

Does Personality Type Influence How Campus Involvement Contributes to Students' Sense of Belonging?

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Agenda

- Institutional Context
- Literature Review
- Study Design and Variables
- Findings
- Applications and Conclusion

Institutional Context

About Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)



About VCU

- Urban, public 4-year university
 - Total enrollment = 28,408
- Carnegie R1 Institution
- Top 50 (NSF) - Research Expenditures
- Student Level
 - 75% undergraduate
 - 15% graduate
 - 10% first professional

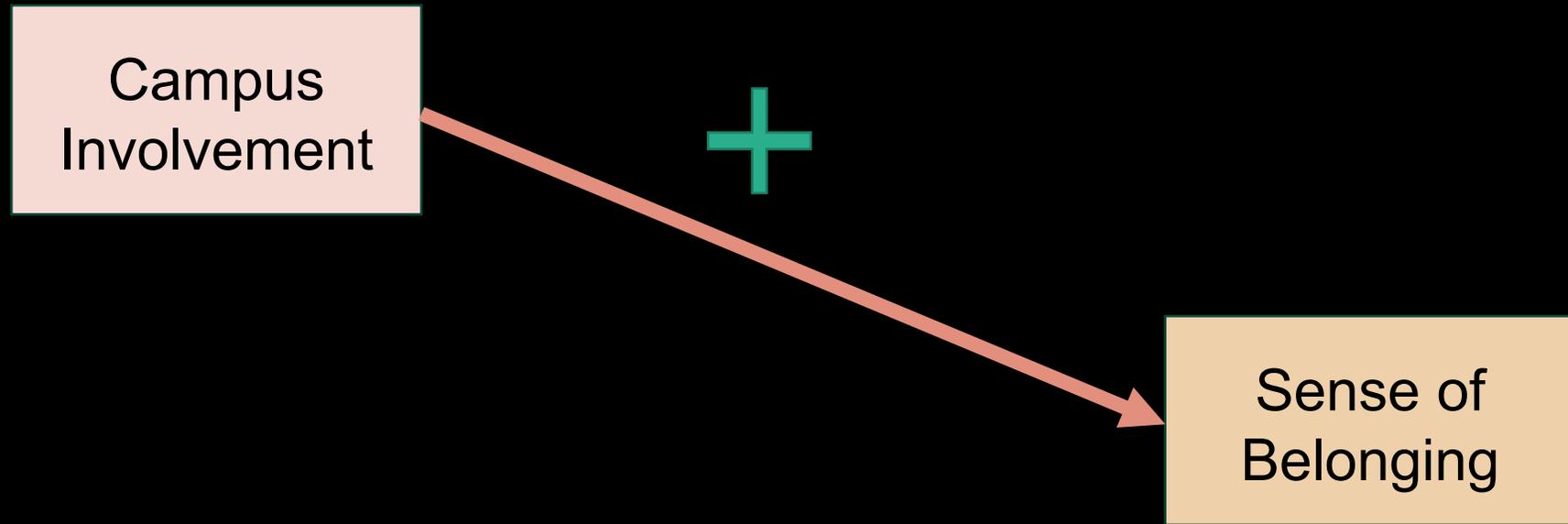


About VCU

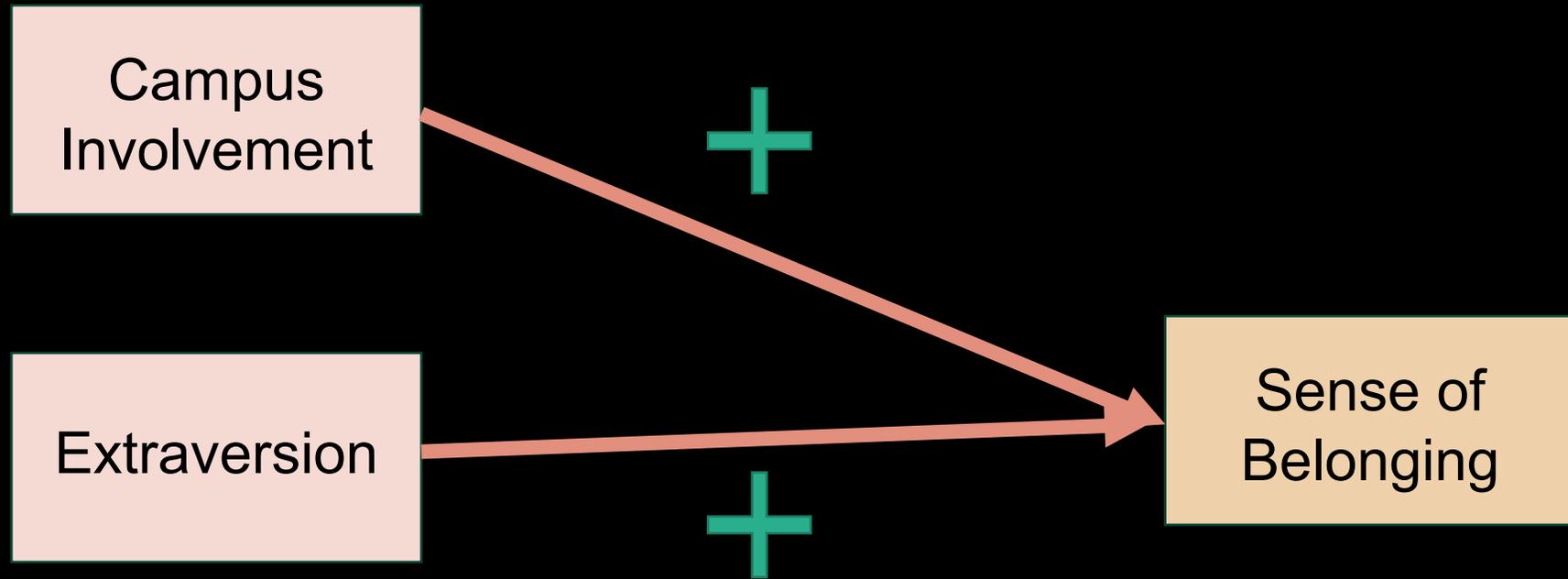
- Gender → 64% female, 35% male, <1% other
- Underrepresented Minority → 33%
- First Generation → 24%
- Pell Grant recipients → ~30%



Is students' level of extraversion and their level of involvement on campus associated with their relational/social sense of belonging?



- More engagement with peers and outside of the classroom indicated more connection to the university (Zhoc, et al., 2019)
- Students engaged 10+ hours per week outside the classroom had higher ratings of belonging (Knifsend, 2020)



- Moderate positive association (Malone, et al., 2012)
- First-year students who were higher on extraversion reported higher social engagement and belonging during their sophomore and senior years (Harris, et al., 2017)

Research Questions

- Is students' level of extraversion and their level of involvement on campus associated with their relational/social sense of belonging?
 - Are involved students self-reporting higher extraversion?
 - Are involved students self-reporting higher sense of belonging?

Study Design and Sample

In Fall 2021, we conducted an involvement study in order to get a better idea of student involvement in campus activities and student organizations.

Random sample:

- 5,000 undergraduates, 2,000 graduate/professional
- **688 total responses (10% response rate)**
 - 67% undergraduate, 31% graduate/professional

Total of 389 complete observations used in the final model.

Study - Respondents

- Gender
 - 70% female, 26% male, 4% non-binary, trans, genderqueer/non-conforming
- Underrepresented Minority (URM) – 38%
- First generation status – 23%
- Working status –
 - 61% working for pay
 - 39% not working

Key Variables

- Predictors:
 - Extraversion (sum score ranging from -10 to +10) – Mini International Personality Item Pool (Extraversion). Average sum score = **-0.56**
 - I am the life of the party.
 - I don't talk a lot. (RC)
 - I talk to a lot of different people at parties.
 - I keep in the background. (RC)

Key Variables

- Predictors:
 - Extraversion (sum score ranging from -10 to +10) – Mini International Personality Item Pool (Extraversion). Average sum score = **-0.56**
 - Campus Involvement (not involved vs. involved)
 - Campus activities/events
 - Student groups/orgs, Greek life
 - Both

56% involved

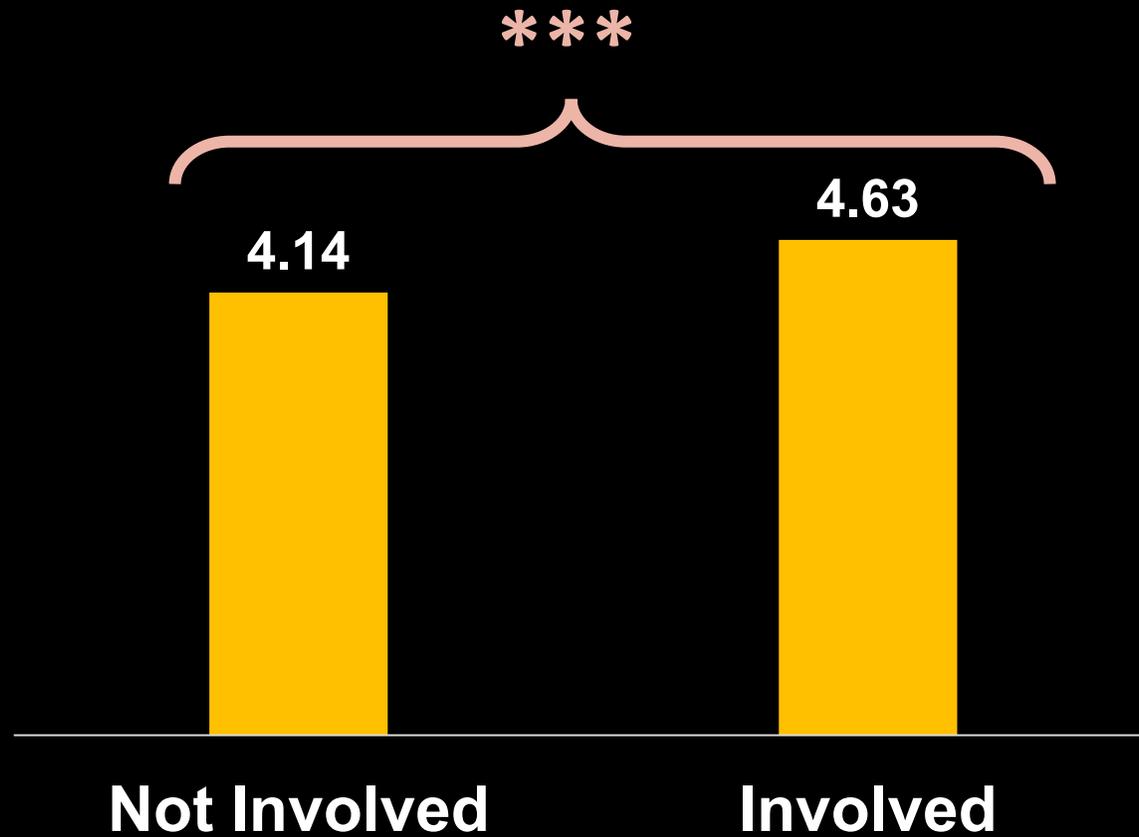
Key Variables

- Predictors:
 - Extraversion (sum score ranging from -10 to +10) – Mini International Personality Item Pool (Extraversion). Average sum score = **-0.56**
 - Campus Involvement (not involved vs. involved)
- Dependent Variable: Sense of Belonging
 - Average Score across 3 items (6-point scale) – **4.47**
 - I have developed personal relationships with other students at VCU.
 - Someone at VCU cares about my success.
 - I have found a social circle at VCU where I truly fit in.

Sense of Belonging = Belonging in Peer Relationships & Support

Research Questions

- Is students' level of extraversion and their level of involvement on campus associated with their relational/social sense of belonging?
 - Are involved students self-reporting higher extraversion? **No.**
 - Are involved students self-reporting higher sense of belonging?
Yes, involved students report higher relational/social sense of belonging.



Involved students report higher relational/social sense of belonging.

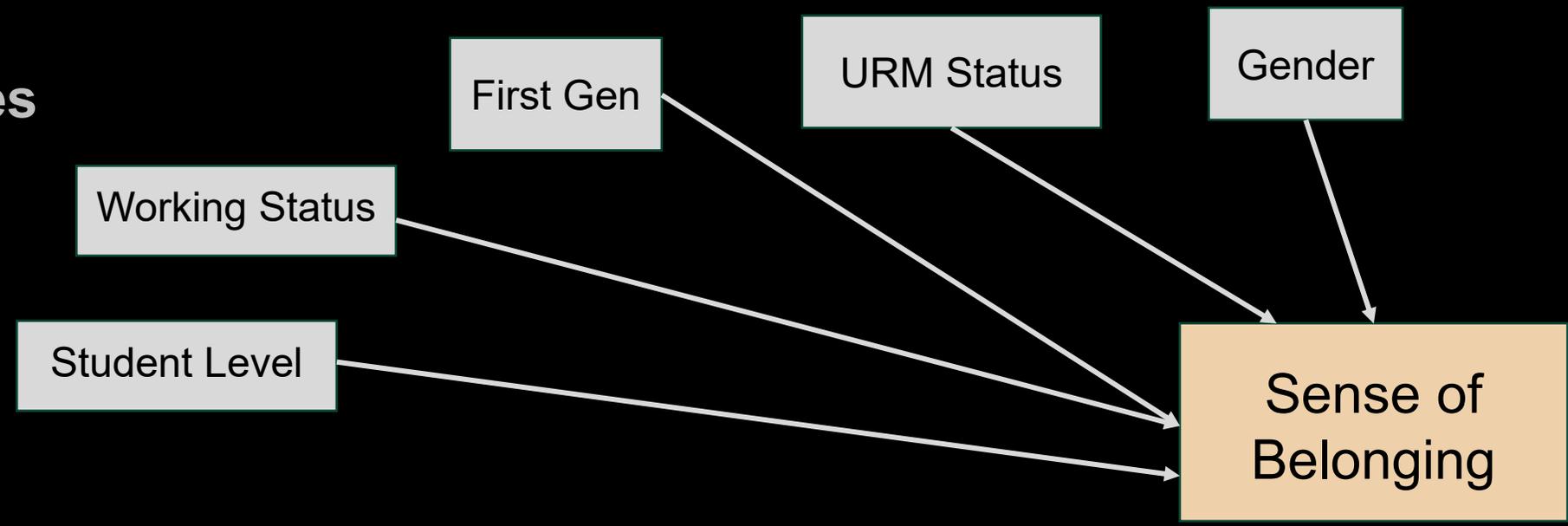
Multiple Regression Model

Outcome

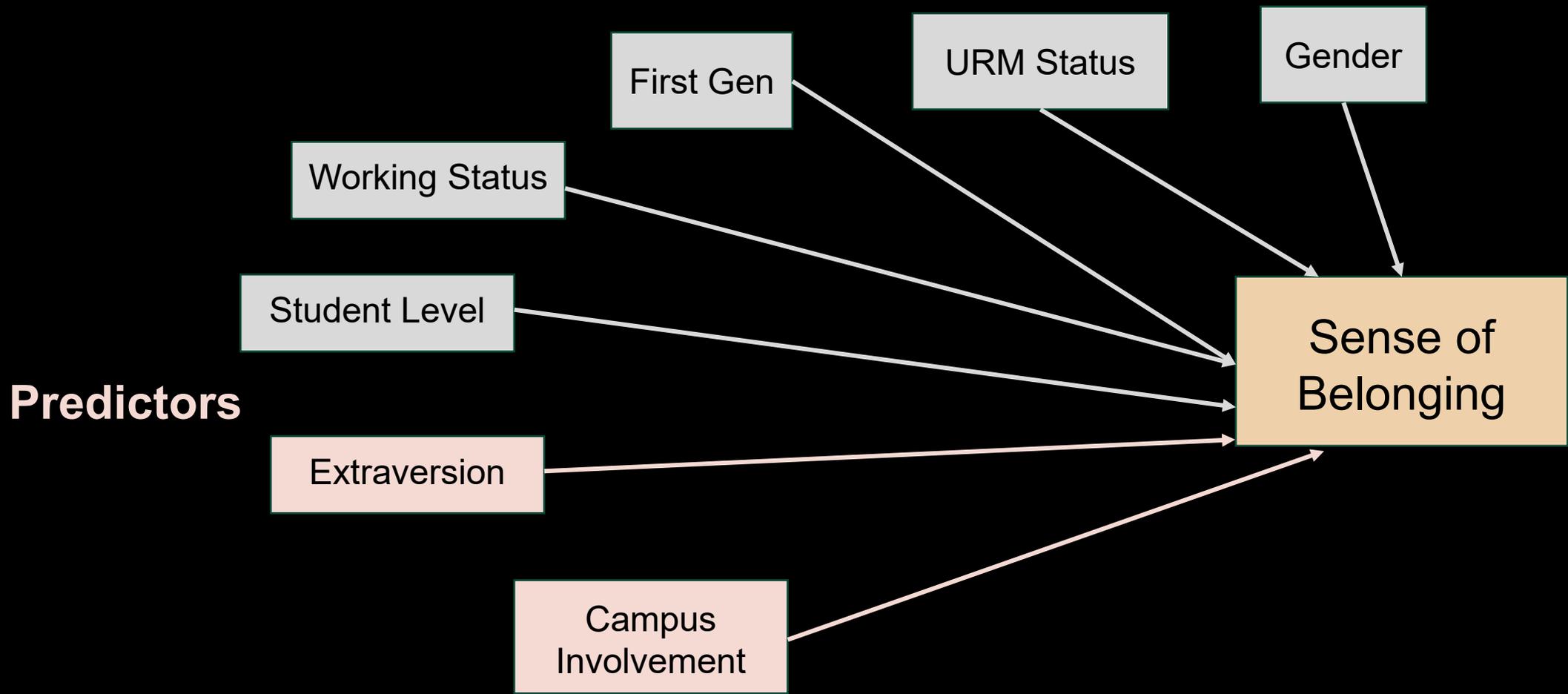
Sense of
Belonging

Multiple Regression Model

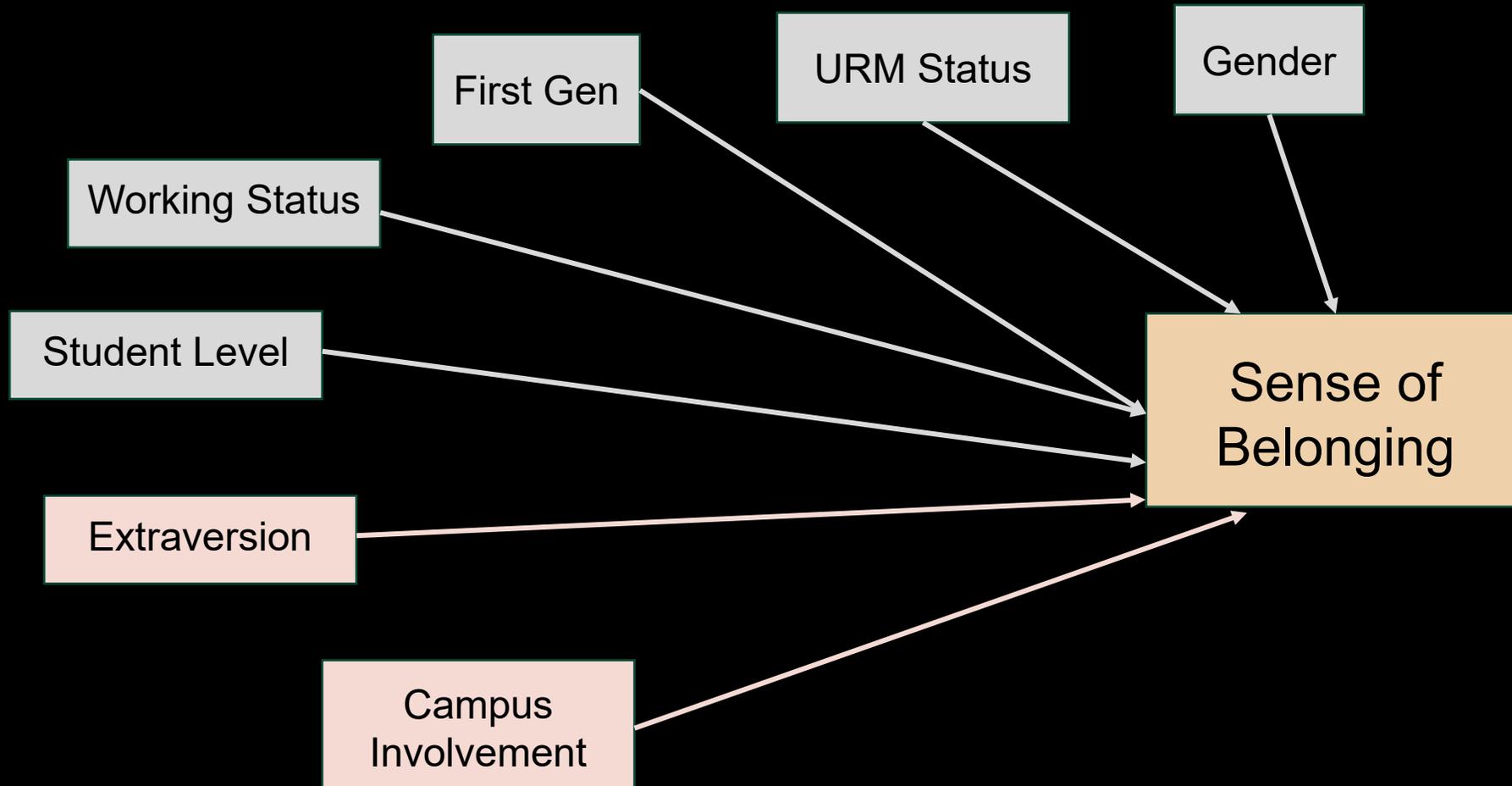
Covariates



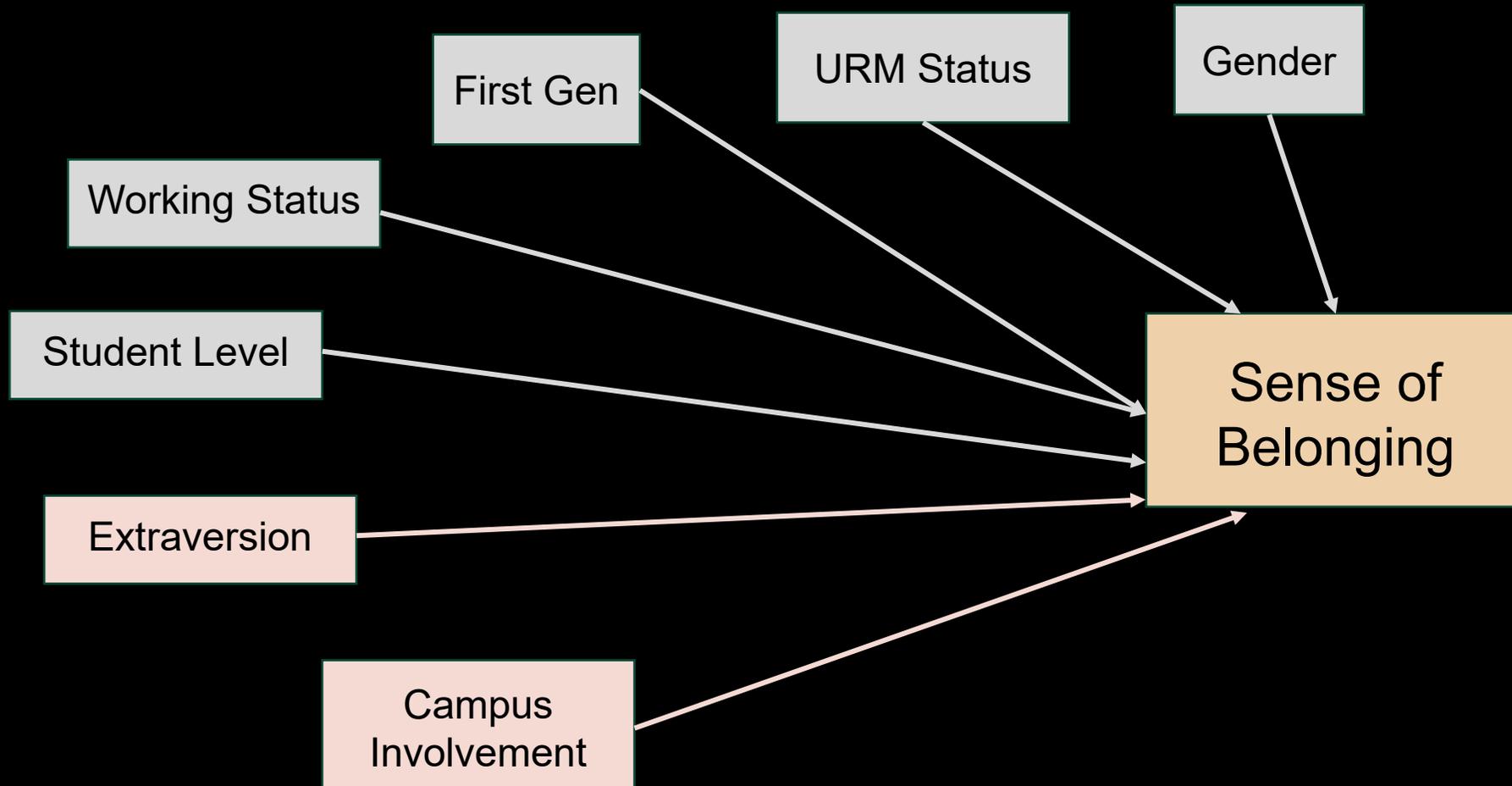
Multiple Regression Model



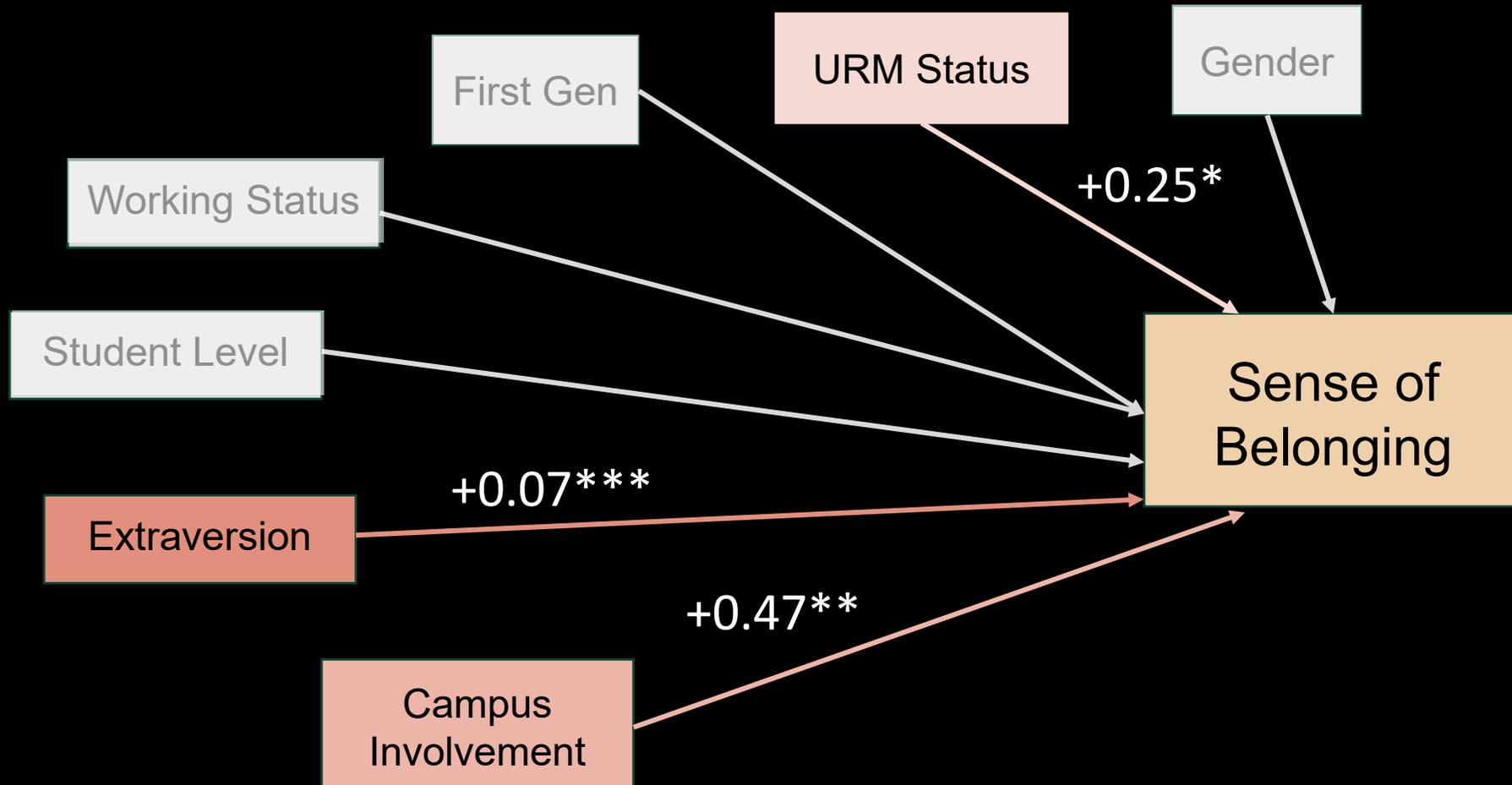
Multiple Regression Model



Multiple Regression Model

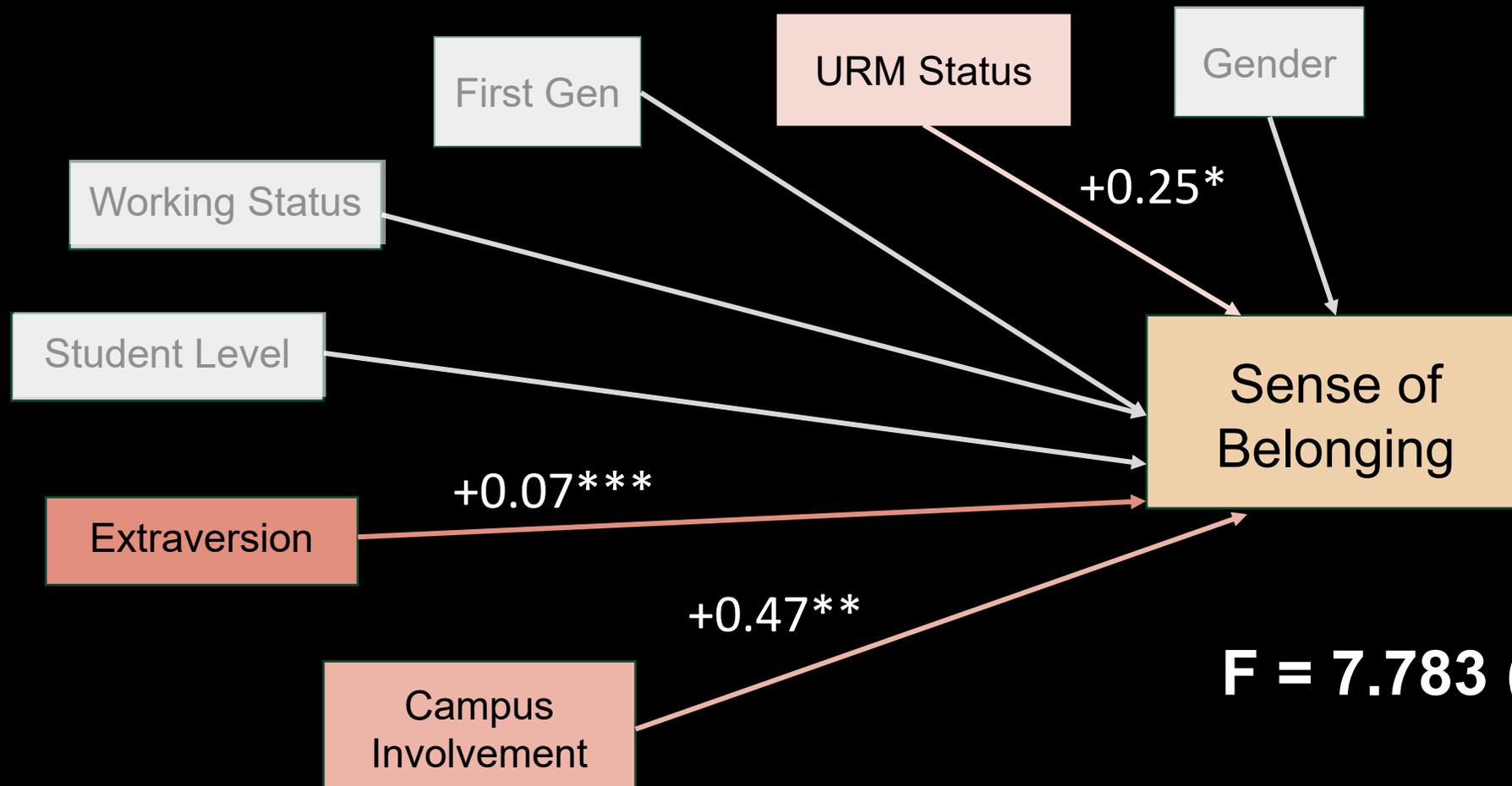


Multiple Regression Model



* p<0.05
** p<0.01
*** p<0.001

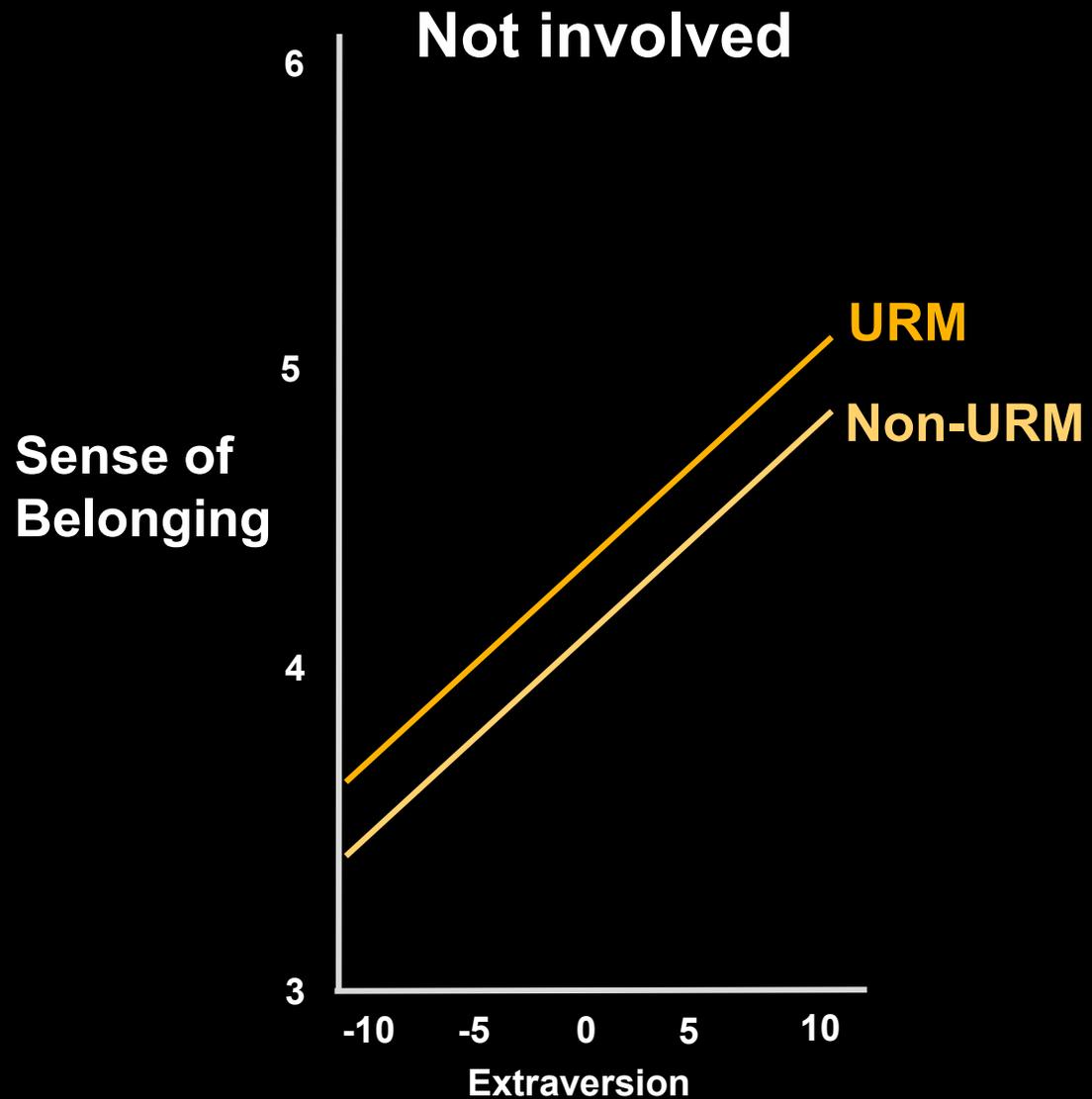
Multiple Regression Model



F = 7.783 (df = 388)

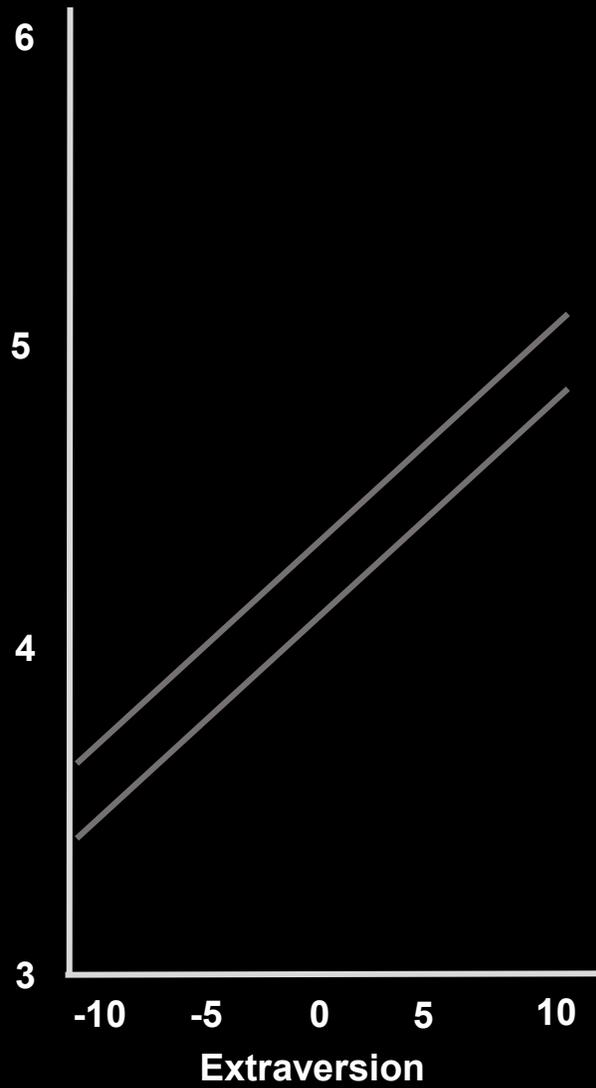
p < .001

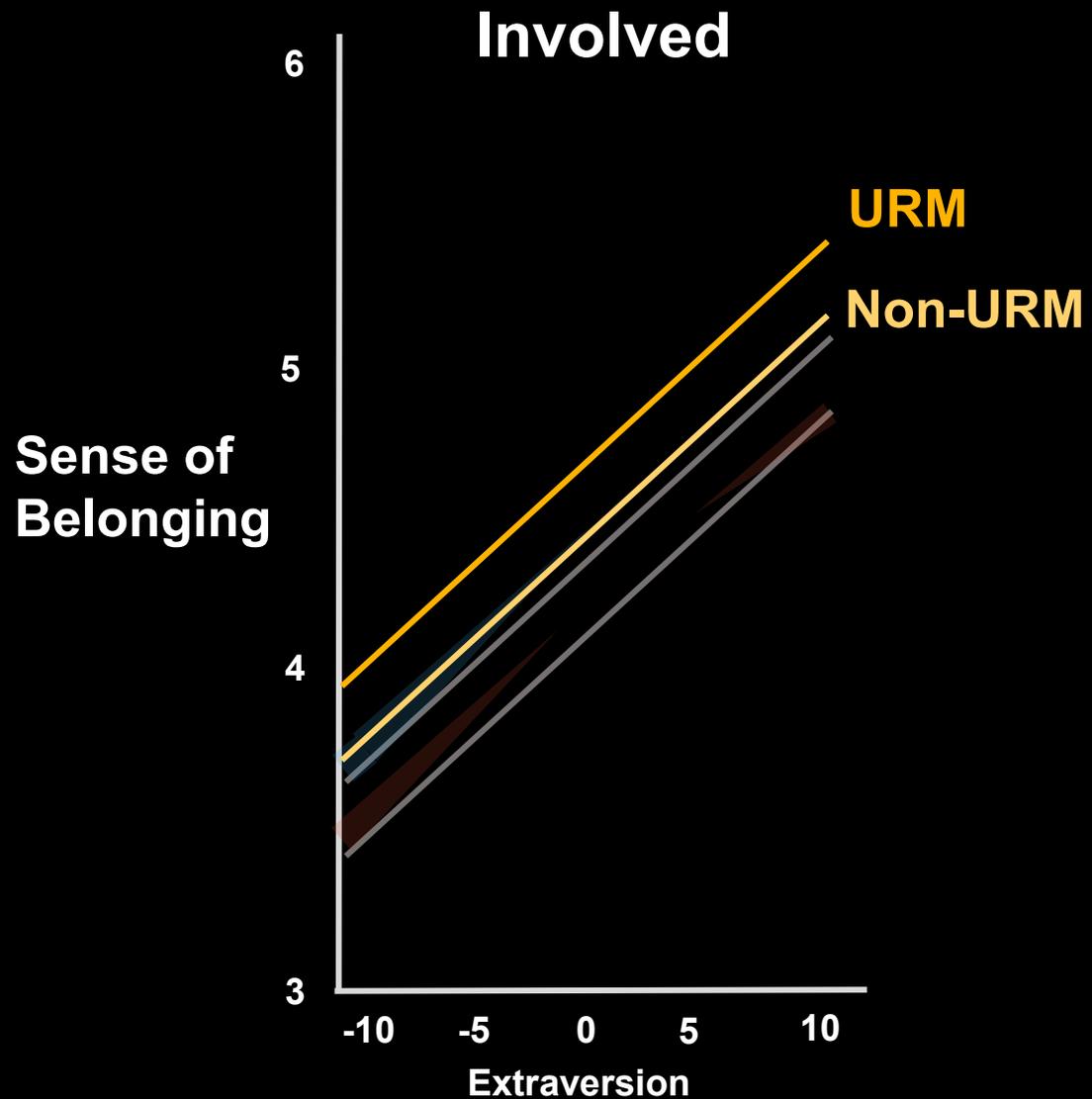
R² = 0.12



Students who are not involved and rate themselves higher on extraversion also rate themselves **higher on belonging in peer relationships and support.**

Sense of Belonging





Students who are involved and rate themselves higher on extraversion also rate themselves **higher on belonging in peer relationships and support.**

Considerations

- Campus Activity/Event Design:
 - Events/activities might draw a more extraverted crowd. ***How can we reach students who are more introverted?***
 - Are our campus activities/events drawing more URM students in particular?
- Measurement of Sense of Belonging
- Institution-level factors

References

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Questions? Comments?

Thank you!

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