

A Study of Women's Experience of Sex (#34511)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

It's complicated. We have already collected some data but explain in Question 8 why readers may consider this a valid pre-registration nevertheless.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

a. We hypothesize that negative genital self-image will be associated with decreased sexual pleasure, and that this association will be mediated by distraction during sex (i.e., negative self-perceptions during sex, etc.). More specifically, negative genital self-image will predict more distraction during sex, and in turn, less sexual pleasure.

b. For the mediation model above, we hypothesize that the a paths (i.e., the positive association between negative genital self-image and distraction) will be moderated by social interaction anxiety. That is, negative genital self-image will be associated with greater distraction, especially for people who are higher in social interaction anxiety. This mediated path will be less strong or nonexistent for people who have less anxiety surrounding social interactions with other people.

c. For the mediation model above, we hypothesize that the a paths (i.e., the positive association between negative genital self-image and distraction) will be moderated by social phobia. That is, negative genital self-image will be associated with greater distraction, especially for people who are higher in social phobia. This mediated path will be less strong or nonexistent for people who are less socially phobic.

d. For the mediation model above, we hypothesize that the a paths (i.e., the positive association between negative genital self-image and distraction) will be moderated by anxiousness (i.e., distinct from social interaction anxiety). That is, negative genital self-image will be associated with greater distraction, especially for people who are more anxious. This mediated path will be less strong or nonexistent for people who are less anxious.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

Outcome variable:

- Pleasure will be assessed with six items written for this study. Using exploratory factor analysis, items loading greater than 0.40 onto the factor that accounts for the greatest variance will be retained.

Mediator variables:

- Appearance-based distraction (measured with five modified items from Dove & Wiederman's Cognitive Distraction Scale; Dove & Wiederman, 2000, Lacefield et al., 2012)
- Performance-based distraction (measured with seven modified items from Dove & Wiederman's Cognitive Distraction Scale; Dove & Wiederman, 2000)
- Sexual embarrassment subscale (six items) of the Sexual Self-Consciousness Scale (van Lankveld, Geijen, & Sykora, 2008)
- The distraction items will be entered into an exploratory factor analysis with an oblique rotation. We expect a four factor solution that identifies the constructs of appearance concerns, performance concerns, and embarrassment. Items loading greater than 0.40 onto those four factors will be retained.

Moderators of the a path:

1. Social Interaction Anxiety (SIAS-6; Peters et al., 2012)
2. Social Phobia (SPS-6; Peters et al., 2012)
3. Anxiousness (Anxiousness subscale of PID-5; Kreuger et al., 2012)

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

The study design is not experimental in nature, so there will be no conditions.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

First, we will conduct three separate mediation analyses using Model 4 found in the SPSS macro PROCESS (Hayes, 2017):

X variable: Female Genital Self-Image

Mediator variables:

1. Appearance-based distraction
2. Performance-based distraction
3. Sexual Embarrassment

Y variable:

1. Sexual Pleasure

Next, we will conduct nine separate moderated-mediation analyses (moderation of the a path: genital self-image \rightarrow distraction) using Model 7 found in the SPSS macro PROCESS (Hayes, 2017), testing each of the moderators listed above in separate runs of the model.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

Inclusion Criteria: Individuals will be required to be at least 18 years old, a woman, and sexually active with a partner within the previous four weeks.

All exclusions will be made prior to hypothesis testing.

Participants will be excluded if they:

- Failed two out of the three attention checks (i.e., embedded questions in the survey, e.g., This is an attention check, please select "a lot")
- Provided bogus responses to any questions (e.g., What is your gender? "Giraffe," "Attack helicopter," etc.)
- Completed survey in less than six minutes
- Do not identify gender as "woman"
- Are younger than 18 years old
- Have not had sex with someone in the previous four weeks
- Do not report that their genitals were stimulated by their partner (i.e., penetrative sex, oral sex, etc.) during most recent sex
- Reported, at end of survey, that they entered bogus responses, rather than answering to the best of their ability.

Outliers: Previous research has shown that bootstrapping in the SPSS macro PROCESS (Hayes, 2017), makes no assumptions about normality and can be used in the event that there are outliers (Preacher & Hayes, 2004; Preacher, Rucker, & Hayes, 2007). Therefore, outliers will not be transformed.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

At least 275 subjects are required to achieve minimum of 80% power to detect the mediated and moderated-mediated effects. However, we are aiming to recruit a higher number of participants to accommodate incomplete responses, participants who did not follow instructions, and to allow for the possibility that effect sizes will be smaller than anticipated. Recruitment will be terminated on January 26, 2020, prior to testing hypotheses.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

Data collection began prior to pre-registering. At the time of preregistration, we have not conducted any hypothesis tests. Data collection was terminated after we returned from winter break (Jan. 2020), immediately after submitting this preregistration, knowing that our sample size far exceeded the minimum required by our power analysis, and we had the time to begin analyses.