

Orchestrated Destruction:

PORNOGRAPHY AS A SCRIPT FOR
DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE



Image: Francisco Goya, c. 1820, *Saturn Devouring His Children*.

A Tribute:

- ❖ Special thanks is due to Andrea Dworkin, Dr. Mary Anne Layden, and Dr. Laura Lederer. Their work has contributed greatly to this presentation.



Andrea Dworkin



Dr. Donna M.
Hughes



Dr. Mary Anne
Layden



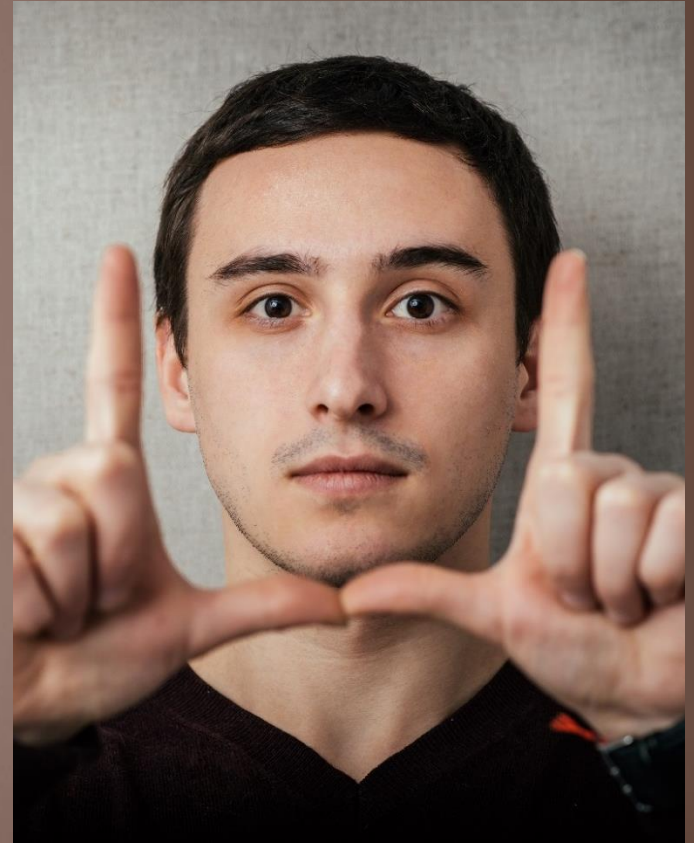
Dr. Laura Lederer



TRIGGER WARNING!

Framing the Discussion

- ❖ Pornography: Men possessing women in a historical context
- ❖ Not all men consume pornography/not male bashing
- ❖ Not all men who consume pornography become batterers or rapists
- ❖ Women are pornography users too
- ❖ Discussion of the problem/not the solutions



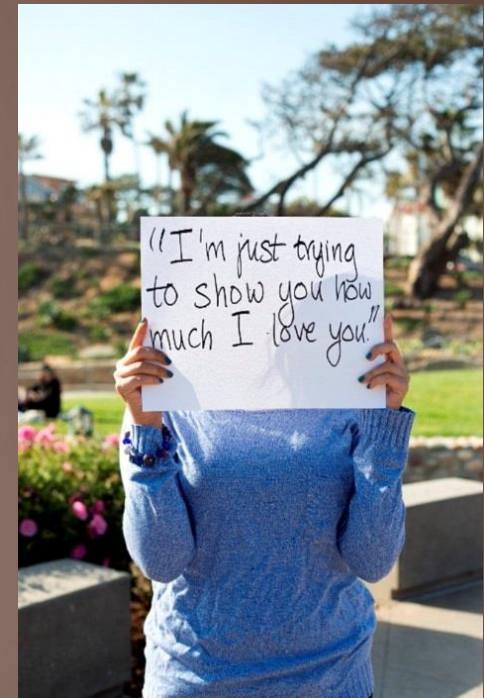
Sexual Assault

Sexual contact or behavior that occurs without explicit consent of the victim. Some forms of sexual include:

- ❖ Penetration of the victim's body, also known as rape
- ❖ Attempted rape
- ❖ Forcing a victim to perform sexual acts, such as oral sex or penetrating the perpetrator's body
- ❖ Fondling or unwanted sexual touching

Rape

The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.



Metaferia, H. (2014). "Breaking Out 2014." Photography by Hayford, Dunn & Adoley. Available at <http://sites.duke.edu/develledish/2014/04/24/breaking-out-2014/>

Perpetrator's relationship to a victim:

- ❖ Acquaintance
- ❖ Friend
- ❖ Dating
- ❖ **Intimate partner**
- ❖ **Spouse**

Marital Rape: rape committed by the person to whom the victim is married

Rape Myths

A set of attitudes justifying sexual violence.

- ❖ Violence against women is not the psychopathological behavior of a small number of sick men but a sociocultural phenomenon in which persons may rely on a series of culturally available attitudes to justify and support their violent behavior.
- ❖ These attitudes may also serve to “deny or reduce perceived injury or to blame the victims for their own victimization” (Burt, 1980, p. 217).

Monto, M. & Hotaling, N. (March 2001). Predictors of rape myth acceptance among male clients of female street prostitutes. *Violence Against Women*, 7(3), 275-293.

Rape Myths



- ❖ A man can't rape his wife.
- ❖ Only "bad" women get raped.
- ❖ Rape is a crime of passion.
- ❖ If a guy spends a lot of money on a date, the girl "owes" him something in return.
- ❖ Women secretly enjoy being raped.
- ❖ If a person doesn't fight back she/he was not really raped.
- ❖ Men can not be raped.
- ❖ When a woman says "no," she really means "yes."

Outline


- ❖ Pornography: Orchestrated Destruction
 - ❖ Pornography as Propaganda
 - ❖ Pornography as Teacher
- ❖ Exposure & Content
- ❖ Links to Domestic and Sexual Violence
- ❖ Closing Thoughts

Pornography

ORCHESTRATED DESTRUCTION



Caption: "Other than that they didn't touch anything," *Playboy*. (1959).



“Pornography is the orchestrated destruction of women’s bodies and souls; rape, battery, incest, and prostitution animate it; dehumanization and sadism characterize it; it is war on women, serial assaults on dignity, identity, and human worth; it is tyranny.”

~ANDREA DWORKIN

Dworkin, A. (1989). *Pornography: Men Possessing Women*, Plume, NY, New York.

“Pornography is the theory,
and rape is the practice.”

~ROBIN MORGAN



Morgan, R. (1980). Theory and practice: Pornography and rape. In Laura Lederer (Ed), *Take Back the Night: Women on Pornography*. William Morrow and Company, Inc. New York, New York.

Pornography = Propaganda

- ❖ A systematic attempt by an interested individual or group of individuals to control attitudes through the use of suggestion and consequently to control their actions
- ❖ Encourages fear of and anger towards groups that are different from the dominant group
- ❖ Discourages ideals of equality and mutual respect



La Belle, B. (1980). The propaganda of misogyny. In Laura Lederer (Ed.), *Take Back the Night: Women on Pornography*, William Morrow and Company, Inc. New York, New York.

Techniques of “Persuasion”

- ❖ Use of stereotypes
- ❖ Name substitution
- ❖ Selection
- ❖ Lying
- ❖ Repetition
- ❖ Assertion
- ❖ Pinpointing the enemy
- ❖ Appeal to authority



Pornography as Rehearsal

Sexual fantasy is “rehearsal for relationships”
... If you image others as mere instruments of your gratification, you are literally “rehearsing” exploitative patterns of behavior towards others. The more you picture yourself either using others, or being used, the more such encounters will feel familiar and “normal.”

Ferder, F. & Heagle, J. (2002). *Tender Fires: The Spiritual Promise of Sexuality*. Crossroads Publishing Company.

Cognitive Scripts Theory (CST)

Media provide a heuristic model outlining:

- 1) What should or should not be happening;
- 2) How people should or should not behave in response to what is or is not happening; and
- 3) What the outcomes of a particular course of action should be.

Sun, C., Bridges, A., Johnason, J., & Ezzell, M. (2014). Pornography and the male sexual script: An analysis of consumption and sexual relations. *Archives of Sexual Behavior, 45*(4): 983-994.

Cognitive Scripts Theory (CST)

- ❖ Pornography users – use pornography scripts to navigate real-world sexual experiences
- ❖ Pornography is not simply fantasy, but an easily accessible template for actual sexual behavior.

Sun, C., Bridges, A., Johnason, J., & Ezzell, M. (2014). Pornography and the male sexual script: An analysis of consumption and sexual relations. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 45(4): 983-994.

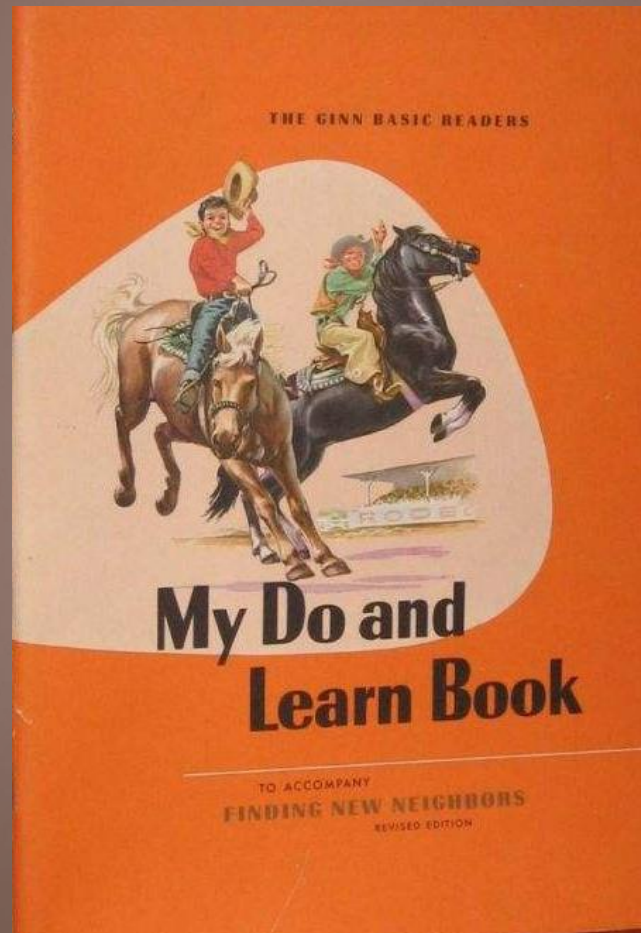


The results showed that the more pornography a man watches:

- ❖ the more likely he was to use it during sex;
- ❖ request particular pornographic sex acts of his partner;
- ❖ deliberately conjure images of pornography during sex to maintain arousal; and
- ❖ was negatively associated with enjoying sexually intimate behaviors with a partner.

Sun, C., Bridges, A., Johnason, J., & Ezzell, M. (2014). Pornography and the male sexual script: An analysis of consumption and sexual relations. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 45(4): 983-994.

Pornography is the training manual by which future batterers and perpetrators of sexual violence are groomed.



Teaching Dehumanization



Misperceiving of others as:

- subhuman
- bad human
- nonhuman—as though they were inanimate items or “dispensable supplies.”

“As such, their maltreatment or even their destruction may be carried out or acquiesced in with relative freedom from the restraints of conscience or feelings of brotherhood.”

Bernard, V., Ottenberg, P, & Redl, F. (1971). Dehumanization. In W. Henry & N. Sanford, (Eds.), *Sanctions for Evil : Sources of Social Destructiveness* (pp.102-124). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass Inc., Publishers.

Pornography

EXPOSURE & CONTENT



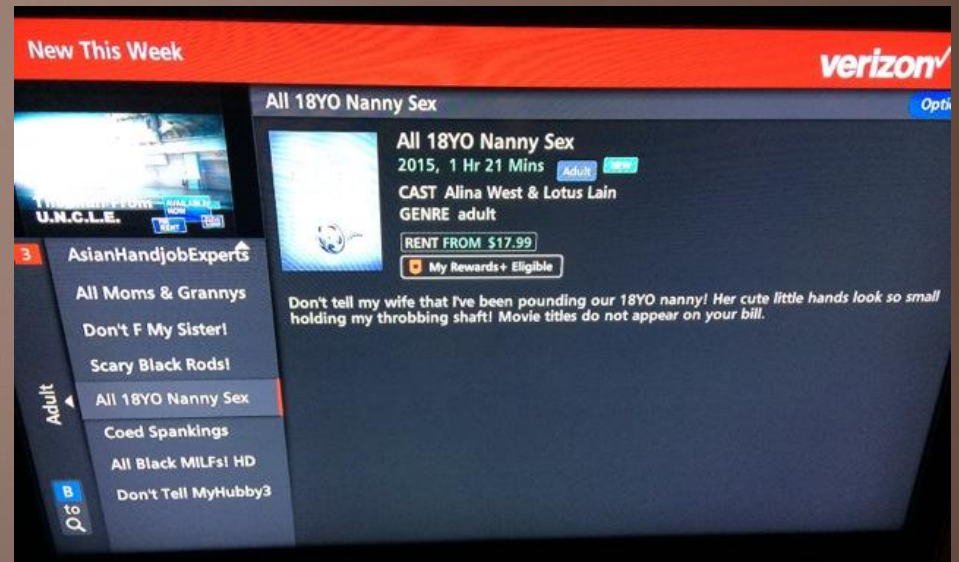
Cartoon from *Hustler* as cited in Russell, D. (1993). *Against Pornography*.

Porn Consumption 2015

- ❖ People watched **4,392,486,580 hours** of porn on **** in 2015. That is **501,425 years** of watching pornography on one porn site in 2015.
- ❖ On this site, people watched 87,849,731,608 porn videos. That's **12 porn videos viewed for every single person on the planet.**
- ❖ “Teen” is #1 search term among men.
- ❖ Top gaining searches for the 18-24 age range include: f*** me daddy, black teen, step dad and daughter, and extreme gang bang.

Barna Group Survey

- ❖ Teens and young adults consider not recycling more immoral than viewing pornography.



“College men’s exposure to pornography is nearly universal, with growing viewing rates nationwide.”



Sigma Nu, Old Dominion University, 2015.

Foubert, J., Brosi, M., & Bannon, S. (2011). Pornography viewing among fraternity men: Effects on bystander intervention, rape myth acceptance & behavioral intent to commit sexual assault. *Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity*, 18: 212-231.

Millennials and Pornography

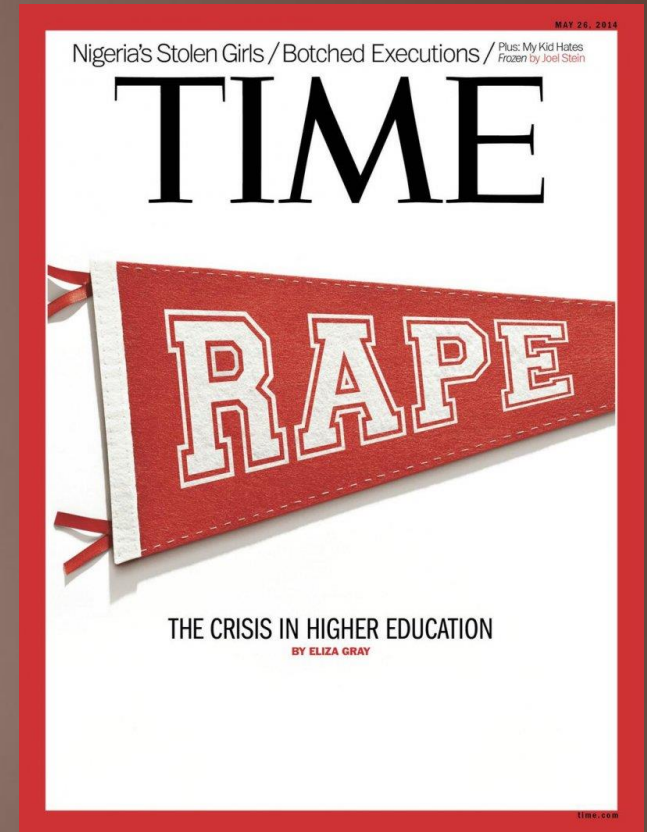


More than one quarter (27%) of young adults ages 25-30 first viewed pornography before puberty.

This is significantly higher than the Gen X cohort, of which only 13% started viewing porn before puberty, and the Boomers (6%). And while the research does not prove causation, the increases may be related to digital exposure.

Fraternity Men

- ❖ 83% of participants [N=489] viewing mainstream pornography
- ❖ 27% sadomasochistic pornography
- ❖ 19% of participants had viewed rape pornography




Foubert, J., Brosi, M., & Bannon, S. (2011). Pornography viewing among fraternity men: Effects on bystander intervention, rape myth acceptance & behavioral intent to commit sexual assault. *Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity*, 18: 212-231.

Content Analysis

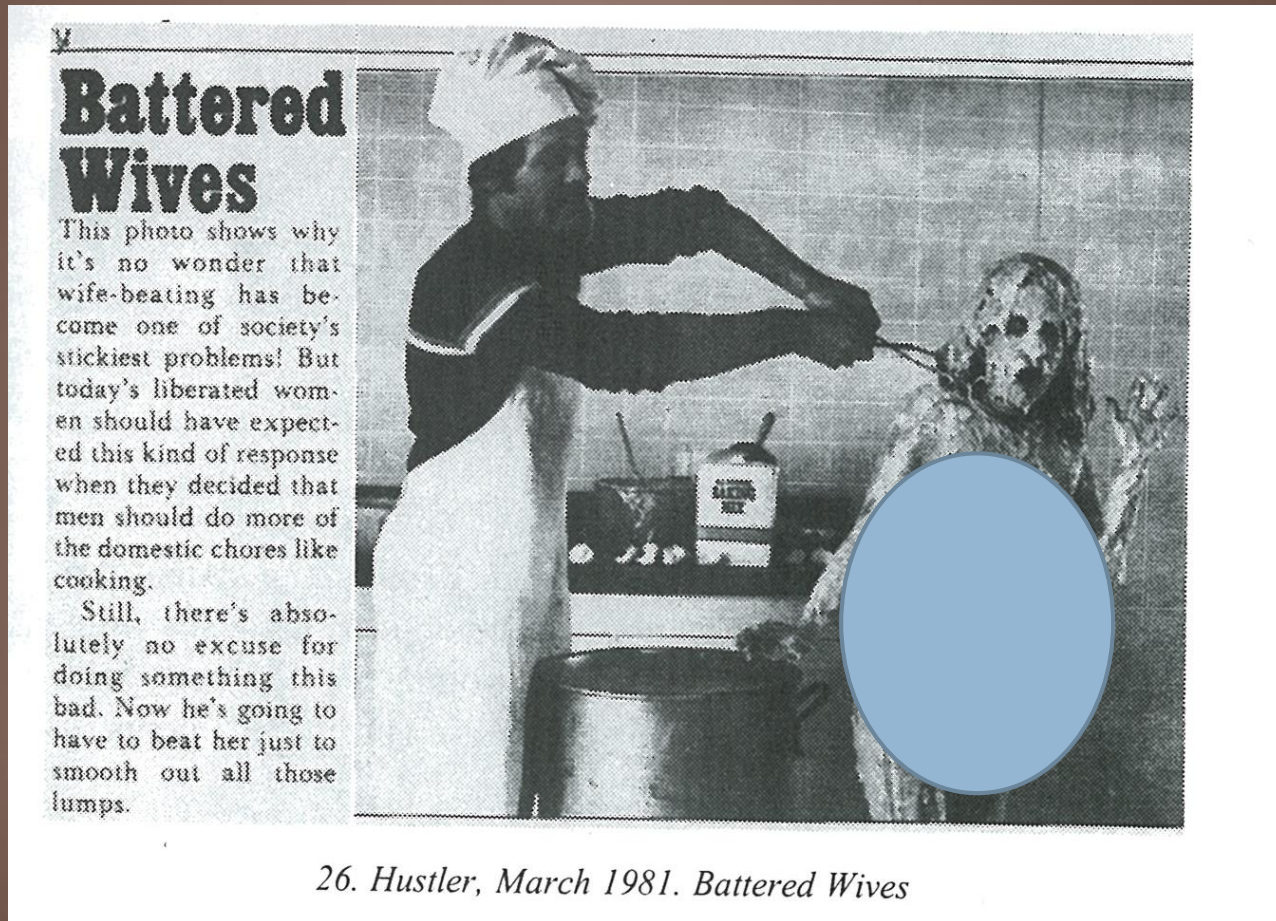
- ❖ 50 best-selling adult films/ a total of 3,376 verbal and/or physically aggressive acts were observed
- ❖ Avg. 11.52 acts per scene of either verbal or physical aggression, ranging from none to 128.
- ❖ 48% of the 304 scenes analyzed contained verbal aggression
- ❖ 88% showed physical aggression
- ❖ 72% Seventy-two percent of aggressive acts were perpetrated by men

Bridges, A., Wosnitzer, R., Scharrer, E., Sun, C., & Liberman, R. (2010). Aggression and sexual behavior in best-selling pornography: A content analysis update. *Violence Against Women, 16*(10), 1065-85.

- 
- ❖ 94% of aggressive acts were committed against women
 - ❖ The most common responses victims expressed when aggressed were pleasure or neutrality
 - ❖ Fewer than 5% of the aggressive acts provoked a negative response from the female victims, including flinching and requests to stop the action

Bridges, A., Wosnitzer, R., Scharrer, E., Sun, C., & Liberman, R. (2010). Aggression and sexual behavior in best-selling pornography: A content analysis update. *Violence Against Women, 16*(10), 1065-85.

Hustler: Normalization of Domestic Violence





Pornography

LINKS TO DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexual Abuse Among Battered Women

A study of 271 battered women

- ❖ 62% were married
- ❖ 30% of abusers reportedly used pornography
- ❖ Of the women whose abusers used pornography, 58% acknowledged that the pornography affected their abuse
- ❖ For battered women whose abusers use pornography the odds of being sexually abused are increased by a factor of 1.9.

Shope, J. H. (2004). When words are not enough: The search for the effect of pornography on abused women. *Violence Against Women, 10*(1), 56–72.

Controlling Behaviors

A study of 2,135 women seeking refuge at metropolitan DV shelter

- ❖ Use of the sex industry (USI): pornography & strip clubs
- ❖ Checklist of Controlling Behaviors (84-item survey)
- ❖ Five types of abuse: physical, emotional, sexual, stalking, and marital rape

Statistically significant relationships were found between USI and sexual violence, stalking and marital rape, as greater use of controlling behaviors.

Simmons, C., Lehmann, P., & Collier-Tenison, S. (2008). Linking male use of the sex industry to controlling behaviors in violent relationships: An exploratory analysis. *Violence Against Women, 14*(4), 406-417.

Controlling Behaviors Subscale

- ❖ Physical Abuse
- ❖ Sexual Abuse
- ❖ Male Privilege
- ❖ Isolation
- ❖ Minimizing and denying
- ❖ Blaming
- ❖ Intimidation
- ❖ Threats
- ❖ Emotion abuse
- ❖ Economic abuse

Simmons, C., Lehmann, P., & Collier-Tenison, S. (2008). Linking male use of the sex industry to controlling behaviors in violent relationships: An exploratory analysis. *Violence Against Women, 14*(4), 406-417.

Reenact Pornography



- ❖ In a study of battered and non-battered women, 39% of battered women compared to 3% of nonbattered women were upset by requests to enact pornography.

Sommers, E., & Check, J. (1987). An empirical investigation of the role of pornography in the verbal and physical abuse of women. *Violence Against Women, 2*, 189-209.

Marital Rape

Study of 40 survivors of wife rape:

- ❖ Pornography used by 1/3 of the partners;
- ❖ Commonly women were forced to watch pornography and enact what they had seen
- ❖ Pornography use was clearly associated with the most sadistic rapists

Likelihood to Rape

Malamuth's Attraction to Sexual Aggression Scale

- ❖ “If you could be assured of not being caught or punished, how likely would you be to rape?”
- ❖ “If you could be assured of not being caught or punished, how likely would you be to force a female to do something sexual that she did not want to do?”

Foubert, J., Brosi, M., & Bannon, S. (2011). Pornography viewing among fraternity men: Effects on bystander intervention, rape myth acceptance & behavioral intent to commit sexual assault. *Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity*, 18: 212-231.

Mainstream Pornography:

- greater intent to commit rape

SM Pornography:

- significantly less bystander efficacy
- greater belief in rape myths
- greater intent to commit rape

Rape Pornography: (“serious effects”)

- less bystander willingness to intervene
- greater belief in rape myths
- greater intent to rape

Foubert, J., Brosi, M., & Bannon, S. (2011). Pornography viewing among fraternity men: Effects on bystander intervention, rape myth acceptance & behavioral intent to commit sexual assault. *Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity*, 18: 212-231.


A study of 804 Italian males and females aged 14 to 19 found pornography use and sexual violence were significantly correlated.

Females who watched pornographic videos were at significantly greater likelihood of being a victim of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

Males who viewed pornography were significantly more likely to report having sexually harassed a peer or forcing someone to have sex.




Bonino, S., Ciairano, S., Rabaglietti, E., & Cattelino, E. (2006). Use of pornography and self-reported engagement in sexual violence among adolescents. *European Journal of Developmental Psychology, 3*(3), 265-288.



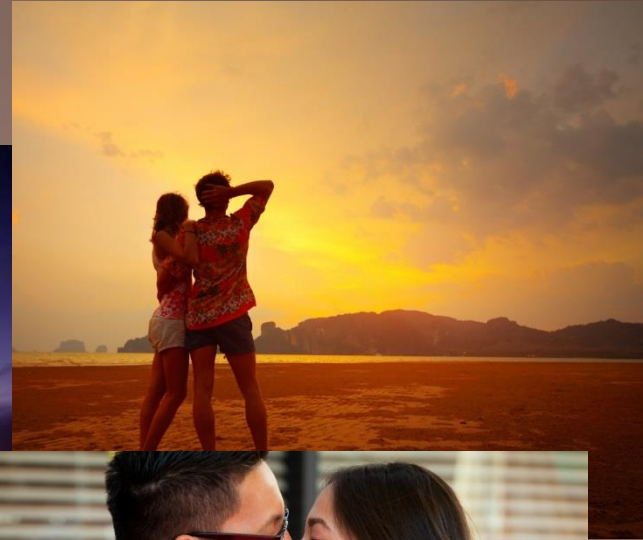
A rigorous meta-analysis of 46 studies provides clear evidence confirming that pornography exposure is one important factor contributing directly to the development of sexually dysfunctional attitudes and behaviors. These include:

- 1) developing sexually deviant tendencies,
- 2) committing sexual offenses,
- 3) experiencing difficulties in intimate relationships, and
- 4) accepting rape myths.

Paolucci-Oddone, E., Genuis, M., & Violato, C. (2000) A meta-analysis of the published research on the effects of pornography. In C. Violato, E. Paolucci-Oddone, & M. Genius (Eds). *The Changing Family and Child Development* (pp. 48-59). Aldershot, England: Ashgate Publishing.

- 
- ❖ A meta-analysis assessing 22 different studies from seven different countries around the world, found that consumption of pornography was associated significantly with both verbal and physical aggression, among males and females.

Wright, P., Tokunaga, R. & Kraus, A. (2015). "A meta-analysis of pornography consumption and actual acts of sexual aggression in general population studies." *Journal of Communication*.



Closing Thoughts

Sex and Culture



“The human race—its existence, its balance—is literally determined by who is having sex with whom, and, in what manner. When sexual union is oriented towards love and life, it builds families and, in turn, cultures that live the truth of love and life. When it is oriented against love and life, the sexual act breeds death—what John Paul II grimly, yet accurately, describes as a ‘culture of death.’ A ‘culture of death’ that, failing to recognize the infinite worth of every human person, chooses death as a ‘solution’ to its problems.”

~ Christopher West


West, C. (2004). *Theology of the Body for Beginners. A Basic Introduction to Pope John II's Sexual Revolution*, p. 14.

Understand Freedom



“Negative freedom, as Berlin defines it, is freedom *from*—in essence, freedom from interference and constraint. Positive freedom is freedom *for*—in essence, freedom for excellence...”

~ Os Guinness (2012). *A Free People's Suicide: Sustainable Freedom and the American Future*.



“...until we untangle the lethal confusion of sex with violence, there will be more pornography . . . There will be little murders in our beds—and very little love.”

~GLORIA STEINEM

Steinem, G. (1980). Erotica and pornography: A clear and present difference. In Laura Lederer (Ed.), *Take Back the Night: Women on Pornography*, William Morrow and Company, Inc., New York, New York.

Lisa L. Thompson

Vice President & Director of Education and Outreach

National Center on Sexual Exploitation

1100 G Street, NW, Suite 1030

Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 202.393.7245

Web: www.endsexualexploitation.org



NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION