



Program at a glance

Thursday, October 23, 2014

07:30 Registration opens
 09:00 Welcoming remarks
 09:15 Invited Plenary #1
 10:15 Break
 10:30 Symposium #1
 11:30 Session #1
 12:10 Lunch
 13:15 Session #2
 14:15 Session #3
 15:15 Break
 15:30 Symposium #2
 16:30 Poster Session
 18:30 Dinner
 20:30 After Dark

Friday, October 24, 2014

07:30 Breakfast and registration
 08:30 Symposium #3
 09:50 Session #4

11:10 Break
 11:30 Invited Plenary #2
 12:30 Student meeting, Lunch (on your own)
 13:30 Kingston Sightseeing
 18:30 Cocktail Event

Saturday, October 25, 2014

07:30 Breakfast
 08:30 Symposium #4
 09:30 Session #5
 10:30 Break
 10:45 Session #6
 12:05 Awards Presentation
 12:20 Lunch and business meeting
 14:00 Session #7
 15:20 Break
 15:40 Session #8
 16:40 Break
 17:00 Student Awards Presentation
 17:15 Meeting Ends

Acknowledgements

The Canadian Sex Research Forum is grateful for the following individuals/organizations:

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Eric Brousseau, graphics specialist in the Department of Psychology, Queen's University, for assistance in the creation of labels and name tags.



Conference Abstracts

(alphabetical order by last name)

Associations Between Penetration Cognitions and the Experience of Genital Pain and Sexual Well-being in Women with Provoked Vestibulodynia

Presenter: Alex Anderson, M.Sc. Cand.

Alex Anderson, M.Sc. Cand., Acadia University; Natalie O. Rosen, Ph.D., Dalhousie University; Lisa Price, Ph.D., Acadia University; Sophie Bergeron, Ph.D., Université de Montreal
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Background: Provoked vestibulodynia (PVD) is a prevalent (7-8%) vulvo-vaginal pain problem that is primarily triggered through sexual contact. Women with PVD experience disruptions to all aspects of sexual functioning and reduced sexual satisfaction. Research has shown that negative cognitions about pain (e.g., catastrophizing) and low pain self-efficacy are associated with greater intercourse pain intensity and poorer sexual function (Desrochers et al., 2009). Cognitions about penetration can be negative (e.g., penetration will not succeed) or positive (e.g., penetration will be pleasurable).

Research Questions: Given the focus on negative psychological contributors, there is a paucity of research exploring the role of positive cognitions in women's experience of genital pain and its consequences. This study examined associations between vaginal penetration cognitions and sexual and pain outcomes in women with PVD.

Method: Women ($N = 77$; *mean age* = 28.32, *SD* = 6.19) diagnosed with PVD completed an online questionnaire assessing (1) vaginal penetration cognitions, including the subscales of (a) control (e.g., I am afraid that I will panic during penetration); (b) catastrophic and pain (e.g., I am afraid of cramping up during penetration); (c) self-image (e.g., I am a poor partner when penetration fails); (d) positive (e.g., penetration will feel good); and (e) genital incompatibility (e.g., my partner's penis is too big for my vagina) (2) pain during intercourse (3) sexual function (4) sexual satisfaction and (5) pain self-efficacy.

Results: After controlling for age, women reporting more positive penetration cognitions also experienced higher levels of sexual functioning, sexual satisfaction, and pain self-efficacy. In addition, higher catastrophic and pain penetration cognitions were associated with lower sexual satisfaction and lower pain self-efficacy, as well as higher vulvo-vaginal pain intensity. Higher control cognitions about penetration were also associated with lower sexual satisfaction, and women reporting more self-image cognitions experienced lower pain self-efficacy.

Conclusions: Findings suggest that positive cognitions about penetration are associated with improved sexual well-being and pain self-efficacy, whereas negative penetration cognitions are associated with greater impairment in women's sexual and pain outcomes.

Implications: The results of this study may inform psychological interventions for PVD by suggesting that enhancing positive, more adaptive cognitions and reducing negative cognitions may improve the pain and sexual well being of women with PVD.

“The Person’s Looks Turned Me On”: Women’s Motivations for Casual Sex with Male and Female Partners

Presenter: Heather L. Armstrong, Ph.D.

Heather L. Armstrong, Ph.D; Elke D. Reissing, Ph.D., University of Ottawa
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Rationale: Women report many reasons to have sex and while these may vary depending on the type of sexual relationship (i.e., casual or committed), this has not yet been studied. Further, as existing research has concentrated on the motivations of heterosexual women, consideration of women with same-sex attraction is warranted.

Hypotheses: The purpose of this study was to explore how sexual attraction and the gender of one’s partner interact and affect the motivations of women to engage in casual sex. It was expected that physical motivations would be more strongly endorsed for casual sex than for sex in a committed relationship; emotional motivations were expected to be less strongly endorsed. Motivations were also expected to vary by reported level of sexual attraction and by the gender of the sexual partner.

Method: The psychometric properties of the primary measure (YSEX?) were evaluated as it had not previously been used with women with same-sex attraction. Subsequently, women rated their motivations for casual sex and sex in a committed relationship with male and/or female partners, depending on reported attraction. Data analyses compared motivations by relationship type (paired *t*-tests), sexual attraction (repeated measures ANCOVA), and for sex with male and female partners (repeated measures ANOVA).

Results: Factor reliability of the YSEX? was excellent ($\alpha = .92-.98$). 510 women (M age = 21.6 years) completed the study measures. Across all women, the top 20 reasons endorsed for casual sex were physical (e.g., “to experience the physical pleasure”, “the person’s physical appearance turned them on”). When compared to sex in a committed relationship, physical motivations for casual sex were more strongly endorsed ($p = .000$) and emotional motivations were less likely to be endorsed ($p = .000$). In general, motivations for casual sex were comparable for all women, regardless of sexual attraction, and women with bisexual attraction reported no differences in motivation for casual sex with male or female partners.

Conclusions/Implications: The results of this study show that women engage in casual sex primarily for physical reasons which stands in contrast to the traditional social norm of women valuing sex for an emotional connection to their partner. Additionally, this study illustrates differences in motivations for casual sex and sex in a committed relationship which should be recognized in future research and discussion. Finally, women reported similar motivations, regardless of sexual orientation or gender of partner, consistent with the current understanding of the fluidity of female sexuality.

Does Pornography Use Contribute to Antiwoman Aggression? A Re-examination of the Confluence Model Considering Third Variable Explanations

Presenter: Jodie Baer, B.A. (Hon.)

Jodie Baer, B.A.(Hon.); Taylor Kohut, Ph.D.; William A. Fisher, Ph.D. Western University
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Background: The Confluence Model of sexual aggression (e.g. Malamuth, Heavey & Linz, 1996) suggests that pornography use, thought to promote sexual coercion of women through its presentation of submissive female imagery, works in conjunction with factors that predispose men towards sexual aggression to produce antiwoman-aggressive outcomes. As of yet, no attempts have been made to rule out plausible third variable explanations that may account for the relationships proposed by the Confluence Model.

Research Hypotheses and Questions:

H1: The Confluence Model of sexual aggression will be replicated.

H2: As people vary in their preferred content of sexual media, men who are predisposed towards sexual aggression (e.g. high in hostile masculinity) should report consuming a greater proportion of violent and coercive sexual media than men who are not predisposed.

R1: Does sex drive—an individual difference factor that correlates highly with pornography use—also interact with factors that predispose men towards sexual aggression to increase self-reported acts of sexually coercive behavior?

Method: This study employed a cross-sectional Internet survey design involving 188 adult male participants.

Results: Confluence Model results were replicated, such that pornography use was associated with sexual coercion among men who were predisposed towards sexual aggression, but not among men who were not. Furthermore, men that were predisposed towards sexual aggression consumed more violent sexual media than men who were not, suggesting that perhaps violent media use is the driving factor behind aggressive outcomes rather than more general pornography use. Critically, substituting a measure of sex drive for the assessment of individual males' pornography use in the Confluence Model accounted for all of the variance in sexual coercion that was previously accounted for by pornography use in this model. Further analyses found the Confluence Model effects were no longer replicated upon the exclusion of 14 homosexual participants.

Conclusions: These findings serve as an excellent reminder that while the Confluence Model asserts that pornography use causes sexual aggression among high risk individuals, such claims are premised on correlational data, and equally plausible alternative explanations may account for the observed associations between these variables. In light of the null effects discovered upon exclusion of homosexual participants, it is important to remember that small sample sizes are inappropriate for investigating small effect sizes, as they tend to yield unstable results, and the current research will need to be extended using a larger sample size.

Pornography Use and Relationships Consequences: A Critical Review of Empirical Research
SYMPOSIUM: New Perspectives on the Impact of Pornography on the Couple Relationship:
Systematic Reviews of Empirical Research

Presenter: Jodie L. Baer, B.A. (Hon.)

Taylor Kohut, Ph.D.; Jodie L. Baer, B.A. (Hon.); William A. Fisher, Ph.D.; Lorne Campbell, Ph.D., Western University
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Rationale: Online accessibility of Internet pornography has renewed public concern and empirical interest in the effects of pornography use on relationships. As diverse fields have contributed to this body of research, relevant findings have been published in a range of specialized journals, and research findings have been poorly integrated across academic disciplines. The goal of this study was to conduct a critical review and synthesis of past and present research concerning the impacts of pornography use on relationships, with the aim of identifying consistent findings as well as characteristic shortcomings of the research literature so that an improved research paradigm may be developed.

Summary of Key Points: Research concerning the context of pornography use in relationships is limited. Much attention has been paid to gender differences in pornography use, while little work has considered factors that are more relevant to relationship outcomes (e.g. solitary vs. joint use, hidden vs. open use). Studies concerning attitudes towards pornography indicate general acceptance of pornography use within relationships, though it is also clear that a minority of individuals strongly reject this view. To date, few studies have considered how attitudes towards pornography shape the context of its use within relationships, or moderate the consequences of such use for relationships. Studies concerning the motivations to use pornography consistently find both relationship-enhancing as well as relationship-impairing motivations for such use, but motivations for using pornography are infrequently considered among studies that examine the relationship impacts of pornography use. When it comes to the effects of pornography use, studies indicate a range of potential positive, negative, and non-existent relationship outcomes. Most research assumes that pornography use will contribute to negative relationship outcomes, employs suboptimal methodological designs, fails to consider positive relationship outcomes, and rarely considers appropriate moderators of the effects under study.

Conclusions: A great deal of research has been conducted in this domain though few research questions have been answered unequivocally. The unintegrated nature of research contributions in this area, combined with the weak and inconsistent effects, suggests the merits of adopting a cohesive research paradigm designed to accommodate the challenges faced in this domain.

Implications: We propose that future research would benefit by adopting a *Dyadic* model that considers how *Antecedent* factors contribute to particular *Contexts* of pornography use in relationships, that in turn, give rise to specific relationship *Effects* (D-ACE model).

Ebb and Flow: The Fluidity of Sexual Satisfaction Across the Lifespan from the Perspectives of Women 50+

Presenter: Suzanne Bell, B.A.

Suzanne Bell, B.A.; Elke D. Reissing, Ph.D.; Lisa Henry, M.A.; Anne-Rose Bouaziz, B.A. University of Ottawa
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Background: Sexuality and the desire for affection and intimacy are important human features from the beginning to the end of life. Within the past few decades, more research attention has turned toward investigating sexuality in older adulthood; however, research in this area often focuses on medical aspects of sexual dysfunction and sexual decline. Given the many benefits of sexual activity across the lifespan, the premise of this study is to explore components related to sexual satisfaction from the perspectives of adult women 50+.

Research Questions: This study sought to examine the factors related to sexual satisfaction in women across the lifespan.

Method: This presentation is based on qualitative data collected from women 50+ as part of a larger study on the factors related to sexual health and ongoing sexual activity in older adulthood. Women were asked to retrospectively report their sexual satisfaction across the lifespan while indicating caveats to sexual satisfaction encountered in every decade of their lives. Grounded theory was employed in data analysis.

Results: The circumstances associated with varying levels of sexual satisfaction as described by these women fall into five primary categories of factors related to the individual, relationship, family, living situation, and health. With age, some women indicated a decrease in satisfaction and interest in further engaging in sexual activity. Several other women, however, indicated an increase in sexual satisfaction especially when women have chosen to actively cope with changes in their life, relationships, and partners. Interesting and engaging examples of the themes reflected in the data along with unanticipated findings will be discussed.

Conclusions: The results of this study suggest that challenges to sexual satisfaction are faced throughout women's sexual lives and are not limited to the later adult years. Furthermore, for several women sexual activity continued to be an integral, much valued part of their lives and a source of great exuberance.

Implications: This study presents a more holistic perspective of the impacts on sexual satisfaction across the lifespan. Of note is the importance of considering sexuality in broader terms in general and with older adult women in particular. Women in the later decades of life indicated sustained interest in sexuality and reported satisfaction with their sexual lives, a component relevant when considering treatment of medical conditions and living arrangements in assisted living and long-term care facilities.

Can't Let You Go: Post-Relationship Contact and Tracking among Canadian Emerging Adults

Presenter: Charlene Belu, B.A.

Charlene Belu, B.A.; Brenda H. Lee, B.A.; Lucia O'Sullivan, Ph.D., University of New Brunswick
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Background: Post-relationship contact and tracking (PRCT) (e.g., monitoring, harassing, online creeping) after relationship dissolution appear common among emerging adults: Our data (Lee & O'Sullivan, 2014) indicate that 49% report engaging in online forms after their most recent breakup, and 78% reported engaging in in-person forms. Work in this area has emerged from the stalking and cyberstalking literature, although those forms refer to criminal activities that incite fear in a target (Spitzberg & Cupach, 2006), and most forms of PRCT do not meet that criterion. Little is known about the individual and relationship characteristics that are predictive of PRCT behaviours following a romantic relationship breakup. The widespread uptake of technologies, especially as a form of social communication and contact in intimate relationships, introduces the possibility of online forms.

Research Questions: Who is most likely to report post-relationship contact and tracking after a relationship breakup? Are there relationship characteristics that are predictive of online and offline forms after relationship dissolution?

Methods: A sample of 271 Canadians was recruited from social networking and online classifieds websites to complete an anonymous online survey. Participants were emerging adults (ages 18 to 25 years) who had experienced a relationship breakup within the previous year (66% female; M age = 21.4; SD = 2.06). Participants provided information regarding online and offline forms of PRCT behaviours that they had engaged in after relationship dissolution, as well as any experiences of being a target of these behaviours by an ex-partner.

Results: Logistic regressions were used to predict online and offline PRCT (yes/no) from relationship characteristics, namely breakup intensity, relationship type, participants' own and partners' surprise by the relationship breakup, and who initiated the breakup. Odds of offline PRCT use were lower as breakup intensity decreased ($OR=0.61$) and when the participant (versus partner) initiated the breakup ($OR=0.54$). There were no significant predictors of online PRCT use. Odds of experiencing PRCT offline and online forms after relationship dissolution were decreased as the ex's surprise or expectedness regarding the breakup decreased ($OR=0.60$; $OR=0.76$). We also examined perceived impact of these behaviours on people's wellbeing, both from the users' and targets' perspectives.

Conclusions: This study provides insights into the use among Canadian emerging adults of post-relationship contact and tracking both online and in-person (offline) after an intimate relationship ends. Perceived breakup intensity and expectedness of the breakup were key predictors.

Implications: This study adds to a small but growing literature on post-relationship forms of pursuit. These findings could be useful to those working with young adults in distress following a breakup, and for identifying those at risk for using or being victimized by some of the more extreme forms of PRCT activity.

Sexual Satisfaction in Different Types of Ongoing Sexual Relationships

Presenter: Carolyn Birnie-Porter, Ph.D.

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Background: Considerable research has explored correlates and predictors of sexual satisfaction in a variety of different types of sexual relationships, such as marriages (Yucel & Gassanov, 2009), dating relationships (Sprecher, 2002) and recently, friends with benefits relationships (FWBRs; Lehmiller, VanderDrift & Kelly, 2012). Sexual satisfaction is consistently associated with sexual frequency (Laumann et al. 1994), sexual self-disclosure (MacNeil & Byers, 2009), attachment style (Davis et al., 2006), and relationship intimacy (Birnie-Porter & Lydon, 2013). However, to date, whether the presence and strength of these associations differs across different types of sexual relationships has not been explored in a single study.

Research Questions: The purpose of this research was to explore whether and how correlates and predictors of sexual satisfaction differ across five different types of ongoing sexual relationships: friends with benefits, casually dating, exclusively dating, engaged, and married.

Method: Participants were 120 males and 355 females (95 in each relationship type); 77% identified as heterosexual and 46% were university students. Participants completed online questionnaires assessing demographics and sexual satisfaction, as well as relationship intimacy, frequency and importance of sexual activity, sexual self-disclosure, attachment style and sociosexuality.

Results: Sexual satisfaction was regressed onto age, gender, relationship type, relationship length, attachment anxiety, attachment avoidance and sociosexuality; only attachment avoidance emerged as a significant predictor with relationship length borderline significant. Looking at some of the correlates of sexual satisfaction, although frequency of sexual activity was lower for married individuals than exclusive daters, and did not differ between those who were married and in FWBRs, the correlation between frequency and sexual satisfaction was significantly higher among married individuals than either exclusive daters or FWBRs. In addition, correlations between sexual satisfaction and relationship intimacy were significantly lower for FWBRs and those who were casually dating than those who were exclusively dating, engaged, or married.

Conclusions & Implications: This study highlights the importance of considering relationship type when talking about sexual satisfaction. In general, what predicts sexual satisfaction is similar across most types of ongoing sexual relationships (e.g., attachment style). However, the relative importance of some of these factors differs based on relationship type. For example, relationship intimacy and frequent sexual activity are more closely associated with sexual satisfaction for married individuals than for those in more casual or less committed sexual relationships.

Going From Seeing Gay, to Seeing Red: Physiological Responses to Witnessing Same-Sex Public Displays of Affection

Presenter: Karen L. Blair, Ph.D.

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Background: Why do some people see a male same-sex couple holding hands or kissing and respond with delight and happiness while others respond with anger and violence? Is it possible that the answer could lie, at least in part, in individual variations of physiological responses to witnessing same-sex public displays of affection (PDAs)?

Research Questions: The current study is an ongoing project to examine the physiological responses of heterosexual men to viewing visual stimuli of male same-sex couples holding hands or kissing.

Method: Participants (male heterosexuals under the age of 40) completed an online survey about attitudes and opinions in which they completed a number of attitudinal measures concerning their views on sexual diversity, politics, religion, morality, gender expression and sexism. Participants who completed the survey were then invited to complete an online Implicit Association Test (IAT) designed to assess implicit attitudes towards same-sex vs. mixed-sex public displays of affection. Finally, participants were invited to visit the lab for the in-lab portion of the study. During the visit, participants' heart rate, electrodermal activity and facial expressions were recorded while they watched a series of photo slideshows. The slideshows depicted male same-sex PDAs, mixed-sex PDAs, neutral images and a series of images previously validated as being universally disgusting. The study is still ongoing, but preliminary results from those who have completed the in-lab visit will be presented.

Results: Initial analyses of pilot and early participants indicate that individuals' physiological (EDA) responses to the slide shows vary as a function of their implicit and explicit attitudes. The presentation will focus on a sub-set of results from participants who have completed the in-lab visit as well as a more detailed analysis of the survey results and IAT data from the larger sample.

Conclusions & Implications: A frequent pre-cursor to physically violent hate crimes directed at LGBTQ individuals is a public display of affection, such as holding hands or sharing a kiss. A better understanding of the physiological reactions to same-sex PDAs will hopefully provide an opportunity for targeted interventions that may help individuals to respond to their own physiological processes in more healthy ways (both with respect to their own mental and physical health as well as the physical and mental well-being of the same-sex couples that they encounter).

Family Matters, But Sometimes Chosen Family Matters More: Decision Making in Same-Sex and Mixed-Sex Relationships In the Face of Social Network Disapproval

Presenter: Karen L. Blair, Ph.D.

Karen L. Blair, Ph.D., University of Utah; Caroline F. Pukall, Ph.D., Queen's University
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Background: Research has linked social support for relationships with positive relational outcomes, greater relationship stability and fewer mental and physical health challenges, but the relative influence of support from parents versus friends has yet to be determined.

Research Objective: The current study investigated the relative weight that individuals give to their parents and peers when making dating decisions within the context of same-sex and mixed-sex relationships.

Method: Participants (N = 959) read hypothetical scenarios in which a parent or peer (heterosexual or LGBTQ) expressed disapproval of their relationship and encouraged them to end the relationship. Participants reported whether they would end their relationship based on each source of disapproval. Participants also provided open-ended responses concerning the reasoning behind their responses and indicated whether they had ever previously encounter disapproval of a relationship and how the disapproval had influenced their real-life decision-making.

Results: Individuals in mixed-sex relationships gave more weight to the opinions of their parents, while those in same-sex relationships gave considerably more weight to the opinions of their LGBT friends (56% vs. 32%). The reasoning behind decisions also differed as a function sexual orientation and the source of disapproval. For example, many individuals in same-sex relationships discredited the opinions of their parents and heterosexual friends on the basis of assuming that they did not understand a same-sex relationship or were due to prejudice. With respect to past experiences with disapproval, LGBTQ participants were significantly more likely to have experienced past disapproval of a relationship from their parents, but were significantly less likely to have acted on such disapproval than heterosexual individuals whose mixed-sex relationships had been met with disapproval.

Conclusions: The pattern of weight given to the opinions of parents versus peers across individuals in same-sex and mixed-sex relationships were nearly perfectly mirrored, indicating that individuals in same-sex relationships may value the opinions of their chosen family (friends) in the same way that individuals in mixed-sex relationships value the opinions of their family of origin.

Implications: It may be possible for individuals whose relationships are met with disapproval from family members to buffer the effects of the lack of approval by seeking support from other sources, especially when those sources are close friends who might play the role of chosen family within their social support network.

Does Neonatal Circumcision Impact Men's Penile Sensitivity and Blood Flow?

Presenter: Jennifer A. Bossio, Ph.D. Cand.

Jennifer A. Bossio, Ph.D. Cand.; Caroline F. Pukall, Ph.D.; Mateya Diminik; Shannon Coyle, Queen's University
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Rationale: Male circumcision is among the most widely performed surgical procedures worldwide, and is especially common among North American neonates. A recent policy statement has been released in the US supporting routine neonatal circumcision; however, much of the foundational research comprising this policy concerns health benefits of circumcision that may not be applicable to North American populations for a number of reasons. Furthermore, physiological evidence of circumcision's impact on men's sexual functioning is extremely limited. The present study aims to address the dearth of research concerning neonatal circumcision in North America (especially Canada) with a specific focus on sexual correlates within adult men.

Research Questions: Do differences exist between men who were circumcised as neonates and intact men on the following:

- (1) Penile touch thresholds?
- (2) Penile pain thresholds?
- (3) Genital blood flow (sexual arousal) in response to erotic stimuli?
- (4) Self-reported subjective sexual arousal in response to erotic stimuli?

Methods: Data collection for this study is underway; we expect 52 men to have completed the study procedures by October 2014 (26 circumcised and 26 intact). Touch and pain thresholds will be obtained for pressure (via modified von Frey filaments) and heat (via thermal analyzer) on a control site (forearm) and different spots of the penis (glans, foreskin, midline of the shaft, and proximal to the midline of the shaft). Penile blood flow will be assessed via Laser Doppler Imaging (LDI), a new measure of sexual arousal that offers a direct assessment of subcutaneous blood flow. Scans will take place during one neutral and one erotic film stimulus. Subjective sexual arousal will be assessed using self-report change scores taken before and after viewing the erotic film.

Results: Group differences will be examined for the proposed variables (i.e., penile sensitivity and sexual arousal). Touch and pain threshold will be assessed across testing site. Genital blood flow will be compared across two locations on the penis (shaft and glans with foreskin retracted, if applicable).

Conclusions: Findings will shed light on long-term implications of neonatal circumcision in adult Canadian men. Specifically, this research will inform us about effects of the surgical removal of the foreskin on penile sensitivity as well as sexual arousal.

Implications: The results of this study will be relevant to policy makers, parents of male children, as well as the general public. The findings will be relevant to sexual functioning of adult men and their sexual partners.

The Impact of Male Circumcision on Sexual Partners of Men

Presenter: Jennifer A. Bossio, Ph.D. Cand.

Jennifer A. Bossio, Ph.D. Cand.; Caroline F. Pukall Ph.D.; Katie Bartley, B.A., Queen's University
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Rationale: It has been hypothesized that structural differences between circumcised and intact penises (i.e., presence or absence of mobile foreskin sheath) account for differences in the sexual experiences of men's partners. Indeed, research appears to support this hypothesis for women, such that penile-vaginal intercourse with intact partners is associated with better sexual functioning than with circumcised partners. Only one study has looked at circumcision status in men who have sex with men (MSM), which found evidence for differences in sexual practices as a function of circumcision status, but sexual functioning was not explored. The current study intends to expand on the limited research exploring the impact of men's circumcision status on their female and male sexual partners.

Research Questions:

- (1) Do women and MSM sexual functioning/satisfaction differ as a function of their partner's circumcision status?
- (2) What factors significantly differentiate between partners of intact versus circumcised men?

Methods: An online study was developed consisting of validated and adapted measures of sexual functioning, satisfaction, practices, and opinions about/preference for circumcision status. Presently, 168 women ($M_{age} = 26.9$, $SD = 7.5$, range: 18-57) and 28 MSM ($M_{age} = 31.4$, $SD = 13.2$, range: 18-69) have completed the survey; data collection is still underway. Participants in a sexual relationship with a man for 3 months or longer are eligible to participate.

Results: Hypothesis 1 will be addressed using ANOVAs conducted separately for women and MSM to compare differences in sexual functioning and satisfaction across circumcision status. Hypothesis 2 will be addressed using logistic regression analyses exploring predictors of the circumcision status of one's current sexual partner.

Conclusions: Preliminary analyses reveal that female and male partners of intact men report higher sexual satisfaction compared to those with circumcised partners; no differences were observed for sexual functioning. Women appear to prefer circumcised men while MSM appear to prefer intact men for a variety of sexual activities. Previous experience with one circumcision status as well as age of participant appear to be significantly related to these findings; however, the directionality of these results will be explored in pending analyses.

Implications: The effects of male circumcision appear to extend beyond the individual, to impact men's sexual partners. Results will increase our understanding of the role of circumcision status in the sexual lives of individuals who sleep with men.

**Mirror, Mirror:
Investigating Body Appreciation and Sexual Health in Women across the Lifespan**

Presenter: A. Rose Bouaziz, B.A.

A.-Rose Bouaziz, B.A.; Elke D. Reissing, Ph.D.; Suzanne Bell, B.A., University of Ottawa
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Background: For a decade, popular movements such as the Dove Campaign for Real Beauty (Unilever, 2004) have been questioning the narrow and unrealistic ideals of attractiveness transmitted through the media. Similarly, researchers and theorists have started conceptualising body image in positive and health-oriented terms, thus shifting some of their focus away from the deleterious effects of body dissatisfaction. With this paradigm shift, the concept of body appreciation was introduced (Avalos, Tylka, & Wood-Barcalow, 2005). Body appreciation refers to one's positive regard and respect toward one's body despite its imperfection and, as such, can constitute a source of resilience. In young women, it is associated with self-esteem and increased sexual functioning. However, no information is available concerning body appreciation in older women in general and with regard to sexuality in particular.

Research Questions: This study therefore explored body appreciation as it relates to sexual health across the female adult lifespan. Specifically, it was expected that high body appreciation would be related to increased sexual function and satisfaction, as well as decreased sexual distress in women of all ages. Furthermore, this study examined whether body appreciation may mitigate age-related changes to sexual function in midlife and older women.

Methods: Self-identified heterosexual women ($n = 215$), currently involved in committed relationships, were invited to participate in a cross-sectional, online survey study. The questionnaire package was comprised of measures assessing women's satisfaction with their general appearance and specific body areas, body appreciation, sexual satisfaction, sexual function, and sexual distress.

Results: Inter-group comparison analyses between early, middle, and late adulthood were conducted using multivariate analyses of variance. Furthermore, multiple regressions were used in order to assess the moderation effects of age on body image and sexuality variables.

Implications: The present study illustrates the positive impact of body appreciation on indicators of women's sexual health across the lifespan. As such, it contributes to a burgeoning body of literature suggesting that acceptance of one's body may be more central to wellbeing in general and sexual wellbeing in particular, than change in *actual* body shape or size. Furthermore, this study helps highlight how perspective taking, that is, personal growth associated with increased life experience, may help clarify the non-linear relationship between ageing and sexuality in women, specifically associated with an increased in appreciation of the body.

Gender-specificity of Genital and Subjective Sexual Arousal in Women Endorsing Facets of Bisexuality

Presenter: Katrina N. Bouchard, M.Sc.

Katrina N. Bouchard, M.Sc.; Amanda D. Timmers, M.Sc.; Meredith L. Chivers, Ph.D., Queen's University
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Background: Research on the gender-specificity of sexual arousal (i.e., the response to preferred sexual stimuli relative to non-preferred sexual stimuli) has focused on women with sexual attractions towards women or towards men, but not on women reporting substantial sexual attractions to both genders. In the present study, we sought to investigate gender-specificity of genital and subjective sexual arousal in a group of women who endorsed one or more of five facets of bisexuality (i.e., sexual orientation, sexual identity, romantic attraction, sexual fantasy, sexual behaviour).

Hypotheses:

1. Genital and subjective sexual arousal will be gender-nonspecific for all five facets of bisexuality, resulting in a bisexual pattern of sexual arousal.
2. Women who endorse a greater number of bisexuality facets will exhibit greater gender-nonspecificity of genital and subjective sexual arousal, indexed by a smaller effect size.

Method: Women ($n = 41$) who endorsed one or more facets of bisexuality were presented with audio narratives describing sexual and nonsexual interactions with female and male partners. Participants reported subjective sexual arousal before and after each audio narrative. Relative degrees of sexual responding to female and male gender cues were compared separately for each facet of bisexuality as well as by number of bisexuality facets endorsed (i.e., 1, 2-3, 4-5).

Results: For bisexual sexual orientation, sexual identity, and romantic attraction female gender cues produced a significantly greater degree of genital and subjective sexual arousal than male gender cues. A consistent pattern was also found with genital sexual arousal for women who endorsed bisexual sexual fantasy and subjective sexual arousal for women who endorsed bisexual sexual behaviour. Female gender cues produced a greater degree of genital and subjective sexual arousal than male gender cues, regardless of the number of bisexual facets that were endorsed.

Conclusions/Implications: Contrary to expectations, we found that bisexual women *do not* exhibit a gender-nonspecific pattern of sexual arousal. Instead, results from the current study provide further support for the recent finding that women with *any* degree of sexual attraction to women experience a greater degree of genital and subjective sexual arousal to female gender cues. Implications for understanding women's sexual orientation will be discussed.

Right Tool for the Job? The Effects of Genital Arousal Measurement Device on Female Sexual Concordance
SYMPOSIUM: Multi-method Approaches to the Assessment of Sexual Arousal

Presenter: Katrina N. Bouchard, M.Sc.

Katrina N. Bouchard, M.Sc.; Caroline F. Pukall, Ph.D.; Meredith L. Chivers, Ph.D.; Shannon M. Coyle, M.A., Queen's
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Background: Meta-analytic findings suggest that there is a gender difference in *sexual concordance* (genital-subjective agreement), such that men exhibit strong positive correlations between their genital and subjective arousal ($r = .66$) and women exhibit weak, positive correlations ($r = .26$) between these responses. However, women's relatively lower degree of sexual concordance may be explained by measurement factors. Devices that measure changes in vulvar blood flow (thermal imaging camera or laser Doppler imager; LDI) tend to produce a greater degree of concordance ($r = .55$ or $.54$) than does the vaginal photoplethysmograph (VPP; $r = .27$), a device which measures changes in vaginal vasocongestion. Sexual concordance in women may therefore vary depending on the device used to assess genital arousal, specifically whether blood flow is measured in the vagina or in the tissues of the vulva.

Research Question: Will the degree of concordance between subjective arousal and vulvar blood flow be significantly greater than the degree of concordance between subjective arousal and vaginal vasocongestion?

Method: Women ($n = 31$) were presented with four films while their vulvar blood flow and vaginal vasocongestion were concurrently measured using the LDI and the VPP. Two erotic films depicted men and women engaging in coupled sexual activities and two neutral films depicted nature scenes. Participants reported their experience of subjective arousal during and after each film.

Results: The degree of concordance between subjective arousal and vulvar blood flow (measured using the LDI) was significantly greater than the degree of concordance between subjective arousal and vaginal vasocongestion (measured using the VPP). Vulvar blood flow was strongly related to perceived genital arousal ratings, whereas vaginal vasocongestion was not related to self-reported genital sensations.

Conclusions: The current study provides further evidence that female sexual concordance differs according to whether genital arousal is assessed using measures of vaginal vasocongestion or vulvar blood flow.

Implications: Special attention is warranted when deciding how to assess female genital arousal for the purpose of investigating sexual concordance. Methodological considerations for subsequent sexual psychophysiology studies will be discussed.

Midwifery: An Old/New Opportunity for Enhancing Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health

Presenters: Alyssa Byers-Heinlein, R.M. BHSc.
Ali McCallum, R.M. BHSc.

Alyssa Byers-Heinlein, R.M. BSc., BHSc.; Ali McCallum, R.M. BHSc., Community Midwives of Kingston
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Background: Midwifery is a provincially regulated and funded profession. The first province to regulate midwifery was Ontario in 1994 followed by Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Quebec, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Nunavut and, most, recently New Brunswick and Newfoundland. Midwives provide care to women with low-risk pregnancies in the prenatal period, during labour and birth, and until 6 weeks postpartum. In Canada, midwives are trained through a four-year bachelor degree. The 7 programs in the country graduate fewer than 150 midwives a year. The philosophy of midwifery care is founded on three tenants. The first tenant is continuity of care; that is, women see no more than four midwives throughout their care and know the midwife who attends them in labour. The second tenant is choice of birthplace; that is, midwives attend women for their birth either at home, in the hospital or in a birth centre. The third tenant is informed choice; that is, midwives practice a woman-centered model of care in which the woman is the primary decision-maker. To facilitate this model of care, midwives see women in the clinic for appointments that usually range between 30 and 45 minutes with an intake visit lasting one hour. Continuity of care and long appointment times place midwives in an ideal position to discuss sexual and reproductive health issues with their clients.

Purpose: This presentation will explore both the formal and informal training and education midwives receive related to women's sexual health and wellbeing. Further, it will examine the topics related to sexual health and wellbeing that are currently discussed by most midwives in their provision of care.

Conclusion: Even though midwives have many opportunities to discuss sexual health and wellbeing with their clients, these topics are rarely discussed.

Audience discussion: What type of training should both student and registered midwives receive related to women's sexual health? What topics related to sexual health should midwives be routinely discussing with their clients and when in care should these topics be brought up?

Research Implications: Midwifery provides an excellent opportunity for sexual research. This is because midwifery care involves longer appointment times, a relationship of mutual trust between the midwife and the client, and clinical care that involves women's reproductive health. However, there are few midwives who are currently taking advantage of this research opportunity. Therefore, midwifery is poised and ready for collaboration with other researchers to explore questions related to sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing for women who are pregnant and/or in the postpartum period.

Condom Negotiation Strategies Mediate the Relationship Between Motivation to Use Condoms and Condom Use Consistency Among Young Adult Males

Presenter: Michelle Camilleri

Michelle Camilleri; Taylor Kohut, Ph.D., University of Western Ontario
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Background: The Information-Motivation-Behavioural Skills (IMB) Model proposes that Motivations to Use Condoms (Attitudes Towards Condoms and Perceptions of Social Norms) activate specific Behavioural Skills that are relevant to condom use to contribute to condom use behaviour. To date, most research in this domain has employed Condom Use Self-Efficacy scales that measure individuals' belief that they can enact specific behaviours as the preferred operationalization of Behavioural Skills. Recently, French & Holland (2013) suggested that Condom Negotiation Strategies (CNS) may be an operationalization of Behavioural Skills that is more consistent with the original conceptualization of this construct, but in their study, failed to examine CNS in the context of other IMB constructs.

Hypotheses: As specified by the IMB model, the present study expected that condom obtaining and condom avoiding strategies would mediate the relationship between Motivations to use condoms and condom use consistency among adolescent heterosexual males.

Method: Participants ($N = 153$) were given a series of questionnaires that measured condom use consistency, five dimensions of Attitudes Towards Condoms, Perceptions of Social Norms, three types of condom-obtaining negotiation strategies, and four types of condom-avoiding negotiation strategies. Tests for mediation were conducted using Preacher and Hays' (2008) approach for multiple mediation.

Results: A subset of CNS (obtaining strategies: "Risk Information/Request"; avoiding strategies: "Dislike of Condoms" and "Seduction") partially mediated the relationship between the Pleasure dimension of Attitudes towards Condoms and condom use consistency. A similar set of CNS (obtaining strategies: "Direct Verbal/Nonverbal Communication"; avoiding strategies: "Dislike of Condoms" and "Seduction") also partially mediated the relationship between Perceptions of Social Norms and condom use consistency.

Conclusions: Attitudes about the pleasure of condom use, Perceptions of Social Norms, and specific condom obtaining and condom avoiding strategies have separate and joint influences on condom use in adolescent heterosexual males. These results are promising, as they show that Condom Negotiation strategies can be a measure of Behavioural Skills. However, measures of Attitudes Towards Condoms and Condom Negotiation strategies may require refinement and further exploration through qualitative research.

Implications: Overall, the results of this study stress the importance of promoting consistent condom use in young heterosexual males through interventions that mitigate behaviours that specifically put them, and others, at a high sexual risk.

Reasons for Solitary and Partnered Pornography Use
SYMPOSIUM: New Perspectives on the Impact of Pornography on the Couple Relationship:
Systematic Reviews of Empirical Research

Presenter: Lorne Campbell, Ph.D.

Lorne Campbell, Ph.D.; Taylor Kohut, Ph.D.; William A. Fisher, Ph.D., Western University
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Background: The assumption that pornography use is a solitary male vice is being challenged by new research uncovering different patterns of pornography use and non-use within heterosexual relationships. Importantly, it appears that dyadic patterns of pornography use and non-use moderate the impact of pornography on relationships, such that solitary users have lower sexual and relationship satisfaction than users who engage in shared pornography use with their partners. As the recognition of the importance of dyadic patterns of pornography use is relatively novel, it remains unclear why these different patterns emerge across couples.

Research Questions: The aim of this study was to explore reasons offered by heterosexual pornography users to explain their own and partner's personal pornography use, or their use of pornography together as a couple.

Methods: An online survey recruited men ($n = 219$) and women ($n = 211$) currently in a heterosexual relationship where at least one partner had experience with pornography use. Different open-ended questions were asked to assess reasons for using pornography, reasons for using pornography alone, reasons for hiding the use of pornography, reasons for using pornography with a sexual partner, and reasons that sexual partners might use pornography alone. Responses were analyzed using Thematic Analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

Results: Many responses represented reasons that explain why people use pornography more generally (e.g. *curiosity, enjoyment, stimulation*), and similar motivations have been identified in past research. Of more interest, this study identified specific justifications for solitary use (e.g. *partner does not approve, control over materials, do not wish to make partner feel inadequate*) and shared pornography use (e.g. *to add novelty to sex life, bridge a desire or arousal discrepancy*). Reasons for using pornography alone were not always selfish (e.g. *my partner lacks interest, I do not want to pressure them to have sex*), and many reasons for shared use appear suggest that shared use may be relationship enhancing (e.g. *to promote intimacy, communication, exploration of partner's fantasies*) rather than detracting from the relationship.

Conclusions: Reasons for using pornography are varied and complex, and suggest antecedent factors that might usefully account for differences in the context of pornography use across relationships.

Implications: Careful follow-up studies in this vein may identify reasons for solitary and shared pornography use within relationships that may moderate negative or positive impacts on couple relationships.

Experiences of Persistent Postpartum Pain in a Sample of New Mothers: Implications for Sexual Function

Presenter: Jaclyn Cappell, M.Sc.

Jaclyn Cappell, M.Sc.; Caroline Pukall, Ph.D.; Susan Chamberlain, M.D., Queen's University
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Background: Little is known about persistent postpartum pain and how it affects women's psychosocial and sexual functioning.

Research Questions: (1) What are the characteristics of persistent postpartum pain in a sample of new mothers? (2) Do women who experience persistent pain report worse psychosocial and sexual functioning than women who do not?

Study methods: 197 women ($M = 30.93$ years, $SD = 4.12$) who were within one year postpartum ($M = 5.88$ months, $SD = 3.25$) completed an online survey on birth and labour experiences and postpartum pain.

Results: 53 women were experiencing persistent postpartum pain (pain lasting for 3 months or more) at the time of completing the survey. Of these women, 38 (72%) had given birth vaginally. The most commonly reported area of persistent pain was at the vaginal opening (26%), although 10 women who had Caesarean sections reported persistent pain at the site of abdominal incision. The most commonly reported activity that provoked pain was penile-vaginal penetration. Many women also reported pain during gynecological examinations, specifically when the doctor inserts a speculum and takes a swab from the vagina and/or cervix. Compared to women without persistent pain, women who experienced persistent pain reported more fatigue $p < .001$, more depressive symptoms, $p = .035$, and more stress, $p = .020$. 89% of women who experienced persistent pain engaged in some form of sexual activity in the previous month and 85% engaged or attempted to engage in intercourse. On the FSFI, women who experienced persistent pain reported more sexual dysfunction in terms of lower sexual arousal scores, $p = .001$; lower lubrication scores, $p = .018$; higher dyspareunia scores, $p < .001$; and lower total sexual function scores, $p < .001$.

Conclusions: Over a quarter of new mothers in this sample experienced pain that persisted beyond three months postpartum. Pain was most commonly reported during penile-vaginal penetration; however, many women also experienced pain during internal gynecological examinations. Women with persistent pain reported worse psychological function. While most women who experienced persistent pain engaged in sexual activity within one month postpartum, they experienced more sexual dysfunction than women with no pain.

Implications: Persistent pain after childbirth is common, though the location of pain may vary depending on the mode of delivery. Health care providers should inform new mothers who experience persistent pain about the effect it can have on their mood, energy, and sexual function.

The Role of Psychosocial Factors in Postpartum Sexuality

Presenter: Jaclyn Cappell, M.Sc.

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Objectives: The objectives of this study were two-fold: (1) To investigate whether dyspareunia and sexual desire differ as a function of physical factors: mode of delivery, genital trauma, breastfeeding, parity, and length of time since birth; and (2) To examine whether dyspareunia and sexual desire differ as a function of social and relationship factors (i.e., fatigue, stress, depression, relationship satisfaction, and the woman's perception of her partner's level of sexual desire).

Study methods: 193 women ($M = 30.92$ years, $SD = 4.13$) who were within one year postpartum ($M = 5.95$ months, $SD = 3.23$) completed an online survey on birth and labour experiences, postpartum sexuality (dyspareunia and desire), mood, stress, fatigue, relationship satisfaction, and their perception of their partner's level of sexual desire. Mann Whitney U tests were used to determine whether differences in postpartum sexuality varied as a function of mode of delivery, genital trauma, breastfeeding, and parity. Spearman's rank correlations were used to determine whether psychosocial variables were related to postpartum sexuality.

Results: 153 (78%) women had a vaginal birth and 105 (68 %) of these women experienced genital trauma. Results suggested that there were no significant differences in reported dyspareunia and sexual desire (dyadic and solitary) between women who had a vaginal birth and women who had a C-section. There was no relationship between sexual function and breastfeeding, parity, or amount of time postpartum. Women who experienced genital trauma following a vaginal birth were more likely to experience dyspareunia than those who did not, $p = .010$; however, there was no difference in sexual desire. Higher levels of reported fatigue and stress were significantly associated with more dyspareunia ($r = -.23$, $p = .006$; $r = -.30$, $p < .001$), but not sexual desire. There was a significant relationship between sexual desire and relationship satisfaction such that higher relationship satisfaction was associated with more dyadic sexual desire ($r = .19$, $p = .009$) and lower relationship satisfaction was associated with more solitary sexual desire ($r = -.22$, $p = .002$). Greater solitary sexual desire was significantly associated with a woman's perception of her partner's lower level of sexual desire ($r = -.27$, $p < .001$).

Conclusions: Women's postpartum sexuality is multidimensional and appears to be more influenced by relationship and social factors than physical factors.

Implications: Healthcare providers should discuss resumption of sexual activities with a broader view than penile-vaginal intercourse and physical healing.

Birth, Sex, and Abuse Under Nazi Rule

Presenter: Beverley Chalmers, DSc(Med), Ph.D.

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Background: Holocaust literature gives exhaustive attention to 'direct' means of exterminating Jews, by using gas chambers, torture, starvation, disease, and intolerable conditions in ghettos and camps, and by the *Einsatzgruppen*. Manipulating reproduction and sexuality – as a less 'direct,' but also abusive, method of genocide of Jews, or its antithesis – promoting 'Aryan' births - has not yet received the same attention.

Research Questions: To what extent did Nazi policy target reproduction and sexuality among both Jews and Germans to achieve its goal of creating a 'Master Race'?

Method: An extensive review of diaries, memoirs, testimonies and archival material that reference pregnancy, birth, sexuality, and sexualized abuse during the Nazi era was undertaken.

Results: The Nazis clearly abused reproduction and sexuality to create an ideological 'Master Race.' On the one hand, they prohibited or prevented women and men regarded as not meeting idealized Nazi racial standards – and particularly Jewish women - from having sex or bearing children through legal, social, psychological and biological means, as well as by murder. On the other hand, they promoted reproductive life and sexuality to achieve the antithesis of genocide – the mass promotion of life - among those deemed sufficiently 'Aryan.' A climate of cruelty pervaded Nazi actions.

Conclusions: This presentation, based on the voices of those who witnessed or experienced these events, reveals a spectre of brutality towards women and their reproductive and sexual lives that is not often recognized. The horrors of the Holocaust are legion: the sadistic and misogynistic enjoyment of such actions is not usually considered.

Implications: Taking a multi-disciplinary perspective incorporating social science, medicine and history, this presentation provides a gendered view of the Nazi era focussing on its impact on women's reproduction and sexuality. Current trends towards 'sweetening the Holocaust' by, for example, emphasizing the valiant roles played by survivors and rescuers, downplays the horrors experienced by childbearing women and those who were sexually used and abused.

Passion + Security: Understanding the Formula for Relationship Satisfaction Across Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Presenter: Lisa M. Z. Couperthwaite, Ph.D.

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Background: Empirical research on relationship satisfaction is largely situated within a cisgender heteronormative context. Numerous empirical studies have established that intimate relationship factors of love styles and adult attachment are important predictors of relationship satisfaction among cisgender heterosexual individuals, building on existing love style and attachment style theories. The relative ability of these factors to predict relationship satisfaction within a diverse sample of sexual and gender identity minority adults has yet to be examined.

Research Questions: The purpose of this study is to explore the relative associations between love styles, adult attachment styles and relationship satisfaction and to examine the pattern of results among mainstream cisgender heterosexual-identified and subsamples of LGBTQ-identified men and women.

Method: An English-speaking, primarily North American and European community sample of adults was recruited from various Internet sources. Participants ($N = 907$), including 214 cisgender heterosexual males and females, 469 cisgender sexual orientation minority males and females, and 224 transmasculine and transfeminine individuals of various sexual orientations, provided online survey data by completing the following measures: (a) a demographic questionnaire; (b) Hendrick, Hendrick, and Dicke's (1998) LAS-SF measure of Lee's (1973) love styles; (c) Fraley, Heffernan, Vicary, and Brumbaugh's (2011) ECR-RS measure of adult relationship-specific attachment; and (d) Hendrick, Dicke, and Hendrick's (1998) RAS measure of relationship satisfaction.

Results: Hierarchical multiple regression analyses conducted separately for cisgender heterosexual males and females, cisgender sexual minority males and females, and transmasculine and transfeminine individuals revealed similar patterns across groups. Specifically, Eros (strong emotional and physical passion) emerged as a strong positive correlate and attachment avoidance and attachment anxiety as strong negative correlates, together accounting for 62% to 76% of the variance in relationship satisfaction. Some significant but very minor differences in findings between groups were also noted, including Ludus (love and sex viewed only as fun activities) as a negative correlate for cisgender sexual minority males, Agape (altruistic, selfless giving love) as a positive correlate for cisgender females, and Mania (jealous, emotionally dependent love) as a negative correlate for cisgender sexual minority females.

Conclusions: This research builds on the existing voluminous research on relationship satisfaction among cisgender heterosexual adults, highlighting the universal importance of passionate love and attachment security, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Implications: These results have important implications for theory, future research, and relationship counselling with individuals and couples representing a broader range of sexual orientations and gender identities considered in previous work.

Impact of Childhood Sexual Abuse on the Sexual Functioning of Non-Cohabiting, Dating Sexual Minority Women

Presenter: Lyndsay Crump, B.A.

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Background: Childhood sexual abuse (CSA) is relatively common, and even more common among sexual minority women (SMW). It can have a deleterious effect on aspects of adult well-being, including sexual functioning. However, most of this research has been done with heterosexual women, and has not included the cognitive-affective and motivational aspects of sexual functioning. As CSA is predominantly perpetrated by men, the impact on women with female as opposed to male partners may be different. Further, SMW experience and conceptualize their sexual relationships differently than do heterosexual women. Thus, it is important to determine the impact of CSA on a wide-range of aspects of SMW daters' sexual well-being including behavioural, motivational, and cognitive-affective responses.

Hypotheses: H1. SMW with a CSA history would report less sexual well-being in the behavioural (genital and nongenital sexual frequency), motivational (sexual desire) and cognitive-affective (sexual satisfaction, sexual esteem, negative automatic thoughts) domains than would SMW with no CSA history. H2. SMW who experienced adult sexual victimization (ASV) would report less sexual well-being across behavioural, motivational and cognitive-affective domains than SMW with no ASV experience. H3. SMW who have experienced CSA and ASV would report the lowest sexual well-being across all domains.

Method: SMW (N = 323) ranging in age from 18 to 57 years completed an online survey assessing CSA history, ASV history, and behavioral, motivational and cognitive-affective sexual well-being.

Results: Compared to the No CSA Group, the CSA Group reported less frequent genital sexual behaviours; lower sexual desire, sexual satisfaction, sexual esteem; and more frequent negative automatic thoughts. Compared to the No ASV Group, the ASV Group did not report any significant difference in sexual functioning. The interaction of CSA and ASV was non-significant.

Conclusions: As predicted, SMW daters with a CSA history experienced poorer sexual functioning across behavioural, motivational, and cognitive-affective domains. We found little evidence for a negative impact of ASV on sexual functioning on its own and/or over and above the impact of CSA.

Implications: This study enhances our knowledge of how CSA impacts the domains of SMW daters' sexual well-being, and has practical implications for educators and therapists.

Conceptualizing Desire: Qualitative Characterization of Sexual Desire in Chinese Men and Women

Presenter: Silvain S. Dang, M.A.

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Background: Past research frequently show that East Asians report lower levels of sexual desire and arousal, and higher levels of sexual dysfunctions, compared to Euro-Caucasians and other ethnic groups. Cultural differences in the experience and understanding of various facets of sexuality, such as sexual desire, may underlie this effect. Conceptualizations, as well as quantitative scales, currently used in research may not be valid in this population.

Research Question: The current study qualitatively examined the self-reported conceptualizations and experiences of sexual desire in Chinese men and women living in Vancouver. Chinese participants were selected as a specific group within the larger category of East Asians as they are populous in the community and accessible to the researchers.

Methods: Men (n = 10) and women (n=10) took part in in-depth interviews that invited them to share their understanding and personal stories of sexual desire. Thematic content analysis was used to identify recurring themes within these narratives.

Results: Men and women described sexual desire in genital, non-genital physical, affective, and interpersonal terms. Romantic relationships and intimate emotional connections formed a dominant theme and framed their understanding of other aspects of desire. Men were more likely to describe intimate relationships and partners as an object of desire, while women more frequently described intimate relationships as a context where desire occurs. Chinese culture was discussed by women but not men, and was unanimously framed as being prohibitive towards expressions of desire. Other prominent themes included sexual desire as a natural urge, sexual desires are embarrassing or immoral, and partner's responses as a trigger or inhibitor. Many men and women did not distinguish between desire and arousal, and no consistent delineation appeared among those that did.

Conclusions: Chinese individuals generally described their experiences of sexual desire in similar terms as Euro-Caucasians from past studies. However, the relational components of desire were seen as particularly important, though in different ways for men and women. In women, Chinese culture was always viewed as a source of sexual prohibitions.

Implications: This study advances our understanding of how sexual desire can be conceptualized and experienced by Chinese men and women, and in particular underscore the potential importance of relational experiences when seeking to examine sexual desire in Chinese individuals.

Looking Beyond the Label: Vulvar Pain Patterns Across Settings

Presenter: Emma Dargie, M.Sc.

Emma Dargie, M.Sc.; Caroline F. Pukall, Ph.D.; Susan Chamberlain, M.D.; Cara Chen, Queen's University
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Background: Millions of women suffer from idiopathic chronic genital pain (i.e., vulvodynia). Despite its high prevalence and substantial impact on psychological health, quality of life, and relationships, this condition remains largely misunderstood and misdiagnosed. Patterns in the literature have established that when asked targeted questions, women's self-report of pain is highly associated with confirmed diagnosis upon gynecological examination. While these findings have validated the use of self-report methods as an important aspect of diagnosis, it is unclear how such methods are associated with pain during gynecological examinations.

Research Questions: The current study sought to confirm the accuracy of diagnosis based on structured phone interviews. Next, this study sought to explore links between pain patterns reported during interviews and those observed the gynecological examinations.

Method: These data were extracted from studies conducted in the Sexual Health Research Laboratory over eight years. The purpose of each study varied, though the common theme was assessing pain and psychosocial characteristics of women with vulvodynia. Information obtained during a telephone interview and subsequent standardized gynecological information (including the cotton-swab test and vaginal muscle tension assessment) was compiled for 110 pain women and 110 pain-free control women, matched based on age (\pm 5 years), hormonal contraceptive use, and parity.

Results: Cohen's Kappa indicated substantial agreement between the telephone interview and gynecological diagnosis. Women with vulvodynia reported significantly greater pain than control participants during the cotton-swab test as well as during an assessment of their vaginal muscle tension. Of note, pain participants reported significantly lower pain intensity ratings during the gynecological examination than during intercourse, and intercourse pain severity was not necessarily related to pain severity during the examination. However, the majority of participants who experienced pain during the cotton-swab test indicated that the pain was similar to their intercourse pain.

Conclusions: Obtaining pain assessment information through interviews is a viable method for preliminary diagnosis and determining which patients should be referred on to a specialist. Indeed, those reporting symptoms of vulvodynia experienced more pain when palpated with a cotton swab and assessed for vaginal muscle tension than those not reporting vulvodynia. Of note, the procedures utilized during the cotton swab test may underestimate the degree of pain regularly experienced.

Implications: These results highlight the importance of obtaining a thorough pain history while supplementing such information with physical findings. Indeed, treatment planning and monitoring could involve multiple modes of pain measurement to more accurately capture pain experiences.

Concepts for Critical Analysis in the Criminalization of Commercial Sex in Canada

Presenter: Jacqueline M. Davies, Ph.D.

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Background: In December 2013 the Supreme Court of Canada struck down laws related to prostitution. June 2014 saw the introduction of Bill C-36, "The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act." Described in the media as a version of the Nordic model, the government insists it is a "made in Canada" response to threats posed by the sex trade. Yet, sex worker rights advocates favour decriminalization to protect their health and safety. Both sides cite extreme and pervasive violence against Aboriginal women. Aboriginal women, youth and community groups express more diverse and complex opinions than are represented in the mainstream and call for an independent national inquiry. Exploitation, sex work and prostitution discourses further intersect with campaigns against human trafficking and migrant labour advocacy.

Research Question: Is there conceptual ambiguity or confusion in recent Canadian discussions of sex work, prostitution and trafficking that may account for controversy among discussants claiming agreement in their concern for the well being of women and youth affected by the regulation of commercial sex?

Method: Review and conceptual analysis of relevant Canadian law, backgrounders, multidisciplinary academic literature, internet blogs and mass media reports from government and NGO sources, including sex worker rights activists and anti-prostitution and anti-trafficking activists. Particular attention was paid to Canadian sources including diverse Aboriginal perspectives, as well as Scandinavian, British and German sources.

Results: Bill C-36—soon to be law in Canada, deletes the term prostitute and makes the agency of a sex worker inconceivable. The Criminal Code section (279) on trafficking also constructs the agency of its victims as so diminished they are incapable of consent. Sex worker rights advocates warn that enacting C-36 will increase vulnerability and threats to their lives and health. Aboriginal women's and youth activists call for attention to the historical origins and continuing social and political threats to their communities. They relate this to individual vulnerability to sexual and other violence and exploitation.

Conclusions: There is deep conceptual conflict between the language of diminished autonomy and extreme victimhood deployed by the government and the meaning of agency and empowerment in sex worker rights and Aboriginal discourses. The government's conceptual frame for violence and exploitation obscures the experiences of violated and exploited agents and runs counter to their flourishing, particularly as sexual agents.

Implications: The value of contextual analysis of concepts like agency, violence and exploitation is underscored. The potential to further entrench historically "made in Canada" forms of inequality, exploitation and violence, through criminalizing commercial sex becomes clearer when the legal construction of agency, victimhood, exploitation and violence in relevant criminal law is analyzed relationally rather than in isolation from Canadian social and political contexts.

What are you looking at? Are Sexually-Relevant Stimuli Favored by the Visual Attention System?

Presenter: Samantha J. Dawson, M.Sc.

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Rationale/Background: Information-processing models of sexual interest and arousal propose that sexual stimuli are processed in a manner comparable to other evolutionarily relevant stimuli (e.g., spiders), such that they elicit an automatic attentional bias and generate greater attentional engagement than non-relevant stimuli.

Hypotheses: Based on this theory, we were interested in investigating automatic and controlled attentional processes influencing patterns of visual attention to sexually-preferred and nonpreferred individuals using eye-tracking. We were particularly interested in whether or not women and men would differ in their patterns of visual attention, given evidence that gynephilic men (men who are attracted to women) respond significantly more physiologically (i.e., genital response) to their preferred gender (women); whereas androphilic women (women who are attracted to men) respond similarly physiologically to depictions of both men and women. We were also interested in the effects of stimulus novelty on patterns of visual attention.

Methods: Androphilic women ($n = 54$) and gynephilic men ($n = 24$) were simultaneously presented with nude images of a man and a woman using a forced attention paradigm. Sexual interest was objectively measured using a Tobii T60 remote-sensor infrared eye-tracker. Automatic attentional processing was assessed using time to first fixation to either preferred or non-preferred stimuli, and controlled attentional processing was assessed using total fixation duration.

Results: Automatic attentional biases towards sexually-relevant stimuli differed based on participant gender. Men showed an automatic attentional bias for sexually-preferred stimuli, whereas women did not. In comparison, a controlled attentional bias for sexually-preferred stimuli was observed for both women and men. Moreover, these patterns of visual attention were observed across three blocks of trials, suggesting that stimulus novelty is an unlikely explanation for the observed findings.

Conclusions/Implications: These findings suggest that sexually-relevant stimuli are favored by the visual attention system. The lack of an automatic attentional bias in women is consistent with observed automaticity of genital response to a range of sexual stimuli. This study highlights key differences in how women and men attend to and subsequently process sexual information at an early or automatic level, but demonstrates similarities at the controlled processing level. Implications for using gaze time and eye-tracking methodology as an objective measure of sexual interest, as well as implications for models of sexual interest and arousal will be discussed.

Is Sexual Openness Related to Gender-Nonspecificity of Visual Attention Among Exclusively and Predominantly Androphilic Women?

Presenter: Samantha J. Dawson, M.Sc.

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Rationale/Background: Gender-nonspecific patterns of sexual arousal (i.e., similar arousal to preferred and nonpreferred genders) in women who are sexually attracted to men (i.e., androphilic) are a robust finding. Patterns of gender-nonspecificity are obtained using a number of different assessment techniques, including sexual psychophysiological assessment of genital arousal, self-report measures, viewing time paradigms, and eye-tracking. Recent evidence suggests that degree of exclusivity of androphilic attraction influences patterns of gender-nonspecific sexual response. In addition, sexual desire, erotophilia, and sexual excitation are positively related to women's attraction and arousal to both men and women. This study examined the influence of these three factors on variability in degree of gender-nonspecificity of visual attention in women using eye-tracking.

Hypotheses: Based on previous research, we made four predictions: (1) Androphilic women will display gender-nonspecific patterns of visual attention to sexual stimuli; (2) Degree of androphilic attraction will produce variation in patterns of gender-nonspecificity of visual attention; (3) Sexual desire, erotophilia, and sexual excitation will be positively related to gaze times to both male and female sexual targets; (4) Degree of sexual openness (factor score) will predict gaze times to male and female sexual stimuli, and this effect will be moderated by degree of androphilic attraction (i.e., exclusively and predominantly androphilic).

Methods: Twenty-eight exclusively androphilic (Kinsey 0s) and 27 predominantly androphilic (Kinsey 1s) women were simultaneously presented with images of sexually-aroused men and women using a forced-attention paradigm. Gaze times to male and female images were recorded using a Tobii T60 infrared remote-sensor eye-tracker. All participants completed a questionnaire that asked about their sexual attractions, sexual desire, erotophilia, and sexual excitation.

Results: Surprisingly, androphilic women displayed gender-specific patterns of visual attention. There was, however, substantial variation in the degree of gender-specificity, such that exclusively androphilic women differentiated more on the basis of gender than did predominantly androphilic women. Contrary to our expectations, sexual desire, erotophilia, and sexual excitation were not significantly positively correlated with gaze times to male and female stimuli. The sexual openness factor did not significantly predict gaze time to either male or female stimuli.

Conclusions/Implications: These findings suggest that gender-specific patterns of sexual interest are influenced by degree of exclusivity of sexual attraction but not sexual desire, erotophilia, or sexual excitation. Future studies should continue to examine other factors influencing variability in gender-specificity of sexual interest.

Patterns of Responsive Sexual Desire: Does it Matter if it is a Stranger, Friend, or Long-term Partner?

Presenter: Samantha J. Dawson, M.Sc.

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Rationale/Background: Incentive motivation theory proposes that strength of motivation is determined by the hedonic quality of the stimuli. When applied to the sexual domain, this theory suggests that sexual motivation arises from exposure to sexually-salient cues (e.g., the presence of a partner). The strength of these cues, which is influenced by prior positive and negative experience, determines the subsequent desire response. Based on differences in incentivization, we can predict observable differences in the degree of sexual motivation elicited by partners that differ based on the degree of relationship commitment (i.e., strangers, friends, long-term partners) and attraction (i.e., preferred and nonpreferred gender).

Hypotheses: We predicted that responsive desire would be influenced by the degree of previous incentivization of the stimuli. Specifically, we predicted that sexual partners that have been subject to greater incentivization would result in the highest levels of responsive desire (Long-term relationships > Friends > Strangers).

Methods: Thirty-nine androphilic women and 28 gynephilic men listened to audio narratives that described sexual interactions with a stranger, friend, or long-term partner. Four exemplars from each relationship context were used, two of which described interactions with a male partner and two with a female partner. Women and men reported their degree of desire for sex with a partner (i.e., dyadic desire) and to masturbate (i.e., solitary desire) before and after each audio narrative.

Results: Relationship context did not have a significant influence on patterns of dyadic sexual desire in women or men. Both women and men did, however, report significantly greater dyadic desire to stimuli depicting their preferred gender. Women's solitary sexual desire was influenced by relationship context, such that women reported less solitary desire in the long-term relationship condition. Interestingly, women's solitary desire was not affected by the gender of the person depicted. Men's solitary desire was not affected by relationship context, and men reported significantly greater solitary desire to interactions with their preferred gender.

Conclusions/Implications: These findings demonstrate that gender cues influence patterns of dyadic and solitary sexual desire differently in women and men. Moreover, relationship context cues did not appear to have a strong influence on responsive desire. Implications for our understanding of sexual responding and low sexual desire will be discussed.

Getting It More Than Me? Narcissists Are More Impacted by Making Social Comparisons in the Domain of Sexuality

Presenter: Lisa C. Day, M.A.

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Background: Individuals who display narcissistic personality styles often have difficulty maintaining satisfying intimate relationships. Narcissists tend to be competitive and self-centered, and often have unreasonably high expectations for close others. Furthermore, narcissists tend to be particularly likely to compare themselves to other people. However, no research has investigated whether narcissists are more strongly influenced by social comparisons in the domain of sexuality, and if so, what the consequences of this enhanced sensitivity to social comparisons are for sexual and relationship quality.

Research Questions: Are individuals who have a more narcissistic personality style more sensitive to information comparing their sex lives with the sex lives of other relevant individuals? Does this propensity for social comparisons lead to more negative sexual experiences or lower sexual and relationship satisfaction?

Method: In Study 1, 212 participants, all of whom were currently in romantic relationships, completed the Pathological Narcissism Inventory (PNI; Pincus et al., 2009). Next, we asked participants about their sensitivity to social comparison information in the domain of sexuality. To measure sensitivity to social comparisons, participants reported on the degree to which they would be bothered by finding out that relevant others (i.e., friends, the average couple) were having *more* frequent sex than them, and the degree to which they would feel good about finding out that those relevant others were having *less* frequent sex than them. Finally, participants answered questions about their most recent sexual experience with their romantic partner. In Study 2, 201 participants in romantic relationships completed the same measures as in Study 1 as well as measures of their overall sexual and relationship satisfaction.

Results: Individuals who are more narcissistic reported being more affected by social comparisons in the domain of sexuality than less narcissistic individuals. In turn, this enhanced propensity for social comparisons led more narcissistic individuals to have lower quality sexual experiences, as well as lower sexual and relationship satisfaction.

Conclusions and Implications: The results from these two studies suggest that individuals with more narcissistic personality styles may view sex within the context of their romantic relationships differently than less narcissistic individuals. Future research should investigate why more narcissistic individuals are more concerned with social comparisons in the domain of sexuality, and the influence that this has on their romantic partner's sexual and relationship satisfaction.

Multidimensional Evaluation of Francophone Parenting Couples' Sexoperinatal Experience Living in a Minority Linguistic Context in Ottawa and Eastern Ontario: Preliminary Results

Presenter: Catherine de Pierrepont, Ph.D. Cand.

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Background: In the transition to parenthood, future and new parenting couples are faced with numerous intimate and sexual changes and have to adapt as best as they can. However, very little attention has been given to them both in research and practice. Little is known about francophone parenting couples living in a minority linguistic situation in Ottawa and Eastern Ontario, yet they constitute a particular group with a unique health profile. In the area of perinatal sexuality, there is a dearth of interventions for this group, despite their great needs for intimacy and sexuality during the transition to parenthood.

Research Questions: The purpose of this descriptive exploratory study is to describe the perinatal sexual experience of francophone parenting couples living in a minority linguistic context in the Ottawa region and Eastern Ontario. The research questions are: 1) What is the experience of these couples regarding perinatal sexuality? ; 2) What are their sexual needs in relation to health services? ; 3) What are the perinatal sexual services available in French for these couples, and that are utilized missing and desired by them?

Methods: As a case study using mixed methodology, 67 participating couples with children aged between 6 and 12 months filled in six online questionnaires on intimacy, sexuality and perinatal sexual health care needs and services. Semi-structured couple interview with 5 volunteer couples were also done.

Results: Preliminary results will be presented as recruitment ended at the end of August 2014. So far, the results indicate that postnatal sexual activities are less than those during pregnancy and that the women's responses are similar to those of the men.

Conclusions and Implications: The studied population has specific needs in the perinatal sexual domain and health care services need to be adapted to better respond to their needs. This research will provide a better understanding of a sexual fundamental issue (perinatal sexuality) and of a still unknown population regarding health and sexual health (francophones in Ontario), thus combining linguistic vulnerability and vulnerability in sexual health. Recommendations will be made in order to promote perinatal sexuality and a healthy transition to parenthood for these couples, while providing adequate support to them from perinatal health care providers. This research is part of an equity approach in population health to promote the couple, the family and society, and to promote equitable access to appropriate services and collaborative, continuous and durable care regarding sexual health for Canadians.

The Protective Role of Mindfulness in Sexual Insecurities

Presenter: Cara R. Dunkley, B.A.

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Background: Little is known about factors that protect against negative feelings towards sexual insecurities, such as body- and performance-related sexual concerns and genital self-image. In addition to having an adverse affect on overall sexual esteem, sexual insecurities have been found to negatively impact sexual satisfaction. Research investigating possible sources and correlates of sexual insecurities, as well as techniques to improve negative sexual self-evaluations, is needed. Mindfulness, which can be described as a state of mind that allows one to focus on the present moment in an accepting, non-evaluative, and non-judgmental way, has shown promise in promoting sexual well-being in a number of recent investigations. As such, mindfulness may play a role in protecting against sexual insecurities, as well as have the potential to indirectly enhance sexual satisfaction through the reduction of sexual insecurities. This study adds to the body of literature on the beneficial effects of mindfulness on sexuality.

Research Questions: It was anticipated that mindfulness would be associated with 1) positive genital self-image, 2) fewer body- and performance-based cognitive distractions during sexual activity, and 3) greater sexual satisfaction.

Methods: Undergraduate students (n = 1,012) completed an online survey containing measures of mindfulness, genital self-image, cognitive distractions during sexual activity, and sexual satisfaction.

Results: Multiple regression analyses revealed that higher levels of mindfulness were related to reductions in genital, body, and performance-based sexual insecurities, as well as enhanced sexual satisfaction among men and women. A series of bootstrap multiple mediation analyses indicated that mindfulness partially mediated the relation between sexual insecurities and several aspects of sexual satisfaction.

Conclusions: The research findings suggest that mindfulness may promote sexual satisfaction and mitigate sexual insecurities in men and women.

Implications: This study provides rationale for conducting additional research examining the role of mindfulness in guarding against the development and maintenance of sexual insecurities. These findings support the potential for mindfulness-based interventions in alleviating genital, performance and body-related sexual insecurities. As the array of cognitive exercises and skills found to promote mindfulness could be readily integrated into treatment for individuals suffering from poor sexual esteem, investigating the efficacy of mindfulness-based treatments for the reduction of sexual insecurities may represent a promising area of study.

Perceived Effects of Pornography Use on Relationships
SYMPOSIUM: New Perspectives on the Impact of Pornography on the Couple Relationship:
Systematic Reviews of Empirical Research

Presenter: William A. Fisher, Ph.D.

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Background: Fueled by concern about the emergence and availability of Internet pornography, an outpouring of research has emerged concerning the effects of pornography use on relationship functioning. Most large scale quantitative studies of this issue have targeted a limited number of potential effects for study. In contrast, a small body of limited scale qualitative studies involving interviews and focus groups offers tantalizing glimpses of potential effects that have been overlooked in large scale quantitative research.

Research Questions: The aim of this study was to identify potential effects of pornography use on relationships that have been overlooked in large scale quantitative studies.

Methods: An online survey recruited men ($n = 219$) and women ($n = 211$) who were currently in a heterosexual relationship where at least one partner had experience with pornography use. Open-ended questions probed participants' perceptions of the impacts (both positive and negative) that their solitary pornography use, their partners' solitary pornography use, and/or their shared pornography use, had had on themselves, and on their relationships. Responses were analyzed using Thematic Analysis procedures (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

Results: Thematic Analysis identified 39 distinct themes related to impact of pornography use on the couple. Themes ranged from a rejection of any effects of pornography use on relationships to an endorsement of both positive and negative effects of such use. The analysis revealed themes that are consistent with previously investigated effects of pornography use (e.g. *sexual pleasure, relationship conflict*), but also identified potential effects that have not been thoroughly investigated (e.g. *sexual efficacy and skill acquisition, increased couple intimacy*) as well as several factors that may moderate the impact of such use on relationships (e.g. *pornography use as an acceptable alternative to partnered sex, expectation of sexual autonomy versus strict sexual interdependence*).

Conclusions: Pornography consumers and their partners report a broad range of perceived effects of pornography use on their relationships. While some have been investigated in large scale quantitative research, many have not. It is particularly noteworthy that potential negative effects of pornography use have received vastly more extensive coverage than potential positive effects in this literature.

Implications: Further quantitative work in this area should move beyond the constrained array of pornography impacts currently investigated and beyond summary measures of relationship and sexual satisfaction to examine the impact of pornography use on the full range of specific positive and negative relationship outcomes.

Why Young Adults Get Down: Motives for Oral and Vaginal Sex in Casual, FWB, and Committed Contexts

Presenter: Cassandra Fralic

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Rationale: Past research indicates that physical and intimacy motives are the most common reasons young adults engage in sexual activity (Meston & Buss, 2007). Yet we still know little about how sexual motives may change depending on the context of the relationship with a sexual partner (casual, friends with benefits [FWB], committed) or the sexual behaviour one engages in (giving oral sex, receiving oral sex, vaginal intercourse).

Research Questions: Do motives for sexual activity vary across relationship contexts? Do motives for sexual activity vary across sexual behaviours? Are there gender differences in sexual motives across contexts and behaviours?

Methods: Participants included 213 women and 66 men between the ages of 18 and 24 ($M = 20.21$ years). Participants completed an online survey which assessed demographics, the details of participants' last sexual experience, and motives for either giving oral sex, receiving oral sex, or vaginal sex (YSex? scale; Meston & Buss, 2007).

Results: Motives for sexual activity in all three relationship contexts followed the same pattern: physical motives were most common followed by emotional motives. Insecurity and goal attainment motives were least common ($F(9, 741) = 6.19, p = .001$). Both men and women reported greater emotional motives in committed contexts as compared to casual or FWB contexts. Women reported greater goal attainment and insecurity motives in casual or FWB contexts as compared to committed contexts. Motives for receiving oral sex and vaginal sex were similar: physical motives were most common followed by emotional motives. Insecurity and goal attainment motives were least common ($F(6, 496) = 5.57, p < .001$). In contrast, participants reported equal physical and emotional motives for giving oral sex. Men and women showed similar patterns of motives across behaviours, although as compared to women, men reported higher physical motives for all sexual behaviours ($F(3, 251) = 251.00, p < .001$).

Conclusions: Young adults are engaging in sexual activity primarily for physical or emotional reasons, regardless of the relationship context or the sexual behaviour. The findings indicate that motives for giving oral sex differ somewhat from motives for other sexual behaviours. In addition, FWB relationships may be more similar to casual relationships than committed relationships, at least in regards to sexual motives.

Implications: These findings provide insight into the variation in young adults' sexual motives and have implications for sex educators, sexual health professionals, and future research.

Female Genital Self-Image: Where do these Feelings Come From?

Presenter: Miranda C. Fudge, B.A. (Hon.)

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Background: Female genital self-image (FGSI) is a construct which encompasses women's subjective thoughts and feelings about their own genitals. The content of these thoughts and feelings often centres around aspects of appearance, senses (smell and/or taste), and sexual function. On average women feel moderately positively about their genitals. However, there is a significant amount of variability between women. Yet, little is known about the life experiences that impact the way women come to feel about their genitals. The aim of this study was to enhance our understanding of the psychosocial factors that influence FGSI.

Research Question: What psychosocial factors influence the formation and maintenance of female genital self-image?

Method: Participants were 20 women (ages 19 to 35). The women participated in a semi-structured individual interview lasting approximately 50 minutes. Transcripts were analyzed using qualitative content analysis.

Results: All of the women were able to identify experiences and comments that impacted their genital self-image—that is, their feelings about the appearance, smell, taste and/or sexual function of their genitals. They identified influential psychosocial factors at the cultural, interpersonal, and individual level. Three major themes emerged from the qualitative data analysis: (1) active comparison, (2) various comparison groups, and (3) importance of interpretation. The first theme captured women as actively (or less often passively) gathering information to make decisions about their genital feelings. The second theme captured the simultaneous influence of positive, negative, and mixed genital messages transmitted from a variety of sources. Finally, the third theme captured the notion that women's interpretation of their experiences, and not the experiences themselves, are what impacts FGSI.

Conclusions: Women are able to identify a number of different types of experiences that impact their FGSI. However, it is the woman's interpretation of these experiences that determines the nature (i.e., positive, negative, mixed) of the impact.

Implications: Women are simultaneously influenced by both the positive and negative genital messages to which they are exposed. Therefore, efforts aimed at enhancing FGSI will need to address various types of messages and, most importantly, the way in which women interpret them.

Love Thy Neighbour: Personality Traits and Reports of Infidelity

Presenter: Kirstian A. V. Gibson, B.A.

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Background: The current study explored rates of infidelity among young adults (ages 18-26 years) and whether rates varied when using elaborated versus non-elaborated definitions of infidelity. Past research has produced wide ranges in estimates (22-67%), which may be explained in part by how they assess infidelity. In addition, we explored whether personality traits can predict reports of infidelity in young adults (ages 18-26 years). To date, the majority of research has explored predictions of infidelity using a restricted set of personality traits (Orzeck et al., 2005; Shackelford et al., 2008). The current study incorporates a broader measure of personality, specifically the Big Five personality traits (Johnson, 2000) as well as the excitation/inhibition dimensions (Carpenter et al., 2010), to examine whether some young adults are prone to infidelity as a function their personalities traits.

Research Questions:

1. Do self-reported reports of infidelity vary as a function of elaborated versus non-elaborated assessments of infidelity?
2. Which personality traits best predict infidelity?

Method: The sample comprised 295 young adults (161 females and 134 males; 18-26 years; $M = 23.24$), who were recruited using the online crowdsourcing site, Mechanical Turk®. All participants completed the online questionnaire that consisted of background measures, personality assessments (i.e., the Big Five and SIS/SES), two measures assessing infidelity, and attraction to extradyadic others.

Results: When asked whether they had engaged in “sexual or romantic involvement with someone other than your current partner,” only 16.6% of participants indicated that they had. However, when asked to indicate which from a list of infidelity activities (romantic, physical, and online) that they had engaged in at least once during their current relationship, a significantly higher proportion (76.8%) reported infidelity, $\chi^2(1) = 15.71$, ($p < .001$). Logistic regression analyses were used to predict reports of infidelity. Among personality traits, extraversion ($OR = 1.036$) and high sexual excitation ($OR = 1.100$) were associated with reports of infidelity. In addition, low commitment ($OR = .425$), romantic satisfaction ($OR = .563$), and emotional attraction to others ($OR = 1.437$) were significant predictors of reports of infidelity.

Conclusions: How one defines infidelity is strongly related to reports from young adults. As expected, more elaborated definitions provided higher rates. Personality traits were not strong predictors overall, although those high in extraversion and sexual excitation were more likely to report past experiences of infidelity, as others have found (Mark et al., 2011; Schmitt & Shackelford, 2008). Other variables, including higher relationship commitment and emotional attraction to others, proved more useful for understanding infidelity.

Implications: These findings provide insights for counseling and education related to infidelity as the current study identifies risk factors that can contribute to the likelihood of young adults engaging in infidelity.

Body Image, Sexual Satisfaction, and the Impact of Partner Messages on Women

Presenter: Kaitlyn M. Goldsmith, B. A. (Hon.)

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Background: There are many factors that influence body image, such as the media and societal influences. Previous research has suggested that verbal feedback from romantic partners and the extent to which a woman believes she matches her partner's ideal body size (self-partner discrepancy) also play a large role in women's body image. However, little is known about the frequency with which women receive positive and negative verbal and nonverbal feedback about their body from their romantic partners. Therefore, the first goal of this study was to compare the frequency and types of positive and negative feedback. The second goal was to determine the extent to which positive feedback, negative feedback, and self-partner discrepancy are associated with body image. Research has indicated that body image is closely linked to women's sexual well-being. Therefore, the final goal was to determine the extent to which these factors in addition to body image are associated with sexual satisfaction.

Research Questions/Hypotheses: RQ1: What are the most frequent types of positive and negative messages women receive from their romantic partners about their bodies? H1: More frequent positive messages, less frequent negative messages, and perceiving a smaller self-partner discrepancy would be associated with more positive body image. H2: More frequent positive messages, less frequent negative messages, perceiving a smaller self-partner discrepancy, and more positive body image would be associated with higher sexual satisfaction.

Methods: Participants were young heterosexual women recruited from a mid-sized university as well as online ($N = 117$). Women completed a series of questionnaires assessing demographic information, frequency of positive and negative partner messages about their body, body image, self-partner discrepancy, and sexual satisfaction.

Results: The women reported receiving significantly more positive than negative feedback from romantic partners. Multiple regression analyses revealed that more frequent positive partner messages and a smaller self-partner discrepancy uniquely predicted positive body image. Additionally, receiving more negative partner messages and having a larger self-partner discrepancy predicted poorer body image. Higher sexual satisfaction was uniquely predicted by more frequent positive partner messages and less frequent negative partner messages.

Conclusions: Positive and negative feedback from romantic partners and self-partner discrepancy have an important impact on women's body image and sexual satisfaction.

Implications: These results provide information for clinicians and educators about partner variables that can be targeted so as to enhance women's body image and sexual satisfaction.

Not All Reasons to Have Sex Are Created Equal: A Self-Determination Theory Perspective on Sexual Motivation

Presenter: Emilie Eve Gravel, Ph.D. Cand.

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Background: In the present study, we proposed to use self-determination theory (SDT) to examine how relational motivation and sexual motivation are related to each other and in turn, are associated with sexual well-being. SDT is a well-validated model of motivation and optimal functioning. Surprisingly, it has seldom been used in sexuality research. According to SDT, motivation is broadly understood as being autonomous or controlled. Autonomous motivation refers to a behavior is regulated by sense of volition and agency, leading to greater well-being. Controlled motivation, in contrast, refers to a behavior regulated by internal or external pressures, leading to lower well-being. Having sex for autonomous reasons, such as to experience pleasure, should promote sexual well-being. In contrast, having sex for controlled reasons, such as fulfilling expectations from one's partner, should lead to poorer sexual well-being. Moreover, as studies show that relational factors play a significant role in sexual well-being, being in a committed relationship for autonomous or controlled reasons may be an important precursor to the relationship between sexual motivation and sexual well-being as relational.

Research questions: The aim of this study was to validate a model describing the relationship between relational motivation, sexual motivation, and sexual well-being grounded in SDT.

Method: University students in a committed relationship (N =702) completed an online questionnaire containing measures of relational motivation, sexual motivation, sexual satisfaction, and sexual distress. Data were analysed using structural equation modelling.

Results and conclusions: Results from this study suggest that autonomous sexual motivation supports greater sexual well-being through greater sexual satisfaction and lower sexual distress. In contrast, controlled sexual motivation hinders sexual well-being through lower sexual satisfaction and greater sexual distress. Being in committed relationship for autonomous or controlled reasons also plays an important role in shaping sexual motivation and sexual well-being, which highlights the inextricable link between sexual well-being and relational factors.

Implications: Overall, this study contributes to a growing body of evidence that shows that not all reasons to have sex are created equal. SDT provides a useful framework to understand the relationship between sexual motives and sexual well-being. It suggests that one of the ingredients to sexual well-being is having sex because one genuinely wants to have sex, rather than because one feels they should have sex.

Androgen Deprivation Therapy in Prostate Cancer: Examining Mood, Relationship Adjustment and Sexual Function in Patients and Partners

Presenter: Lisa Dawn Hamilton, Ph.D.

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Background: Prostate cancer patients treated androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) may experience more side effects of this type of treatment compared to non-hormonal treatments for prostate cancer. In particular, we are concerned with the psychological and sexual effects of suppressing androgens through ADT. Prostate cancer affects both patients and their partners and treatment with ADT.

Hypotheses: Patients and partners of patients on ADT will report worse moods and worse sexual function for the patient compared to patients not on ADT. Partners will report stronger negative effects than the patients themselves. Changes in mood will affect reported relationship adjustment. Both mood and sexual function variables will predict relationship adjustment.

Method: Prostate cancer patients ($n = 295$) and partners of patients ($n = 84$) completed an online survey assessing the patients' current mood and mood prior to treatment, relationship adjustment, and sexual function. We compared men on ADT to men who received non-hormonal treatments for their prostate cancer.

Results: Patients currently treated with ADT reported worsened mood and sexual function, and lower sexual desire compared to those not on ADT. The negative impact of ADT, however, was reduced in older patients. Partners of patients on ADT reported similar declines in the patient's mood than patients reported, but to a greater degree than patient-reported levels. Patients on ADT and their partners reported slightly better dyadic adjustment, but patients' negative mood and sexual bother correlated with worse dyadic adjustment. Specifically more problems with patients' overall sexual function predicted lower relationship scores for the patients, while the patients' lack of desire predicted lower relationship scores for the partners.

Conclusions: Our data clarify ADT's impact on men's mood and personality, and its impact on couples. Lack of sexual desire in patients on ADT was seen as problematic by patients, but more so by their partners. ADT need not damage a couples' bond provided they are aware of the treatments' impact upon the patients.

Implications: Patients and partners of patients are likely to benefit from being well informed about the psychological effects of androgen deprivation on men beginning ADT.

The Sexual Side of Castration Narratives
SYMPOSIUM: Perspectives on Modern Day Eunuchs

Presenter: Ariel B. Handy, B.A.

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Background: Many men both fear and are fascinated by castration. Gender Dysphoria, Body Integrity Identity Disorders, or paraphilic interests may all underlie extreme castration ideations. The Eunuch Archive (<http://www.eunuch.org>) is an online community of individuals with an exceptional interest in genital ablation or destruction. Individuals are invited to write and post fictional stories on the Archives, and currently there are currently 7,968 stories accessible there. Research Questions: This study examines the relationships between sexual thoughts or activities and genital ablation in the fictitious narratives written by members of the Eunuch Archive.

Method: A random sample of 120 stories from the Eunuch Archive was analyzed for the following themes: 1) emotional and physical sexual arousal; 2) obtainment of orgasm for the recipient and inflictor; 3) ways by which genital ablation was achieved; and 4) the recipient's desire for genital ablation. Basic information, such as age (minor or adult) and sex (male, female or male-to-female transsexual) of the characters were also noted.

Results: Eighty-one percent of the stories contain sexual content and in 45% of those stories the act or threat of genital ablation is explicitly erotic for a character in the story. Orgasm is associated with genital ablation for 20% of the recipients of genital injury and for 11% of the inflictors in these stories. Twenty-eight percent describe sexual acts involving minors, half of which are between an adult and a minor. Fifty-six percent of the sexually explicit stories describe forced genital ablation. Homosexuality appears in 27% of the stories.

Conclusions: The authors' explicit motivation for writing these stories remains to be investigated. However there are parallels in the themes in the stories and the personal histories of both voluntary eunuchs and eunuch wannabes, including childhood sexual abuse and non-heterosexual sexual orientation. The sheer volume of these stories suggests that fantasies associating sexuality with genital injury are more common than has been recorded in the clinical literature.

Implications: Clinicians need to be aware that this population exists and may experience a strong sexual association with genital injury. Writing these sexually graphic and often brutal stories may be therapeutic for the authors. Some Eunuch Archive members have claimed that writing about their fears and fantasies has allowed them to work through obsessive thoughts without acting on them. This is consistent with studies indicating that readily available sexually explicit printed material correlates with a decline in sex-related crimes.

Associations Between Non-Consensual Sex and Sexual Distress in East-Asian Women

Presenter: Ariel B. Handy, B.A.

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Background: Research has shown Asian women first experience sexual intercourse at a later age, have higher rates of sexual difficulties, and report lower rates of non-consensual sex (NCS) compared to women of Euro-Canadian descent. To date, little research has investigated the impact that NCS might have on East-Asian women sexually despite anecdotal claims of its role.

Research Questions: This analysis aimed to explore potential relationships between a self-reported history of NCS, sexual debut, depression, and sexual distress in a database that combined several samples of Euro-Canadian and East-Asian women.

Methods: Data from 13 completed studies containing questions assessing sexual function, sexual distress, well-being, sexual history, and basic demographic information (e.g., age, education) were included in this analysis. An independent samples t-test found the Euro-Canadian women ($n = 809$; mean age 27.4) to be significantly older than the East-Asian women ($n = 809$; mean age 23.8) so age was controlled for in subsequent one-way analyses of covariance.

Results: Euro-Canadians (17.8%) were significantly more likely than East-Asians (9.0%) to have a self-reported history of NCS ($p < .001$). There was a main effect of ethnicity on sexual debut such that East-Asians had a significantly later age than Euro-Canadians; however, there was neither a main effect of NCS history nor an ethnicity by NCS history interaction. There was also a main effect of ethnicity on sexual desire such that Euro-Canadians reported significantly higher levels of desire than East-Asians ($p < .001$). There was a significant ethnicity by NCS history interaction on depressive scores such that Euro-Canadians had significantly higher depressive scores than East-Asians only if they had a history of NCS ($p = .047$). Additionally, in a subsample of women who completed questionnaires of sex-related distress, there was a significant main effect of history of NCS such that those with a history of NCS had more sex-related distress than those without, regardless of their ethnicity ($p = .02$).

Conclusions: The impact that experiencing non-consensual sex has on sexual debut and sexual distress may not differ significantly between these two groups of women, however, the impact that such events have on mental well-being may depend on one's ethno-cultural affiliation.

Implications: This analysis suggests that East-Asians with a history of NCS may experience depressive symptoms differently than Euro-Caucasians. These differences highlight the need for specificity in research and therapy when considering a multi-cultural group of women, which is particularly salient for our work in Canada.

Individual Differences and Androphilic Men's Category-Specific Sexual Arousal to Prepotent Sexual Stimuli

Presenter: Lucas Hildebrand, B.Sc.

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Background: Androphilic (attracted to men) and gynophilic (attracted to women) men show gender-specific sexual arousal: Significantly stronger sexual responses to stimuli depicting partners of their preferred than non-preferred gender (i.e., Chivers et al. 2004). Women, especially androphilic women, exhibit more generalized genital response patterns (Chivers et al., 2004; 2007). Thus, research has investigated the specific cues in sexual stimuli that elicit sexual responses. It has been suggested that sexually aroused genitals may serve as prepotent sexual stimuli, biologically prepared to elicit automatic responses (Chivers et al., 2007; Ponseti et al., 2006). Although men's sexual responses are category-specific, they often show some sexual response to non-preferred stimuli (Chivers et al., 2004). Little research has investigated individual differences that predict variability in sexual responding to non-preferred stimuli in men.

Research Question: We examined the specificity of androphilic men's sexual responses to images of prepotent sexual stimuli and investigated individual differences in sexual experience with women and disgust responses in relation to individual variability in responses to non-preferred stimuli.

Method: Twenty-two predominately or exclusively androphilic men viewed visual slideshows while their sexual responses were measured. Stimuli varied by gender depicted (male or female) and sexual potency (prepotent: Sexually aroused genitals, nonprepotent: Genitals in a resting state, or neutral: Fully clothed actors). We used penile plethysmography to continuously record changes in penile circumference as a measure of genital response. Participants self-reported their sexual and emotional responses to the slideshows and their prior sexual experience with women.

Results: Genital responses and self-reported sexual arousal were gender-specific across all stimulus levels of stimulus sexual potency. Participants' self-reported disgust responses were higher to female prepotent stimuli than to neutral and male prepotent stimuli; however, not clearly related to individual differences in genital responding. Within- and between-group analyses indicated a possible relationship between prior sexual experience with women and patterns of genital response and self-reported sexual arousal to female prepotent stimuli.

Conclusions and Implications: The gender-specificity of men's sexual responses is robust to images of prepotent sexual stimuli, which offer less contextual information than other sexual stimuli. Sexually aroused genitals may be unique; to date, no other stimulus class has been shown to elicit category-specific genital responses in women and men (Sape et al., 2014).

This study has provided some preliminary evidence for a relationship between prior sexual experience with women and sexual responses to female prepotent stimuli among androphilic men. Androphilic men's disgust responses to male and female sexual stimuli appear consistent with their category-specific arousal patterns. Limitations of the current study and directions for future research are discussed.

Turn Up the Heat: Using Thermography and Plethysmography to Assess Gender-specificity of Sexual Arousal in Women and Men

SYMPOSIUM: Multi-method Approaches to the Assessment of Sexual Arousal

Presenter: Jackie S. Huberman, M.Sc.

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Background: Men's genital responses tend to be *gender-specific*, such that they show significantly greater arousal to their preferred gender compared to their nonpreferred gender, whereas the genital responses of androphilic women (i.e., sexually attracted to men) tend to be similar to stimuli depicting women or men (*gender-nonspecific*). Gender-specificity of arousal has been previously studied using short stimuli (approximately 90-second videos or audio-narratives) with genital responses assessed using vaginal photoplethysmography (VPP) in women and penile plethysmography (PPG) in men. One limitation to using these measures of genital response is that they use different scales (mV change in VPP and mm change in PPG), making it difficult to draw direct gender comparisons.

Research Question: We examined the gender difference in gender-specificity of sexual arousal by measuring genital responses using thermography, which assesses similar physiological processes (i.e., temperature change) in women and men. Specifically, we examined whether the gender-specificity of genital temperature assessed across 10-minute stimuli was consistent with that observed for genital responses assessed using VPP and PPG.

Methods: We presented gynephilic men (i.e., sexually attracted to women; $n = 27$) and androphilic women ($n = 28$) with 10-minute audiovisual stimuli depicting men masturbating, women masturbating, and a nonsexual nature film, with a return-to-baseline period following the first sexual film. Participants reported feelings of sexual arousal before, during, and after each film. Genital responses were concurrently assessed using thermography and either VPP (women) or PPG (men).

Results: Across all measures, genital responses and self-reported arousal were gender-specific in men and gender-nonspecific in women.

Conclusions: Our findings provide converging evidence that men and women differ in gender-specificity of sexual arousal and demonstrate that this difference extends to sexual arousal assessed with longer stimuli.

Implications: Our results demonstrate that the gender difference in gender-specificity of sexual arousal persists beyond early sexual responding, including longer stimuli and relatively slow changes in genital temperature. Results will be discussed within the context of an information-processing model of sexual response and will inform decisions about methodologies used in sexual psychophysiology research.

Exploring a Gender Difference in Sexual Concordance Using Thermography and Plethysmography

Presenter: Jackie S. Huberman, M.Sc.

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Background: The agreement between mental and physical aspects of sexual arousal (i.e., *sexual concordance*) is quite variable in women and is generally lower than in men (Chivers, Seto, Lalumière, Laan, & Grimbos, 2010). These findings have important clinical implications given that lower sexual concordance in women has been associated with greater sexual difficulties (e.g., Brotto, Seal, & Rellini, 2012; Chivers et al., 2010). There has been evidence that women's sexual concordance may be higher when genital responses are assessed using external measures of genital temperature as opposed to internal measures of vasocongestion (i.e., vaginal photoplethysmography [VPP]; Chivers et al., 2010; Henson & Rubin, 1978). Few studies, however, have directly evaluated the gender difference in sexual concordance with concurrent assessment of thermography and VPP or the most commonly used measure of male genital responding, penile plethysmography (PPG).

Research Question: We assessed sexual concordance in sexually functional women and men concurrently using thermal imaging and VPP or PPG as measures of genital responding.

Methods: We presented androphilic women (i.e., sexually attracted to men; $n = 28$) and gynephilic men (i.e., sexually attracted to women; $n = 27$) with 10-minute audiovisual stimuli depicting men masturbating, women masturbating, and a nonsexual nature film. Participants reported feelings of sexual arousal continuously throughout each film. Genital responses were concurrently assessed using a thermal imaging camera and VPP (women) or PPG (men).

Results: Data analyses using within-subject correlations are currently in progress. We predict that sexual concordance will be significantly higher in women when assessed with thermography rather than VPP. We also predict that sexual concordance will be significantly higher in men than in women across genital measures.

Conclusions: Our findings will likely suggest that the particular measures of sexual responding used may influence sexual concordance in women. Further, results may demonstrate that the gender difference in sexual concordance is robust, even when assessed with a measure of the same physiological process (i.e., temperature change) in women and men.

Implications: By using a multi-method approach, this research will enhance our understanding of sexual response in women and men and will inform methodologies employed in future sexual psychophysiology studies with clinical and nonclinical populations.

Breaking Things Down: Examining the Relationship Between Specific Drugs and Different Types of Sexual Offences

Presenter: Katie Hynes, B.Sc.

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Background: A gap currently exists in the literature on sexual offending and substance use, as most past studies grouped together all types of drugs and all subtypes of sexual offences, rather than examining specific drugs (e.g. cocaine, heroin) and specific sexual offences (e.g. hands-on vs. hands-off). To date, few studies have explored the use of *specific* substances during the commission of *specific* sexual offences. Additionally, many studies have used sample sizes that were not large enough to draw reliable conclusions.

Research Questions: To address these limitations, this study used a large sample of outpatient sex offenders to investigate the existence of relationships between individual substances and subtypes of sexual offending. Similarities and differences between men who have committed hands-on versus hands-off offences with regards to substance use patterns were explored. These similarities and differences were also explored based on victim type (children or adults). Additional variables such as age, years of education, and previous convictions were also included.

Methodology: The current study retrospectively examined a large sample of sexual offenders (N=1136) using self-reported data on substance use and sexual offending from patients in the Sexual Behaviours Clinic (SBC) at The Royal. Data was collected from patient's SBC intake assessments and two previously collected datasets.

Results: Thirty-one percent of offenders reported using substances at the time of their offence. Significant differences in substance use were found between four groups of offenders: hands-off against children, hands-on against children, hands-off against adults and hands-on against adults ($p < .000$). Hands-on sexual offenders against adults (i.e. rapists) were found to be significantly younger and less educated, with higher rates of alcohol and drug use. Correlations were also found between age and drug use during the offence, as well as level of education and alcohol use.

Conclusions: While it is well known that substance use and sexual offending are related, the current findings indicate that distinct relationships exist between specific substances and subtypes of sexual offences. Thus, substance use may be one factor that differentiates between types of sexual offenders.

Implications: Based on the severe and potentially long-term harm caused by sexual offences, it is crucial that researchers thoroughly explore all avenues that could potentially improve treatment programs for these individuals. This information will help to identify possible dynamic risk factors for this heterogeneous population, as well as assist treatment providers in designing effective treatment interventions for different types of sexual offenders.

Voluntary Genital Ablations: Contrasting the Cutters and Their Clients
SYMPOSIUM: Perspectives on Modern Day Eunuchs

Presenter: Robyn A. Jackowich, B.A.

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Background: There are some healthy males who voluntarily seek castration without any explicit medical need. There are currently no standards of care for these individuals, which cause many of these men to obtain genital ablations outside of a licensed medical setting.

Research Question: What characterizes individuals who perform or assist in the genital ablations of others outside of the healthcare system?

Methods: A cross-sectional Internet survey posted on the Eunuch Archive (www.eunuch.org) received 2871 responses. We collected information on demographics, gender identity and presentation, selected childhood experiences (such as sexual abuse history), and history of aggressive behaviors, self-harming behaviors, and hospitalization. In the survey we identified individuals who had performed or assisted in human castrations ("cutters" $n = 98$) and compared this group to all other survey respondents ($n = 2773$), who had not assisted in castrations. Because many of the cutters have themselves been castrated, we also compared the physically castrated (i.e. eunuch) population ($n = 278$ total) of cutters ($n = 44$) with the eunuch non-cutters ($n = 234$).

Results: Significant differences between the cutter and non-cutter groups were found in several areas. Many of their "risk factors" overlap with those associated with the desire to seek ablation of one's own genitals. When comparing cutters and non-cutters within the physically castrated population, additional characteristics appear. Eunuch cutters were more likely than eunuch non-cutters to have had a friend, lover, or other cutter perform their castration rather than a medical professional. Eunuch cutters also reported having more tattoos and piercings. Significantly more reported fantasies about castrating others and significantly more had a previous conviction for sexually inappropriate behaviour than the eunuch non-cutters.

Conclusions: The population of men who perform voluntary genital castrations have a number of distinguishing characteristics, primarily of a sadomasochistic nature. We go on to discuss how influential these factors may be in promoting a desire to castrate others.

Implications: This research highlights how important it is that health care professionals recognize that there are not only individuals with extreme desire to be castrated, but there are also individuals who desire to castrate others...and act on that desire. Our study may help health care providers identify such individuals.

Associations of Dyspareunia, Sexual Functioning, and Sexual Well-Being in Women Diagnosed with Provoked Vestibulodynia and a History of Sexual Assault

Presenter: Robyn A. Jackowich, B.A.

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Background: Clinical folklore suggests that a history of sexual assault (SA) contributes to women's experience of genital pain. SA is associated with numerous medical, sexual, and psychological problems, however, the relationship between chronic genital pain conditions, such as provoked vestibulodynia (PVD), and SA has only marginally been studied and is thus not fully understood. Existing data suggest that women with PVD do not experience a higher incidence of SA than non-pain controls; however, more research is required to identify the specific needs of women in this population and whether SA history impacts treatment outcome.

Research Questions: The aim of this study was to compare a sample of treatment seeking women diagnosed with PVD who report a history of non-consensual sexual activity, to women with PVD who report no history of SA. We also sought to determine whether an effective multidisciplinary treatment program for PVD differentially impacts these two groups of women.

Method: Participants were women (aged 19 to 45) attending a 12-week multidisciplinary vulvodynia program. All participants underwent a standardized gynaecological exam to confirm PVD. The treatment program included group educational seminars on PVD and sexual health, group psychoeducational skills training, pelvic floor physiotherapy with biofeedback, and couple sessions that focused on sexual health. Self-report questionnaires, completed at baseline and immediately following treatment, focused on sexual functioning and distress, pain vigilance and catastrophizing, depression, anxiety, and demographic characteristics.

Results: 403 women were recruited and eligible to participate between 2009-2014, 9.9% (n=40) of whom reported a history of SA. This proportion approximates Canadian and North American population estimates of SA. An Independent Samples T-Test revealed no significant differences in age, age of sexual debut, current and longest relationship length, level of worst pain, and level of usual dyspareunia among women with and without SA histories (all p 's > 0.05). In addition, both groups reported similar pre-treatment levels of sexual function and distress, pain vigilance and catastrophizing, depression, and anxiety (all p 's > 0.05). However, significantly more women with a history of SA reported at least one additional chronic pain condition (e.g., fibromyalgia, interstitial cystitis, chronic migraines, etc.; $p = 0.02$). Of the women who completed treatment, Repeated Measures ANOVAs revealed a main effect of treatment but no treatment by SA status interaction.

Conclusions: These findings do not support the clinical speculation that women with PVD have higher rates of SA than population base rates (at least among treatment-seeking women with PVD). Moreover, we found women with SA to benefit equally from an effective multidisciplinary vulvodynia program compared to women with PVD and no history of SA.

Implications: For women seeking treatment with complex histories of SA and PVD, a multidisciplinary approach appears to be equally effective.

Sexual Assault Prevalence: A Comparison of Identification, Frequency, and Severity Differences Between a Community and University Sample

Presenter: Chelsea D. Kilimnik, B.A. (Hon.)

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Background: University populations have been reported to have the highest incidence of sexual assault in comparison to all other non-clinical samples. However, measuring sexual assault has always been difficult and controversial due to a lack of consensus on the definition of sexual assault. Recent research has stressed the importance of considering survivors' subjective opinions of their nonconsensual sexual experiences (NSEs), not only because it skews incidence reports but also because the acknowledgement of the NSE as sexual assault or not can effect post-NSE sexual adjustment.

Research Questions: This research explores nonconsensual sexual experiences and subjective identification between a university and community sample when using both objective and subjective measurements of NSEs.

Method: Community participants were recruited through flyers and social networking in Ontario and Manitoba. A university student sample was collected from Trent University in Ontario, Canada. Inclusion criteria included being over the age of 18 and having experienced sexual intercourse. Participants' NSEs were measured both objectively by a behaviour-specific questionnaire (SES-SFV) and subjectively by identification items for sexual assault, rape, and adult sexual abuse. Participants were grouped into: identifiers (objectively experienced and subjectively labeled sexual assault survivors), non-identifiers (objectively experienced sexual assault but did not subjectively label it sexual assault), and controls (no NSE history).

Results: Preliminary analyses have determined relatively equal levels behaviour-specific rape (penetration of the mouth, anus, or vagina by force, threats, or intoxication) in both the university and community sample. Of those reporting NSEs, students identified these experiences as "rape," "sexual assault," or "adult sexual abuse" significantly less often than did those in the community sample.

Conclusions: Incidence of sexual assault and nonconsensual sexual experiences seem to be just as prevalent, if not more so, in a community sample compared to a university sample. University students identified their nonconsensual sexual experiences as assault, abuse, or rape significantly less often than did their community counterparts. There were significant identification differences between and within groups dependent on what term was used to define NSEs.

Implications: The life-time prevalence of NSEs has been reported to be on the decline but there has been no national prevalence studies done since 1997. These results lend support to the need of an updated national life-time prevalence study, as well as further education on the understanding of NSEs and the effects and motivations for survivors' subjective labels of these experiences.

Understanding Sexual Consent after a Nonconsensual Sexual Experience: Does Subjective Identification of the Experience Matter?

Presenter: Chelsea D. Kilimnik, B.A. (Hon.)

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Background: Sexual consent perspectives are socially constructed through sexual norms and experiences. Therefore, a nonconsensual sexual experience (NSE) and how one understands that experience would likely impact the construction of one's sexual consent perspectives. Research on survivors of NSEs has shown that subjective identification of these experiences as sexual assault or not can play a large role in survivors' sexual adjustment. No research to date has looked at the interactive influence of NSE identification and sexual consent perspectives on sexual adjustment.

Research Questions: This research examines the influence of NSE survivors' subjective identification on sexual consent as well as exploring the relationships between subjective identification, sexual consent perspectives and post-NSE sexual adjustment.

Method: Participants were recruited from the community through flyers and social networking in Ontario and Manitoba. A convenience student sample from Trent University, Ontario, Canada was also used. Inclusion criteria included being over the age of 18 and having experienced sexual intercourse. Participants reported on behaviour-specific NSEs, subjective sexual assault and rape, sexual consent perspectives, and sexual adjustment.

Results: Preliminary analyses indicate that individuals who met the objective definition for sexual assault but did not identify their NSEs as sexual assault (non-identifiers) used more passive and nonverbal strategies in negotiating sexual consent than did sexual assault identifiers. Identifiers expressed a greater awareness and discussion of sexual consent than did non-identifiers. Perceived behavioural control in giving and obtaining sexual consent partially mediated the relationship between NSE identification and self-blame. Identifiers expressed a more positive sexual self-image and higher sexual functioning than did non-identifiers, with identification having a unique effect even after controlling for survivor self-blame.

Conclusions: Non-identifiers seem to have greater challenges with sexual consent than do identifiers. Non-identifiers' lack of perceived control in being able to give and obtain consent partially explains their tendency to internalize blame for their NSE(s).

Implications: These findings may help NSE survivor advocates understand the subjective experience of survivors' sexual victimization experiences and the role of sexual consent in their sexual adjustment. This knowledge could guide education in post-NSE recovery programs and revictimization prevention initiatives. This research demonstrates the importance of accounting for survivors' subjective understanding of their NSEs.

“Not in the Mood?”: Men Underperceive their Partner’s Sexual Desire as a Way to Avoid Rejection

Presenter: James J. Kim, B.Sc. (Hon.)

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Background: A robust finding in the literature on social cognitive biases has shown that men tend to overperceive women’s sexual interest. Guided by error management theory, these findings have been explained in terms of reproductive costs, suggesting the sexual overperception bias is a reflection of the higher cost of missed sexual opportunities for men. However, all of the existing research upon which these conclusions are based has focused exclusively on men’s perceptions of sexual interest of strangers and non-partners. In the context of long-term, established romantic relationships, however, men tend to perceive rejection as quite costly, and therefore may be less focused on missing opportunities and more focused on avoiding sexual rejection, leading to if anything—an underperception of women’s sexual desire.

Research Questions: Do men in established relationships demonstrate biases in their perceptions of a partner’s sexual desire?

Method: In two studies, both members of couples in established relationships (MRel Length = 11.1 years in Study 1; MRel Length = 4.5 years in Study 2) reported each day, for a 21-day period, their own feelings of sexual desire as well as their perceptions of their partner’s sexual desire. In Study 2, participants also reported their motivation to avoid sexual rejection each day.

Results: Using multilevel modeling (MLM) techniques, we found across both studies that men significantly underperceived their partner’s desire, whereas women had no significant directional bias in their perceptions of their partner’s desire. In Study 2, we found that the daily motivation to avoid sexual rejection accounted for men’s underperception bias. On days when men were highly motivated to avoid sexual rejection, they significantly underperceived their partner’s desire, but on days when their motivation to avoid sexual rejection was low, men were not biased in their perceptions of their partner’s sexual desire. Additionally, men were more likely than women to experience sexual rejection from their partners, suggesting that this underperception bias may be a strategy to protect against sexual rejection.

Conclusion: The current study is the first to look at gender differences in strategic perceptual biases of sexual desire in established romantic relationships. The findings suggest that men err on the side of underperceiving their partner’s sexual desire and that the motivation to avoid rejection plays an important role in this bias.

Implications: The current findings have implications for how couples navigate sexuality in their relationship, conflict avoidance, relationship satisfaction, and keeping partners together over time.

The Interplay of Individual and Relational Contributors to Optimal Sexual Intimacy

Presenter: Peggy J. Kleinplatz, Ph.D.

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Background: Research on sexual relations has tended to focus on either individual or couple factors (primarily as they relate to sexual dysfunctions); however, the interplay of these factors may have a significantly different impact on sexual intimacy than either factor alone. In studying the personal and relational factors that facilitate optimal sexual experiences, it became intriguing that these did not occur in isolation but may interact meaningfully with one another.

Research Questions: The goal of this study was to determine how the qualities of the individuals within a couple and the qualities of the relationship per se interact to affect the quality of sexual experiences.

Methods: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 55 “key informant” participants who reported having experienced “great sex”. A phenomenologically-oriented content analysis was performed on the transcripts to identify the specific individual and relational contributors to optimal sexual experience and to determine the structure of their sexual intimacy. A classification system of contributors was developed using an iterative process of repeated readings, identification of common themes and patterns, discussion and return to the data.

Results: Individual and relational factors emerged that facilitated optimal sexual experiences. These contributors also reciprocally influenced one another, ultimately shaping the quality of sexual intimacy. Individuals who were emotionally autonomous, present and embodied with their partners could help co-create an atmosphere of comfortable acceptance and unself-conscious, erotic abandon within their relationships. Correspondingly, mutual trust, communication, connection and especially empathy within relationships enabled participants to be more vulnerable, authentic, to let go, to feel accepted and to grow.

Conclusions: An individual’s ways of being and the qualities of the couple’s emotional intimacy may reciprocally have a great influence on the sexual dimension of the relationship. Individual maturity and self-knowledge helped to create an atmosphere of trust and trustworthiness. Shared intimacy and empathy created just enough safety to access and reveal deep vulnerabilities which in turn enabled intense, erotic exploration.

Implications: When addressing sexual problems in therapy, sex therapists may need to consider the interplay between individual and relationship qualities if they are to grasp and work effectively with the sexual dynamics within a couple. The development of qualities such as maturity and authenticity balanced with open communication and trust may create a relationship that is safe and comfortable, enabling the partners to take erotic risks together.

Pornography is Sexually Arousing and Unpleasant but Rarely Both at the Same Time

Presenter: Taylor Kohut, Ph.D.

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Rationale: Research conducted for the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography in the 1970's concluded that pornography could be defined as something that was *both* very sexually stimulating and quite unpleasant. This conclusion is at odds with contemporary theorizing and empirical research concerning the incompatibility sexual arousal and negative affect. To explore this issue further the current study investigated the associations between pornography judgments and ratings of sexual stimulation and unpleasantness at the level of image and at the level of the individual.

Hypotheses: It was hypothesized pornographic images would be rated as more sexually stimulating and more unpleasant than non-pornographic images, but that unpleasantness ratings would be negatively correlated with sexual stimulation ratings.

Methods: An initial sample of men and women ($N = 72$) provided pornography judgments, sexual stimulation ratings, and unpleasantness ratings in response to 25 images (Set A) that ranged in sexual content. This procedure was subsequently repeated with a second sample of men and women ($N = 66$) using a different set of 25 sexual and non-sexual images (Set B).

Results: As predicted, image level pornography judgments were strongly determined by sexual stimulation and unpleasantness ratings (Set A: $R^2 = .92$; Set B: $R^2 = .95$). Also as predicted, sexual stimulation ratings and unpleasantness ratings were negatively correlated at the level of the individual (Set A: $r = -.53$, $p < .05$; Set B: $r = -.53$, $p < .05$). Interestingly, when highly pornographic images were considered, image level sexual stimulation ratings were also negatively correlated with unpleasantness ratings (Set A: $r = -.65$, $p < .05$; Set B: $r = -.78$, $p < .05$).

Conclusions: While pornographic images are rated as more sexual stimulating and more unpleasant than non-pornographic images, sexual stimulation ratings and unpleasantness ratings are actually inversely associated with one another at the level of the image and at the level of the individual.

Implications: It appears that different images can be perceived as similarly pornographic and yet generally elicit either high sexual arousal *or* high negative affect. Similarly, even when a pornographic image generally elicits high negative affect, some individuals still respond to such images with high sexual arousal and low negative affect. Determining which features in pornographic imagery evoke which types of response will contribute to the understanding of content-based determinants of the effects of pornography use.

Measuring Sexual Attraction with Invisible Images

Presenter: Marie-Andrée Légère, B.A.

Marie-Andrée Légère, B.A.; Megan Sawatsky, B.A.; Martin L. Lalumière, Ph.D., University of Ottawa
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Background: Explicit measures for assessing sexual attractions, such as physiological measures and questionnaires, have some limitations. Most importantly, participants can fake their sexual interest. Implicit measures may remedy these limitations. Because participants are not consciously aware of what is being tested, implicit measures can override the expectations of what they should answer in terms of sexual attraction. Jiang et al. (2006) used an implicit measure, the interocular suppression paradigm, for assessing sexual attraction. They found that heterosexual men were better at identifying the orientation of an item after the presentation of an invisible female picture and were worst at this task after the presentation of an invisible male picture.

Research Questions: The purpose of this study is to replicate the study of Jiang et al. (2006). Because it has not been replicated, it is important to determine if the paradigm of binocular rivalry can provide a valid measure of sexual attraction.

Method: An interocular suppression paradigm was used. Sixteen heterosexual men looked through a stereoscope at a pair of high contrast dynamic noise patches (presented to the dominant eye) and a picture (naked men or women) and its scrambled control (presented to the non-dominant eye). Because of interocular suppression, the image and its scrambled control remained invisible. Participants had to indicate the orientation of an item (tilted 1° clockwise or 1° counterclockwise) presented at the location of the image or its scrambled control. There were 128 trials. The session ended with a questionnaire assessing sexual attraction.

Results: Participants showed a positive attentional effect, in which they were better at identifying the item orientation after a presentation of a woman. However, they did not show the expected negative attentional effect, in which they should have been less accurate at identifying the item orientation after a presentation of a man.

Conclusion: We partly replicated the results of Jiang et al. (2006). Heterosexual men seem to be attracted by invisible images of women and thus perform better on an attentional task.

Implication: A valid and reliable method to implicitly measure sexual attraction has both academic and practical significance. For example, this method may be used to measure the sexual interests of persons who may have reasons not to disclose their sexual attraction, for example, sexual offenders.

Hypersexuality Within a Heterosexual University Sample

Presenter: Enya Levaque, B.A. (Hon.)

Enya Levaque, B.A. (Hon.); Megan L. Sawatsky, Ph.D. Cand.; Martin L. Lalumière, Ph.D., University of Ottawa
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Background: Hypersexuality is understood, in this study, as higher sex drive and/or more frequent sexual behaviours than typical that are also accompanied by adverse consequences and/or personal distress. Within the literature, however, there is little consensus on how to operationalize hypersexuality and the cut-offs points for what is considered hypersexual are typically intuitively driven and arbitrary. The lack of well-established sexuality norms prevents further development in our understanding of hypersexuality.

Research Questions: The aims of the study were to (1) determine the range and frequency of sexual behaviours, interests, and desires in a given population in order to better conceptualize and measure hypersexuality; (2) evaluate the Reid et al. (2009) procedure of categorizing hypersexuality (Hypersexual Behavior Inventory; HBI); and (3) examine sex differences.

Method: Data was gathered for 756 university students via an online survey. Participants answered questions regarding their sexual history and sexual interests, and completed several established measures of hypersexuality.

Results: Norms are provided for existing hypersexuality measures and for various sexual behaviours and interests by presenting measures of central tendencies and variability, as well as 90th percentile scores. For example, we found that the average Total Sexual Outlet scores for women and men in our sample were 7.0 ($SD = 11.9$) and 10.0 ($SD = 12.7$), respectively, which is actually equal to or higher than the cut-off point considered hypersexual (i.e., 7 orgasms or more per week; Kafka, 1997). In addition, we present the sexual behaviours and interests of men and women who meet and who do not meet the hypersexuality cut-off point suggested by the HBI—a measure of the extent to which individuals use sex as a coping strategy, are able to control their sexual thoughts and behaviours, and experience negative consequences as a results of their sexual behaviour. Overall, we found that men, compared to women, scored significantly higher on the hypersexuality measures, including the HBI, and had greater sexual interest and desire. For items related to sexual behaviour, significant sex differences also emerged, but these differences were not always in the direction of men reporting more frequent sexual behaviour than women (e.g., on average, women reported more sexual contact per month).

Conclusions/Implications: This study highlights the importance of establishing group and sex-specific sexuality norms prior to asserting boundaries for what can be considered hypersexual. The scores provided in this study could be used by clinicians to contextualize the sexual behaviour and desire of clients with similar demographic characteristics.

Gone But Not Forgotten: Sexual Nostalgia as a Response to Unmet Sexual Needs

Presenter: Geoff MacDonald, Ph.D.

Geoff MacDonald, Ph.D.; Amy Muise, Ph.D., University of Toronto
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Background: Memories and fantasies about past sexual partners offer unique potential for sexual validation because by definition it is only past and current partners with whom one has actually experienced sexual acts. Thus, whereas past research suggests that individuals low in attachment avoidance (i.e., individuals more comfortable with emotional intimacy) generally use nostalgia to help soothe unmet belongingness needs (Wildschut et al., 2010), the present research explores whether sexual nostalgia may play a similar role in buffering unmet sexual needs.

Research Questions: Are sexual fantasies about ex partners more common among individuals with unmet sexual needs (operationalized here as those who are single or who are unhappy in a relationship)? If so, are these fantasies more common among those higher in attachment security (i.e., those low in attachment avoidance)?

Method: In Study 1, 414 participants completed measures of attachment security (ECR; Fraley et al., 2000), relationships status as well as relationship satisfaction, rated the frequency with which they have various sexual fantasies, and provided a description of a fantasy about an ex-partner and when they are most likely to have such fantasies. In Study 2, 378 participants completed the same scales but this time sexual nostalgia was measured with a new scale we developed from Study 1's qualitative data.

Results: In both studies, individuals low in attachment avoidance who were single reported more frequent fantasies about past sexual partners than individuals low in attachment avoidance who were in a relationship. Similarly, individuals low in attachment avoidance more frequently fantasized about past sexual partners when unsatisfied in a current relationship relative to when satisfied. Individuals high in attachment avoidance did not differ in the frequency of sexual fantasies about past sexual partners across these contexts. These patterns were not found for any other type of sexual fantasy.

Conclusions: Our data suggest that fantasies about past sexual partners may provide a sense of sexual intimacy that is capitalized on by individuals higher in attachment security in times of sexual need. These findings are also consistent with past research suggesting that individuals higher in attachment avoidance fantasize in ways designed to minimize feelings of intimacy (Birnbaum, 2007).

Implications: Although conventional wisdom suggests that hanging on to feelings for ex-partners is unhealthy, we suggest that sexual nostalgia may be helpful in coping with sexual and emotional deprivation.

“I Can’t Get No Satisfaction”: The Experience of Daily Sexual Desire with no Sex and its Impact on Overall Satisfaction, Love, and Desire

Presenter: Kristen P. Mark, Ph.D.

Kristen P. Mark, Ph.D.; Christine Leistner, M.A., University of Kentucky

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Background: Though literature has examined motives for engaging in sexual activity and reasons for low sexual desire, little is known about the reasons individuals who do experience sexual desire do not engage in sex with one another on an event level. Engaging in sex with a romantic partner is an important component of romantic relationships, thus understanding the reasons why couples do not engage in sex has the potential to make an important contribution to the larger literature of sexual desire and satisfaction in long-term couples.

Research Questions: The current study aimed to answer the following three research questions: 1) What were the reasons reported by men and women for not engaging in sex?; 2) Were there gender differences or similarities in the reasons reported?; and 3) When sexual desire was present on a given day, was the reported reason for the lack of sex related to satisfaction, love, or desire?

Methods: Ninety-three mixed-sex couples (186 individuals) completed a daily electronic report (DER) for 30 consecutive days involving questions about daily sexual desire, satisfaction, love, and sexual behaviour. During days when sex did not occur, participants were also asked why sex did not occur. Frequencies and gender differences were examined in addition to a content analysis performed on the open-ended responses and an over-time mixed model guided by the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (APIM) to analyze the results’ relation to the presence (or absence) of sexual desire.

Results: The most common reason for not having sex was not having enough time followed by not being in the mood, menstruation, and being too tired. There was as much variation within each gender as there was between the genders, though some gender differences did exist. Sexual desire on a given day was not significantly related to the reason for not engaging in sex, but presence of sexual desire accompanied by an excuse-type reason (e.g., being too tired, not having enough time, etc.) significantly impacted satisfaction, love, and desire.

Conclusions: Participants who did not engage in sex despite experiencing desire also experienced less satisfaction, love, and overall desire, especially when those reasons for not engaging in sex were reasons that, with effort, could be avoided.

Implications: Understanding the complexities of sexual desire has the potential to help many couples who are suffering from low sexual desire in their long-term relationships. Future research and application to daily sexual lives of couples will be discussed.

He Said, She Said: Addressing Discrepant Self-Reports in Mixed-Sex Dyadic Data

Presenter: Kristen P. Mark, Ph.D.

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Background: An overwhelming majority of sexual behaviors take place within the context of a romantic partner and many aspects of sexual health are influenced by partner dynamics. Dyadic data offers a contextual advantage and analytic flexibility to sexual health researchers embarking on research involving romantic dyads. However, dyadic data involve self-report from two individuals presenting increased participant error (e.g., recall error, human error in reporting), introducing complexities with discrepant reports from two members of the couple on constructs that should be concordant.

Research Questions:

- 1) What is the best practice for dealing with discrepant demographic reports (e.g., relationship length, pregnancy stage, number of children, etc.)?
- 2) What is the best practice for managing discrepant dyadic datasets?
- 3) What are the analytical implications and result effects for: a) the use of male versus female reports, and b) the use of mean substitution?

Method: Data from two community-based dyadic datasets (298 mixed-sex couples), and one college-age dyadic dataset (177 mixed-sex couples) will be utilized to answer the research questions of interest.

Conclusions: Dealing with discordant dyadic data that should be concordant is an important and often overlooked issue with dyadic reports. As researchers, it is our job to adequately address discordancy and this presentation will offer potential solutions.

Implications: Recall error and human error with self-report data are common, especially when reporting on issues related to sexuality and sexual health. This presentation will discuss best practices for dealing with discrepancies in self-report from couples and address the implications of ignoring such discrepancies.

Perceived Emotional and Sexual Satisfaction Derived from Different Relational Contexts in a Diverse Sample

Presenter: Kristen P. Mark, Ph.D.

Kristen P. Mark, Ph.D., University of Kentucky; Justin R. Garcia, Ph.D., Indiana University;
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Background: Satisfaction from sexual activity is significantly related to relationship satisfaction and overall life satisfaction. Recently, increasing attention has been paid to differences in sexual activity across a variety of relational contexts, from uncommitted “casual sex” contexts to “friends with benefits” to traditional romantic relationships. Previous research has shown that these contexts can result both positive and negative psycho-emotional outcomes across relational contexts, with somewhat different outcomes for men and women. However, research has yet to uncover how emotional and sexual satisfaction varies across relational contexts. Moreover, most research to date on relational contexts has focused exclusively on heterosexual college students.

Research Questions: The current paper aimed to answer the following research questions: 1) Are there significant demographic differences in how emotionally satisfying and how sexually satisfying each relational context of sexual activity is reported as? 2) Which, if any, of the demographic variables are most predictive of perceived emotional and sexual satisfaction in each context?

Methods: Data were collected from 3,386 men and 3,569 women (5,996 straight, 736 gay or lesbian, 223 bisexual) ages 21 to 65+ years who, in addition to their sexual orientation, were asked about a wide range of demographics. Additionally, participants were asked about their perceived sexual satisfaction and emotional satisfaction derived from the following sexual contexts: one night stand, committed unmarried relationship, married, living together, first date, with a friend, or a casual hookup.

Results: There were a number of significant demographic associations, with gender as the most prevalent predictor. Based on this, structural equation models were used to test for gender and sexual orientation invariance of the larger model in addition to answering the predictive questions of interest. Sexual and emotional satisfactions were rated highest for the committed relationship types and lowest for casual relationship types across both genders and all sexual orientations. Religiosity was the most salient predictor, and strength of other demographic predictors differed between sexual and emotional satisfaction and by sexual orientation.

Conclusions: Research on sexual outcomes must take seriously the wide variety of relational contexts within which men and women experience sexual activity today.

Implications: Participants indicated that their perceived satisfaction derived differently for sexual satisfaction and emotional satisfaction across relational contexts. Future directions for research and implications for romantic relationships will be discussed.

Two Steps Forward, One Step Back: Getting Sexual Rights onto the International Agenda

Presenter: Eleanor Maticka-Tyndale, Ph.D.

Eleanor Maticka-Tyndale, Ph.D., University of Windsor
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It has been 20 years since *sexual rights* were formally promoted for inclusion in an international declaration and plan of action at the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994. *Sexual rights* proved to be a highly contentious concept, with international delegates declining to go beyond statements on *reproductive right*. Despite this setback, the ICPD Plan of Action (1994) led numerous national and international organizations to become active in formulating position papers, plans of action, and declarations related to *sexual rights*. The World Association for Sexual Health (then Sexology; WAS) has been one of the leaders in this arena with its *Declaration of Sexual Rights* first introduced at its 1997 conference in Valencia, Spain and formally accepted as WAS policy in 1999. This, and later technical reports and policy documents have had a substantial impact globally, including at the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, in major international NGOs such as International Planned Parenthood Federation, and at regional interministerial meetings.

In preparation for the United Nations Special Session on Population and Development (Cairo+20) and in anticipation of potential additional work on the part of WHO in the area of human rights related to sexuality, WAS struck a Task Force to review the original *Declaration of Sexual Rights* and consider preparing a more strategic document. Following two meetings in February and April, 2014 an updated and reformulated *Declaration of Sexual Rights* was prepared. This new document focused on a formal alignment of sexual rights with human rights already addressed in existing treaties and conventions. The new *sexual rights* document was read into the minutes of the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development held at the UN in April, 2014 and is expected to be formally approved at the 2015 World Congress of WAS.

This presentation will: (1) present the new *Declaration*, the rationale for the formal alignment with human rights treaties and conventions, and the give-and-take required in such an alignment; (2) review some of the debates/opposition that continue in various world regions related to recognition of *sexual rights*; (3) provide a preliminary comparison of the *Declaration of Sexual Rights* and the *Assessment* document passed at the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development; and (4) discuss next steps and ways forward.

Passionate or Practical? How Expectations about Sexual Satisfaction Shape Sexual Well-being

Presenter: Jessica A. Maxwell, M.A.

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Background: In our past research we identified two types of ‘sexpectations’ or beliefs about how sexual satisfaction is sustained over time. *Sexual growth* believers think that sexual satisfaction is maintained by effort, whereas *sexual destiny* believers believe that sexual satisfaction results from finding a compatible partner. In a cross-sectional study we found that sexual destiny believers (but not sexual growth believers) are more sensitive to problems in their sex lives, leading to poorer quality relationships. On the other hand, sexual growth believers are more willing to meet their partner’s differing sexual needs, leading to higher satisfaction. In two new studies we examine: 1) Daily fluctuations in these beliefs and 2) The dyadic effects of these beliefs.

Research Question: Study 1: How do sexpectations affect individuals’ feelings of sexual and relationship satisfaction at a daily level? Are sexual destiny believers more reactive to the quality of a specific sexual experience than sexual growth believers? Study 2: Are partners of sexual growth believers and sexual destiny believers more or less satisfied (respectively)? What is the ideal pairing of these beliefs in a couple (i.e. are two sexual growth believers the most satisfied)?

Method: In Study 1, a 21-day daily experience study of 80 people in long-term relationships, we assessed how sexpectations shape daily sexual satisfaction. In Study 3, an in-lab study of 100 couples in new relationships (~2 years), we assessed both partners’ sexpectations and relationship quality.

Results: The results of both studies suggest that individuals high in sexual growth reported the highest relationship and sexual satisfaction. Study 1 suggests that sexual destiny believers experience poor relationship outcomes when they feel less compatible with their romantic partner, reporting less satisfying sex following sexual disagreements. In contrast, sexual growth believers’ sexual satisfaction was not altered by sexual disagreements. Similarly, in Study 2 we find that sexual destiny believers are more sensitive to sexual disagreements in their relationship, leading to lower relationship quality for themselves and their partners (an effect not seen for growth believers). Surprisingly, Study 2’s results indicate that couples with a combination of a sexual destiny and sexual growth believer may experience greater satisfaction and sexual desire.

Implications: Believing a sexual relationship requires maintenance can have positive relational effects, both for oneself and one’s partner. Conversely, the belief in sexual soulmates may detrimentally lead to greater fluctuations in relationship quality, leading to poorer outcomes for one’s partner.

Going Beyond the Quantitative: A Coding Scheme for Qualitative Data in Sexuality Research

Presenter: Emily McBride

Emily McBride; Amanda Timmers, M.Sc.; Katrina Bouchard, M.Sc.; Meredith Chivers, Ph.D., Queen's University
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Background: Previous studies examining various areas of sexuality have often focused on the collection and analysis of quantitative data. Although quantitative data is useful, yielding results in a systematic, standardized way, this type of data may not be the best way to gather and understand information relating to subjective processes such as sexual arousal. Thus, the overall results of future sexuality studies could benefit from the inclusion of both qualitative and quantitative measures.

Research Questions: The current study sought to create a coding scheme that could be used to organize and analyze qualitative data in sexual arousal research.

Method: Participants were bisexual women ($N = 29$) who were involved in a longitudinal study on changes in sexual orientation over time. Participants watched 18 audiovisual stimuli (90 s each) that varied based on actor gender (man, woman) and activity (nude exercise, masturbation, intercourse) as well as nonsexual nature films. Following each film, participants were asked to spend one minute writing their thoughts and feelings about what they had just experienced. Researchers then created a coding scheme using the typical analytic framework for qualitative studies, a method used by Brotto, Heiman, & Tolman et al. (2009) and discussed by Marshall & Rossman (1999).

Results: The coding scheme that emerged from participants' thought records used a present/absent approach and contained three main themes (self-reflection, descriptive comments, and evaluative comments) with multiple subthemes (e.g., emotions, physiological states, and links to personal experience).

Conclusions: Results of this study demonstrate the feasibility and utility of employing and coding qualitative data in sexual arousal research.

Implications: This coding scheme could serve as a common means to analyze qualitative data within the sexuality research field. A standardized way to analyze qualitative data may help to further our understanding of concepts such as sexual arousal and sexual desire. Specifically, researchers could use this coding scheme as a way to compare qualitative data between participants and studies, which may provide deeper insight into the subjective areas within the sexuality research field.

Do Men who have Sex with Men have a harder Time with Sexual Consent? A Comparison of Sexual Consent Experiences across Men of Different Sexual Orientations

Presenter: Raymond M. McKie, B.A. (Hon.)

Raymond M. McKie, B.A. (Hon.); Terry P. Humphreys, Ph.D., Trent University
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Background: Previous literature on sexual consent has determined that communication is often confusing and/or misunderstood in sexual situations. The ability of men who have sex with men (MSM) to negotiate unwanted sexual activity may be more closely related to heterosexual females in that it can be more challenging to decline or leave the situation; partly due to the receptive/insertive sexual nature usually experienced by female and gay male partners, and partly due to power struggles with older, more experienced men. Furthermore, gay men are often vulnerable during the coming out phases and acceptance within the gay community is commonly an issue of concern for men. This may exacerbate the ability to say no to unwanted sexual advances. Gay and bisexual men are also more vulnerable online as they use the Internet and hook-up cellphone applications more than any other gender and sexual orientation group.

Research Question(s): The aim of the present analysis is to understand the dynamics of sexual consent negotiation by MSM compared to heterosexual men, both on and offline.

Method: Heterosexual and MSM participants were collected from 1) referral techniques, 2) Amazon's Mechanical Turk, and 3) bars within Ontario. MSM participants were also collected from 4) an advertisement posted on Squirt.org, and 5) help from the Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance of Ontario. Just over 300 men have been collected in each group (MSM, heterosexual men) thus far.

Results: Preliminary results indicate that a significant number of MSM reported having unwanted sexual experiences. Alternatively, very few heterosexual men reported having unwanted sexual experiences. MSM reported fear of reprisal from potential partners in sexual situations where they wanted to say no, but felt that they could not without repercussions. Heterosexual men did not report significant fear of reprisal from potential partners. Furthermore, significantly more MSM disclosed using online sources to meet and hook-up with partners compared to their heterosexual male counterparts where sexual boundaries were an issue.

Conclusions: Gay men report more challenges than heterosexual men do in regards to sexual consent and boundary setting abilities, experiences, and understanding.

Implications: These findings may help to better understand the challenges faced by MSM in regards to sexual consent and boundary negotiation. This knowledge could potentially lead to more educated health service approaches, as well as aiding MSM's understanding of the prevalence of sexual consent challenges faced by other MSM on and offline.

The Importance of Gay Culture and Community Engagement on Internalized Homophobia of Gay and Bisexual Men in Canada, the United States, and Eurasia

Presenter: Raymond M. McKie, B.A. (Hon.)

Raymond M. McKie, B.A. (Hon.); Terry P. Humphreys, Ph.D., Trent University
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Background: Much of the research that has focused on gay community involvement has focused on HIV prevention. There has been limited research on the social aspects of gay community involvement, and whether or not gay and bisexual men feel that membership in gay communities is important.

Research Question(s): The current analysis aimed to understand the attitudes of gay culture and community for men in different geographical locations, and how these attitudes influence internalized homophobia.

Method: 308 participants were collected from 1) referral techniques, 2) Amazon's Mechanical Turk, 3) bars within Ontario, 4) an advertisement posted on Squirt.org, and 5) help from the Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance of Ontario. Participants were asked to complete the Internalized Homophobia Scale and the Identity and Involvement in the Gay Community Scale as part of a larger measures package.

Results: The majority of participants indicated that it was very important to them to have gay friends, yet several participants felt that they were not well connected to the gay community. Participants who stated that they felt connected to the gay community and had more gay friends tended to show less internalized homophobia, regardless of geographical location.

Conclusions: Regardless of location, gay and bisexual men feel that it is important to have gay friends, but there seems to be no translation to connections with the gay community. A lack of connection to the gay community was linked to more internalized homophobia.

Implications: These exploratory findings can aid academics and practitioners to better understand the importance of gay community involvement and its relationship to internalized homophobia in Canada, the United States, and Eurasia. This can be especially important to clinicians and educators that deal with the intervention and treatment of internalized homophobia.

**Do Popular Media Presentations of Pornography's Impact on Heterosexual Couples
Reflect the Questions and Conclusions of Sex Researchers?
SYMPOSIUM: New Perspectives on the Impact of Pornography on the Couple Relationship:
Systematic Reviews of Empirical Research**

Presenter: Stephanie Montgomery-Graham, LL.M.

Stephanie Montgomery-Graham, LL.M.; Lorne Campbell, Ph.D.; William Fisher, Ph.D.; Taylor Kohut, Ph.D.,
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Background: Online magazines, newspapers and blogs are rife with discussions about the availability of Internet pornography and its impact on heterosexual romantic relationships. Front page stories asserting that Internet pornography creates “porn widows,” abandoned romantically and sexually by their partners (e.g. National Post, October 4, 2011), suggest a certain degree of disconnect between topics discussed in the popular media and topics investigated and conclusions reached by sex researchers.

Research Question: The aim of this study was to systematically assess the degree of correspondence or mismatch that exists between people’s everyday concerns about pornography as expressed by popular media and researcher inquiries into the impact of pornography use on heterosexual couples.

Methods: We created a series of targeted search strings within online magazines, newspapers, blogs, and videos that discussed the negative or the positive consequences of pornography use for members of heterosexual couples. Included within the dataset were articles, blogs, and (non-pornographic) videos. Exclusion criteria included pornographic videos and any discussion of child pornography. The final relevant, non-redundant dataset included data from 39 magazines, 32 news sources, and 30 Google searches. All data were analyzed using Thematic Analysis procedures (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Thematic results were compared to the existing sex research literature concerning the impact of pornography on the couple relationship.

Results: Thematic Analysis revealed 12 distinct themes. Strong themes that emerged from the data set included discussions about pornography addiction, as well as themes of pornography consumption changing male partner expectations about desired sexual behaviour. Some common themes emerging in the dataset discussed pornography as de facto adulterous and as a medium that makes women feel unattractive. At the same time, a recurring theme of pornography’s ability to improve a couple’s sex life also emerged.

Conclusions: There is some degree of overlap between popular and research discussions in this area. That being said, there is a notable disconnect between: (a) the frequently sensationalized (and typically anti-pornography) popular discussion of the effects of pornography, and (b) the more nuanced and varied discussions generated by sex researchers.

Implications: The results of this study indicate areas of inquiry that appear to be of some concern to the general public that remain empirically under-investigated, and also highlight instances where research findings have not been properly communicated, or have been miscommunicated to the general public.

Spooning or Splitting? Post-Sex Affection Promotes Sexual and Relationship Satisfaction

Presenter: Amy Muise, Ph.D.

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Background: Sexuality is a key factor that shapes the quality of romantic relationships. Couples who have more frequent sex and are more satisfied with their sex lives report greater overall relationship happiness. Little is known, however, about the specific aspects of a sexual experience that contribute to high quality intimate bonds. Given that the potential for bonding and intimacy may be at its peak after sex, in the current study, we tested the prediction that people who report engaging in post sex affectionate activities for a longer duration and who report higher quality post sex affection will report feeling more satisfied with their sex lives and, in turn, be more satisfied with their romantic relationship.

Method: In Study 1, individuals in romantic relationships (N = 335) provided reports of their average duration of post-sex affection and their sexual and relationship quality. In Study 2, both members of 101 couples (N = 202) reported on their daily sexual experiences, sexual satisfaction and relationship quality each day for 21 consecutive days. On days when they engaged in sex, partners reported the duration and quality of their post-sex affection. Three months later, both partners reported their sexual and relationship satisfaction.

Results: Across both studies, people who reported a longer duration of post-sex affection felt more satisfied with their sex lives and in turn, more satisfied with their relationships. These effects were even stronger for parents; couples with children engaged in less post-sex affection, but the associations between duration of affection and sexual and relationship satisfaction were stronger for couples who had children than for couples without children. In Study 2, we also found that on days when people reported higher quality post-sex affection, both partners felt more satisfied with their sex lives and with the relationship. In addition, couples who reported a longer duration and higher quality post-sex affection over the 21-day study were more satisfied with their sex lives and relationships three months later. None of these effects were accounted for by the duration of sex and foreplay, nor by the frequency of sex and affection in the relationship.

Conclusions and Implications: Our results suggest that considering sexual behaviors beyond intercourse may provide important and unique insights into how couples can sustain feelings of sexual and relationship satisfaction in ongoing romantic relationships. One way for couples to promote sexual and relationship satisfaction is to make time for shared intimacy, such as cuddling, kissing, and intimate talk, after engaging in sex. The findings also suggest that sex researchers should consider more diverse sexual activities in future research.

Gender Differences in Sexual Concordance during Laboratory Masturbation to Orgasm

Presenter: Laurel Q. P. Paterson, Ph.D.

Laurel Q. P. Paterson, Ph.D., University of British Columbia; Ellie Shuo Jin, B.A., University of Texas; Rhonda Amsel, M.Sc., McGill University; Yitzchak M. Binik, Ph.D., McGill University
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Background: The agreement between subjective and physiological sexual arousal has consistently been found to be lower in women than in men. Previous laboratory research has, however, used relatively brief visual erotic stimuli, which do not simulate sexual activity outside of the laboratory and may inflate observed gender differences. Given their greater sexual inhibition, women may require longer than men for their subjective arousal to “catch up” with a more immediate physiological response. The objectives of this study were to investigate (a) gender differences in concordance with a higher level of sexual arousal and following orgasm, and (b) the influence of sexual experience on concordance. Any gender difference in the integration of subjective and physiological arousal may be partially explained by men’s greater lifetime masturbatory experience.

Hypotheses: 1) Women will exhibit similar sexual concordance to men before orgasm, but lower concordance after orgasm. 2) Sexual experience will be associated with concordance for both genders.

Methods: Following an interview about sexual experience, 76 healthy young men and women (M age = 20.7 years) masturbated to orgasm in the laboratory using their typical technique. Physiological sexual arousal (genital temperature) and subjective sexual arousal and desire were measured at baseline, after masturbation almost to orgasm, and immediately and 15 minutes after orgasm.

Results: Both genders experienced significant increases in sexual arousal and desire during masturbation. After orgasm, however, every measure decreased more quickly and consistently in men than in women. Overall concordance was significantly higher in men than in women (within-subjects $r = .54$ vs. $.17$). It was also significantly higher between baseline and almost-orgasm than afterwards for men ($r = .88$ vs. $.67$) and especially women ($r = .36$ vs. $.02$). A regression analysis of sexual experience on overall concordance was significant for women only, for whom it was predicted by masturbation frequency ($\beta = .45$), but no measure of partnered sexual experience.

Conclusions: The gender difference in concordance prior to orgasm persists and is amplified following orgasm, when women’s physiological arousal remains elevated in the presence of variable subjective arousal. Both men and women may learn through masturbation which physical sensations indicate the presence of physiological sexual arousal, which then influence their subjective appraisals.

Implications: Concordance remains lower in women than in men even under more ecologically valid conditions. Future research should attempt to tease apart whether masturbation itself affects women’s concordance, or a third variable (e.g., sexual openness) contributes to both.

Institutional Policies and Practices Regarding Residents' Sexual Expression in Long-term Care Facilities: Staff Perceptions

Presenter: Angela Priede, B.A. (Hon.)

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Background: In recent years, decreased birth rates, in conjunction with increased life expectancy and a massive baby-boom has resulted in the proportion of individuals, 65 years and older, increasing at a faster rate than any other age group. Research suggests that these aging baby-boomers are less constrained by the social and cultural ideologies that shaped the previous generations' understanding of sex and sexuality. This cohort of older adults often resist ageist stereotypes and instead see sex as a fundamental part of their lives. As such, it is expected that they will insist that long-term care (LTC) providers be supportive of their diverse sexual and intimacy needs. Considering that approximately one third to nearly one half of this group will conceivably access these services to meet their later life needs, it is imperative that institutional policies and practices regarding residents' sexual expression be in accordance with future residents' needs and expectations.

Research Question: This presentation will provide an overview of current institutional policies and guidelines pertaining to residents' sexual expression in Ontario, and will offer preliminary data highlighting staffs' perceptions, knowledge and implementation of these guidelines. This research represents a first step towards gaining a better understand of the relationship between nursing home residents' sexual behaviours and attitudes and the preparedness of LTC institutions to adequately address these needs.

Preliminary Results/Emerging Themes: A thorough review of policy literature and other relevant documents, as well as an analysis of emerging themes of interview data suggests that existing policies may not sufficiently address the needs of LTC residents. For instance, preliminary analysis of the data reveals inconsistencies in LTC professionals' knowledge of existing policies. Also, consistent with previous research suggesting that institutional practices are often informed by the sexual attitudes of staff members (Doll, 2012), Interviewees described variability in staff attitudes and behaviours regarding residents' sexual expression.

Conclusion & Implications: If LTC facilities in Ontario are going to effectively meet the needs of residents, an understanding of existing opportunities, supportive factors and barriers is essential. As it stands, current legislation does not address the diverse needs of LGBT elders as they transition into LTC, nor does it offer provisions for the care and management of STIs in older populations. Although a review of the literature does provide evidence that some stakeholders have taken strides to develop their own standards, this finding appears to be an exception rather than a norm.

It is anticipated that the results of this study will offer implications at the level of policy development.

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A Meta-Analysis Comparing Biological and Sociolegal Incest Offenders

Presenter: Lesleigh E. Pullman, Ph.D. Cand.

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Background: Sex offenders are a heterogeneous population, and therefore have been categorized in many different ways for research and clinical purposes. In a recent meta-analysis conducted by Seto, Babchishin, Pullman, and McPhail (submitted), we examined the utility of categorizing sex offenders against children based on their relationship to their victims by comparing extrafamilial and incest offenders. We found that incest offenders were less antisocial and less sexually deviant compared to extrafamilial sex offenders against children. We also found that incest offenders were more likely to have an abuse history and to experience family of origin difficulties compared to extrafamilial offenders. However, the Seto et al. meta-analysis was not able to examine differences between subgroups of incest offenders. Incest offenders could include biological incest offenders who were genetically related to victims (e.g., fathers, uncles, grandparents), sociolegal incest offenders (e.g., step fathers, adoptive fathers) who were not, or a mix of the two. Theoretically, there may be important differences between biological incest offenders and sociolegal incest offenders which were not accounted for in the previous meta-analysis.

Research Question: To add to the current literature, we conducted a meta-analysis which compares biological incest offenders and sociolegal incest offenders on demographic, clinical and psychological variables. We wanted to know whether there are meaningful psychological and clinical differences between these different types of incest offenders.

Methods: 27 non-overlapping samples (31 studies) were identified through a database search of PsycInfo, Proquest Dissertation & Theses, Web of Science, National Criminal Justice Reference Service and Medline. Additional studies were identified by reviewing the reference lists of collected studies, conference proceedings, Google Scholar and email listservs (ATSA, SexNet, and SexLab).

Results: There were fewer statistically significant differences than expected. Sociolegal incest offenders had more sexual-self regulation issues ($d = 0.31$), as well as alcohol ($d=0.25$) and drug problems ($d=0.52$). Biological incest offenders were more likely to repress uncomfortable thoughts and feelings ($d= -0.44$). For most variables, the small number of studies inhibited the ability to conduct important moderator analyses. However, one theoretically important moderator did emerge. When the biological incest group was exclusively fathers, sociolegal incest offenders were found to have more prior sexual offenses. However, when the biological incest group included fathers as well as other relatives (e.g., uncles, grandparents), biological incest offenders were found to have more prior sexual offenses. This suggests that including non-paternal biological incest offenders masked group differences between biological and sociolegal incest offenders. Unfortunately, this moderator could not be assessed with other variables of interest because of the small number of studies.

Conclusions & Implications: Understanding if there are meaningful difference between biological incest offenders and sociolegal incest offenders is important to help guide research and perhaps clinical practices with these populations. While these preliminary results suggest that there are few differences between biological and sociolegal incest offenders, whether the biological incest offenders are exclusively fathers or include other non-paternal relatives as well may explain the lack of group differences. Further investigation is required to assess the nuances within this population in order to provide a better understanding of the causes of incestuous sexual offending.

Let's Talk About Sex: Parent-Adolescent Sexual Communication Using Self-Report and Observational Methodology

Presenter: Scott T. Ronis, Ph.D.

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Background: Parents are an important source of direct information and indirect attitudes about sexuality and sexual behaviours, and communication between parents and adolescents can help reduce youth from engaging in risky sexual behavior. Although some research has examined parent-child sexual communication, most studies have only included self-report measures completed by parents or adolescents (Deptula et al., 2010; Eisenberg, Sieving, Bearinger, Swain, & Resnick, 2006). Because self-report measures between parents and youth are generally unreliable, it seems important to examine the content and process of sexual communication from multiple vantage points.

Research Questions: The purpose of the present study was to examine sexual communication from both parents and adolescents and from observed family interactions while discussing sexual topics. Specifically, we examined the degree to which mothers and adolescents reported frequency of sexual communication were correlated with each other and whether observed comfort was associated with individual reports of sexual communication.

Method: Participants (N = 50) were families with adolescents aged 12 to 17 years. Parents and youth completed self-report measures of individual and interpersonal adjustment, and families completed a videorecorded, unrevealed differences task. Sexual communication was assessed with the Sexual Communication Scale, and observed comfort was coded from family discussions on the task.

Results: Mothers' and adolescents' self-report sexual communication was significantly associated, $r(49) = .44, p < .01$. Observed mothers' and adolescents' comfort was also significantly associated, $r(49) = .63, p < .01$. Mothers' and adolescents' self-report sexual communication was not significantly associated with respective observed comfort levels. However, mothers' self-report sexual communication was significantly associated with observed adolescent comfort, $r(49) = .32, p < .05$.

Conclusions: There were significant associations between mothers' and adolescents reports on sexual communication and between observed comfort of mothers and adolescents while discussing sexual topics. In addition, observed comfort of adolescents was associated with mothers' sexual communication. Overall, it appears that individual reports provide consistent, but not the same, perspective of sexual communication and that observed comfort provides a unique aspect of sexual communication. Interestingly, the majority of families were observed with consistent levels of comfort across various domains of discussion, but a substantial number of families exhibited less comfort in discussing sexual topics than other topics.

Implications: Findings from this study will help researchers to better understand the nature of parent-child sexual communication. In addition, the utility of observational methodology for assessing sexual communication will be discussed.

Approach and Avoidance Sexual Goals in Women with Provoked Vestibulodynia and their Partners: Associations with Sexual Well-Being

Presenter: Natalie O. Rosen, Ph.D.

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Background. Provoked vestibulodynia (PVD) is a recurrent, vulvo-vaginal pain condition that is triggered primarily during sexual intercourse. PVD adversely impacts women's sexual functioning and sexual satisfaction. Despite its high prevalence (8-12%), multiple negative repercussions, and the clearly interpersonal nature of this condition, studies elucidating its interpersonal determinants are lacking. Over 80% women with PVD continue to have intercourse, possibly because of interpersonal sexual goals that include wanting to pursue desirable outcomes (i.e., approach goals; such as a desire to maintain intimacy) and avoid negative outcomes (i.e., avoidance goals; such as avoiding a partner's disappointment) in their romantic relationship. In community samples, approach goals are associated with higher sexual desire and satisfaction whereas avoidance goals are associated with lower desire and satisfaction. Nothing is known about how approach and avoidance sexual goals impact the pain and sexual well-being of women with PVD and their partners.

Research aim. The aim of this study was to examine how women's own and their partner's approach and avoidance sexual goals influence women's pain during intercourse and the sexual well-being of women with PVD and their partners.

Method. A sample of 98 women (M age = 28.79, SD = 7.40) diagnosed with PVD and their partners (M age = 31.13, SD = 9.10) completed measures of approach and avoidance sexual goals, sexual satisfaction, and sexual function. Women also completed a measure of pain during intercourse. Analyses were conducted using multilevel modeling and were guided by the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model.

Results. Women who reported higher approach sexual goals also reported greater sexual satisfaction and had partners who reported greater sexual satisfaction. In contrast, women who reported higher avoidance sexual goals were less sexually satisfied and had partners who were also less satisfied. Women who reported higher avoidance sexual goals also reported poorer sexual functioning. There were no significant associations between sexual goals and women's pain during intercourse.

Conclusions, Implications. Greater approach sexual goals may enhance the sexual satisfaction of women with PVD and their partners, whereas greater avoidance sexual goals may detract from both partners' sexual satisfaction and women's sexual function. Results may inform the development of targeted goals-based interventions for women with PVD and their partners.

“I Deserve It”: Sexual Narcissism and the Link between Sexual Arousal and Sexual Coercion

Presenter: Carolyn Roy, B.A.

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Background: Previous research has indicated that sexual arousal predicts hypothetical sexual coercion in heterosexual males. This finding has been interpreted as sexual arousal influencing males' decision-making, resulting in individuals acting in potentially coercive ways. This research, however, overlooks the fact that the majority of males do not engage in sexual coercion and individual differences may affect this relationship. A possible individual difference that impacts sexual arousal and sexual coercion is sexual narcissism. General narcissism has been linked to physical and sexual violence and sexual narcissism has been linked to coercive behaviour.

Research Questions: The current study aims to identify if sexual narcissism moderates the relationship between sexual arousal and sexual coercion.

Method: Heterosexual male participants (N = 151) responded to several hypothetical-dating scenarios in which a female rejected their advances while simultaneously viewing sexually explicit photographs to induce sexual arousal. Participants completed Hulbert's (1994) Index of Sexual Narcissism and rated the likelihood they would engage in several coercive behaviours with the female in the scenarios.

Results: Both sexual arousal and sexual narcissism were significant predictors of sexual coercion, with higher arousal and higher sexual narcissism predicting higher levels of coercion. A significant interaction between sexual arousal and sexual narcissism was explored. At low levels of sexual narcissism (-1 SD), sexual arousal was not a significant predictor of coercion, but at high levels of sexual narcissism ($+1$ SD) sexual arousal was a significant predictor of sexual coercion. The overall model accounted for a significant portion of variance in sexual coercion, $R^2 = .36$, $F(3, 147) = 27.71$, $p < .001$.

Conclusions: The results indicate one pathway to which sexual coercion occurs. Sexual arousal predicts sexual coercion for those high in sexual narcissism, but not for those low in sexual narcissism. Individuals who are high in sexual narcissism may feel more entitled to sexual activity once they become aroused and may be less likely to respect their partner's boundaries due to inflated self-esteem, higher entitlement and low-empathy.

Implications: These findings could be extremely important in identifying high-risk individuals and identifying high-risk situations for individuals with a history of sexually coercive behaviour. The results of this study could help inform prevention/intervention programs and psychoeducation on sexual coercion.

Measurement and Correlates of the Strength of Norms in Sexual Relationships: An Exploratory Structural Equation Model

Presenter: John K. Sakaluk, M.A.

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Background: Early scholars of anthropology (Pelto, 1968), cross-cultural psychology (Triandis, 1989), and personality (Mischel, 1973), have proposed concepts that represent the strength of norms in a given context (e.g., tightness-looseness in cultures; situational strength in behavior settings). Along similar lines, I am proposing the strength of norms within a given sexual relationship as a topic of scholarly interest.

Research Questions and Hypotheses: The current analysis sought to develop an initial measure of the different aspects of relationship norm strength, and to provide preliminary evidence of construct validity. Specifically, relationship norm strength variables were hypothesized to differ by relationship type, and to be associated with levels of perceived similarity and collectivism within a relationship.

Method: Participants ($n = 309$) were recruited from Amazon MTurk, and had either recently experienced a one-night stand, or were currently in an ongoing casual sex relationship, a new exclusive sexual relationship, or a long-term established exclusive relationship (n per group = ~ 75). Participants completed a pilot multidimensional measure of relationship norm strength, and answered questions about their relationship with their partner.

Results: Data were analyzed using exploratory structural equation modeling (Asparouhov & Muthén, 2009). A four-factor structure of relationship norm strength was supported, which included factors representing: (1) how *coherent* norms were, (2) the perceive level of *agreement* upon norms, (3) explicit *communication* of norms, and (4) *punishment* for deviance from norms.

Relationship types differed in levels of relationship norm strength factors, and levels of similarity and collectivism were associated with relationship norm strength in ways that were commensurate with prior theory and research in other contexts.

Conclusions: Results provide support for a multidimensional conceptualization of relationship norm strength. Further, relationship types characterized by increased levels of affiliative motivation, and relationships in which members perceived higher degrees of similarity and greater collectivism were associated with stronger relationship norms.

Implications: Relationship norm strength is a new concept for sexuality researchers to consider in their own research. The new relationship norm strength measure provides scholars with a number of exciting future research possibilities for examining the role of norm strength in other sexuality-relevant processes.

Perpetrator Attractiveness, Victim Resistance, and the Propensity for Consensual Victim-Perpetrator Intercourse Following Non-Consensual Sex

Presenter: Megan L. Sawatsky, Ph.D. Cand.

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Background: Some female victims of non-consensual sex subsequently engage in consensual intercourse with their perpetrator and are more likely to do so when non-consensual penile-vaginal intercourse occurred during the event (versus other non-consensual sexual activities). Sawatsky, Dawson, and Lalumière (under review) found that subsequent consensual intercourse was more likely when the victim and perpetrator had been previously romantically or sexually involved. In the present study, potential functional (ultimate) explanations for why women engage in subsequent consensual intercourse with their perpetrator are investigated. The *bodyguard hypothesis* suggests that the continuation of a sexual relationship with the perpetrator may occur if, for instance, the perpetrator possesses physical strength, good health, and dominance, and can thus offer protection from other sexually aggressive men (Mesnick, 1997). Here we test whether perpetrator attractiveness and victim resistance influence the likelihood of consensual intercourse subsequent to a non-consensual sex event.

Hypotheses: We predicted that physical attractiveness and height—indicators of mate quality—would be associated with decreased victim resistance and an increased likelihood of subsequent consensual intercourse. In line with other research, we expected that victims would employ more resistance when the perpetrator was a stranger or non-romantic acquaintance versus a romantic partner. If, however, a perpetrator's ability to overcome victim resistance is an indicator of physical fitness (see Mealey, 2003), then we would expect that victims would be more likely to engage in subsequent consensual intercourse if a high degree of resistance was employed but intercourse nonetheless occurred (cf. when resistance was employed and intercourse did not occur).

Methods: Female participants ($N = 945$) completed an online survey about their sexual experiences; 41% indicated experiencing non-consensual sex since the age of 14.

Results: Perpetrators who were strangers or non-romantic acquaintances were rated as less physically attractive and were resisted more by victims than perpetrators who were romantic partners. Subsequent consensual intercourse was more likely when perpetrators were rated as physically attractive and when non-consensual intercourse occurred during the event despite a high degree of victim resistance.

Implications: This study has implications for our understanding of female mate choices. There is evidence in non-human species that females mate with sexually aggressive males and that this propensity may be a tradeoff for good genes and/or protection. Researchers have postulated that a similar sexual strategy could exist in humans. This is one of the first studies to empirically investigate this hypothesis in women.

Participants' Quotidian Exposure to Erotica Impacts Psychological Responses

Presenter: Brandon Zuccato

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Background: Sexually explicit and erotic material is becoming increasingly socially acceptable to access. The fact that popular television shows (such as *Game of Thrones* or *Orange is the New Black*) frequently feature nudity and explicit sexual behaviour as well as the recent popularity of the *Shades of Grey* book series are both excellent demonstrations of this trend. However, it is unclear how exposure to sexual themes in the “mainstream” media may impact psychological responses and assessments of sexually explicit material.

Research Question: The current analysis sought to explore how the frequency of participants’ exposure to erotic material in their quotidian lives impacts their reactions to sexually explicit material.

Methods: Sexually experienced, heterosexual male and female participants (N = 64, women = 43) viewed four different sexually explicit film clips. Each clip was approximately two minutes in length and depicted consensual, fully penetrative vaginal sex or oral sex between heterosexual couples. After viewing each clip, participants indicated their level of sexual arousal, boredom, sadness, and happiness. After viewing all four clips, participants rated and ranked each clip as well as the actors. A mixed method design was employed and qualitative responses were gathered as well.

Results: The sexual arousal scores for each video clip were aggregated into an average overall sexual arousal score. No gender difference was found; however, a significant effect of quotidian exposure to erotic material was found. Interestingly, participants who viewed erotic material most frequently (every day) reported the highest levels of sexual arousal in response to the study video clips, but the next highest ratings belonged to two lower frequency exposure groups (“once or twice ever 6 months” and “once or twice every 3 months”). The results of our qualitative analysis revealed that participants who are more frequently exposed to erotic material were more critical of the content of the video clips, as well as the appearance of the actors.

Conclusions: It may be that more frequent exposure to erotic material makes viewers of sexually explicit material more critical and selective of the material they view. In a way, they may become connoisseurs and material that does not conform to their preferences may be judged more harshly, affecting subjective responses to such material.

Implications: The findings of the current study suggest that quotidian exposure to erotic material may be an important variable to consider when conducting research on subjective and physiological responses to erotic material in research settings.

Choosing the Danger We Think We Know: Men and Women's Faulty Perceptions of Partner Safety

Presenter: Shayna Sparling, M.A.

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Background: Participants who seem familiar tend to be perceived as being low in HIV risk (Swann, Silvera, & Proske, 1995; Williams et al., 1992). However, for the most part, research on partner familiarity has been done using retrospective analyses of participants with existing partners, rather than examining reactions to hypothetical partners in matched familiar vs. unfamiliar scenarios.

Research Questions: The current analysis sought to examine differences in how familiar vs. unfamiliar hypothetical partners were perceived by male and female participants. Additionally, the impact of how participants' current sexual relationship status (monogamous, active sexual relationship with multiple partners, no defined sexual relationship) would impact perceptions was examined.

Methods: Participants ($N = 83$, female = 53) were presented with eight scenarios describing romantic encounters with hypothetically familiar (e.g. a friend) or unfamiliar partners (e.g. a blind date). Participants then responded to a variety of items assessing their perceptions of the "riskiness" of the partner in each scenario (e.g. appeal as a sexual partner, trust, likelihood of contracting an STI, etc).

Results: A paired t -test indicated that participants viewed the unfamiliar partners as being significantly more risky on all measures. An independent samples t -test indicated that women viewed the unfamiliar partners as being significantly more risky, For example, in terms of how much they felt they trusted them ($t(79) = -7.46$, $p < .001$) and how likely they felt it was that they might contract an STI ($t(81) = 2.789$, $p = .007$). A multivariate analysis of variance revealed that current sexual relationship status also had a significant effect on perceptions ($\Lambda_{\text{Pillai}} = .606$, $F(32,120) = 1.630$, $p = .031$); in particular, participants currently in a sexual relationship with more than one person reported a greater interest in unprotected sex with the unfamiliar partners.

Conclusions: The results of this analysis offer insight into how men and women may differ in their judgements of the risks associated with unprotected sex with familiar and unfamiliar partners.

Implications: Given that the scenarios were matched so that, objectively, every partner was equally risky, the fact that there were any differences in the perceived riskiness of these partners indicates that much work is still needed to encourage condom use with new partners, no matter how socially or emotionally familiar they may seem.

**Paraphilic Interests, Alternative Sexual Subcultures and Psychopathology:
A Qualitative Study on BDSM-Practitioners**

Presenter Stephanie M. Shea, B.A.

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Background: Paraphilia and fetishism are disorders that are both fascinating and provocative while significant on a sociocultural level. Masochism, sadism, exhibitionism and voyeurism are normalized practices in alternative sexual subcultures, particularly the BDSM community. The current study aims to expand on the limited research examining paraphilia and fetishism within the BDSM community. This research is important in light of the reorganization of paraphilic disorders in the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5).

Research Questions: This was an exploratory research project aimed at investigating the lived experience of lifestyle BDSM practitioners. The interview content is comprised of a series of open ended questions inquiring about BDSM community involvement, introduction to BDSM activities, preferred activities, personal limits, thoughts regarding consent, responsibilities, and education in the BDSM community, relationship style, and opinions towards specific paraphilias being classified as mental disorders.

Methods: A series of qualitative in-depth interviews were conducted with a sample of 15 individuals who identify as belonging to a BDSM community on the West Coast of Canada. Data collection will continue until a sample of 40 participants has been reached. Participants were recruited via online advertisements posted on Fetlife (a BDSM social network) and through the local BDSM community. The interview transcripts were subject to a thematic content analysis using NVivo, software that codes qualitative data by organizing and analyzing the content of transcribed narratives into themes. Quantitative demographic information was also collected.

Results: Results suggest that all participants exhibited paraphilic interests and behaviours in the absence of the distress and functional impairment associated with the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for paraphilia. Participants described the BDSM scene as a rich community steeped in tradition, history, and social etiquette that govern both behaviour and sexual interests. The participant narratives emphasized consent and appreciation of boundaries regarding interpersonal BDSM activities, as well as awareness and education with respect to skill level and responsibility.

Conclusions: The findings from this research suggest that the BDSM community exists as a subculture rather than a conglomeration of individuals with paraphilic pathologies.

Implications: This research adds to the limited body of literature examining alternative sexual interests and behaviours in BDSM practitioners. The present findings highlight the important distinction between paraphilic interests and paraphilic disorders, lending support for the DSM-5 changes to the diagnostic criteria concerning paraphilia as a mental disorder.

Towards the Development of Coital Movement Technique and Position Guidelines for Low Back Pain Patients

Presenter: Natalie Sidorkewicz, M.Sc.

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Background: In their lifetime, up to 80 percent of people will have experienced at least one episode of low back pain (LBP). The influence that sexual activity has on quality of life, health, and disability has important implications for these pained individuals; up to 84 percent of men and 74 percent of women with LBP have reported a marked reduction in the frequency of their sexual activity. Qualitative studies indicate that the central causes for this significant reduction are marked discomfort and exacerbation of LBP during coitus. Furthermore, the most frequently reported difficulties experienced during coitus by both males and females are finding a position of comfort and difficulty with pelvic movements. Findings from these studies clearly demonstrate a need for an investigation of the mechanical factors of coitus that may exacerbate LBP, but no such study existed in the literature.

Research Questions: The main objective of this study was to describe male and female low back movement and posture characteristics during coitus and compare these characteristics across five common coital positions.

Method: Ten healthy males and females, with approximately five years of sexual experience with each other, engaged in coitus in five pre-selected and randomized positions: SIDELYING and two variations of QUADRUPED and MISSIONARY. Optoelectronic and electromagnetic motion capture systems measured the three-dimensional lumbar spine angles of males and females, respectively.

Results: Male and female lumbar spine angles significantly varied across coital positions, but predominantly occurred in the sagittal plane of motion (i.e., flexion/extension) for all positions. For males, the low back reached the highest percentage of flexion during SIDELYING and MISSIONARY2 and the lowest during QUADRUPED1/2. For females, the low back achieved the most flexion during MISSIONARY1/2 and the least during QUADRUPED2 and SIDELYING, followed by QUADRUPED1.

Conclusions: For LBP patients whose pain is exacerbated by flexion, extension, or motion, certain common coital positions should be avoided. SIDELYING and MISSIONARY2 would be least recommended for the flexion-intolerant male, whereas the flexion-intolerant female should consider avoiding MISSIONARY1 and MISSIONARY2. Contrary recommendations would be made for the extension-intolerant patient. Motion-intolerant patients are recommended to alter their coital movement from spine-dominant to hip-dominant and consider using an aide, such as a lumbar support.

Implications: This study was the first to document spine motion during coitus. As a result, mechanical factors that may exacerbate LBP were identified and initial recommendations for health care practitioners to provide to their patients were developed.

Fear of Childbirth Among Women with Provoked Vestibulodynia

Presenter: Kelly B. Smith, Ph.D.

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Background: Provoked vestibulodynia (PVD), or chronic vulvar pain, affects approximately 15% of women of reproductive age and is considered the most common cause of painful intercourse. PVD is associated with decreased sexual and mental health, including high rates of anxiety and fear of pain (Desrochers et al., 2008). While marked anxiety about conception and childbirth is seen clinically in women with PVD (Rosenbaum & Padoa, 2012), fears regarding pregnancy and childbirth have not been investigated empirically in a PVD sample. The purpose of the current study was to examine fear of childbirth among women with PVD.

Research Questions: (1) How common is fear of childbirth among women with PVD? (2) Do women with PVD report higher levels of such fear compared with control women? (3) What do women with PVD fear about giving birth?

Method: Participants were 116 women with a diagnosis of PVD (56% nulliparous) and 80 vulvar pain-free control women (53% nulliparous). As part of a larger online survey, women were asked to complete a 0 (not at all) to 10 (extreme fear) numeric rating scale to assess if and how much they feared giving birth. Participants were then asked to report what they feared about childbirth.

Results: Almost 80% of women with PVD reported they had at least some fear of childbirth; this percentage did not differ from that of controls ($p > .05$). A 2 (group) \times 2 (parity status) ANCOVA, with age as a covariate, examined whether level of fear differed between women with PVD and controls, and yielded significant main effects. Specifically, women with PVD reported significantly higher fear of childbirth compared with controls ($p = .02$), and nulliparous women reported significantly more fear compared with parous women ($p < .001$). When asked what they feared about childbirth, pain was a main reason provided by both women with PVD and control women. Approximately one-quarter of women with PVD feared a worsening of their PVD symptoms due to childbirth.

Conclusions: This research provides empirical evidence that women with PVD have elevated fear of childbirth. For the women with PVD who fear that childbirth will worsen their symptoms, more research is needed to understand how pregnancy and childbirth may impact vulvar pain.

Implications: This study provides a preliminary understanding of the fear, including specific aspects of such fear, that women with PVD have regarding childbirth and can be used to guide future research in this area.

Furtastic! A Peek Inside a Furry Convention by a Sexological Tourist

Presenter: Debra W. Soh, Ph.D. Cand.

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BACKGROUND: When asked, most people have heard of furies—individuals who express an interest in anthropomorphic animals or creatures. Popular media portray furies and their related interests (e.g., fursuitism and furry erotica) as sexually deviant and sinister; however, not much is known about them empirically and the majority of available information has been provided by furies themselves. There have not been any descriptions of the content of furry conventions from an objective, informed research perspective.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS: Is it really about sex? Is it not? The current investigation aimed to clarify whether fursuitism is truly a paraphilia, amidst a long history of claims from the furry community that it is not. Is it an identity or orientation? Is it the same for everybody or only some? What is the proportion of males to females? LGBT attendees? Those in costume versus those who are not?

METHODS: I attended Furnal Equinox 2014, the largest furry convention in Canada, with 910 attendees and 265 furies in the fursuit parade, to observe the furry lifestyle through a sexological lens.

RESULTS: The majority of attendees were young (i.e., early twenties and younger) males in costume; a large proportion also appeared to be gay or transgender. There were a large variety of animals being represented, including hybrids, with foxes and wolves being the most popular.

CONCLUSIONS: After speaking with artists, vendors, and many furies themselves, it appears that most furies feel they do not fit into mainstream society. The fandom offers a community in which they feel safe and accepted by other like-minded individuals. The consistent message was that fursuiting isn't about sex, but is a lifestyle and sex is only one part of that lifestyle. Their sexual interests are only one expression of their identity, as would be the case with any euphilic (i.e., non-paraphilic) individual.

IMPLICATIONS: These observations offer insight about a population that has not yet been studied empirically. Future directions include incorporating cognitive and neurobiological perspectives so that a more meaningful comparison can be made to other paraphilias, which have been shown to have distinct neurological and biological profiles (e.g., Cantor, 2012).

Cantor, J. M. (2012). Is homosexuality a paraphilia? The evidence for and against. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 41, 237-247.

Sex with an Ex: Does it Hinder Breakup Recovery?
SYMPOSIUM: Tackling Common Myths about Sexuality using Empirical Research

Presenter: Stephanie S. Spielmann, Ph.D.

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Background: Recent research has documented that continued sexual experiences with ex-partners are common (Halpern-Meekin et al., 2013; Mason et al., 2012). However, little research has explored the motivations and consequences behind such sexual pursuits. The present research therefore examines the motivational, emotional, and breakup recovery processes associated with pursuing sexual activities with an ex-partner in the immediate wake of a breakup.

Research Questions: 1) Is sexual activity with an ex-partner typically perceived as an attempt to renew the ended relationship? 2) Is sexual activity with an ex-partner associated with negative affect and poorer breakup recovery?

Method: Newly single individuals ($N = 113$) participated in a 28-day daily experience study immediately following their breakup. Each day, participants reported their daily attempts to have sex and be physically intimate with their ex-partner and their attempts to renew the ended relationship. They similarly reported their ex-partner's sexual and relationship renewal attempts each day. In addition, participants reported on their daily emotional states, including positive and negative affect (e.g., "happy, cheerful, joyful" vs. "sad, depressed, down"), longing for the ex-partner (e.g., "I am still in love with him/her"), and distress over the breakup (e.g., "I found it difficult to accept the breakup").

Results: Firstly, chi-squared tests revealed that sexual pursuits were not necessarily perceived as attempts to renew the relationship: Days when participants or their ex-partners pursued sexual activity were not necessarily also reported as days when they pursued relationship renewal. Furthermore, multilevel modeling analyses revealed that pursuing sexual activities with an ex-partner was associated with greater daily positive affect, but was not associated with daily negative affect. Daily reports of longing for ex-partners and distress over the breakup were also not significantly predicted by participants' or their ex-partners' sexual pursuits. Importantly, none of these effects were moderated by breakup initiator status.

Conclusions: Sexual activity with an ex-partner was not necessarily intended to renew the relationship, and was not associated with negative affect or poorer breakup recovery. This sheds light on the motivational and emotional processes involved in sex with an ex.

Implications: In the wake of a breakup, sex with an ex may be less negative than expected. The present study highlights the importance of assessing daily behaviours and emotions during the breakup recovery process.

Hebephilia: An Examination of the Validity of the Construct

Presenter: Skye Stephens, Ph.D. Cand.

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Rationale: Hebephilia refers to sexual interest in pubescent children who are beginning to show some signs of sexual development. It is an important area of research given the widespread debates that emerged after Blanchard and colleagues (2009) proposed that hebephilia be included in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual- Fifth Edition* (DSM-5). Ultimately hebephilia was not included in DSM-5 due to concerns related to its validity.

Research Questions: One way to investigate the validity of hebephilia is to examine its relationship with sexual offending against children, as in many countries acting on this sexual interest would be illegal. As such, the present study examines the criterion-related validity of hebephilia by assessing its relationship with sexual victim choice and its predictive validity by examining its relationship with reoffending (recidivism).

Method: 2,238 male sexual offenders were included in the present study with a subset of the sample (n=839) included in analyses pertaining to recidivism. Self-reported sexual interest and volumetric phallometric assessment were used to classify individuals into the following erotic-age interest groups: pedophiles, hebephiles, and teleiophiles (sexual interest in fully mature adults). Sexual offending information was collected from file information and interviews with recidivism information collected from a national police database.

Results: Pedophilia and hebephilia were highly correlated ($r=.84$, $p < .001$). Hebephilia was associated with sexual offending against prepubescent and pubescent children, with relatively few differences between pedophiles and hebephiles on sexual victim choice variables. The recidivism data have been collected and preliminary results will be discussed.

Discussion: Hebephilia has criterion related validity as it is meaningfully associated with sexual offending against children. It is expected that hebephilia will have predictive validity and will be associated with sexual recidivism. Further, its high overlap with pedophilia suggests that they are not distinct constructs.

Implications: The present results suggest that hebephilia is a valid construct, which has implications for future revisions of the DSM.

What's going on down there?

Assessing sexual concordance in women with and without sexual difficulties with vaginal and clitoral photoplethysmography

SYMPOSIUM: Multi-method Approaches to the Assessment of Sexual Arousal

Presenter: Kelly D. Suschinsky, Ph.D.

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Background: *Sexual concordance*, or the agreement between physiological and subjective aspects of sexual arousal, varies substantially within women, with some women showing high agreement between these aspects of sexual response and others showing little to no agreement. Some previous research suggests that women with sexual difficulties tend to exhibit lower sexual concordance than women without such difficulties (e.g., Chivers et al., 2010; Meston et al., 2010). The method that has most commonly been used to assess genital response in women, *vaginal photoplethysmography* (VPP), has been criticized because it may measure a more automatic aspect of women's genital response that does not reflect sexual arousal per se, and because changes in vaginal vasocongestion may be less perceptible to women than changes in their external genitalia. A relatively novel method, *clitoral photoplethysmography* (CPP), may correspond more highly with subjective reports of sexual arousal than VPP because CPP is related to changes in vasocongestion in the external genitalia.

Research Question: The current study sought to examine the within-gender variation of women's sexual concordance using measures of internal and external genitalia (VPP and CPP, respectively) in a sample of women with and without sexual difficulties.

Method: Women with low sexual desire ($n = 24$), low sexual arousal ($n = 16$), and lubrication difficulties ($n = 21$), as well as those without any such difficulties ($n = 10$) watched sexual and non-sexual videos while their genital responses and self-reported sexual arousal were measured continuously. Vaginal and clitoral vasocongestion were assessed simultaneously via VPP and CPP. Sexual functioning was assessed using the Female Sexual Function Index (Rosen et al., 2000).

Results: Preliminary results indicate that sexual concordance was not significantly associated with sexual functioning as assessed by the Female Sexual Function Index.

Conclusions and Implications: Further research is needed to better understand the relationship between sexual concordance and sexual functioning. Understanding this relationship may ultimately lead to more effective treatments for sexual difficulties in women.

Understanding the Phenomenology of Sexual Desire Discrepancy in a Community Sample of Couples in Long-Term Relationships

Presenter: Siobhan Sutherland, B.A.

Siobhan Sutherland, B.A.; Uzma Rehman, Ph.D.; Erin Fallis, Ph.D., University of Waterloo
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Background: Past research has yielded inconsistent findings regarding the impact of sexual desire discrepancy (SDD), the degree to which romantic partners' sexual desire levels differ, on relationship outcomes. These inconsistencies may be due to differences in sample characteristics and the way that desire discrepancy has been measured. Most studies that have demonstrated a correlation between SDD and negative relationship outcomes have used student samples (e.g., Mark, 2012). It is unclear if these findings generalize to older couples in long-term relationships. Further, when measuring desire discrepancy it is important to distinguish between perceived versus actual discrepancy. Some studies have erroneously conflated the two (Willoughby & Vitas, 2012).

Research Questions: Our primary goal was to test associations between actual SDD, relationship satisfaction, and sexual satisfaction in long-term couples. Further, we wanted to examine whether SDD relates to communication behaviours.

Method: Community based couples ($N = 82$) completed measures of sexual desire, sexual satisfaction, and relationship satisfaction, and engaged in two discussions about sexual conflicts. Communication behaviours were subsequently coded for skill and affect.

Results: SDD was measured by subtracting women's sexual desire scores from men's. On average, men reported significantly higher sexual desire than women. In couples in which the male partner reported higher desire, SDD was correlated with women's sexual satisfaction, but this association was not significant across all couples. SDD was not significantly correlated with men's relationship or sexual satisfaction, or with women's relationship satisfaction. Communication data are currently being analyzed.

Conclusions: Contrary to some past studies, actual SDD was unrelated to men's sexual or relationship satisfaction. SDD was unrelated to women's relationship satisfaction, but was related to women's sexual satisfaction when the male partner had higher desire. Many past studies have focused on SDD among distressed or university-aged couples, whereas our sample consisted of older couples in long-term relationships that were generally satisfied in their relationships. Therefore, differences in couples' relationship length and general satisfaction may in part explain the differences between our findings and those of other studies.

Implications: The results suggest that actual SDD is a relatively common phenomenon in long-term relationships. The lack of significant correlations between SDD and sexual and relationship satisfaction was surprising and suggests that SDD may not be particularly problematic for couples in generally satisfied, long-term relationships.

Physiological and Self-Reported Sexual Arousal Patterns of Bisexual Women

Presenter: Amanda D. Timmers, M.Sc.

Amanda D. Timmers, M.Sc.; Katrina Bouchard, M.Sc.; Meredith L. Chivers, Ph.D., Queen's University
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Background: Research indicates that cues of sexual activity may be a more important determinant in other-gender attracted women's genital arousal than cues of gender (Chivers et al., 2007): Although sexual interest and genital and self-reported sexual arousal appear to correspond for same- and other-gender attracted men and for same-gender attracted women (a gender-specific pattern of sexual response), for other-gender attracted women, physiological arousal and sexual orientation do not always coincide. Unlike for cues of gender, however, other-gender attracted women's genital arousal has been found to vary by the level of sexual activity that is depicted in a sexual stimulus.

To date, research examining gender-specificity of sexual response has not investigated the sexual arousal patterns of women with sexual interest in both men and women. The current study was undertaken to examine the gender-specificity of genital and self-reported sexual arousal patterns of women who endorsed one or more of five subtypes of bisexuality (sexual identity, sexual attractions, romantic attractions, fantasies, and sexual behaviours).

Hypotheses:

- 1) Regardless of bisexuality subtype, women would demonstrate a gender-specific pattern of response (demonstrating and reporting heightened arousal to both male and female stimuli).
- 2) Consistent with previous research, bisexual women's sexual arousal would vary by sexual activity level (demonstrating and reporting greatest arousal to the most "sexually intense" sexual stimuli).

Method: Seventy-eight women endorsing one (or more) subtypes of bisexuality were exposed to 18 experimental audiovisual stimuli varying by gender of the sexual actors (male, female) and the level of sexual activity occurring (nude exercise, masturbation, or penetrative/oral intercourse) while their genital and self-reported arousal were assessed.

Results: Contrary to hypothesis, women were found to demonstrate and report more sexual arousal to female than to male stimuli, across all subtypes of bisexuality. Consistent with our hypotheses and previous research, women's self-reported and genital responses were found to significantly vary by sexual activity level, such that sexual arousal generally increased with the level of sexual activity occurring in the films.

Conclusions and Implications: Sexual arousal has long been used as a proxy to determine sexual interest in a specified target or stimulus set (e.g., Freund, 1963; Seto, Lalumière, & Blanchard, 2000), though the present study (and previous research – e.g., Chivers et al., 2007) indicates that sexual arousal and self-identified sexual interest do not always align. Implications for our understanding of women's sexual response will be discussed.

Effects of Relationship Context on Genital and Subjective Sexual Response in Heterosexual Men

Presenter: Amanda D. Timmers, M.Sc.

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Background: Previous research suggests that the stimulus features associated with sexual arousal are different for men and for heterosexual women. While men's arousal is strongly dependent upon gender features of the actors (i.e., primary and secondary sex characteristics), heterosexual women's arousal, by contrast, is more dependent (at least genitally) upon other cues, such as the relationship context (stranger vs. friend vs. long-term relationship partner; Chivers & Timmers, 2012) depicted in the stimuli. Previous research has found that heterosexual men's sexual arousal does not vary by relationship context, leading researchers to conclude that gender cues are more important determinants of arousal than relationship context cues for men. However, these analyses were based on a sample of six men, and were severely underpowered.

Research Question: Do heterosexual men's genital and self-reported sexual responses vary by the relationship context depicted in the experimental stimuli?

Method: Assessments were made of 26 heterosexual men's self-reported and genital sexual responses to 18 audio clips depicting sexual or nonsexual encounters with strangers, friends, or long-term relationship (male or female) partners.

Results: Results suggest that heterosexual men's genital arousal in response to relationship context cues mirror those previously demonstrated by heterosexual women; heterosexual men demonstrated significantly less physiological arousal to the friend than to the stranger or long-term relationship (at a trend level) scenarios. No effect of relationship context was found in men's self-reported arousal levels.

Conclusions and Implications: Though gender cues do appear to be an important determinant in men's sexual responses (given the widely replicated pattern of gender-specific response among male participants; see Chivers et al., 2010), this does not negate the importance of other contextual cues (e.g., sexual activity level, Chivers et al., 2007) on male sexual response patterns. Implications for our understanding of men and women's sexual response will be discussed.

Living Apart Together: Beyond Census and Qualitative Data - A Research Proposal

Presenter: Christine Tong, M.A.

Christine Tong, M.A.; Caroline F Pukall, Ph.D.; Graham Hutchins, B.Sc. (Hon.); Nadine Jeske, B.Sc., Queen's University
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Background: Cohabitation and marriage are expected milestones in the progression of most intimate relationships. However, international data indicate a growing trend for couples in long-term committed relationships to maintain separate households. This is known as Living Apart Together (LAT). Statistics Canada estimated 1.9 million Canadians over the age of 20 to be in a LAT relationship in 2011. Although many would assume that LAT couples are forced to live apart due to circumstances, over 30% of the surveyed LAT couples had actually voluntarily chosen to live apart. This emergence of voluntary LAT relationships has caught the attention of popular media, and has been the featured topic of both television shows and magazine articles. Despite the increase in social awareness and prevalence, LAT relationships remain a grossly under-researched phenomenon, especially in Canada. The majority of our knowledge about LAT relationships comes from census data and is mostly demographic in nature. There has only been one qualitative study of LAT relationships in Canada which interviewed 28 couples about why they chose a LAT relationship. Little is known about the interactions between LAT partners or how they fare on indicators of relationship quality. While social norms would have us believe that cohabitation is the “holy grail” for relationship quality, there is no evidence to indicate that LAT relationships are inferior. To better understand LAT relationships, we propose the first large-scale investigation into the relative quality of voluntary and involuntary LAT relationships versus cohabiting relationships, and the factors associated with quality in these different relationship types.

Proposed Study: The goals of this project are to assess indicators of relationship quality and factors associated with these indicators in cohabiting versus voluntary and involuntary LAT relationships. A 3-part online survey is planned, targeting Canadians over 18 who are in monogamous committed relationships of at least 1 year. The first part focuses on the individual, collecting information on demographic and psychological characteristics (e.g. personality). The second targets the relationship with an emphasis on factors which may influence relationship quality (e.g. contact frequency, reason for living arrangement). The last consists of validated scales to assess various indicators of relationship quality, including commitment, communication, relationship and sexual satisfaction.

Implications: The results from this study will better our understanding of LAT relationships and may disprove some of the negative social assumptions about LAT couples. This knowledge may also facilitate the development of strategies to address challenges unique to LAT relationships.

**The Influence of Wealth, Health, and Attractiveness on Mate Preferences:
Accuracy and Cue Utility in Person Perception
SYMPOSIUM: Tackling Common Myths about Sexuality using Empirical Research**

Presenter: Konstantin O. Tskhay, M.A.

Konstantin O. Tskhay, M.A.; Jerri M. Clout, B.S.; Nicholas O. Rule, Ph.D., University of Toronto
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Background: Previous studies have suggested that men favour beauty but women favour status when selecting mates. Researchers have reasoned that these sex differences are adaptive, having encouraged reproduction and offspring survival. But why would women not prioritize health and attractiveness in mates— the traits that theoretically communicate evolutionary fitness *and* are beneficial to offspring survival?

Research Questions: Here, we aimed to test whether financial success may be perceptible from faces and whether it might serve as an indicator of evolutionary fitness in potential mates.

Method: Men and women were asked to judge the faces of high- and low-income individuals downloaded from online dating websites. Participants judged the targets' wealth, health, and attractiveness. An additional group of participants reported their desire to date people of the opposite sex depicted in the pictures.

Results: We found that women were able to identify the wealth status of male and female targets from photos of their faces. Furthermore, cues to evolutionary fitness (health and attractiveness) distinguished male (but not female) targets as rich and poor. In terms of mate preferences, women (but not men) perceived wealthier targets as more desirable dating partners. Last, we demonstrated that this preference for male wealth was facilitated by perceptions of health and attractiveness.

Conclusions: The current study suggests that evolutionary fitness cues may provide a common mechanism for human mate preferences and that women's preference for men's wealth may serve as a proxy for other cues to male fitness.

Implications: The current study challenges the assumption that men and women differ in their mate preferences. The findings therefore help to advance scientific understanding of gender relations, mate selection, person perception, and evolutionary theory.

Peri- and Postmenopausal Women's Sexual Motivations, Functioning, and Distress

Presenter: Heather VanZuylen, B.A.

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Rationale: The hormonal changes associated with peri- and postmenopause negatively affects some women's sexual functioning, including difficulties with lubrication and vulvo-vaginal irritation, which may increase sexual distress; however, the relationship between sexual function and sexual distress is varied and consideration of women's motivations for engaging in sexual behaviour may enhance our understanding of this relationship.

Background: Within a Self-Determination Theory (SDT) Framework, reasons for engaging in activities can be organized along a continuum from externally regulated motivations (for the sake of others) to internally regulated motivations (for the pleasure of the activity). Therefore, peri- and postmenopausal women's motivations for engaging in sexual activity will be analyzed in relation to sexual functioning and sexuality-related distress.

Hypotheses: Given that in SDT extrinsic motivation tends to predict negative outcomes, while intrinsic predicts positive, we hypothesize two models. First, externally regulated sexual motivation (ERSM) will predict sexual distress beyond sexual functioning. Second, internally regulated sexual motivation (IRSM) will predict sexual functioning beyond low sexual distress.

Methods: Peri- and postmenopausal women aged 41- 76 ($N = 110$, $M = 53.6$) completed an online questionnaire measuring sexual function (Female Sexual Function Index), sexual distress (Female Sexual Distress Scale – Revised), and sexual motivation (Sexual Motivation Scale, subdivided into ERSM and IRSM). Hierarchical regressions explored whether motivation contributed to the relationship between distress and functioning.

Results: The first hierarchical regression demonstrated that sexual functioning predicted sexual distress, and that ERSM significantly contributed to the model. The second regression also demonstrated that sexual distress was related to sexual functioning and IRSM significantly contributed to the model.

Conclusions: As predicted, ERSM was associated with sexual distress after considering sexual functioning, and IRSM was associated with sexual functioning beyond sexual distress, highlighting the importance of understanding women's motivations for engaging in sexual activity.

Implications: The present study substantiates sexual motivation as a contributor to sexual wellbeing, while providing insight into potential protective and risk factors.

**Social Communication Deficits in Gender Dysphoric Children:
Associations with Birth Weight, Parental Age, and Sibling Sex Ratio**

Presenter: Doug P. VanderLaan, Ph.D.

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Background: Recent research indicated a link between Gender Dysphoria (GD) (i.e., strong and persistent cross-gender behaviour and identity) and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD); however, the basis of the GD-ASD link is unclear. One hypothesis is that some factor influences both ASD and GD. High birth weight, advanced parental age, and a high ratio of brothers to sisters are all markers of increased ASD risk. The present study examined these markers in relation to social communication deficits, a core feature of ASD, in a sample of children clinically referred for GD.

Research Questions: Are social communication deficits elevated among GD children? Are birth weight, parental age, or sibling sex ratio associated with social communication deficits? Is there an association between social communication deficits and the degree of gender nonconformity? Do any of the markers of ASD predict both gender nonconformity and social communication deficits?

Method: Using clinically validated measures, maternal reports were gathered on 48 children (39 natal males) referred for GD [Mean (SD) age: 7.28 (2.46) years]. Reports pertained to social communication skills, general behavioural and emotional problems, and gender nonconformity. Mothers also reported the parents' ages at the time of the child's birth as well as the child's sibling sex ratio and birth weight. IQ testing was also performed.

Results: Compared to previously published clinic-referred and non-referred child samples, GD children showed elevated social communication deficits ($p < .001$). Multiple logistic regression analyses comparing those GD children who did ($n = 22$) vs. did not ($n = 26$) meet the clinical cut-off for a social communication deficit was performed while controlling for the child's age, sex, IQ, and general behavioural and emotional problems. High birth weight ($p = .031$), high gender nonconformity ($p = .049$), and an interaction between these two variables ($p = .02$) predicted the presence of clinically significant social communication deficits among GD children.

Conclusions: Clinic-referred GD children appear to have elevated social communication deficits. High birth weight is associated with both high gender nonconformity and social communication deficits among GD children.

Implications: Processes underlying the link between high birth weight and ASD might also contribute to GD. If so, then this study provides evidence for some prenatal influence on GD in children who show ASD traits. It also raises questions about how the developmental trajectories of such children differ from those of children who experience GD in the absence of ASD traits and vice versa.

Satisfied, Excited, Anxious, and Vulnerable: Emotions Experienced During One-Night Stand, Booty Call, and Friends with Benefits Interactions

Presenter: Sarah A. Vannier, B.A.

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Rationale: Although the majority of young adults have engaged in a casual sex relationship (Grello et al., 2006), we still know very little about the emotions young people associate with sexual behaviour in casual contexts. The goal of the current study was to examine the emotions experienced by young adults when engaging in three types of casual sex relationships (one night stand [ONS], booty call, friends with benefits [FWB]).

Research question: What are the most frequently reported positive and negative emotions experienced by young adults when engaging in casual sexual activity? Do these emotions vary across casual relationship contexts? Are there gender differences in these emotions?

Methods: Participants included 222 female and 59 male young adults (M age = 20.21). Participants completed an online survey which assessed demographics, characteristic of most recent sexual experience, and the emotions associated with sexual behaviours during that sexual encounter.

Results: Overall, young adults reported more positive than negative emotions, $t(283) = 33.38, p < .001$. In all casual contexts the most frequently reported positive emotions were satisfied (88-92%), wonderful (88-91%), and excited (88-94%); the most frequently reported negative emotions were vulnerable (39-63%), indifferent (33-59%), and anxious (40-51%). In comparison to other casual contexts, participants who engaged in booty calls reported feeling more powerful, mature, vulnerable, submissive, indifferent, used, and disgusted, participants who engaged in ONSs reported feeling more anxious and afraid, and participants who engaged in FWB interactions reported feeling more romantic and loved. As compared to participants who engaged in sexual activity in a committed context, those who engaged in sexual activity in a casual context reported lower levels of positive emotions, $F(1, 267) = 17.30, p < .001$, and higher levels of negative emotions, $F(1, 267) = 3.91, p < .05$. Participants reported more feelings of shame, fear, and vulnerability in casual contexts, and greater feelings of excitement, love, and fulfillment in committed contexts. Gender differences were examined, although no significant patterns emerged.

Conclusions/Implication: Engaging in casual sexual relationships is associated with a wide range of emotions. Although these are primarily positive emotions, booty calls are associated with more negative emotions than other types of casual sex relationships. Men and women report similar emotions when engaging in casual sex relationships. This suggests that gendered aspects of the traditional sexual script may be shifting. These findings have implications for sex educators and sexual health professionals.

Undergraduate Attitudes Towards Relationship Violence

Presenter: Elly R.A. Vinskas

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Background: Dating relationship violence is a serious yet common issue and can have emotional and physical consequences for the victims (Leisring, 2013). Research has found that rates of both physical and psychological violence between university-aged intimate partners remains quite high. This study surveyed 411 students and combined an assessment of change in attitudes toward dating violence over time with qualitative data including sexual experiences to address gaps in the existing literature.

Research Questions: The current study sought to examine whether undergraduate students' self-reported attitudes towards physical and psychological dating violence change over the course of their university career, integrating information about participants' intimate, sexual experiences.

Method: A sample of University of Guelph undergraduate students (N = 411) completed an online survey consisting of demographic, qualitative and quantitative questions. Four of the original six subscales from the Attitudes Towards Dating Violence Scales (Price & Byers, 1999) were utilized to assess attitudes towards both physical and psychological dating violence.

Results: There was a significant difference between first and upper year students' attitudes towards female inflicted physical and psychological dating violence. More specifically, upper year students, on average, are less accepting of female inflicted physical and psychological violence in a dating relationship compared to first year students. Qualitative data explored sexual experiences of participants in intimate relationships, both violent and nonviolent, allowing for further insight on attitudes and sex behaviours.

Conclusions: Qualitative data suggest potential relationships between sex in current dating relationships and attitudes found in the quantitative data. These findings suggests that there may be a more wide spread understanding that male perpetrated relationship violence is unacceptable, regardless of year of schooling. In contrast, upper year students, on average, were significantly less accepting of female inflicted physical and psychological dating violence compared to first year students. These results suggest that time spent in university may help shape students' attitudes towards female inflicted violence.

Implications: This study highlights the importance of time spent in university and its' ability to shape students' attitudes towards physical and psychological dating violence. Many students also indicated wanting more education in this area to enhance their knowledge of what is and is not acceptable behaviour in a dating relationship. This has additional significance among students who are in sexual relationships with dating partners.

Can Music Cue Sexual Arousal in Men and Women?

Presenter: Cynthia Wan

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Background: Research suggests that the genital responses of men are more easily conditioned than women's. But if we consider the preparation hypothesis, the genital responses of women should be as conditionable as men, if not more. The preparation hypothesis is a functional explanation that posits that women's genital responses occur automatically in the presence of any sexual cue to protect the body from injuries during sexual activities. The absence of a conditioned response (CR) in women in prior studies may be because previously used conditioned stimuli (CS) were not as easily associable or relevant in terms of genital preparation. For the current study we used music as an auditory CS and narrations of a sexual (consensual or non-consensual sexual activity) or neutral scenarios as an auditory unconditioned stimulus (US). There is no conditioning study that has examined genital responses in both sexes whilst using music as a cue to set the context for subsequent responses.

Hypotheses: For women, we predicted that the magnitude of the CR towards consensual and non-consensual US to be relatively the same, and higher than for neutral US. For men, we predicted that the magnitude of the CR towards consensual CS to be greater than towards a non-consensual or a neutral CS.

Method: Eighteen men and 18 women were exposed to three neutrally-rated classical music pieces and were explicitly told the CS-US pairings (counterbalanced across participants). After, participants were presented with 12 conditioning trials, followed by a minimum of nine extinction trials. After each presentation, participants were asked to appraise the CS (or the US in CS-US pairings) based on pleasantness, anxiousness, and perceived sexual arousal.

Results: We did not find conditioning effects on the genital responses of men or women. Women reported increased feelings of anxiety and sexual arousal towards songs associated with consensual and non-consensual stories post-conditioning.

Conclusions: Although we did not find conditioning effects on the genital responses of men and women, there is evidence that the current paradigm was able to elicit a conditioning effect on women's subjective feelings of sexual arousal.

Implications: This study highlights the importance of stimulus selection in conditioning paradigms and supports previous research that there is a lack of concordance between subjective sexual arousal and genital response in women.

The Impact of Voluntary Castration on the Sexuality of Men SYMPOSIUM: Perspectives on Modern Day Eunuchs

Presenter: Richard J. Wassersug, Ph.D.

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Background: Low testosterone in adult males, as occurs naturally with aging, or when induced by androgen suppressing drugs (e.g., used to treat advanced prostate cancer) or through surgical castration, decreases libido and causes erectile dysfunction. Nevertheless, at various times and places in history, eunuchs (i.e., castrated males) were reported to be homosexual, heterosexual, bisexual, hyposexual, hypersexual, and asexual. Our study revisits the topic of eunuch sexuality by investigating whether voluntary genital ablation influences the gender(s) to which males are attracted, fantasize about, and have explicit sexual relationships.

Research Question: We investigated whether men report changes in their preferred gender(s)—in attractions, fantasies, and sexual relationships—following voluntary castration. We also investigated the associations of individuals' sexual orientation prior to castration and current gender identity, to changes in their preferred gender(s) and frequency of sexual activity.

Method: A questionnaire posted on the Eunuch Archive (<http://www.eunuch.org>) yielded data on individuals who were either physically ($n=228$) or chemically ($n=104$) castrated. Respondents were asked to report retrospectively on their sexuality six months to a year both before and after castration. We measured changes in who they reported being sexually attracted to, fantasized about, or had sexual relations with.

Results: The majority of respondents did not report a change in their target gender(s) of sexual attraction (64.1%, $n=196$), fantasies (62.5%, $n=188$) or sexual relationships (61.3%, $n=187$). However many respondents did report changes. For all respondents, the greatest amount of broadening (change or inclusion of additional genders) of sexual interest was seen in the areas for sexual attraction (17.6%, $n=54$) and fantasies (18.3%, $n=55$). The greatest reduction in sexuality was in actual sexual relations, with just over a quarter becoming asexual (27.5%, $n=84$).

Conclusions: Our findings suggest that androgen deprivation, which is known to reduce libido, and sexual activity, need not lead to a total loss of sexuality. For some men voluntary androgen suppression may lead to a broadening of gender(s) of sexual attraction and fantasy.

Implications: Voluntarily androgen-deprived men may have diminished proceptive sexuality—their biological imperative to reproduce—and an associated propensity for altered, and even broadened, sexuality in terms of the gender(s) of sexual interest. Such sexual plasticity in castrated males parallels the sexual plasticity more commonly reported in females

We Are Never Getting Back Together... Like Ever: Romantic Breakups Among Late Adolescents and Young Adults

Presenter: Robyn Lisa Young

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Background: Researchers have given considerable attention to the extreme impact associated with breakups among adults, with the focus almost exclusively on divorce (Imber-Black, 2007). Surprisingly little is known about breakups in dating relationships; most existing studies are dated. Breakups are known to be significantly distressing events for young people, some lead to suicidality, anxiety, and substance abuse (Fine, 1997). Experience of a romantic breakup is a strong predictor of first onset of Major Depressive Disorder (Monroe et al., 1999). Yet little is known about the breakups themselves. The current study assessed characteristics of recent breakups among a sample of young people.

Research Questions: What are common characteristics of recent break-ups among young people including the timing, clarity, and perceived severity of the breakup? Are there differences on the basis of gender and sexual orientation with regard to breakup characteristics?

Method: Participants were 271 Canadian emerging adults who had experienced a relationship breakup within the previous year (66% female; *M* age 21.4; range = 18-25 years). All were recruited from social networking and online classifieds websites to complete an anonymous online survey. Descriptive statistics were generated in SPSS to characterize relationship characteristics and chi square analyses and analysis of variance were used to explore possible gender and orientation differences.

Results: Breakups occurred regularly throughout the months of the year (11-14%) with two notable peaks in January and September. Many (41%) indicated that this breakup was the most intense ever. Whereas 43% of participants reported expecting that their relationship would last a lifetime, most relationships only lasted a few months to less than a year (42%). Other relationships lasted days to weeks (8.1%), 1-2 years (21.7%), 2-5 years (22.5%), and a minority lasted 5-10 years (5.9%). There were no differences in reports between heterosexual and non-heterosexual, or between male and female participants in breakup characteristics.

Conclusions: The current study redresses a gap in the literature regarding characteristics of dating relationship breakups among late adolescents and young adults. The value of this work increases by the decade as people prolong marriage and often forego marriage altogether. In addition, little is known about gender and orientation differences in reports; this study gives some indication that there are in fact group differences in experiences.

Implications: Implications are discussed regarding communication and relationship development skills training. Findings might be usefully incorporated into counseling programs for those suffering from a breakup.

Romantic Attraction and Sexual Attraction: A Comparison

Presenter: Morag A Yule, M.A.

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Rationale: It is often presumed that heterosexual individuals fall in love with individuals of the opposite gender, while homosexual individuals fall in love with individuals of the same gender. The assumption that sexual orientation and romantic orientation are one and the same is long-standing, but not necessarily accurate. In fact, it is also widely presumed that romantic love is a universal phenomenon, as is sexual attraction or desire. However, this has recently been challenged in the asexuality literature, further suggesting that our current understanding of these two phenomenon is limited.

Asexuality, in which an individual is not sexually attracted to anyone at all, has recently gained significant academic attention and has prompted a flurry of writings on asexuality in general, but on romantic attraction more specifically. Some asexual individuals report experiencing romantic attraction without experiencing sexual attraction, providing us with a unique opportunity to gain perspective on these two systems.

To date, there has been no comprehensive literature review published on this topic, and thus our understanding of this important topic may be incomplete and/or outdated. This presentation will provide a discussion of the existing literature on romantic and sexual attraction, with emphasis on how recent research on asexuality can provide greater understanding of this topic.

Conclusions: Sexual and romantic attraction developed as separate systems that differentially influence behaviour. The phenomenon of asexuality, in which individuals do not experience sexual attraction, and may or may not experience romantic attraction, provides us with a unique opportunity to gain insight into this topic.

Implications: By attempting to develop a more nuanced understanding of the romantic and sexual attraction systems and how they might differ between men and women, I hope to provide a basis for increased understanding of sexual behaviour and relationships.

Summary of Key Points: There is evidence from several fields of research that sexual attraction and romantic attraction are separate phenomenon. Asexual individuals, who experience little or no sexual attraction, and may or may not experience romantic attraction, provide a unique opportunity to better understand these two systems. This may have implications for better understanding sexual behaviour and relationships.

**It's good to Come Out:
The Definition of "Out" Status and its Implication for Well-Being
SYMPOSIUM: Tackling Common Myths about Sexuality using Empirical Research**

Presenter: Christopher Zou, M.A.

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Background: Researchers have often neglected to examine sexual minority individuals who consider themselves to be "closeted," largely due to their lack of participation in research stemming from concerns about being outed. Thus, much of what researchers and the public know about closeted individuals is based on anecdotal evidence and is rarely based on empirical research. Often times this may lead to incorrect assumptions about closeted individuals. The present study examines two common assumptions about closeted individuals: 1) that closeted individuals do not disclose their sexual orientation to anyone, and 2) that closeted individuals are less happy than individuals who are out.

Research Questions: The study examines the difference in prevalence rates of disclosure of sexual orientation between closeted and out individuals. Additionally, the study also examined whether there are any differences in their well-being.

Method: 154 heterosexual participants provided an estimate of the prevalence rates of disclosure and the well-being of out and closeted LGB individuals. 131 LGB individuals who self-identified as being "out" provided their own prevalence rates of disclosure and their current well-being, in addition to their level of well-being before they came out. 66 LGB individuals who self-identified as being "closeted" provided their own prevalence rates of disclosure, along with their current well-being, and their estimate of their level of well-being if they were to come out.

Results: Heterosexual participant's estimates of prevalence rates of disclosure among closeted and out LGB individuals were significantly different from the actual prevalence rates. For instance, 87% of heterosexuals believed that a person who was "out" would disclose their sexual orientation to all their family members, when in reality, only 54% of out individuals disclosed their sexual orientation to all their family members. Additionally, heterosexuals believed that people who were out of the closet are significantly happier than those who are in the closet, but the present data suggests that LGB individuals in the closet have a similar level of well-being as those who are out.

Conclusion: In conclusion, there is a mismatch in the definition of what it means to be "out" between heterosexual and LGB groups. Furthermore, heterosexuals hold the assumption that coming out is good for well-being, but we found no support for this assumption.

Implications: This study highlights the importance of studying this invisible sexual minority group, which still make up a large portion of the LGB community.

Gender Dysphoria in Children and Adolescents: The Long and Winding Road (1976-2014)

Presenter: Kenneth J. Zucker, Ph.D., C.Psych.

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In this talk, I will attempt to reflect on what is now an almost 40-year focus on children and adolescents who are seen clinically because of what the DSM-5 now terms a “marked incongruence” between one’s felt gender and assigned birth sex. Over this time period, I have combined clinical work with a variety of research questions in the tradition of the scientist-practitioner. My research has spanned a variety of topics, including epidemiology, diagnosis and assessment, associated psychopathology, the study of causal mechanisms, and natural history (long-term follow-up). I have also been an active participant in the discourse on therapeutic best practice. I also served on the DSM-III-R, DSM-IV, DSM-IV-TR subcommittees pertaining to gender identity disorder and, for DSM-5, was the Chair of the Work Group on Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders. My talk will cover some of the putative key research findings that have emerged over this time period. I will also discuss the complex interplay between clinical work, research work, social change, and the politics that have surrounded this client population almost 40 years on.