



The Relationship Between Masculinity and Sexual Motives

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BACKGROUND and SIGNIFICANCE

Smiler (2007) found that male participants had various reasons for engaging in sexual intercourse including conformity (i.e., "to fit in with my friends"), unintentional (i.e., "I was ready"), and relationships (i.e., "my partner wanted to"). Sanchez and colleagues (2019) suggested that there might be an association between masculine ideologies and sexual motives.

The current study investigated the relationship between masculinity and sexual motives in a sample of MTurkers, who were more economically, sexually, and ethnically diverse than Smiler's sample (2007). We proposed three hypotheses for the current study:

H1: Emotional control would be negatively correlated with self-affirmation sexual motive for men

H2: Heterosexual self-presentation would be positively correlated with peer approval sexual motive in both genders

H3: Risk-taking would be positively correlated with enhancement sexual motive in both genders

METHOD

PARTICIPANTS:

312 MTurkers participated in this study. There was an approximately even distribution of males and females. There were not enough participants who were sexual minorities to analyze them separately. All participants were at least 21 years old or older. Participants were paid six dollars.

MATERIALS:

Sexual motives were assessed by the Sexual Motives Scale (Cooper et al., 1998). Masculinity was assessed by the Conformity to Masculine Norms Inventory-46 (CMNI-46) (Parent & Moradi, 2009).

The Sexual Motive Scale. There are 29 questions that examine 6 sexual motives: intimacy, enhancement, self-affirmation, coping, peer approval, and partner approval. The internal reliability (Cronbach's alphas) for the six subscales ranged from .84 to .90 (Cooper et al., 1998). Cooper et al. also showed the measure had discriminant and convergent validity. *Conformity to Masculine Norms Inventory-46* has 46 questions and nine subscales: emotional control (i.e., the tendency to suppress and restrict internal emotions), winning (i.e., the desire to win), playboy (i.e., the desire to engage in various sexually non-committed relationships), violence (i.e., the tendency to act violently), self-reliance (i.e., the desire to self-solve problems), risk-taking (i.e., the tendency to engage in risky behaviors), power over women (e.g. men should be in charge), primacy of work (i.e., the perception that work is the focal point of life), and heterosexual self-presentation (i.e., the effort one makes in order to be perceived as heterosexual). The internal reliability (Cronbach's alphas) of the nine subscales ranged from .77 to .92 (Parent & Moradi, 2009). We tested a confirmatory factor analysis to examine the structural validity of the CMNI-46 for our sample and found that the data were consistent with a 9-factor solution. We removed one item from the *Power over Women* subscale.

PROCEDURE:

Participants completed the survey through Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk) and were offered six dollars as compensation.

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Masculinity	Women (N = 136)	Men (N = 172)	Non-binary (N = 2)	F
Emotional control (α = .83)	13.98	15.16	16.00	3.52*
Primacy of work (α = .79)	9.03	10.23	5.50	9.20**
Violence (α = .87)	12.64	15.23	12.50	16.19**
Playboy (α = .77)	7.56	9.20	10.00	13.73**
Winning (α = .87)	12.79	15.27	10.00	18.34**
Self-reliance (α = .83)	12.96	12.56	13.50	.64
Risk taking (α = .88)	9.70	11.22	11.50	7.77**
Power over women (α = .85)	8.09	9.17	7.00	8.80**
Heterosexual presentation (α = .92)	11.07	13.79	7.50	13.95**
Sexual Motives				
Coping (α = .88)	8.84	9.42	12.00	1.36
Self-affirmation (α = .89)	9.21	9.76	14.50	1.57
Intimacy (α = .90)	19.11	17.63	12.50	4.94**
Peer approval (α = .90)	6.29	6.73	8.50	1.05
Enhancement (α = .84)	16.11	16.99	13.00	2.13
Partner approval (α = .87)	6.15	5.82	13.00	5.55**

*p < .05, **p < .01

RESULTS

Correlational Matrix

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1. Emotional control	--	-.07	.07	-.05	-.11	.52**	-.20*	.04	.22*	-.08	-.07	-.24**	.07	-.19*	.17
2. Primacy of work	-.13	--	-.03	.09	.33**	.04	.21*	.20*	.02	.32**	.33**	.02	.18*	.01	.08
3. Violence	.32**	.02	--	.19*	.13	.07	.16	.07	.09	.01	.09	-.01	.07	-.07	-.02
4. Playboy	.11	-.01	.19*	--	.22**	-.01	.36**	.14	-.08	.34**	.30**	-.08	.26**	.14	.17
5. Winning	-.04	.30**	.24**	.26**	--	.12	.37**	.11	.12	.31**	.40**	-.04	.26**	.00	.19*
6. Self-reliance	.52**	-.06	.33**	.01	.11	--	-.18*	.08	.09	-.04	-.02	-.26**	.11	-.27**	.29**
7. Risk-taking	.00	.24*	.22**	.27**	.50**	-.02	--	.25**	.03	.22*	.31**	.04	.27**	.18*	.05
8. Power over women	-.08	.31**	.21**	.24**	.40**	.07	.39**	--	.47**	.37**	.43**	.02	.38**	.09	.22**
9. Heterosexual self-presentation	.04	.22**	.12	.08	.40**	.03	.22**	.45**	--	.07	.19*	-.09	.32**	-.16	.24**
10. Coping	-.12	.32**	-.13	.18*	.12**	.11	.16*	.21**	.24**	--	.72**	.00	.59**	.22**	.40**
11. Self-affirmation	-.20**	.17*	-.13	.17*	.13	.03	.24**	.31**	.24**	.80**	--	.03	.51**	.18*	.50**
12. Intimacy	-.08	-.07	.09	-.12	-.02	-.06	.00	-.08	-.11	.08	.12	--	-.20*	.35**	.24**
13. Peer-approval	-.14	.19*	-.06	.16*	.08	.03	.24**	.49**	.22**	.60**	.65**	-.12	--	-.05	.74**
14. Enhancement	.05	-.12	.16	.27**	.17*	.05	.13	-.03	-.07	.15	.17*	.48**	-.07	--	-.18*
15. Partner approval	-.15	.15*	-.14	.17*	.02	.06	.20*	.29**	.20**	.60**	.66**	-.06	.80**	-.03	--

*p < .05, **p < .01

Women are listed above the diagonal and men are listed below the diagonal. Variables 1-9 belong to the CMNI-46. Variables 10-15 belong to the Sexual Motives Scale.

CONCLUSIONS

- As hypothesized, emotional control was negatively correlated with the self-affirmation sexual motive for men. This could be because when men were unable to restrict their emotions, they were more likely to have sex to reaffirm their identity.
- As hypothesized, heterosexual self-presentation was positively correlated with peer approval sexual motive for both genders. This result suggests that men and women who had sex in fear of peer censure were more likely to pursue heterosexual self-presentation.
- In contrast to our hypothesis, there was no significant correlation between risk-taking and enhancement sexual motive for both genders. Thus, sexual engagement for pleasure and sensation-seeking may not be associated with a proclivity towards risk-taking in general.
- The correlation matrix appears to show some similarities between women and men, while also suggesting several gender differences.
- These findings will be helpful in guiding future research on the relationship between sexual motives and masculinity, as well as providing implications for sex education.

REFERENCES

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