

COLGATE UNIVERSITY
13 Oak Drive
Hamilton, NY 13346-1385

Institutional Review Board Proposal Cover Sheet

Title of Project: The world between yes and no: Gender effects on the perception of sexual coercion

Anticipated number of participants: females: 75 males: 75

Approximate ages: 18-22

Submission date: XX/XX/XXXX

Anticipated start date: XX/XX/XXXX

Expedited Review: for research that does **not** manipulate participants' behavior, use deception, threaten privacy, or cause stress to participants (e.g. observational studies, studies of archival data, some questionnaire and interview studies). Review takes approximately 5 days.

Full Review: for all research that is not eligible for expedited review. Reviews occur once each semester.

Investigator(s): Investigator Name Here _____

Faculty Supervisor: Supervisor Name Here (if applicable) _____

Contact information for Principal Investigator:

Name: Investigator Name Here _____

Phone: (xxx) xxx-xxxx _____

Email: Investigator @colgate.edu _____

I have read and agree to uphold the ethical principles and guidelines for the protection of human research participants as they are described in the Belmont Report issued by the Federal Office of Health, Education & Welfare. This proposal and the attached materials meet the guidelines described by the APA Code of Ethics.

A copy of the Belmont Report is available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/belmont.htm>

IRB #:	_____
Reviewer:	_____
Decision:	_____
Date:	____/____/____
<i>For Office Use Only</i>	

Purpose of Investigation and Procedures

Sexual coercion continues to be a problem in American society, especially on college campuses. Despite research demonstrating that non-physical forms of sexual coercion are far more prevalent than physical forms (*missing citation*), empirical investigation has centered on physical coercion (rape or attempted rape), specifically instances of men physically coercing women. The current study seeks to contribute to the body of literature on sexual coercion by exploring differences in gender perception of non-physical sexual coercion. In addition, this study will address the coercion of men by women, which anecdotal evidence suggests is prevalent enough to merit research.

The participants will be in one of four conditions: female participants viewing male perpetrators, female participants viewing female perpetrators, male participants viewing male perpetrators and male participants viewing female perpetrators. Participants in each condition will view six filmed vignettes on a computer, ranging in intensity of nonphysical sexual coercion from clearly consensual to clearly coercive. There will be no physical contact of any kind between the actors in the vignettes. After viewing each vignette, the participants will be asked to rate how sexually engaged each actor was in the situation and how much unwanted pressure those characters were feeling to have sex on a 1-7 likert scale (see attached). Participants will also be asked how certain they are of their assessment. Participants will have been pre-screened with the following measures: Gender Norms Scale (Thompson & Pleck, 1986), and the adaptation of the Race centrality scale for gender (Sellers et. al, 1998), and Ambivalent Sexism Inventory (Glick & Fiske, 1996).

Anticipated Risk and Potential Benefits to Participants

There are no potential benefits for the participants. Although this is a very low risk procedure, it is not without some potential risk. It is possible that having to watch visual depictions of nonphysical sexual coercion will be uncomfortable for some, especially for those who may have personal experience with sexual coercion. This could result in psychological distress. This risk is heightened because we cannot tell participants in advance that they will be viewing images of sexual coercion because doing so would taint their perceptions of the videos. In addition, having to make judgments regarding the perpetration and victimization of sexual coercion may make some participants uncomfortable. Although we will take steps to ensure the psychological safety and well-being of participants, the potential benefits to society outweigh the risks. The knowledge gained from this study could be useful to campuses across the United States, and will expand the psychological literature on the subject of sexual coercion.

Steps Taken to Protect the Participants

We will take steps to ensure the psychological well-being of the participants. At no point during the study will participants reveal their personal sexual history. In addition, although the participants will not be told in advance that sexual coercion is specifically being studied, they will be told that this is a study of sensitive matters of inter-gender sexual relations, including positive and negative depictions. This should alert any participant sensitive to the subject matter of our study, while maintaining experimental control. It is necessary to omit the word "coercion" because it could bias the participants to view vignettes as more coercive than they would have otherwise. Furthermore, use of the word "coercive" could elicit a social desirability effect in which the participants rate the unwanted pressure as higher in an effort to appear sensitive to the issue of sexual coercion. Although the subject matter is undeniably sensitive, these vignettes will not depict any physical contact or sexual activity. They will be confined to the verbal interaction leading up to a sexual encounter. Additionally, at any time during the study participants will be allowed to skip questions or to discontinue participation without providing an explanation and still receive course credit. The study will also include a comment

section after the last question in order to provide each participant with an outlet for any commentary or distress that may be generated by the study. Finally, the debriefing statement will include the contact information for the psychological counseling center on campus that can aid participants if they were made uncomfortable by the subject matter of the study or if they feel they could benefit from personal attention in the matter. These steps should prevent any negative psychological impacts of the study on the participants, but also allow access to professional intervention in the event of any adverse effects.

In terms of anonymity, the Certificate of Informed Consent and the Debriefing Form will not be linked to participants' pre-screening or study data in any way to preserve confidentiality of responses. Although the prescreening data will need to be matched to the study responses, both of those items will be coded numerically so that a participant's name is not used for identification purposes. All data and forms associated with this study will be stored in a locked file cabinet that is only accessible to the primary investigators. During the study administration participants will be located in a private corridor, alone in an enclosed room with a closed door to avoid any threats to confidentiality while responding during study. The above precautions should ensure participant confidentiality.

Manner of Obtaining Participants

This study will be open to everyone in the Psychology 150 class and the general Colgate population. This study will be advertised to students enrolled in Psychology 150 as an opportunity to participate in research for course credit. All students that sign up to participate from Psychology 150 will have completed the prescreening measures prior to the study date. All other participants will complete the measures immediately after the study measures. All participants will read and sign The Certificate of Informed Consent upon their arrival at the designated testing site, prior to their participation in any study measure. After the participants have concluded participation, or decided to withdraw from the study, they will be given a verbal and written debriefing statement. Participants from Psychology 150 will have their participation in the experiment validated for course credit by having a researcher sign her/his card. All other participants will have their names entered into a raffle to win an iPod shuffle as compensation for their efforts.

References

- Glick, P. & Fiske, S. T. (1996). The Ambivalent Sexism Inventory: Differentiating hostile and benevolent sexism. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 70, 491-512.
- Sellers, R. M., Smith, M.A., Shelton, J. N., Rowley, S.A. J., & Chavous, T. M. (1998). Multidimensional Model of Racial Identity: A reconceptualization of African American racial identity. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 2, 18-39.
- Thompson, E. H., & Pleck, J. H. (1986). The structure of male role norms. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 29, 531-543.

Attachments

Certificate of informed consent, debriefing form, and all scales and dependent measures.

Certificate of Informed Consent

Overview and Procedure. This is a study on sensitive matters relating to sexual relations, including positive and negative depictions. As a participant you will view six video clips, each approximately 30 seconds in length, and be asked to respond to five short questions after each video. The total session will take approximately 30 minutes.

Risks and Benefits. There are no direct benefits to you as a participant, and it is possible that you may feel uncomfortable viewing these videos because they refer to sexual topics. If so, you may wish to participate in a different experiment.

Confidentiality. Your privacy will be protected. At no time will identifying information be attached to your responses. Any information obtained during the course of your participation will remain confidential and will be used solely for research purposes. Within these restrictions, results of this study will be made available to you upon request.

Compensation. You may choose to receive ½ of a research credit for your participation, or to be entered into a raffle to win an Apple i-pod. It is estimated that you have better than 1 in 200 odds of winning the i-pod.

Your Rights. As with any research project, your participation is voluntarily. You may withdraw from the study at any time, or decline to answer any questions with no penalty and still receive course credit or an opportunity to enter in the raffle.

Contact Information. If you have questions or concerns about this study or your rights as a participant, please contact the principal investigator of this project, XXX, or the Chair of the IRB committee at Colgate University, IRB_chair@psych.colgate.edu.

By signing below, you are agreeing 1) to participate in this study, and 2) that you have read and understand all of the information provided on this form.

Participant Name (please print)

Researcher Name (please print)

Participant Signature

Researcher Signature

Date

Date

Debriefing Form

This study examines differences in gender perception of nonphysical sexual coercion. We hypothesized that men and women would see identical cases differently, in part because they tend to identify with the person in the video who matches their own gender.

The video clips you saw showed two actors. Some participants saw 6 scenes in which the man pressured the woman to engage in sexual relations, other participants saw the reverse in which the woman pressured the man. We hypothesized that, overall, people would perceive the female victim clips as more severe. However, we also hypothesized that people would display greater empathy for the actor who matched their own gender, regardless of whether the person was the victim or the perpetrator.

In describing the study to you initially, we specifically avoided loaded words such as “coercion,” “victim,” and “perpetrator” in order to avoid influencing your responses. Furthermore, the situational ambiguity of the scenes and the specific wording of the questions were designed to avoid bias in responses.

Sexual coercion is prevalent all over the United States, especially on college campuses. The role of non-physical sexual coercion, however, goes largely unstudied. Your participation in today’s study helps contribute to the growing body of knowledge on this topic and is greatly appreciated.

If you are a Psychology 150 student, you may elect to have a researcher sign your card in order to obtain one credit towards your class requirement or have your name entered in the drawing to win an iPod shuffle.

If the subject matter was distressing to you, or you feel you would benefit from discussing issues raised by the video with a trained individual, we encourage you to contact Colgate University’s Counseling and Psychological Services at Conant House. To speak with a counselor, email office manager XXX or call the office at extension XXX to schedule an appointment. Conant House also takes walk-in appointments from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you are interested in learning the findings of the study, reports will be made available upon completion of the research. For the results of this study, or if you have any additional questions or comments, contact XXX or XXX.

Participant Name (please print)

Researcher Name (please print)

Participant Signature

Researcher Signature

Date

Date

Example vignettes (removed from example)