**A Mixed Methods Examination of the Function of Suicide Gestures Across Two Samples**

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**Objective**. Suicide gestures are an under-researched behavior in the suicide field due to a lack of clarity surrounding the definition and motivations, as well as negative feedback the term ‘gestures’ has received. Suicide gestures are generally defined as communicating the intention to to commit suicide without any actual intent. Given the lack of research, the functions surrounding this behavior remain unclear. Thus, the primary aim of the current design is to examine the functions behind why individuals make suicide gestures across two studies utilizing both qualitative and quantitative methods. **Methods**. The first study examined two open-ended questions, *“what have you done to lead someone to believe that you wanted to kill yourself when you really had no intention of doing so?”* and *“why do you think you may have lead someone to believe that you wanted to kill yourself when you really had no intention of doing so?”* Qualitative coding results from the study showed that while communication was the primary motivation behind participants who endorsed suicide gestures, the four-function model (Nock et al., 2014) was too narrow to capture all the motivations associated with suicide gestures. Thus, in a second study, building off the previous findings, more thorough categories were offered to participants in order to qualitatively measure the functions. **Results**. Results from study two show that the most commonly endorsed motivations for making suicide gestures are feeling worthless (46.0%), hopeless (40.3%), and depressed (38.4%). These results show that many individuals who endorse suicide gestures are struggling with internal problems, which could be indicative of other behaviors such as non-suicidal self-injury or suicide attempts. **Conclusions**. One significant limitation is that the second study population was drawn from individuals who had a lifetime history of suicide ideation, so results may be more representative of individuals who also experience suicidal ideation. Further research pertaining to suicide gestures should be examined in order to more clearly uncover if suicide gestures are a risk factor for other behaviors.