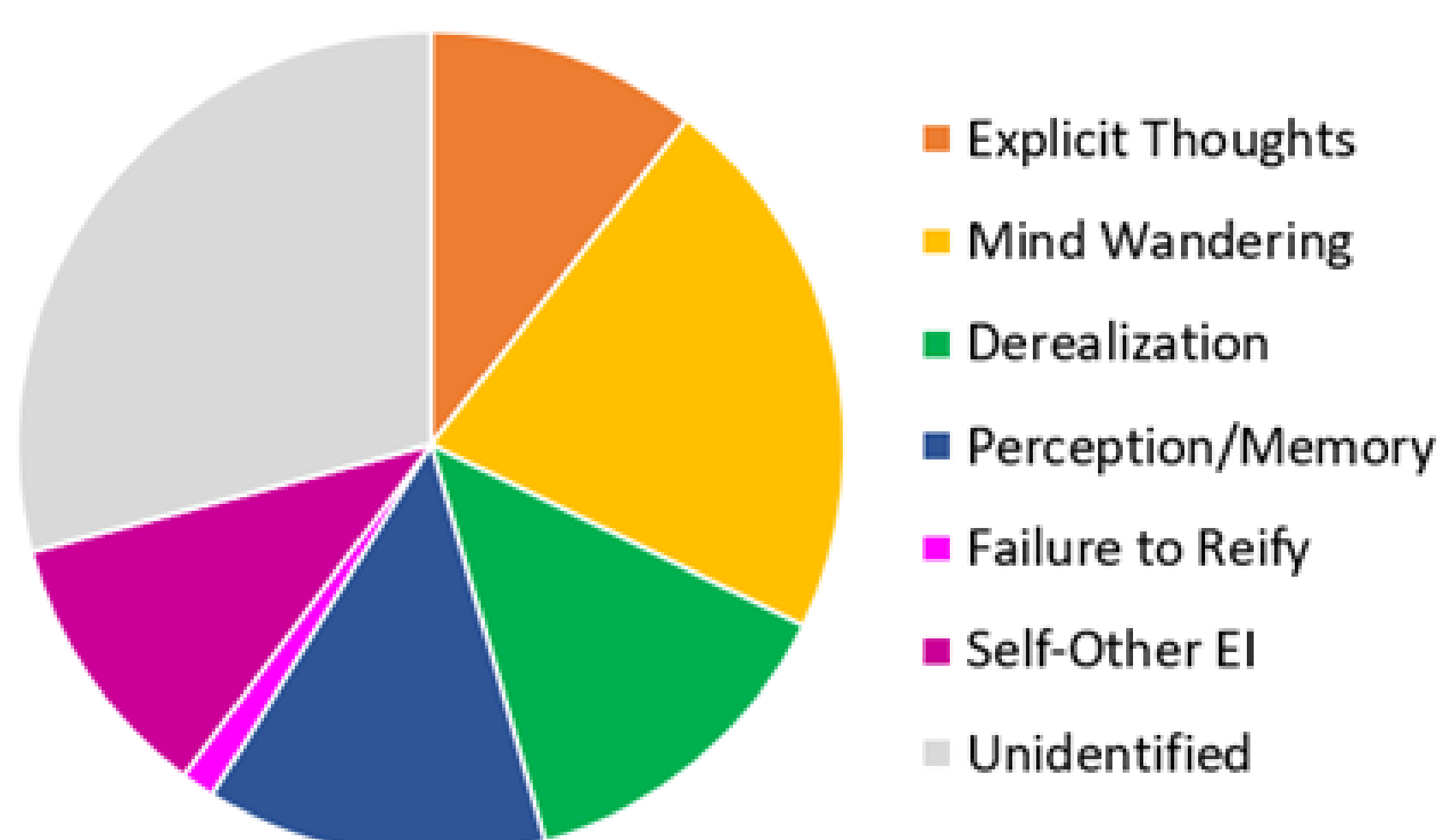
Self-world existential isolation (SWEI) occurs when the ontological gap between the mind and world is salient.

Methods

- Studies 1-2 asked participants to write about self-world existential isolation (SWEI) experiences and describe how the experiences made them feel.
- Study 3 randomly assigned participants to imagine a SWEI experience, a self-other EI experience (SOEI), a dental pain experience, or a daily routine experience before comparing affective and self-need outcomes.
- Study 4 tested the factor structure of a self-report measure of SWEI and tested its associations with theoretically related variables.

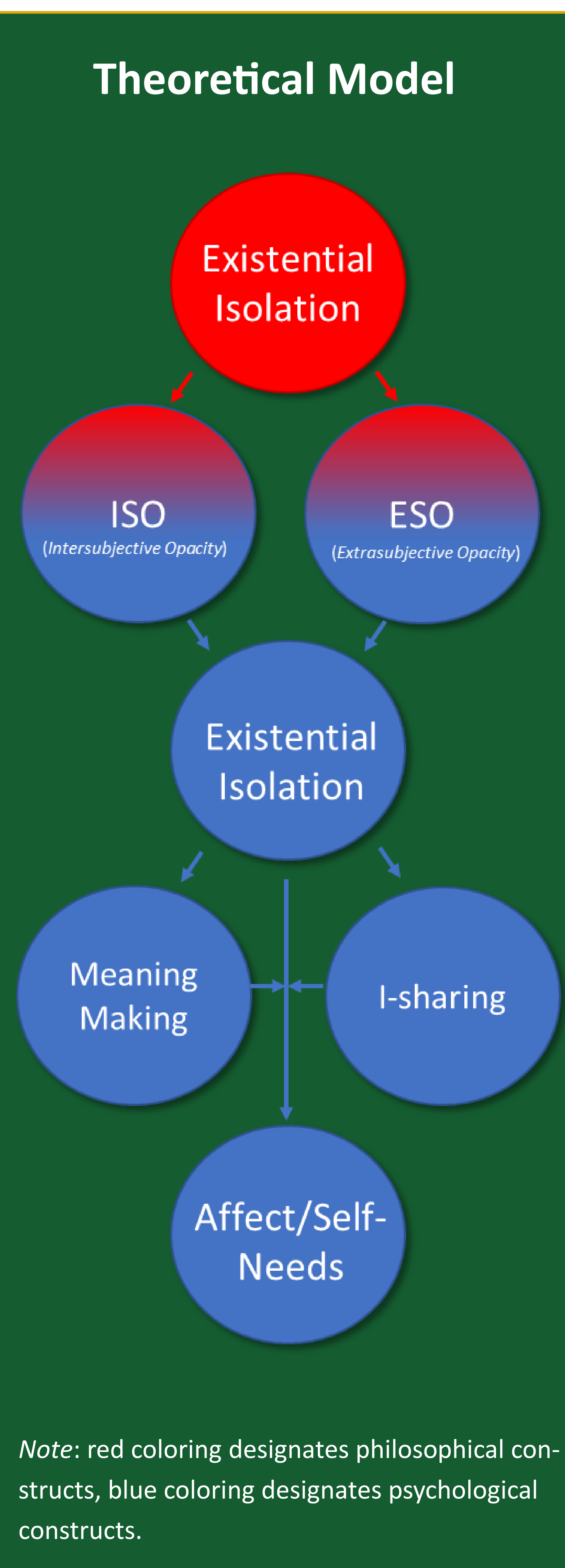
Figure 2

What experiences lead to self-world EI?



Note: Interrater reliability was robust ($ICC = .73$, $k = .75$). **Study 2.**

Theoretical Model



Note: red coloring designates philosophical constructs, blue coloring designates psychological constructs.

Figure 3

How does self-world EI feel?

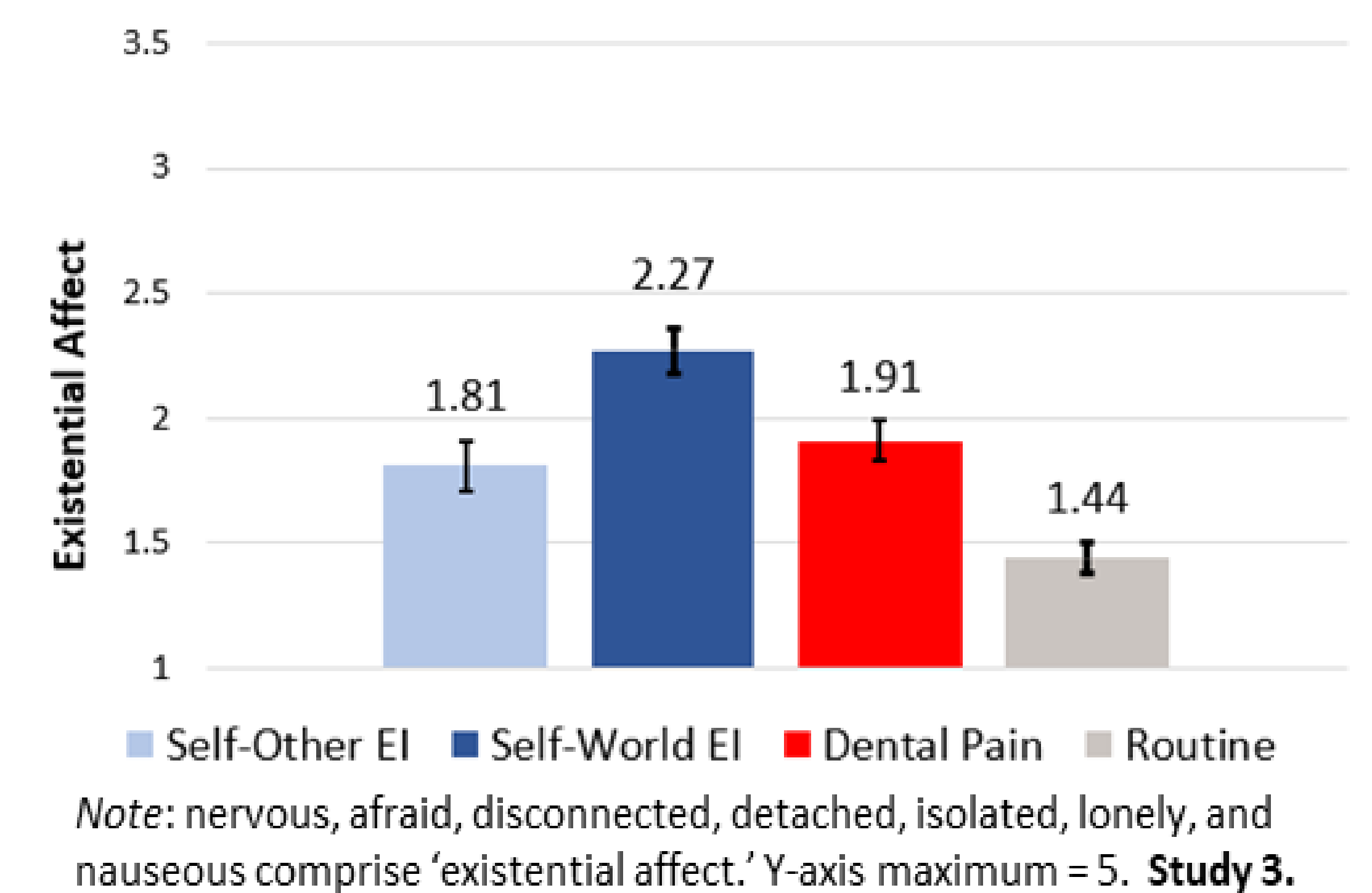
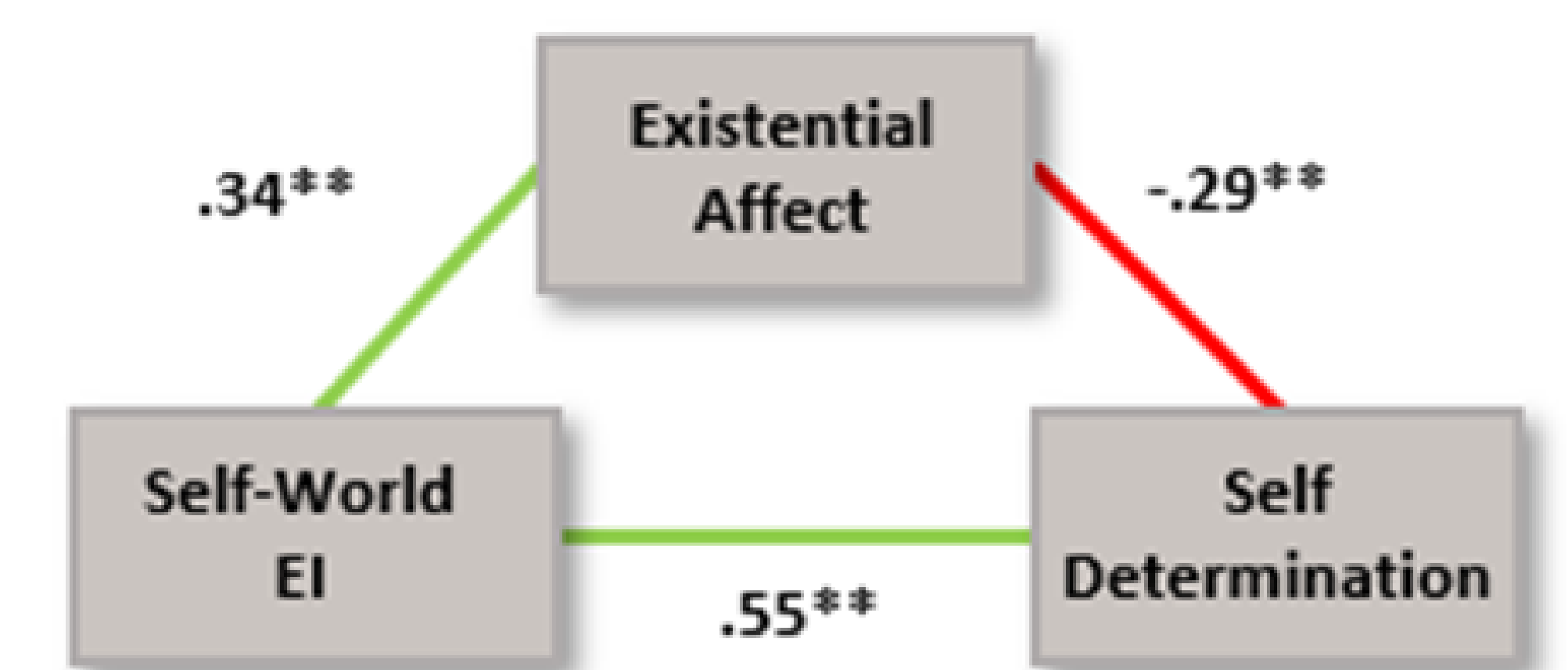


Figure 4

How does self-world EI relate to self-needs?



Note: this exploratory model tested the indirect effect of a SWEI primer against a control (i.e., daily routine) primer. $**p < .01$. **Study 3.**

Table 1

How do self-world and self-other EI relate to one another? How do they relate to other variables?

	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	1	2
1. SWEI	3.69	1.04		
2. SOEI	3.18	.90	.44**	
3. DES	3.23	.98	.66**	.37**
4. SD	4.29	.91	-.42**	-.38**
5. MCCC	2.88	1.07	-.40**	-.25**

Note: SWEI = self-world EI, SOEI = self-other EI, DES = dissociative experiences, SD = self-determination, MCCC = cognitive confidence. $*p < .05$, $**p < .01$. **Study 4.**