

## Undergraduate Students' Beliefs, Practices and Values on Sexual Consent: A Scoping Review

Matthew Numer, Nicole Doria, Jad Sinno, Phillip Joy, Nicole McNichols and Rebecca Spencer

School of Health and Human Performance, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada

**Introduction:** Sexual attitudes, values, beliefs, and practices are important factors that influence sexually transmitted infections, abuse and assault prevention, mental and emotional health, and relationship outcomes. The literature regarding undergraduate (UG) university students' attitudes, opinions, and beliefs regarding sex, gender and sexuality is diverse, encompassing a wide variety of research topics. Most studies, however, only examine one particular aspect of human sexuality and data within Canada is scarce. The purpose of this research is to provide a comprehensive overview across multiple topics specifically exploring human sexuality issues of UG students in Canada and the US. This paper focuses on a pilot project, which investigates the topics of sexual orientation and sexual consent.

**Methods:** A mixed methods approach is used in this study due to its ability to more thoroughly address complex issues; using quantitative methods to broadly summarize attitudes and opinions, and qualitative methods to gain a deeper understanding of the beliefs, values and practices of UG students. The quantitative data will be collected through validated scales related

to sexual orientation and sexual consent, and the qualitative data will be collected through open-ended discussion questions related to sexual orientation and sexual consent. The study will collect this data from Dalhousie University and the University of Washington between January and April 2019.

**Results:** The findings of this research will be available in April 2019.

**Discussion:** There is a clear gap in the literature and our general knowledge base about human sexual behaviours. Canada, in particular, is one of the few post-industrial countries that does not have a large-scale survey of sexual behaviour. We believe that we can contribute to this gap, and, in doing so, enrich public discourse. The findings from this research can be used to better inform research, policy, and public knowledge surrounding gender and sexuality in North America.

**Keywords:** Sexual orientation, Sexual consent, Undergraduate students

**Source of Funding:** SSHRC

**Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Statement:** None

## Disentangling Female Orgasm with Braids: The Interplay Among Determinants

Fabiana Paradinha<sup>a</sup> and Cátia Oliveira<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal; <sup>b</sup>Universidade Lusófona do Porto, Porto, Portugal & FPCEUP, Porto, Portugal & Cuf Porto Hospital, Porto, Portugal

**Introduction:** An orgasm in women is a multidetermined and complex psychophysiological process, that results in a full body experience (Sayin, 2012). Due to its complexity and singularity, female orgasm has been broken down to more simple variables and studied under different perspectives. In result, the interactions and mechanisms building up to orgasm tend to be underestimated and are not fully understood nor properly integrated.

**Method:** Aiming to contribute to a more broad and thorough comprehension of female orgasm, we performed an argumentative literature review of some variables that have been linked to sexual functioning. Based on the gathered data and enforcing a multidisciplinary approach, we hypothesized possible connections and influences among cognitive, psychological and physiological variables, as determinants of orgasm in women

**Results:** The result is a prototypical model for the female sexual response, that offers a schematic

representation of the interplay and modulation among psychological, physiological and cognitive variables. It is a circular and open model, that can easily be updated, and that does not conflict with similar models. Further, it is suited to be used for research and in clinical assessments, since it accounts for the singularity of each one's experience and can accommodate both functional and dysfunctional experiences

**Conclusion:** This work highlights the existent interplay among psychological, physiological and cognitive

determinants. However, the nature and extent of these interactions are still unclear and in need of more empirical evidence. Hopefully, this integrative work will allow for a more consistent, systematized and transversal research regarding female sexual response and orgasm.

**Keywords:** Orgasm in women, Multidisciplinary

**Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Statement:** None

## Socio-Demographic Factors, Marital Characteristics and HIV Prevention Knowledge as Predictors of Condom Use Negotiation Self-Efficacy Among Mozambican Women at Sexual Risk

Ana Luísa Patrão<sup>a</sup>, Teresa McIntyre<sup>b</sup> and Conceição Nogueira<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Institute of Collective Health, Federal University of Bahia, Brazil; <sup>b</sup>School of Social Work, University of Texas at Arlington, USA;

<sup>c</sup>Center of Psychology, University of Porto, Portugal

**Introduction & Objectives:** Negotiation self-efficacy is one of the main predictors of effective use of a condom. Therefore, it is essential to identify the factors that influence condom use negotiation self-efficacy in vulnerable women. The aim of this paper is to examine whether socio-demographic and marital factors, and HIV prevention knowledge are associated with condom use negotiation self-efficacy among Mozambican women at sexual risk.

**Method(s) & Sample:** 173 women, patients at a Mozambican public Hospital and at risk for HIV infection, completed measures of sociodemographic and marital characteristics, HIV prevention knowledge, and condom use negotiation self-efficacy. Measures included the Mozambican version of the "Women's Health Study Questionnaire", and its psychometric characteristics were evaluated in this sample.

**Results:** The results of the hierarchical regression analyses showed that demographic variables (age and education) explained 20% of the variance ( $\Delta F(2, 170) = 20.92, p < .001$ ) in condom use negotiation self-efficacy, and the marital variables, "marital status" and "talking about AIDS with partner", explained 30% of the variance in the outcome ( $\Delta F(2, 168) = 50.06, p < .001$ ). Women who were younger, had a higher level

of education, were single or not living with partner, and talked more about HIV/AIDS with their partners, had higher levels of condom use negotiation self-efficacy. In the final model (with HIV knowledge), education was no longer a significant predictor, probably due to its overlap with knowledge. Lower levels of HIV prevention knowledge were associated with lower levels of condom use negotiation self-efficacy. HIV prevention knowledge explained 13% of additional variance in the outcome. The final model explained 50% of the variance in condom use negotiation self-efficacy. ( $\Delta F(1, 167) = 4.53, p = .035$ ).

**Conclusion & recommendations:** These results support an exploratory predictive model of condom use negotiation self-efficacy that can inform interventions directed at behavioral change among Mozambican women at sexual risk.

**Keywords:** HIV/AIDS prevention, condom use negotiation self-efficacy predictors, Mozambican Women at sexual risk

**Source of Funding:** This work was supported by a grant (SFRH/BD/37909/2007) from the Portuguese Foundation of Science and Technology.

**Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Statement:** None