Chap 1. Sexuality in Perspectives


   The mainstream mass media provide increasingly frequent portrayals of sexuality. We still know relatively little about how this content is used and how it affects sexual beliefs and behaviors. The few available studies suggest that the media do have an impact because the media keeps sexual behavior on public and personal agendas, media portrayals reinforce a relatively consistent set of sexual and relationship norms, and the media rarely depict sexually responsible models.


   Domestic rams display a naturally occurring variation in sexual partner preference, such that 6-10 percent of range-bred populations prefer male sexual partners in contrast to the majority of rams that prefer female sexual partners. Hormonal differences between these rams include circulating testosterone and aromatase activity. These observations may be useful for studies to identify activational and organizational components and the neuronal substrates of males sexual partner preferences.


   Asian Americans comprise a population group that is characterized by an enormous demographic, historical, and cultural heterogeneity. Yet, Asian Americans also share many Asian cultural characteristics such as the primacy of the family and collective goals over individual wishes, emphasis on propriety and social codes, the appropriation of sexuality only within the context of marriage, sexual restraint, and modesty.
Chap 2. Theoretical Perspectives on Sexuality


The present research investigated gender differences in the ideally desired number of sex partners, examining several different kinds of “ideals.” In two separate samples, participants were (a) first asked to report their ideal number of desired sex partners—identified as a nonspecific ideal; (b) next, they responded after considering some of the health and social risks, and the opportunity limitations, associated with sexual activity—a pragmatic ideal; and (c) finally, participants reported their ideal number of sex partners after imagining the removal of these risks and limitations—a hedonic ideal. For both samples there were significant mean, but no median, gender differences for the nonspecific ideal, replicating what has been found in some previous research. However, when risks were explicitly identified (in the present pragmatic and hedonic ideal conditions), significant mean and median gender differences emerged: Typically, men desired multiple sex partners, whereas women were consistently interested in a single sex partner, regardless of the risks or opportunities involved.


Authors reexamine the waist-to-hip ratios of Playboy centerfold models and Miss American pageant winners and show that reports of measurement consistency are false in several ways: the variation in waist-to-hip ratios is greater than reported, the center of the distribution of waist-to-hip ratios is less than reported, and the average waist-to-hip within both samples has changed over time.

Chap 3. Sex Research


Several states have passed civil commitment laws that allow the precautionary detention of sex offenders who have completed their criminal sentences. Over 2,500 sex offenders have been committed across states with such statutes and several thousand more sex offenders have been evaluated. Most statutes call for an evaluation of risk by a mental health professional and, although each state statute is worded differently, three main elements common to sexually violent predator evaluations are used to guide evaluators: mental abnormality, volitional capacity, and likelihood of future sexual violence. The current article presents
empirical evidence for the main tenants of these forensic evaluations, provides recommendations for evaluators in light of current limitations of evidence, and offers suggestions for future research in this area of forensic assessment.

This paper explores the use of the Internet as a data collection method for sexuality research. Benefits, such as larger, more representative samples, and risks to validity, such as lying and sabotage, are discussed in the context of a large Internet-based study of how “having sex” is defined by gay, lesbian, and bisexual college students. Suggestions for how to maximize utility as well as combat potential risks and ethical dilemmas are offered.

Surveys of risk behaviors have been hobbled by their reliance on respondents to report accurately about engaging in behaviors that are highly sensitive and that may be illegal. Estimates of the prevalence of male-male sex, injection drug use, and sexual contact with intravenous drug users were higher by factors of three or more when audio computer-assisted self-interviewing technology was used than with a more traditional self-administered questionnaire.

**Chap 4. Sexual Anatomy**

Two questionnaire studies on female genital slang are presented. Study I explored semantic categories in 317 different FGTs collected from 156 females and 125 males. Study II used 49 FGTs to investigate the extent to which slang provides a consistent specific vocabulary for female genitals. The 2,551 respondents commented on 5 terms each. Respondents absolutely agreed on meaning for only 4 percent of terms.

This paper discusses a population-based, case-control study of prostate cancer in White and Black men. Authors found no relation between sexual orientation and prostate cancer, although the number of men who had sex with men was small. Risk estimates increased with lifetime number of female sexual partners, but not with male partners. Prior infection with gonorrhea was positively associated with risk, but no effect was seen among men with other STDs.

78. **Male Circumcision, Penile Human Papillomavirus Infection, and Cervical Cancer in Female Partners**, Xavier Castellsagué et al., *The New England*
Journal of Medicine, April 11, 2002 (#39793)
It is uncertain whether male circumcision reduces the risks of penile human papillomavirus (HPV) infection in the man and cervical cancer in his female partner. Results from 1,913 couples studied indicated that male circumcision is associated with a reduced risk of penile HPV infection and in the case of men with a history of multiple sexual partners, a reduced risk of cervical cancer in their current female partners.

143. Teens and Elective Cosmetic Surgery, Sherrell J. Aston, M.D.; Robert L. Finding, M.D.; Laurie Scudder, DNP, PNP. www.medscape.com. 02/23/2012. Appearance is important to all of us – none more so than teens, who are often uncomfortable with their evolving bodies. Perceived flaws do not only diminish a teen’s self-image but can affect his or her social interactions, leading to difficulties in school, withdrawal, or aggression. Teens sometimes have valid cosmetic conditions that may benefit from plastic surgery. Child and adolescent cosmetic surgery is not new, but the topic has come to the forefront as a result of recent media attention. A major factor in consideration is the fact that the patient is still growing, both physically and emotionally. The decision requires input and agreement from both the child and the parent.

Chap 5. Sex Hormones, Sexual Differentiation, Puberty and Menstrual Cycle

There are few, if any, data on the long-term outcome of feminizing genital surgery for children with ambiguous genitalia. We present a retrospective study of cosmetic and anatomical outcomes in adolescent patients who had ambiguous genitalia in childhood and underwent feminizing genital surgery. The cosmetic result was judged as poor in 41 percent of the cases, and 98 percent of the cases required further treatment for cosmesis, tampon use, or intercourse.

80. Psychological Outcomes and Gender-Related Development in Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome, Melissa Hines, Faisal Ahmed, and Ieuan A. Hughes, Archives of Sexual Behavior, April 2003 (#39751)
We evaluated psychological outcomes and gender development in 22 women with complete androgen insensitivity syndrome (CAIS). The outcomes included quality of life, gender-related psychological characteristics, marital status, personality traits, and hand preferences. The results suggest that psychological outcomes of women with CAIS do not differ systematically from those of other women.

81. Brain Activation and Sexual Arousal in Healthy, Heterosexual Males, Bruce A. Arnow et al., Brain, 2002 (#39794)
Little is known about relationships between brain activation and sexual response. Functional MRI was used to examine relationships between brain
activation and sexual arousal in a group of young, healthy, heterosexual males. Strong activations specifically associated with penile turgidity were observed in the right subinsular region including the claustrum, left caudate and putamen, right middle occipital/middle temporal gyri, bilateral cingulated gyrus, and right sensorimotor and pre-motor regions.

The aim of this study was to investigate age, menopausal status and the effect of the male partner’s sexual function on the sexual function of the menopausal woman. Sexual satisfaction within the relationship and current frequency of intercourse were better predicted by age group than by menopausal status. Incidence of sexual dysfunction was better predicted by menopausal status than by age.

The experience of menstruation was examined through an analysis of women’s narratives in order to understand perceptions of menstrual cycle changes. Although most accepted the premenstrual syndrome label and placed their cyclic changes within the realm of sickness, a small group of the 43 women studied conceptualized their cyclic changes in an extremely positive way, thus reframing their experiences.

Chap 6. Conception, Pregnancy and Childbirth

84. Alcohol Use and Pregnancy, Centers for Disease Control, 2002 (#39754)
Maternal prenatal alcohol use is one of the leading preventable causes of birth defects and developmental disabilities. This brief fact sheet outlines the effect of fetal alcohol exposure and describes the efforts funded by the CDC to prevent alcohol exposure during pregnancy.

Somatic gene delivery in utero is a novel approach to gene therapy for genetic disease based on the hypothesis that prenatal intervention may avoid the development of severe manifestations of early-onset disease, allow targeting of otherwise inaccessible tissues including expanding stem cell populations, induce tolerance against the therapeutic transgenic protein and thereby provide permanent somatic gene correction. This approach is particularly relevant in relation to prenatal screening programmes for severe genetic diseases as it could offer prevention as a third option to families faced with the prenatal diagnosis of a genetically affected child. Most investigations towards in utero gene therapy have been performed on mice and sheep fetuses as model animals for human disease and for the application of clinically relevant intervention techniques such as vector delivery by minimally invasive ultrasound
guidance. Other animals such as dogs may serve as particular disease models and primates to be considered in immediate preparation for clinical trials. Proof of principle for the hypothesis of fetal gene therapy has been provided during the last 2 years in mouse models for Crigler Najjar Disease, Leber’s congenital amaurosis, Pompe’s disease and haemophilia B showing a long-term postnatal therapeutic effects and tolerance of the transgenic protein after in utero delivery. However, recently we have also observed a high incidence of liver tumours after in utero application of an early form of third-generation equine infectious anaemia virus vectors with SIN configuration. These findings highlight the need for more investigations into the safety and the ethical aspects of in utero gene therapy as well as for science-based public information on risks and benefits of this preventive gene therapy approach before application in humans can be contemplated.

Chap 7. Contraception and Abortion

85. Evaluation of Contraceptive Efficacy and Cycle Control of a Transdermal Contraceptive Patch Vs an Oral, Marie-Claude Audet et al., JAMA, May 9, 2001 (#39756)
Oral contraceptive (OC) pills are effective, but poor compliance increases rates of pregnancy during treatment. This study compared the contraceptive efficacy, cycle control, compliance, and safety of a transdermal contraceptive patch and OC. Patients randomly assigned to the patch or pill number 1,417. The patch is comparable to a combination OC in contraceptive efficacy and cycle control. Compliance was better with the weekly patch than with the OC.

Claims that women who have elective abortions will experience psychological distress have fueled much of the recent debate on abortion. It has been argued that the emotional sequelae of abortion may not occur until months or years after the event. Despite unclear evidence on such a phenomenon, adverse mental health outcomes of abortion have been used as a rationale for policy-making. We systematically searched for articles focused on the potential association between abortion and long-term mental health outcomes published between January 1, 1989 and August 1, 2008 and reviewed 21 studies that met the inclusion criteria. We rated the study quality based on methodological factors necessary to appropriately explore the research question. Studies were rated as Excellent (no studies), Very Good (4 studies), Fair (8 studies), Poor (8 studies), or Very Poor (1 study). A clear trend emerges from this systematic review: the highest quality studies had findings that were mostly neutral, suggesting few, if any, differences between women who had abortions and their respective comparison groups in terms of mental health sequelae. Conversely, studies with the most flawed methodology found negative mental health sequelae of abortion.
Chap 8. Sexual Arousal

In an online study, measures of subjective sexual experiences in one’s current relationship were compared across four groups: Men and women in mixed-sex (i.e., heterosexual) and same-sex (i.e., homosexual) relationships. Results indicated far more similarities than differences across the four groups, with groups reporting almost identical sexual repertoires, and levels of sexual communication with partner. Men reported experiencing somewhat more sexual desire than women, while women reported slightly higher levels of general sexual satisfaction than men. Those in same-sex relationships reported slightly higher levels of sexual desire than those in mixed-sex relationships. Compared to the other three groups, heterosexual men reported deriving somewhat less satisfaction from the more tender, sensual, or erotic sexual activities. Implications of these findings for sex therapists are discussed.

Authors hypothesize that vaginal and/or cervical self-stimulation will not produce perceptual responses in women with “complete” spinal cord injury to upper nerves (T10-12) but will produce perceptual responses if SCI is below T10. Authors conclude that there exists a functional genital afferent pathway that bypasses the spinal cord and project directly to the brain.

88. The Vomeronasal Organ, Eric B. Keverne, Science, October 22, 1999 (#39759)
The vomeronasal (VNO) is a chemoreceptor organ enclosed in a cartilaginous capsule and separated from the main olfactory epithelium. The nature of stimulus access suggests that the VNO responds to nonvolatile cues, leading to activation of the hypothalamus by way of the accessory olfactory bulb and amygdala. The areas of hypothalamus innervated regulate reproductive, defensive, and ingestive behavior as well as neuroendocrine secretion.

89. Brain Activation During Human Male Ejaculation, Gert Holstege et al., The Journal of Neuroscience, October 8, 2003 (#39798)
Brain mechanisms that control human sexual behavior and ejaculation, are poorly understood. The authors used positron emission tomography to measure increases in regional cerebral blood flow during ejaculation compared with sexual stimulation in heterosexual male volunteers. The present study provides insight into which regions in the human brain play a primary role in ejaculation, and the results might have important implications for our understanding of how human ejaculation is brought about.

137. Women’s Erotic Rape Fantasies: An Evaluation of Theory and Research,
Joseph W. Critelli and Jenny M. Bivona, *The Journal of Sex Research*, 2008. This article is the first systematic review of the research literature on women's rape fantasies. Current research indicates that between 31% and 57% of women have fantasies in which they are forced into sex against their will, and for 9% to 17% of women these are a frequent or favorite fantasy experience. Erotic rape fantasies are paradoxical: they do not appear to make sense. Why would a person have an erotic and pleasurable fantasy about an event that, in real life, would be abhorrent and traumatic? In this article, the major theories of women's rape fantasies are evaluated both rationally and empirically. These theories explain rape fantasies in terms of masochism, sexual blame avoidance, openness to sexuality, sexual desirability, male rape culture, biological predisposition to surrender, sympathetic physiological activation, and adversary transformation. This article evaluates theory and research, makes provisional judgments as to which theories appear to be most viable, and begins the task of theoretical integration to arrive at a more complete and internally consistent explanation for why many women engage in erotic rape fantasies. Methodological critiques and programs for future research are presented throughout.

Chap. 9. Sexuality and the Life Cycle: Childhood and Adolescence

The purpose of this article was to identify the circumstances associated with casual sex encounters, as well as to identify the link between casual sex, depressive symptoms, and infidelity among college students. We found that casual sex was a fairly common occurrence related to early sexual transition, engaging in first sex with a casual sex partner, drug use, and alcohol consumption. Casual sex occurred more often between “friends” than with strangers. Depressive symptoms were associated with engaging in casual sex differently for males and females. Males who engaged in casual sex reported the fewest symptoms of depression, and females who had a history of casual sex reported the most depressive symptoms. Frequencies of affectionate and genital behaviors were associated with expectations of the relationship, the relationship to the partner, infidelity, and the individual’s relationship style. We discuss results in light of evolutionary and sociocultural theories of sexuality.

Ambiguity surrounds virginity loss as defined and interpreted by young people in the contemporary U.S. Although uniformly agreeing that virginity loss could occur though first coitus, most respondents claimed that other kinds of genital sex could also sometimes result in virginity loss. Different definitions and interpretations of virginity loss gave distinctive shape to individuals’ choices about the transitions from virgin to non-virgin identity.

**CONTEXT:** Despite the vast amount of existing research on adolescent behavior, little is known about the trajectory of social, romantic and sexual events within an adolescent’s relationship.

**METHODS:** A subsample of participants in Wave 2 of the National Longitudinal Study (8,438 respondents aged 12-21) provided data on the sequence of 15 social, romantic and sexual events that occurred in a recent romantic relationship. Proportions reporting each event and average relative rankings were assessed for all respondents, for different racial and ethnic groups, and for respondents who belonged to the same racial or ethnic group as their partner. Logistic Regression was used to compare proportions; ordinary test square regression was used to analyze the mean sequential ranking of each event.

**RESULTS:** Social and romantic events, such as spending time with one’s partner in a group and holding hands, were far more common than sexual events, such as touching one’s partner without clothing, and typically preceded sexual events in the trajectory of relationship events. Romantic events were the most common across three of the four major U.S. racial and ethnic groups. Asian and Hispanic respondents tended to have low proportions reporting sexual events compared with white respondents. Black adolescents were the only group for whom talking about prevention of pregnancy and STDs preceded sexual events. Reports from male and female adolescents were similar.

**CONCLUSION:** Recognition of the diversity of relationship experiences may prompt the development of more effective interventions for adolescents who engage in risky sexual behavior.


**CONTEXT:** Interventions aimed at adolescents need to be culturally specific. The dearth of data on Asian American adolescents has made it difficult to meet their needs.

**METHODS:** Data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health were used, with a sample of 323 Asian American female adolescents and 366 Asian American male adolescents. Logistic regression analysis was used to assess the association between acculturation at Wave 1 (1995) and sexual experience at Wave 2 (1996), controlling for demographic, psychosocial and family variables.

**RESULTS:** Overall, 24% of young women and 20% of young men had had sexual intercourse. Among young women, the most acculturated were more likely to have had sexual intercourse than the least acculturated (odds ratio, 4.9); acculturation was not associated with sexual intercourse for young men. Medium
and high levels of parental attachment were associated with decreased odds of sexual experience for young women (0.4 and 0.2), but not for young men. Binge drinking was associated with an increased risk of sexual experience for young women (6.4), and tobacco use was associated with increased risk for young men (3.0).

CONCLUSIONS: Like all adolescents, Asian Americans are at high risk for the consequences of sexual activity. For this fast-growing population, there is a crucial need for preventive programs that are culturally sensitive, inclusive of family and gender-specific.

The United States ranks first among developed nations in rates of both teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. In an effort to reduce these rates, the U.S. government has funded abstinence-only sex education programs for more than a decade. However, a public controversy remains over whether this investment has been successful and whether these programs should be continued. Using the most recent national data (2005) from all U.S. states with information on sex education laws or policies (N=48), we show that increasing emphasis on abstinence education is positively correlated with teenage pregnancy and birth rates. This trend remains significant after accounting for socioeconomic status, teen educational attainment, ethnic composition of the teen population, and availability of Medicaid waivers for family planning services in each state. These data show clearly that abstinence-only education as a state policy is ineffective in preventing teenage pregnancy and may actually be contributing to the high teenage pregnancy rates in the U.S. In alignment with new evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative and the Precaution Adoption Process Model advocated by the National Institutes of Health, we propose the integration of comprehensive sex and STD education into the biology curriculum in middle and high school science classes and a parallel social studies curriculum that addresses risk aversion behaviors and planning for the future.

Chap 10. Sexuality and the Life Cycle: Adulthood

96. Salient and Emerging Developmental Tasks in the Transition to Adulthood, Glenn I. Roisman et al., Child Development, January/February 2004 (#39764)
This study examined the predictive links from 3 salient (friendship, academic, conduct) and 2 emerging (work, romantic) development tasks during the transition years around age 20 to adult adaptation 10 years later. Results confirm the utility of salient developmental tasks for predicting adult success, suggest that emerging domains have limited long-term predictive significance, and suggest that developmental tasks follow a course through life of waxing and waning salience and organization.

97. Does Quality of Marital Sex Decline with Duration?, Chien Liu, Archives of
Does the quality of marital sex increase or decrease with marital duration? Two effects may influence the change of quality of marital sex: the effect of diminishing marginal utility, and the effect of the investment in the marriage-specific human capital. Analyses of the NHSLS data show that marital duration has a small and negative effect on the quality of marital sex. Gender differences are also discussed.

140. Deconstructing Monogamy: Boundaries, Identities, and Fluidities across Relationships, Katherine Frank and John DeLamater, To be published in Understanding Nonmonogamies, M. Barker & D. Langdridge (Eds), in press. This chapter explores the ways that the boundaries of fidelity are defined, justified, lived, and negotiated for couples with varying practices of sexual exclusivity. Drawing on survey data and interview materials collected from married couples who identified themselves as participating in a variety of arrangements: monogamous relationships, secretly or nonconsensually nonmonogamous (or cheating) relationships, open marriages, polyamory, and swinging. We explore here both the similarities in the process of boundary setting between individuals in consensually nonmonogamous and monogamous relationships and the variation in agreements that were reported by married individuals. We argue that viewing transgressions or permissions simply in terms of whether a spouse engages in sex outside the relationship, or defining relationships simply by counting the number of intimate partners, misses the various ways that lines are drawn to demarcate acceptable social and sexual interaction with those partners (real and imagined), as well as the meanings of sex, love, and intimacy that impact these decisions. When individuals engaging in varied practices of sexual exclusivity are compared with each other, or even when couples or individuals are categorized into relationship types for means of analysis, then, we must be careful to recognize both the similarities in strategies used to protect intimate bonds by individuals with different practices and identities and the instabilities of the categories deployed.

145. Pleasure, Empowerment, and Love: Factors Associated With a Positive First Coitus, Andrew P. Smiler, L. Monique Ward, Allison Caruthers, and Ann Merriwether. Sexuality Research & Social Policy Journal of NSRC, September 2005. Descriptions of adolescents’ first coital experiences have typically focused on the negative affect reported by women or on sex differences in levels of positive affect. Analyses of factors associated with a positive first coitus are rare. Accordingly, we examined correlates of a pleasurable first coital experience among 355 undergraduates. Analyses focused on three elements of a positive sexual experience—positive emotionality (e.g., happy), empowerment, and feelings of love—and on four groups of potential correlates: context of the first experience, parental socialization messages, gender attributes and beliefs, and body satisfaction. Each of these four domains emerged as significant correlates. Results suggested that a more intentional (vs. spontaneous) first experience, exposure to parental messages about sexual freedom, less adherence to
“traditional” gender roles, and greater body satisfaction were related to a more positive first coital experience. These findings suggest that comprehensive sexual education programs would likely facilitate positive sexual development.

Chap 11. Attraction, Love, and Communication


The specific innate modular theory of jealousy hypothesizes that natural selection shaped sexual jealousy as a mechanism to prevent cuckoldry, and emotional jealousy as a mechanism to prevent resource loss. Therefore, men should be primarily jealous over a mate’s sexual infidelity and women over a mate’s emotional infidelity. This article reviews the evidence in support of this theory.


This was an exploratory study of sex and relationship seeking on the Internet, based on a survey of 15,246 respondents in the United States. Seventy-five percent of men and 41% of women had intentionally viewed or downloaded porn. Men and gays/lesbians were more likely to access porn or engage in other sex-seeking behaviors online compared with straights or women. A symmetrical relationship was revealed between men and women as a result of viewing pornography, with women reporting more negative consequences, including lowered body image, partner critical of their body, increased pressure to perform acts seen in pornographic films, and less actual sex, while men reported being more critical of their partners' body and less interested in actual sex. Married and divorced were more likely than singles to go online seeking a serious relationship. Only 2% of users met the threshold of compulsive use established by previous studies.


This study examined dating individuals’ self-disclosure about their sexual likes and dislikes to their partner. Sexual and nonsexual self-disclosure were related to sexual satisfaction, relationship satisfaction, and sexual communication satisfaction. Authors conclude that self-disclosure affects sexual satisfaction by increasing sexual rewards in the relationship and by increasing overall relationship satisfaction.

136. Sexual Insistence and Disliked Sexual Activities In Young Adulthood: Differences by Gender and Relationship Characteristics. Christine Elizabeth Kaestle, *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 2009
CONTEXT: Because sexual negotiations within young adult couples have consequences for sexual and reproductive health, it is important to determine associations between relationship contexts and sexual insistence.

METHODS: Bivariate and multiple logistic regression analyses were conducted on data from 4,469 young adults participating in Wave 3 of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (2001–2002). Analyses examined predictors of respondents’ having experienced sexual insistence and having repeatedly engaged in sexual behaviors they disliked in a current relationship of at least three months’ duration.

RESULTS: Seven percent of men and 8% of women had had unwanted sex at their partner's insistence. A significantly greater proportion of women than of men (12% vs. 3%) had engaged repeatedly in sexual activities they disliked, primarily fellatio and anal sex. Relationship characteristics were associated with sexual insistence, but gender was not. For example, female respondents who reported unreciprocated love for their partner had higher odds of reporting sexual insistence perpetration than those who reported that they and their partner loved each other (odds ratio, 3.9). Females were more likely than males to report repeated participation in disliked sexual activities (3.7); relationship characteristics were relatively unimportant for this outcome.

CONCLUSIONS: Young adults of both genders may need education on the importance of accepting a partner's sexual desires and being sensitive to both a partner's unwillingness to engage in an activity and the true extent of a partner's dislike of certain activities. They may also need guidance on how to voice their own preferences and dislikes.

92. Demarginalizing the Sexual Self, Katelyn Y.A. McKenna, Amie S. Green, and Pamela K. Smith, The Journal of Sex Research, November 2001 (#39799)
For anyone, the expression of one's particular sexuality can be difficult even within the framework of an intimate relationship. On the Internet, however, many barriers to such expression are absent and individuals may feel freer to express their sexual needs there. We propose a process model by which these embarrassing aspects of an individual's sexuality become demarginalized through identity-relevant sexual activity.

Even though research on dating infidelity has been conducted for years, it still contends with limitations, including over reliance on heterosexual college student samples and a lack of longitudinal research on patterns and long term effects of infidelity. Still, the limited research reveals that college students use very broad criteria for defining dating infidelity. Effectively, almost any form of emotional or sexual intimacy with a person other than one’s primary dating partner qualifies as infidelity. Relying on such broad criteria, the studies reveal that many, if not most, students have engaged in some form of infidelity. Extradyadic involvements generally involve flirtation and passionate kissing, which culminate in sexual intercourse for nearly half of male students and one
third of female students. The majority of students disapprove of infidelity in virtually all circumstances, although it may be more excusable if it occurs because the primary relationship is troubled or because of an irresistible attraction to another person. Reactions to a partner’s infidelity are almost invariable negative, often involving termination of a relationship. Motives for infidelity are varied, but they are usually tied to concerns or problems in the primary relationship. Degree of commitment to one’s primary relationship is a significant predictor of risk for infidelity. Sexually permissive attitudes and attachment styles that involve anxiety over abandonment may predict likelihood of engaging in dating infidelity. Additionally, individual differences, such as low “conscientiousness,” may play a role.


One in 10 of both women and men reported that both they and their partners had had other partners. Men were more likely than women to have been nonmonogamous (17% vs. 5%), and women were more likely than men to report that their partner had been (17% vs. 8%). The probability of having been nonmonogamous was 44% higher among women who were sexually involved with a friend, and 30% higher among those with a casual partner, than among those in a serious relationship; the corresponding figures for their partners were 48% and 32% respectively. For men, the probability of having been nonmonogamous was elevated by 25% among those who were sexually involved with a friend and by 43% among those with a casual partner, for their partners, the figures were 27% and 24%, respectively.

Chap 12. Gender and Sexuality


Transsexuals have the strong feeling, often from childhood onwards, of having been born the wrong sex. The possible psychogenic or biological etiology of transsexuality has been the subject of debate for many years. Authors show that the volume of the central subdivision of the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis (BSTc), a brain area that is essential for sexual behavior, is larger in men than in women. A female-sized BSTc was found in male-to-female transsexuals.

103a. Understanding the Sexuality of Mexican-born Women and Their Risk for HIV/AIDS, V. Nelly Salgado de Snyder et al., *from Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 2000 (#39769)

The purpose of this study was to identify specific sexual practices, coping strategies in sex-related situations, and fears and concerns regarding sexual intercourse. The article analyzes how these elements place Mexican rural-origin women at risk for HIV/AIDS. Participants were three hundred Mexican women of rural origin belonging to one of three groups: married and living with their husbands in the U.S., married to migrant workers but living in Mexico, and living in Mexico with their spouses.

Men report more permissive sexual attitudes and behavior than do women. Sex differences in self-reported sexual behavior were negligible when participants believed lying could be detected, moderate in an anonymous condition, and greatest in an exposure threat condition in which the experimenter could potentially view participants’ responses. Some sex differences in self-reported sexual behavior reflect responses influenced by normative expectations for men and women.


In a highly influential paper, Clark and Hatfield (1989) demonstrated that, whereas men were quite likely to accept a casual sexual offer from a confederate research assistant, women never did so. The current research provides a more in-depth explanation of gender differences in acceptance of casual sex offers via 4 (quasi-) experiments. First, using a person-perception paradigm, I assessed people’s impressions of women and men who proposed a casual sexual encounter in the same manner that confederates in Clark and Hatfield did. Women and men agreed that female proposers were more intelligent, successful, and sexually skilled than men who made the same proposals. Second, I demonstrated that the large gender differences from the original Clark and Hatfield study could be eliminated by asking participants to imagine proposals from (attractive and unattractive) famous individuals, friends, and same-gender individuals. Next, I assessed factors associated with likelihood of agreeing to the casual sex proposal. The extent to which women and men believed that the proposer would be sexually skilled predicts how likely they would be to engage in casual sex with this individual. Finally, I examined these factors in the context of actual encounters from the participants’ previous experiences, and the results were replicated in the context. Overall findings suggest that the large gender differences Clark and Hatfield observed in acceptance of the casual sex offer may have more to do with perceived personality characteristics of the female versus male proposers than with gender differences among Clark and Hatfield’s participants and that sexual pleasure figures largely in women’s and men’s decision making about casual sex.


During two strange days in New York last winter, three married people—one after another—confessed to me either that they had stopped having sex or that they knew a married person who had stopped having sex. Like a sensible person, I booked an early flight home and chalked the whole thing up to magic and mystery that is New York. But no sooner had I put my coat on the peg than it started up again. A number of the mothers in my set began making sardonic
comments along similar lines. The daytime talk shows to which I am mildly and happily addicted worried the subject to death, revived it, and worried it some more. Dr. Phil—who, like his mentor Oprah Winfrey, has an uncannily precise sense of what American women in the aggregate are thinking about—noted on his Web site that “sexless marriages are an undeniable epidemic.” Mass-circulation magazines aimed at married women rarely go to press these days without an earnest review of some new sexual technique or gadget, the information always presented in the context of how to rekindle a long-doused fire. (And I must say that an article in Redbook that warns desperate couples away from a product called Good Head Oral Delight Gel —“the consistency is like congealed turkey fat”—deserves some kind of award for service journalism.) Patricia Heaton, a star of Everybody Loves Raymond, has published a memoir called Motherhood and Hollywood, in which she observes, “Sex? Forget about it. I mean that literally.” Books with titles such as Okay, So I Don’t Have a Headache and I’m Not in the Mood have become immediate hits, and another popular book, For Women Only, lists various techniques that married women use to avoid sex, from the age—old strategy of feigning sleep to the quite modern practice of taking on household night-owl projects. And Allison Pearson’s much loved novel about a busy working mother, I Don’t Know How She Does It (which opens with the main character engaged in just such a late-night project), features a woman so tired that she’s frantic to escape sex with her husband, prompting Margaret Carlson, of Time magazine, to observe, “Sleep is the new sex.” It has become impossible not to suspect that a large number of relatively young and otherwise healthy married people are forgoing sex for long periods of time and that many have given it up altogether.

Chap 13. Sexual Orientation: Gay, Straight, or Bi?

Discrimination from the perspective of people in stigmatized roles in employment settings is studied. Confederates, who were portrayed as being homosexual or not, applied for jobs at local stores. Measures of formal bias, interpersonal behavior, and perceptions of bias were assessed. Although confederates portrayed as homosexual were not discriminated against in formal ways, they were responded to significantly more negatively in interpersonal ways.

Using a nationally representative sample of young adults, I identify the family-demographic correlates of sexual orientation in men and women. Hence, I test the maternal immune hypothesis, which posits that the only biodemographic correlate of male homosexuality is the number of older brothers, and there are no biodemographic correlates of female homosexuality. For men, I find that having one older brother does not raise the likelihood of homosexuality.
Although having multiple older brothers has a positive coefficient, it is not significant. Moreover, having any older sisters lowers the likelihood of homosexual or bisexual identity. For women, I find that having an older brother or having any sisters decreases the likelihood of homosexuality. Family structure, ethnicity, and education are also significantly correlated with male and female sexual orientation. Therefore, the maternal immune hypothesis cannot explain the entire pattern of family-demographic correlates. The findings are consistent with either biological or social theories of sexual orientation.

Zebra finches are a group of socially monogamous birds that pair for life. Partner preference is strongly sexually differentiated: males prefer to pair with females and females prefer to pair with males. This research focuses on the hormonal and social origins of these preferences and provides insight into the development of sexual-partner preferences that may be applicable to other group-living pair-bonding animals with biparental care.

Chap 14. Variations in Sexual Behavior

American women who experience very strong and frequent sexual desire have often been either ignored or stigmatized. This exploratory study of 44 highly sexual women ages 20-82 found that highly sexual women reported that their lives have been strongly affected by their sexuality. Women reported experiencing struggles and challenges in almost every area of their lives because of their sexuality, including feelings about themselves and their relationships with partners, female friends, and acquaintances.

108. Investigating the Underlying Structure in Sadomasochistically Oriented Behavior, Pekka Santtila et al., Archives of Sexual Behavior, April 2002 (#39805)
This study explored the extent to which 29 individual sexual behaviors, associated with four themes of sadomasochistically oriented behaviors (hypermasculinity, administration and receipt of pain, physical restriction, and humiliation), represent different scales of intensity within each theme. Analyses supported the existence of cumulative scales in the themes, suggesting that the order in which people engage in different sadomasochistic behaviors is not random.

Chap 15. Sexual Coercion

In a population-based sample of 1,411 female adult twins, 30.4 percent reported
childhood sexual abuse (CSA). Women who report CSA have a substantially increased risk for developing a wide range of psychopathology, especially bulimia and alcohol, and other drug dependence. Most of this association is due to more severe forms of CSA and cannot be explained by familial factors.

This study compared the differences between sexual harassment of students that is perpetrated by teachers and by peers. The study involved 2,808 adolescents in the Netherlands and found differences between peer- and teacher-perpetrated sexual harassment. Unwanted sexual behavior by peers is a cultural phenomenon that occurs in public areas. Sexual harassment by teachers is a particularly detrimental experience for adolescents, and health-related problems are therefore reported in higher numbers.

This study investigated the relationship between self-reported childhood abuse and dissociative symptoms and amnesia. Admitted to a unit specializing in the treatment of trauma-related disorders were 90 female patients who completed instruments that measured dissociative symptoms and elicited details concerning childhood physical abuse, sexual abuse, and witnessing abuse. Childhood abuse is related to the development of high levels of dissociative symptoms including amnesia for abuse memories.

Chap 16. Sex for Sale

This study examined whether exposure to TV ads that portray women as sex objects causes increased body dissatisfaction among women and men. Women exposed to sexist ads judged their current body size as large, whereas men exposed to the sexist ads displayed a large discrepancy between their actual and ideal body sizes than those exposed to the nonsexist ads.

This article explores customers’ understandings of their visits to heterosexual strip clubs and the ways in which those visits become meaningful to them in relation to cultural discourses around masculinity, sexuality, leisure, and consumption, as well as in relation to their everyday lives and relationships. Regular male customers’ stated motives for visiting strip clubs are focused on and examined as touristic and masculinizing practices.
150. **Prostitution 2.0: The changing face of sex work**, Scott Cunningham and Todd D. Kendall, *Journal of Urban Economics*, 2011. The use of Internet technology for solicitation by sex workers has raised important legal and regulatory questions. We provide a description of the new institutions that facilitate prostitution online, and their potential market effects. We then supply some of the first evidence on several key parameters of internet to policymakers. First, we find that workers who solicit online largely represent growth in the overall prostitution market, as opposed to simple displacement of the off-line, street-focused market, although we find sizeable displacement effects among sex workers in their 30s and 40s. Using a newly-implemented survey, we also find that most sex workers who solicit online engage in lower-risk behaviors than traditional street-based workers; however, workers close to the margin for migration from outdoor work bring riskier business and sexual practices with them as they enter the off-street sector.

155. **Hard Core, The New World of Porn is Revealing Eternal Truths About Men and Women**, Natasha Vargas-Cooper, *The Atlantic*, January/February 2011 As recently as 15 years ago, if somebody wanted vivid depictions of, say, two men simultaneously performing anal penetration on the same women, securing such a delicacy would require substantial effort because the pornographic repertoire was still limited by the costs and imprecision of distribution. Leaving aside matters of taste and propriety, just how big an audience of horny derelicts or hurried businessmen would wriggle into a Pussycat Theater, with its sticky floors, and, in the company of others, watch a double-anal feature? Most likely, the producers were more comfortable knowing they could aggregate a much larger audience with an hour of good old-fashioned blow jobs and randy nurses. Even as porn migrated from film reels to videocassettes, there lingered some thorny logistical problems to overcome. The clunky videotape still had to be smuggled into the family residence, had to be viewed in a secured environment from which nosy children and spouses were barred, and then had to be stored in a crawl space, safe, or dedicated dungeon—or reluctantly tossed in the trash.

**Chap 17. Sexual Disorders and Sex Therapy**

115. **Male Sexual Circuitry**, Irwin Goldstein, *Scientific American*, August 2000 (#39778) This article reviews the historical, cultural, and scientific aspects of erection and the physiological mechanisms behind it. It also includes a discussion of the neurological structures involved in erection. Erectile dysfunction is also discussed, including its etiology and the new pharmacological advances in its treatment.

116. **A New View of Women’s Sexual Problems: Why New? Why Now?**, Leonore Tiefer, *The Journal of Sex Research*, May 2001 (#39779) In sexuomedicine, the amount of time devoted to getting the penis hard and the vagina wet vastly outweighs the attention devoted to assessment or education about sexual motives, scripts, pleasure, power, emotionality, sensuality,
communication, or connectedness. The author describes distortions resulting from the medicalization of sexuality and develops a new classification of women’s sexual problems with consideration of cultural, political, and relationship casual factors.

Cognitive-behavioral bibliotherapy was investigated in heterosexual couples with sexual dysfunctions. After a 10-week treatment participants reported fewer complaints of low frequency of sexual interaction and general improvement of their sexual problem, and lower male post-treatment ratings of problem-associated distress. At follow-up, gains with respect to frequency of sex and problem-associated distress had eroded.

Chap 18. Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) remain a major public health challenge in the United States. While substantial progress has been made in preventing, diagnosing, and treating certain STDs in recent years, CDC estimates that approximately 19 million new infections occur each year, almost half of them among young people ages 15 to 24.¹ In addition to the physical and psychological consequences of STDs, these diseases also exact a tremendous economic toll. Direct medical costs associated with STDs in the United States are estimated at up to $14.7 billion annually in 2006 dollars.² This document summarizes 2006 national data on trends in three notifiable STDs -- chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis -- that are published in CDC’s report, Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2006 (available at www.cdc.gov/std/stats). These data, which are useful for examining overall trends and trends among populations at risk, represent only a small proportion of the true national burden of STDs. Many cases of notifiable STDs go undiagnosed, and some highly prevalent viral infections, such as human papillomavirus and genital herpes, are not reported at all.

Preventing the spread of HIV used to mean testing people for infection and encouraging them to practice safe sex. Increasingly, it also means prescribing drugs as studies show that giving infected people or their uninfected partners antiretroviral drugs as soon as an infection is diagnosed can help to check the spread of AIDS.

118. Effect of Condoms on Reducing the Transmission of Herpes Simplex Virus
Type 2 From Men to Women, Anna Wald et al., JAMA, June 27, 2001 (#39780)
Herpes simplex virus type (HSV-2) is one of the most common sexually
transmitted infections in the U.S. This study evaluates the risk factors for HSV-2
acquisition and efficacy of condoms in preventing HSV-2 transmission. Condom
use was found to offer significant protection against HSV-2 infection in
susceptible women.

Chap 19. Ethics, Religion, and Sexuality

122. Rocking Sexualities: Iranian Migrants’ Views on Sexuality, Nader Ahmadi,
Archives of Sexual Behavior, August 2003 (#39783)
The purpose of this article is to put forward a theoretical discussion about
Islamic views of sexuality and, by means of an example, show how Iranian
immigrants in Sweden view sexuality and sexual culture. Building on theories
that compare individualistic and holistic ways of thinking, the article seeks to
elucidate the impact of basic culture qualities on the formation of sexualities.

123. Religion and the Politics of Sexuality, Stephen Ellingson et al., Journal of
Contemporary Ethnography, February 2001 (#39810)
Using data from open-ended interviews with religious leaders in three Chicago
neighborhoods in combination with demographic and survey data for area
residents, this article demonstrates how local sexual norms and practices shape
congregational responses to sexuality issues. These data reveal that local
norms about sexual behavior and identity, and congregational identities and
histories, are usually more salient than polarity, official teaching, or
denominational affiliation.

Chap 20. Sex and the Law

153. Abortion Incidence and Access to Services in the United States, 2008,
Rachel K. Jones and Kathryn Kooistra, Perspectives on Sexual and
Reproductive Health, 2011.
The incidence of abortion has declined nearly every year between 1990 and
2005, but this trend may be ending, or at least leveling off. Access to abortion
services is a critical issue, particularly since the number of abortion providers
has been falling for the last three decades. In 2009 and 2010, all facilities
known or expected to have provided abortion services in 2007 and 2008 were
contacted, including hospitals, clinics and physicians’ offices. Data on the
number of abortions performed were collected and combined with population
data to estimate national and state-level abortion rates. Abortion incidence,
provision of early medication abortion, gestational limits, charges and
antiabortion harassment were assessed by provider type and abortion caseload.
In 2008, an estimated 1.21 million abortions were performed in the United
States. The abortion rate increased 1% between 2005 and 2008, from 19.4 to
19.6 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44; the total number of abortion
providers was virtually unchanged. Small changes in national abortion incidence
and number of providers masked substantial changes in some states.
Accessibility of services changed little: In both years, 35% of women of
reproductive age lived in the 87% of counties that lacked a provider. Fifty-seven percent of nonhospital providers experienced antiabortion harassment in 2008; levels of harassment were particularly high in the Midwest (85%) and the south (75%). The long-term decline in abortion incidence has stalled. Higher levels of harassment in some regions suggest the need to enact and enforce laws that prohibit the more intrusive forms of harassment.


Sex crimes that are sometimes labeled consensual are numerous. They include adultery, bigamy, fornicatio, incest between adults, obscenity, prostitution, and sodomy. In each case, criminalization is controversial, at least in part because of the consent issue. If two adults agree to participate in a private sex act, what harm can justify state intervention to criminalize that conduct?

Epilogue: Sexuality Education


In the U.S., there exist a multitude of different approaches to reducing adolescent sexual risk-taking, unintended pregnancy, childbearing, and sexually transmitted disease, including HIV. This article summarizes a review of 73 studies and their respective programs, and describes four groups of programs that have reasonably strong evidence that they delay sex, increase condom or contraceptive use, or reduce teen pregnancy or childbearing.

127. Economic Evaluation of Safer Choices, Li Yan Wang et al., Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, October 2000

The objective of this article was to evaluate the cost-effectiveness and cost benefit of Safer Choices, a school-based human immunodeficiency virus, other sexually transmitted diseases, and unintended pregnancy prevention intervention for high school students. The program was found to be cost effective and cost saving in most scenarios considered: for every dollar invested in the program, $2.65 in total medical and social costs were saved.


This study examined the moderating role of timing of first discussion of sexual intercourse with mothers and fathers on the relationship between the amount of sexual communication and sexual risk-taking behaviors in late adolescence. The results suggest that timing of first discussion of sexual intercourse contributes additional variance in several sexually risky behaviors beyond that contributed by the amount of communication with both fathers and mothers.