

**IMPACTS OF PORNOGRAPHY ACCEPTANCE AND USE ON SELF-
ESTEEM, SEXUAL SATISFACTION, AND OVERALL RELATIONSHIP
SATISFACTION**

by

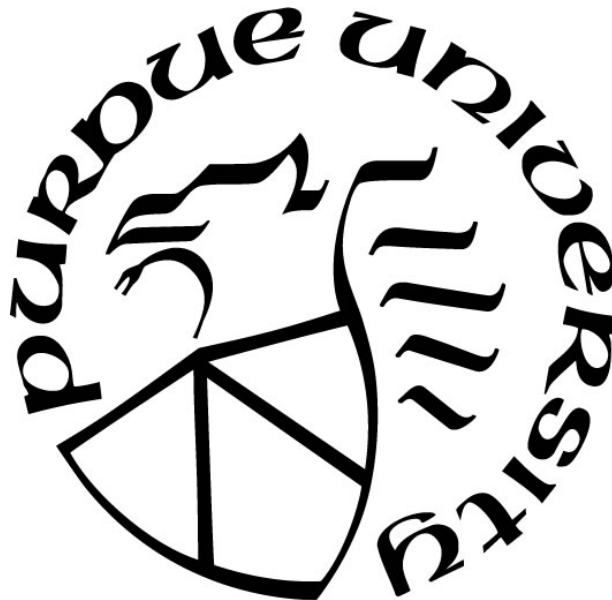
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I dedicate this thesis to my father, Richard L. Gillespie. Thank you for instilling in me your work ethic and love for learning.

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ABSTRACT

Using a Structural Equation Modeling Approach, this study examines the relationship between pornography acceptance and frequency of use and self-esteem, sexual satisfaction, and overall relationship satisfaction. Almost all published studies prior to the present study have only measured pornography acceptance or frequency of use. This study is to help contribute to the literature of understanding pornography through measuring pornography acceptance and frequency of use. The model was run overall and based on gender as previous literature had indicated differences in sexual satisfaction and relationship satisfaction with the use of pornography. It was expected that acceptance and more frequent use of pornography would positively predict self-esteem for men but negatively predict self-esteem for women. It was also expected that acceptance of pornography use would positively predict sexual satisfaction for men and negatively predict sexual satisfaction for women. Additionally, it was expected that higher self-esteem and higher sexual satisfaction will lead to a higher level of relationship satisfaction. Results indicated frequency of pornography use resulted in increased self-esteem for men and not for women. Findings also highlighted that acceptance of pornography resulted in decreased self-esteem for men but not for women. Results showed that acceptance of pornography use positively predicted sexual satisfaction for both men and women. Self-esteem as impacted by pornography was found to have no significant relationship with relationship satisfaction although sexual satisfaction was positively related to relationship satisfaction.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Problem

Since the advent of the internet, there had been access to extensive information on everything one would want to know about and then some. The rise in internet accessibility has allowed for many opportunities for individuals to access the wealth of knowledge available to them. This ease of accessibility has also created easier access to pornography. One research study has referred to the internet creating a “triple- A search engine” meaning, an environment where pornography is more accessible, affordable, and anonymous (Cooper, Delmonico, & Burg, 2000). Their study further notes that the rise in pornography use is strongly linked to these factors of accessibility, affordability, and anonymity (Cooper, Delmonico, & Burg, 2000). With the invention of the smart phone, pornography has become more accessible to individuals. According to the Pornhub, one of the world’s largest pornography websites, yearly review smart phones are how 71.6% of their visitors access their site worldwide and nearly 91% in the United States (Pornhub, 2018).

With the internet creating an environment for pornography use to be more easily and readily accessed, there is a large portion of the population who engage in pornography use. A recent survey of US citizens found 43 percent of men and 9 percent of women surveyed reported they had watched pornography in the last week. Among those who were in their 20s, their numbers increased for those who had used in the last week to just over 50% for men and 20% for women (Gordon, Porter, Renerus, Ryngaert, & Sarangaya, 2014). Another study estimated that among US adults, approximately 40 million regularly visit internet sites containing pornographic material (Ropelato, 2007). Furthermore, Pornhub’s Year in Review for 2018 reported they received 33.5 billion visitors to their site with their largest consuming country being the United States (Pornhub, 2018).

A study examining pornography’s impacts on young adults (ages 18-26) found that nearly 87% of young men and 31% of young women reported viewing pornography in the previous 12 months. Furthermore, the same study found that approximately 1 in 2 young women and 2 in 3 young men agreed that viewing pornography is acceptable (Carroll et al., 2008). The rising rates of pornography use in younger population is of particular concern as some research

has indicated possible impacts of pornography on the sexual development of younger populations (Peter & Valkenburg, 2016). Some of these possible impacts include sexual aggression, ideas of what is permissible in a sexual relationship, and sexual expectations based on gender (Peter & Valkenburg, 2016).

The increased rates at which pornography is being used in the lives of individuals has led to the question of what, if any, are the effects of pornography use (positive or negative) on individuals and within relationships? This question is one that recently many researchers have been examining and attempting to answer. A search of the PsychoINFO database showed that between 1970 and 1990 only 161 peer-reviewed articles contained pornography in their title compared to the following 20 years where more than 370 peer-reviewed articles contained pornography in their titles (Poulsen, Busby, & Galovan, 2013). The growing popularity has led to further research on the topic, which has helped to provide a better understanding of who is using pornography and some of its effects. The relatively new area of research, though, is one that is still growing and where more research is needed.

CHAPTER 2: SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROBLEM

Defining Pornography

One of the biggest critiques of pornography research is inconsistency in operational definitions used in studies. A review of the literature examined previous studies of pornography or sexually explicit material found 84% either did not give a definition for pornography or did not report if a definition was given (Short, Black, Smith, Wetterneck, & Wells, 2012). The lack of definitions of pornography has created disparity in pornography research in that there is still not an agreed-upon definition in the literature. The lack of definition creates difficulty in comparison across studies and may be a part of the varying positive and negative effects amidst pornography research (Braun-Courville & Rojas, 2009; Goodson, McCormick, & Evans, 2001).

The early literature on pornography originated with using a content based definition (Check & Guloien, 1989). Although this definition was not continued in future research due to its subjectivity and difficulty in reaching agreement when categorizing material (Short et al., 2012). This disparity in definitions not only makes it difficult to measure pornography when doing research but also in creating an operational definition. In addition to this, there is a wide variation in the definitions that have been used.

Over time there has been more than just those completing research who have attempted to give a definition of sexually explicit material. The legal system has also struggled to give a definition to pornography. A significant court case in determining a definition of explicit material involved deciding if a movie theater owner should be fined for possession and showing an obscene film (*Jacobellis v. Ohio*, 1964). In his concurring argument, Justice Stewart stated, "I shall not today attempt further to define the kinds of material I understand to be embraced within that shorthand description; and perhaps I could never succeed in intelligibly doing so. But I know it when I see it" (*Jacobellis v. Ohio*, 1964, p. 197). A definition of what is or is not obscene was never reached among the U.S. Supreme court at this time (*Jacobellis v. Ohio*, 1964).

Just a few years later *Miller v. California* (1972) was brought before the Supreme Court. This case was addressing if an owner of a pornographic book and film store should be charged with distributing obscene material after mailing advertisements (*Miller v. California*, 1972). Again, this caused the court to question and attempt to define obscene material and determine if

the advertisement fit that definition. In this case a definition of pornography or obscene material was not reached, but instead a three-prong test was developed (Miller v. California, 1972); commonly referred to as the “Miller Method” (Waxman, 2016). This three-prong test resulting from Miller v. California (1972) is based on the following criteria:

(a) whether ‘the average person, applying contemporary community standards would find that the work as a whole, appeals to prurient interest, ... (b) whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law, and (c) whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value. (p. 39)

These three criteria are continued to be used today in courts to determine if material is obscene or not (Waxman, 2016).

As there is no one accepted definition of pornography in research or the legal system, participants in this study will not be given a definition of pornography. Rather, participants will be asked to provide their own definition of pornography. Definitions will not be analyzed in this study, but will be gathered together for future analysis.

Frequency of Pornography Use

Surveys in the last few years have indicated that there is acceptance and use of pornography, as previously mentioned. One study compared pornography viewing across time from 1973-2012 (Price, Patterson, Regnerus, & Walley, 2016) and found that younger generations are viewing pornography at a higher rate, for both men and women. The results showed that there was a greater difference in consumption rates between generations for men than there were in women. However, it should be noted that there was increase in every age group across generations except for women aged 54-62 (Price et al., 2016). Over time, research has found an increase in pornography use..

Frequency of pornography use is the variable that is included in almost every study regarding pornography. Although the scales or measures of use are not the same. Some have measured through categorical by asking participants to select yes or no to viewing pornography in the past year where others ask participants to select daily, weekly, monthly, and so on. Others ask how often in the last month or year. Due to literature not indicating any evidence to suggest using a specific type of measure and in efforts to gather data with statistical significance,

participants will be asked to report the frequency at which they view pornography in a week, how many times a day, and how many minutes they spend watching pornography each time.

Attitudes Toward Pornography

In the past, many pornography research studies have only measured pornography use by patterns, typically by the frequency, individuals report (Carroll et al., 2008). Carroll et al. (2008) along with others (Nelson, Padilla-Walker, and Carroll, 2010; Stulhofer, Busko, and Landripet, 2010) have noted a gap in the literature that many studies do not measure frequency and acceptance rate concurrently. This is an area that is still beginning to grow in pornography literature and has not been explored much within the literature. Although few research studies have measured these variables simultaneously, there is indication as to why this is important for pornography research going forward.

Much of the research that has been done on pornography has focused on whether individuals find pornography acceptable. One particular study of emerging adults found that 2 in 3 (66.5%) young men and 1 in 2 (48.7%) young women saw pornography as an acceptable expression of sexuality (Carroll et al., 2008). A poll of US citizens found similar results and indicated a growing rate of acceptance over time (Gallup, 2018). Since the yearly poll began in 2011, responses have indicated a growing positive view of pornography; increasing from 30% who agreed pornography was “morally acceptable” to nearly 43% (Gallup, 2018). Although this is just one aspect, there is more than just acceptability to measure in the realm of attitudes toward pornography.

The current study aims to add to the literature of pornography acceptance by included the Attitudes Toward Erotica Questionnaire (ATEQ; Lottes, Weinberg, & Weller, 1993). Their questionnaire was designed to be adapted to examine attitudes about the intended erotica material, in this case internet pornography. By measuring attitudes toward pornography alongside frequency of use the current study will help to fill the gap in the literature that has been noted by previous researchers (Carroll et al., 2008; Nelson, Padilla-Walker, and Carroll, 2010; Stulhofer, Busko, and Landripet, 2010; Willoughby, Carroll, Nelson, and Padilla-Walker, 2014).

Self-Esteem

Self-esteem is one topic that has been studied many times throughout mental health history and one of the longest running areas of research in mental health (James, 1890; Mead, 1934). Its history dating back to the 1890's indicates the captivation that is related to one's perception of themselves. Self-esteem has been defined as one's global attitude towards oneself (Rosenberg, 1965). Again, the issue is there has been little to research connecting global self-esteem or over all well-being with pornography either positively or negatively. Štulhofer, Buško, and Landripet (2010) in their study highlighted the need for this gap to be examined in future research.

In the small amount of literature on the relationship between pornography and self-esteem there have been mixed results. The majority appear to recognize and make note of the need for additional research before conclusions can be made. Three separate research studies indicated that there is a negative correlation between pornography and lower self-esteem (Kor et al., 2014; Levert, 2007; Young-Ho, 2001). Still other research did not find a significant relationship between adolescent's pornography use and self-esteem (Peter & Valkenburg, 2016). Furthermore, one research study found a positive relationship between pornography use and young men's self-esteem (Morrison, Harriman, Morrison, Bearden, & Ellis, 2004). Another study also found a no correlation in one panel as well as a positive correlation in the other panel between pornography use and self-esteem of young women (Kohut & Štulhofer, 2018).

Willoughby, Carroll, Nelson, and Padilla-Walker (2014) completed a study measuring both pornography use and acceptance in relation to self-worth. Their study first looked at frequency of pornography use as it related to self-worth and found that higher frequencies of use were correlated with less self-worth for women but was not associated for men. When accounting for acceptance of pornography there was no association between pornography and self-worth for men. However, women's pornography use and acceptance was associated with significantly less self-worth (Willoughby, Carroll, Nelson, & Padilla-Walker, 2014). With mixed results self-esteem in relations to pornography is still an area that is growing and part of what this study aims to add to the literature. Mixed findings also suggest the need for analyzing self-esteem based on gender.

Sexual Satisfaction

Sexual satisfaction is one of the main reasons that individuals often report seeking out pornography for (Emmers-Sommer, 2018; Fisher & Barak, 2001). The interesting part of this area of research is that there seems to be mixed results on whether pornography either enhances or detracts from sexual satisfaction. Some studies have found negative correlations in relation to pornography use (Bridges, Bergner, & Hesson-McInnis, 2003; Lambert, Negash, Stillman, & Olmstead, 2012; Lambert, Negash, Stillman, & Olmstead, 2012; Wright, Sun, Steffen, & Tokunaga, 2017) as well as positive correlations (Groß, Gillespie, Royce, & Lever, 2011; Popovic, 2011). Again, as previously discussed, due to differences in defining pornography, it is difficult to compare results across studies (Braun-Courville & Rojas, 2009; Goodson, McCormick, & Evans, 2001).

Within the realm of published research on the effects of pornography proportionately, there is much more research indicating negative effects of pornography. One explanation of this may be due to biases of researchers interpreting results and looking to find negative impacts based on personal beliefs of pornography and sexuality (Groß et al., 2011; Weinberg et al., 2010). While there is still much more research to be done, there is some research that does show positive effects and negative effects between pornography and sexual satisfaction. This is where having an understanding of view on pornography acceptance in tandem with frequency of use may give insight to these mixed results.

While few and far between, some positive relationships between pornography and sexual satisfaction have been found. A particular study investigated the relationship between pornography and individuals and their willingness to explore both new sexual relationships and sexual behaviors (Weinberg et al., 2010). Quantitative analysis of responses to of perceived consequences of pornography found most participants had indicated experiencing no negative effects (Kohut, Fisher, & Campbell, 2017). Furthermore, they found that individuals in relationships indicated more positive effects including increased sexual communication, more sexual experimentation, and overall more sexual satisfaction (Kohut et al., 2017). Additionally, literature has highlighted the gap in pornography research that notes most studies collect individual data rather than dyadic data (Campbell, L., & Kohut, 2017).

One study did examine the effects of acceptance of pornography and frequency of use analyzing matched-pairs data which showed lowered sexual satisfaction in the relationship

(Brown et al., 2017). Addressing the concern for dyadic data, another study found similar results where acceptance of pornography indicated either more or less sexual satisfaction if pornography was viewed as acceptable or not, respectively (Maas, M. K., Vasilenko, S. A., & Willoughby, 2018). One of the most recent studies in pornography literature looking at dyadic data indicated that individuals who viewed pornography were physically sexually satisfied, but they were not emotionally or psychologically sexually satisfied (Emmers-Sommer, 2018).

Overall Relationship Satisfaction

Relationship satisfaction is one area that a good portion of pornography research has focused on. A meta-analysis of 50 research studies that included pornography, relationship satisfaction, and sexual satisfaction highlighted and emphasized some important themes found in the literature (Wright, Tokunaga, Kraus, & Klann, 2017). One major theme highlighted in their research and in other studies is relationship satisfaction differs between genders. One particular study along with the meta-analysis found that a higher frequency of pornography use by a male partner resulted in lower relationship satisfaction for men (Bridges & Morokoff, 2011; Wright, Tokunaga, et al., 2017). With that being said, the model for the present study was analyzed by running the model separately for males and female.

Only a small amount of research has indicated positive benefits for relationship satisfaction. Much of the research that has been done on pornography use and relationship satisfaction shows a negative correlation between pornography use and relationship satisfaction. In comparing couples where both partners did not view pornography with couples who viewed pornography both together and individually, it was found that couples where neither partner viewed pornography reported the greatest relationship satisfaction (Minarcik, Wetterneck, & Short, 2016). Another area where there were differences in relationship satisfaction were dependent upon which partner was viewing pornography.

As with other areas in pornography research, there is a mix of results indicating both positive and negative impacts on relationship satisfaction. A particular study surveyed individuals on their perceived effects of pornography (Grov et al., 2011). Their research indicated that while different in other areas of analysis, both males and females reported little to no perceived negative effects from viewing pornography (Grov et al., 2011). Another research study done with heterosexual couples found that impacts of pornography varied by which partner

used pornography (Bridges & Morokoff, 2011). In their study, Bridges and Morokoff (2011) found that when men viewed pornography it resulted in lower relationship satisfaction. Conversely, when women reported viewing pornography, partners reported an increase in relationship satisfaction. (Bridges & Morokoff, 2011). Furthermore, another study found that the modality in which couples participate in viewing pornography (i.e. separately or jointly) impacts relationship satisfaction (Minarcik, Wetterneck, & Short, 2016). In their research they found that when couples viewed pornography together partners reported greater relationship satisfaction than when partners viewed pornography alone (Minarcik, Wetterneck, & Short, 2016).

The first longitudinal study completed analyzing pornography use and romantic relationships found that in heterosexual relationships when husbands view pornography there were higher rates of dissatisfaction over time (Perry, 2016). Although there was not an association between dissatisfaction and a wife's use of pornography (Perry, 2016). Other research has reported similar findings in couples who view pornography also report higher relationship satisfaction compared to partners who view pornography by themselves (Daneback, K., Træen, B., & Månsson, 2009). Researchers believe this is because couples who view pornography together are happier in their sex lives and thus in their relationship overall (Daneback, K., Træen, B., & Månsson, 2009). Further research compared heterosexual couples and differences in pornography use and the couple's relationship satisfaction (Willoughby, Carroll, Busby, & Brown, 2016). Their research indicated that couples where one partner watched pornography alone fared worse in relationship satisfaction as compared to those who either both partners who watched together or not at all (Willoughby, Carroll, Busby, & Brown, 2016).

Other longitudinal research has also indicated that pornography use decreases relationship satisfaction over time. A particular study found that an individual who began viewing pornography between any of the surveys were almost twice as likely to be divorced by the time of the next survey (within 6 months; Perry, S. L., & Schleifer, 2017). Data indicated that participants in the survey who viewed pornography at all in the first year of the study were also twice as likely to experience marital separation by the end of the study 6 years later (Perry, 2016).

Theoretical Framework

One area in which research on pornography use is severely lacking is research that is consistent in a theoretical approach. If a theoretical model was used at all, as many research studies completed in the past did not name a specific theoretical basis. Not to say that research is not theoretically driven, but there is a wide variety of different models that have been used to conceptualize pornography use in research that has been completed (Peter & Valkenburg, 2016). As with any area of research that is not as extensive, much of the backing for research is formed through theoretical models.

Due to this, much of the present study will be informed from a combination of theoretical approaches. There are different links between the variables of the current study, however there is very limited literature examining the relationships between all variables. Thus, understanding the theoretical framework behind the present study is important to understand how variables relate to each other and how data will be interpreted within the present study.

Overall there are 6 main theories that are interrelated and play into the current study: Conflict theory, Sexual Script Theory (Gagnon and Simon, 1973), Social Interaction Theory (Blumer, 1986), Feminist Theory, Social Constructionism, and Self Enhancement Theory (Rosenberg, Schooler, Schoenbach, and Rosenberg, 1995). The interaction between these theories will inform the interaction between the variables in the proposed research model. As such for better understanding of the theoretical interactions, figure 1 (below) has been developed as a visual representation of the theoretical interaction. The overall use of theories in in this study is focused on the information an individual takes in, in this study from pornography, and how that information is integrated to inform ideas of their self-esteem, sexual satisfaction, and overall relationship satisfaction.

Conflict Theory

Conflict Theory, whose origination is credited to Karl Marx, in the simplest of terms is the idea there will always be conflict between people because resources are limited (White & Klein, 2008). In the development of conflict theory, it was originally believed that the larger conflicts in society would also be repeated in families, just on a smaller scale (Allen & Henderson, 2017).

However, it was found that the conflict which occurs in families differs enough that there were further conflicts and different conflicts that families experienced (Sprey, 1979).

Every situation on conflict stems from a need of different resources. However four main groups of conflict have been identified as to where conflict comes from within families; economic capital, cultural capital, social capital, and symbolic capital (Allen & Henderson, 2017). When one of these resources is threatened, conflict is created between family members. On a micro level of conflict theory, pornography is something that may influence a couple's relationship. Especially in a case where a couple has different views towards pornography, a couple may experience conflict in the dynamics surrounding sex in their relationship. Sex then becomes the resource that is in short supply, and thus ensues conflict. Understanding pornography and conflict theory can help to see how it would be possible for dissatisfaction within a relationship, both overall and sexually. In addition to relationally, conflict theory can help to conceptualize an individual's conflict with themselves. While often conflict theory focuses on conflict between individuals and groups, conflict can also occur within oneself. Within this study, the theoretical application here would be that individuals whose attitudes and ideas of acceptance differ in some way from their idea of the dominant narrative would face internal conflict. This internal conflict would then inherently impact their self-esteem, sexual satisfaction, and overall relationship satisfaction.

Sexual Script Theory

Understanding sexual script theory is important to understanding why there is necessity to explore this gap in the literature. The idea of sexual script theory was originally developed by Gagnon and Simon (1973). Sexual script theory comes from a social constructionist point of view and asserts that sexual behavior is socially scripted (Gagnon & Simon, 1973). In true social constructionist fashion, central to sexual script theory is the idea that sexual scripts are learned from interactions individuals have with others (Gagnon & Simon, 1973). Wiederman (2015) explained that human behaviors are first defined as sexual and second, the meanings associated with those behaviors are "learned and incorporated" (p 7) through interactions, including mass media. Pornography has been associated with learned sexual scripts of individuals in previous literature (Štulhofer et al., 2010; Weinberg, Williams, Kleiner, & Irizarry, 2010). Thus if learned sexual scripts from pornography either fit or do not fit with an individual's expectations of

themselves their self-esteem, sexual satisfaction, and relationship satisfaction would be expected to either increase or decrease respectively.

Feminist Theory

Feminist theory is essential in understanding the narratives that influence individual's development. Feminist theory looks at the messages both women and men are given about how they should live and conduct themselves and their lives. Society's messages and expectations, while slightly improved in the past decades, puts aside what may be best for an individual, and dictates what they should or should not be doing. As with sexual scripts, pornography portrays a message of what sexual relationships should look like, although just what that message is appears to be split.

While data on acceptability is split, there is also a split of attitudes toward pornography. From a feminist perspective, there appear to be two different attitudes of pornography that emerge; either pornography is degrading to women or pornography is empowering for women (Enns, 1997; Scott, 2008). Enns (1997, pp 59) explained, "Pornography becomes sexual reality because it defines women; men are trained to have sex with an image or object, not a real woman." On the other hand, some feminists view pornography as a source of empowerment and opportunity for exploration of repressed sexuality (Tong, 1998). While the reasoning may be different, there is still a clear split over whether pornography is acceptable or not.

Social Interaction Theory

Social Interaction Theory focuses on the meaning making of interactions individuals have (Blumer, 1986). Understanding one's meaning making of pornography is essential in understanding the relational impacts of pornography. Brown et al. (2017) explained the need for measuring both frequency and attitudes toward pornography using a symbolic interaction (Blumer, 1986) perspective. In essence, symbolic interactionism is focused on the meaning created from individual's interactions (Blumer, 1986). It is the symbolic meanings derived from interactions that then go on to impact an individual's behaviors, decisions, and consequences (Brown et al., 2017). From this theoretical framework, it would then be expected that an

individual's interactions with viewing pornography would influence that individual's derived meanings of self, sexuality, and relationships.

Brown et al. (2017) further explained there was greater relationship satisfaction in couples who shared in meaning making as well as the contrary of lower relationship satisfaction where there was not shared meaning making. Continuing in the importance of shared meaning making, Brown et al. (2017) further explained the connection between pornography acceptability and the symbolism of pornography. When pornography use is contrary to a partner's beliefs it can create disruption in the couple's shared sexual relationship. Disrupting this pattern not only creates opportunity for shared meaning making to become disrupted, it also causes disruption in a couple's long term sexual satisfaction (Brown et al., 2017). Thus, understanding an individual's beliefs and attitudes toward pornography are necessary to understand when studying the relational impacts of pornography. Due to their shared meaning making of pornography, couples may be in agreement and therefore pornography may not be seen as an issue in their relationship.

Social Constructionism

Social constructionism is important to consider when trying to further understand meaning making. In the case of pornography, understanding social constructionism is an important step to understand. Social constructionism is a post-modern theory that looks at how society has constructed and given meaning to our world. As Gergen (2015) explains, it is "through participation in relationships the world comes to be what it is for us" (emphasis in original text; p. 4). Social constructionism takes the view that we create meaning from the experiences and interactions we have (Gergen, 2015).

The experiences individuals have throughout their lives eventually leads to the development of that individual's truth. The current study attempts to look at the truth individuals are creating as influenced by pornography use. Understanding that social constructionism is essential in the current study and in the theoretical approach to understanding produced by pornography. Previously constructed meanings of pornography, as measured by attitudes and acceptance in the current study, will impact the perceived effects of pornography. It would be expected that if someone has previously learned pornography was harmful they would perceive more negative impacts of pornography, whereas, the opposite would be expected as well: where someone has learned pornography is acceptable they may perceive more positive impacts from

pornography use. Understanding the meaning individuals are attaching to pornography will then impact the way the participants respond to survey questions throughout and why participants are being asked about their attitudes towards pornography.

Self Enhancement Theory

Self Enhancement Theory contributes to the current study in that it takes a systemic point of view on self-esteem, as well as furthering understanding of relational impacts of pornography. Research has often tried to understand why self-esteem is important to individuals. One explanation to why self-esteem is important for individuals can be explained using a self-enhancement theory lens. Rosenberg explained self-esteem using self enhancement as individuals aim at continuing and furthering a positive view of themselves; success resulted in an increased self-perception and failure resulted in psychological distress (Rosenberg, Schooler, Schoenbach, and Rosenberg, 1995). According to self enhancement theory and its assumptions, as individuals enhance their positive view of themselves their self-esteem would also increase. This theory was based on earlier assumptions and observations that were made by Rosenberg (1965) in his previous research. Rosenberg hypothesized that individuals throughout their life are building “a set of central self-values based on what one has learned to be worth through experiences and interactions” (El Ghaziri & Darwiche, 2018, p. 99). These interactions could be made up of anyone or anything that is a significant part of that person’s life such as family members, peers, and media. Those whose values match their actions have higher self-esteem; conversely, a mismatch leads to lowered self-esteem. This approach to understanding self-esteem considers the individual’s development of self-esteem but also views self-esteem from a systemic perspective, meaning that it considers how one’s self esteem is influenced by an individual’s relationships.

Furthering the view of self-esteem from a systemic point of view, Rosenberg (1965) explained how people’s self-esteem influences interactions within their system. Rosenberg suggested that having a positive perception and attitude towards oneself would indicate a positive view of others, and therefore make one more likely to experience positive social experiences. Conversely, those with lower self-esteem are more predisposed to perceive others negatively and find it more difficult to interact positively with others (Rosenberg, 1965).

Considering self-esteem from a systemic point of view is important in the current study as it looks at how self-esteem is related to sexual satisfaction and overall relationship satisfaction.

Self-enhancement theory was developed to help give understanding to self-esteem based on the alignment of beliefs and values with actions (Rosenberg, 1965). In the present study social interaction theory will be used as a framework to systemically view interactions from pornography use and acceptance in relation to self-esteem, sexual satisfaction, and relationship satisfaction. While it may not be a perfect fit lack of a theoretical framework within pornography research lends to the need to use other theories to make meaning of results while research continues.

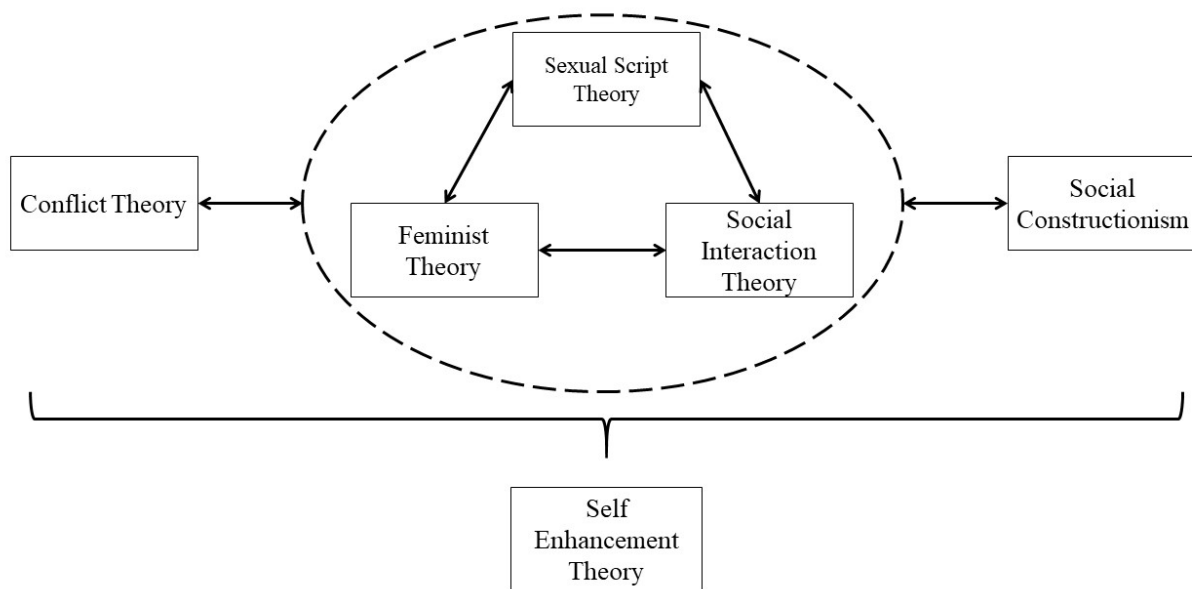


Figure 1. Theoretical Model

The Present Study

There have been very few direct links between pornography use or attitudes toward pornography and self-esteem or even well-being. There is research connecting self-esteem and sexual satisfaction with overall relationship satisfaction, but there is not research concerning the role of viewing pornography and attitudes and views play a role into overall relationship satisfaction as well. This study aims to fill the gap of determining the effect pornography has on self-esteem, sexual satisfaction, and overall relationship satisfaction.

Additionally this study aims to begin filling the gap in literature of measuring attitudes toward pornography and frequency of use. This gap is one that has been noted in the literature as one that can give understanding to the differing results across studies (Nelson, Padilla-Walker, and Carroll, 2010).

Due to the limited amount of research, there is not sufficient evidence to suggest limiting the sample to a specific population at this point in time. Therefore, participants for the current study need only be at least 18 years of age. As one of the constructs of the current study is relationship satisfaction the participants must currently be in or have had a relationship that involved a sexual relationship for a minimum of 6 months.

Research Questions

The overall research questions include the following: (1) How does frequency of pornography use and pornography attitudes relate to self-esteem? (2) How does frequency of pornography use and pornography attitudes relate to sexual satisfaction? (3) How does the effects of frequency of use and pornography attitudes on self-esteem and sexual satisfaction relate to overall relationship satisfaction?

Role of Gender

Throughout the literature on pornography many studies have indicated different findings when analysis is based on gender. A meta-analysis of the literature on pornography analyzed 50 different studies for a total of over 10,000 participants in 10 different countries (Wright, Tokunaga, et al., 2017). Their analysis indicated that gender was a significant moderator between an individual's pornography and interpersonal satisfaction (Wright, Tokunaga, et al., 2017).

Their study indicated a stronger correlation for men between pornography use and interpersonal satisfaction compared to women, however both were found to be significant (Wright, Tokunaga, et al., 2017). Due to indication in the literature that many of the variables in the current study are impacted by gender the model was analyzed separately for all participants, for only male participants, and only female participants.

Hypotheses

From the literature review 8 hypotheses were formulated and will be tested, as seen in Figure 2. The hypotheses were created from the relationship between the following variables: attitudes and views of pornography, frequency of pornography use, self-esteem, sexual satisfaction, and relationship satisfaction.

Hypothesis 1: There will be a positive correlation between attitudes and views of pornography and frequency of pornography use.

Hypothesis 2: Attitudes toward pornography will be positively associated self esteem

Hypothesis 3: Attitudes toward pornography will be positively associated sexual satisfaction

Hypothesis 4: Frequency of pornography use will be positively associated self-esteem for men and negatively associated for women.

Hypothesis 5: Frequency of pornography use will be positively associated sexual satisfaction for men and negatively associated for women.

Hypothesis 6: There will be a positive correlation between self-esteem and sexual satisfaction.

Hypothesis 7: Self-esteem will positively predict relationship satisfaction

Hypothesis 8: Sexual satisfaction will positively predict relationship satisfaction.

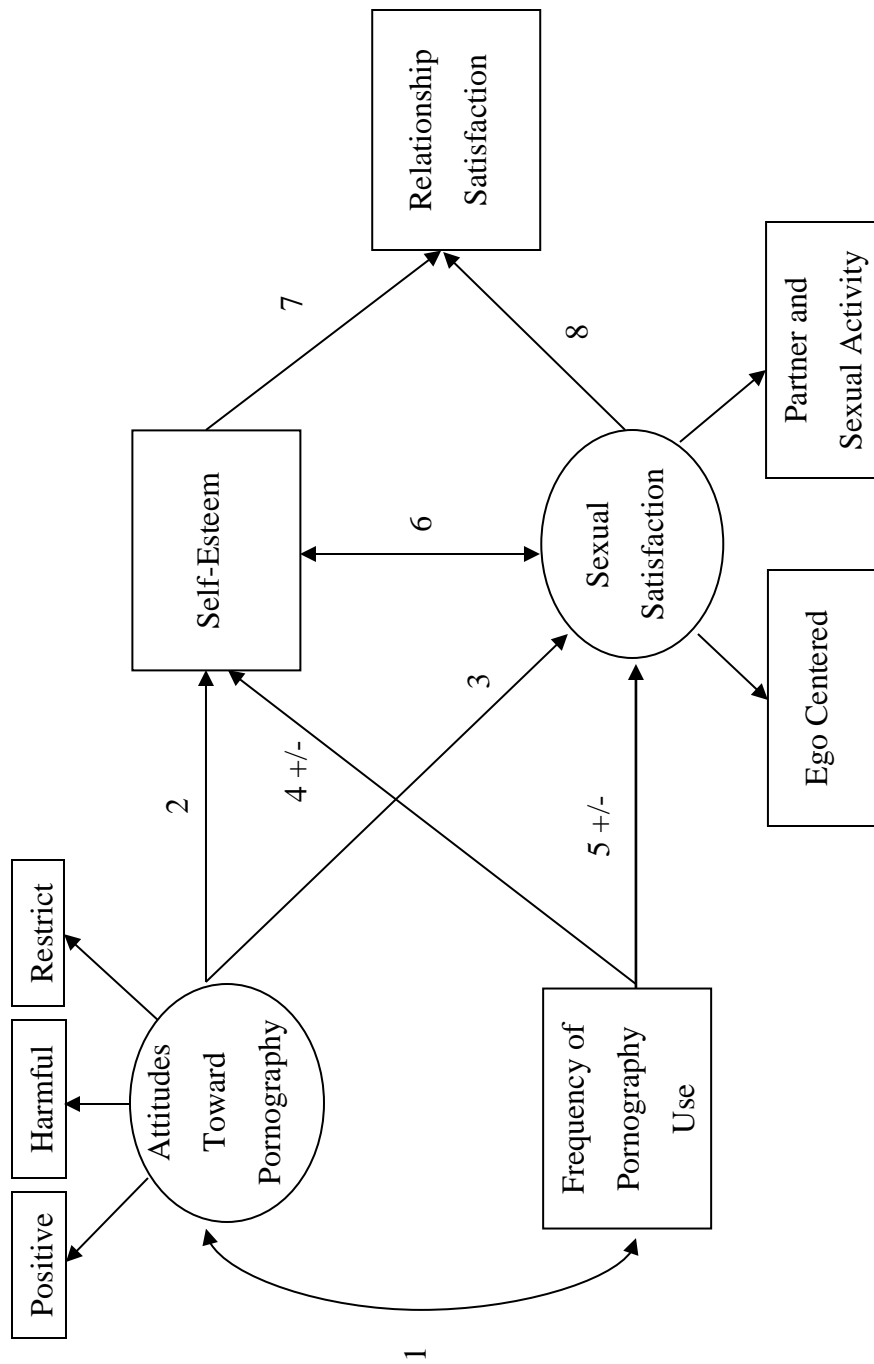


Figure 2. Structural equation model with hypotheses

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

Participants and Procedure

Participants for this study were a convenience sample of adults in the United States through an online site, Amazon Mechanical Turk. In order to be certain they meet the criteria of the study, participants were asked 1) if they are 18 or older and 2) are they currently, or in the past were they, in a relationship which involved sex for six months or longer. If participants answered yes to both questions, they were then taken to the rest of the survey. In accordance with a power analysis for structural equation modeling, a sample of 250 participants was needed to achieve the statistical power necessary (Wolf, Harrington, Clark, & Miller, 2013). Prior to the recruitment of participants, the present study and procedures was submitted for review and approved by Purdue University's Institutional Review Board. A small payment of \$.50 was offered to incentivize participants and once assignment was completed, payment was dispersed. Once accessed through MTurk.com, a link was made available for participants to complete the survey anonymously. Participants were provided with information regarding the purpose of the study, who was conducting the study, and a consent form to accept (see Appendix B). At the end of the study respondents were taken to a separate survey to enter their MTurk ID to ensure completion of the survey, to ensure anonymity and to ensure payment. The survey was posted on Mturk.com by Dr. David P. Nalbone.

A total of 385 participants accessed the survey on MTurk.com. Of those who accessed the survey, 383 participants consented to participate and 2 declined consent. From the 383 clients who did consent, 1 response was removed for not being at least 18 years old, and 22 responded no when asked if they had been in a relationship involving sex for 6 months or longer; these responses were excluded from further analysis. This left a total of $n = 360$; removal of respondents who did not complete entire scales related to hypotheses (which is a requirement for the structural equational modeling analysis), left a total of $n = 303$.

A brief section of the questionnaire focused on general demographic information about the participant. The questionnaire included questions about age, gender identity, education, income, marital status, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, geographical location, and region of US the participant resides in. Age of participants ranged from 19 to 94

years old. The mean age of participants ($n = 360$) was 34.7 years with a median of 32 years and a standard deviation of 10.6 years. A total of 60% of participants reported identifying as male and 37.8 % reported identifying as female (see Table 1). Less than 3 percent of respondents identified as another identity or preferred no to answer. The largest portion of participants reported being married (46.7%) followed by single (24.2%) and cohabiting or partnered (22.5%; see Table 2). The majority of participants (69.7%) reported as Caucasian, with 13.9% identifying as black, 5.8% as Asian Culture, 5.6% as Latino/a/x, 1.4% as African, 1.4% as Multi-racial, 1.1% as Indian/Asian Subcontinent, and 0.8% as prefer not to answer or missing (see Table 3). A total of 77.2% reported identifying as heterosexual, 2.5% as gay, 1.1% as lesbian, 16.4% as bisexual; 0.8% of participants reported identifying as pansexual and 0.8% reported identifying as asexual (see Table 4). Results for other demographic questions are displayed below regarding religious affiliation (see Table 5), education level (see Table 6), income level (see Table 7), region of residence (see Table 8), and type of geographical location (see Table 9).

Table 1. Gender Identity of Sample (N=360)

	Frequency	Percentage
Male	216	60.0%
Female	136	37.8%
Transgender	1	0.3%
Gender non-binary	1	0.3%
Agender	1	0.3%
Gender queer	1	0.3%
Other	1	0.3%
Prefer not to say	3	0.8%

Table 2. Relationship Status (N=360)

	Frequency	Percentage
Married	168	46.9%
Widowed	4	1.1%
Divorced	20	2.8%
Separated	5	1.4%
Single	87	24.3%
Cohabiting or Partnered	81	22.6%
Prefer not to say	3	0.8%

Table 3. Race / Ethnicity (N=360)

	Frequency	Percentage
White / Caucasian	251	69.9%
Black	50	13.9%
African	5	1.4%
Asian Culture	21	5.8%
Indian / Asian Subcontinent	4	1.1%
Latino/a/x	20	5.6%
Multi-racial	5	1.4%
Prefer not to say	3	0.8%

Table 4. Sexual Orientation (N=360)

	Frequency	Percentage
Heterosexual	278	77.2%
Gay	9	2.5%
Lesbian	4	1.1%
Bisexual	59	16.4%
Pansexual	3	0.8%
Asexual	3	0.8%
Prefer not to say	4	1.1%

Table 5. Religious Affiliation (N=360)

	Frequency	Percentage
Christian	186	51.8%
Hindu	5	1.4%
Jewish	4	1.1%
Islam / Muslim	5	1.4%
Buddhist	3	0.8%
Wiccan	4	1.1%
Atheist	41	11.4%
Agnostic	57	15.9%
Spiritual	15	4.2%
None	35	9.7%
Other	4	1.1%

Table 6. Education (N=360)

	Frequency	Percentage
Less than High School	2	0.6%
High School Graduate	32	8.9%
Some College	66	18.3%
Trade School	8	2.2%
Associate's Degree	36	10.0%
Bachelor's Degree	165	45.8%
Master's Degree	42	11.7%
Doctorate or Professional Degree	7	1.9%
Prefer not to say	2	0.6%

Table 7. Income (N=360)

	Frequency	Percentage
\$1-20,000	53	14.8%
\$20,001 - \$40,000	32	8.9%
\$40,001 - \$60,000	91	25.3%
\$60,001 - \$80,000	71	19.8%
\$80,001 - \$100,000	33	9.2%
\$100,001 +	27	7.5%
Prefer not to say	4	1.1%

Table 8. Region (N=360)

	Frequency	Percentage
West	61	16.9%
Southwest	66	18.3%
Midwest	79	21.9%
Southeast	81	22.5%
Northeast	73	20.3%

Table 9. Geographical Location (N=360)

	Frequency	Percentage
Urban	147	41.1%
Suburban	143	39.9%
Rural	68	19.0%

Materials

In order to best measure variables, established scales were used for each variable with the exclusion of frequency of pornography. The goal was to measure each variable as reliably as possible in order to give structure and an accurate view of the interactions between the variables. Descriptive statistics were run for each scale used and are recorded in Table 10.

Attitudes Toward Pornography

Attitudes towards pornography was defined as an individual's beliefs about pornography and acceptability of it. The Attitudes Toward Erotica Questionnaire (ATEQ; Lottes, Weinberg, & Weller, 1993) was selected and included as a part of the survey to measure attitudes toward pornography specifically. The ATEQ is a 21 item Likert Scale questionnaire rated from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). It is composed of 3 subscales measuring perceived positive effects, perceived harmful effects, and beliefs about restriction of pornography. The average score of each subscale was computed and then combined to produce an overall score, with a higher score indicating more accepting and open attitudes toward pornography. Due to skewness, discussed below in data screening, a square root reflection was required to correct it. Due to this transformation, scores were reversed, such that lower scores indicate more accepting and open attitudes toward pornography.

Frequency of Use

Frequency of pornography use was measured using three different questions that participants responded to; (1) How many days a week do you watch internet pornography, (2) How many times a day do you watch internet pornography, and (3) When you watch internet pornography how much time, in minutes, do you view it in a single experience? Responses were averaged to give a computed score of minutes spent per day viewing internet pornography that was then used in the test of hypotheses.

Sexual Satisfaction

Sexual satisfaction was defined as sexual satisfaction overall. The New Sexual Satisfaction Scale (NSSS; Štulhofer, Buško, & Brouillard, 2010) was selected and included in

the survey as it was found to accurately measure sexual satisfaction for individuals regardless of sexuality or relationship modality. The NSSS is a scale of 20 Likert scale items used to create a composite measure of sexual satisfaction. The scale includes two subscales of ego (self) focused and partner and sexual activity focused questions. The scale is comprised of five different dimensions including sexual sensations, sexual presence/awareness, sexual exchange, emotional connection/closeness, and sexual activity. The Likert scale items were rated from 1 (not at all satisfied) to 5 (extremely satisfied). Scoring for this scale was created by averaging the scores of each subscale and then totaling the averages to give an overall score with a higher score indicating higher sexual satisfaction.

Self Esteem

The Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale (RSES; Rosenberg, 1979) was selected to measure self esteem for individual's participating in the study, with self esteem being defined as one's beliefs and feelings about themselves. The RSES is a 10 item, 4 point Likert scale assessment (1 = strongly agree, 4 = strongly disagree) used to measure an individual's self esteem. The RSES is scored on a continuous scale, such that a higher score indicates higher self esteem.

Relationship Satisfaction

To measure overall relationship satisfaction, the Couple's Satisfaction Index (CSI; Funk & Rogge, 2007) was selected. The original scale is a 32 item scale although it was also designed to be reduced to either a 4 or 16 item scale (Funk & Rogge, 2007). As the 16 item scale demonstrated strong reliability (Cronbach's $\alpha = .98$) and validity was established through confirmatory factor analysis and construct validity, it was used in the questionnaire of this study (Funk & Rogge, 2007). The 16 item scale is comprised of 6-point Likert scale items from 0 (not at all true or never) and 5 (completely true) and was used in this study. Scoring is continuous for the scale with a higher score indicating higher relationship satisfaction.

Table 10. Descriptive Statistics of Scales Used (N= 360)

Scale	Possible Range	Actual Range	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	Cronbach's alpha
ATEQ- Positive	7-35	8-35	26.01	5.72	.84
ATEQ- Harmful	9-45	9-45	25.34	8.17	.87
ATEQ- Restrict	5-25	5-25	12.67	3.29	.34
RSES	10-40	10-40	20.19	6.47	.87
NSSS- Ego	10-50	10-50	36.57	8.71	.92
NSSS- Partner	10-50	10-50	35.69	9.26	.93
CSI	0-81	0-78	56.48	15.78	.95

Note. ATEQ-Positive = Attitudes toward erotica questionnaire positive effects subscale, ATEQ-Harmful = Attitudes toward erotica questionnaire harmful effects subscale, ATEQ-Positive = Attitudes toward erotica questionnaire restriction beliefs effects subscale, RSES= Rosenberg self-esteem scale, NSSS-Ego= New sexual satisfaction scale ego-focused subscale, NSSS-Partner = New sexual satisfaction scale partner and activity-focused subscale, CSI = Couple's satisfaction index

CHAPTER 4: RESULTS

Data Screening

Preliminary data screening was conducted before analysis on the data was run in order to ensure data could be effectively analyzed. There were 385 initial responses to the survey; 2 were removed for declining consent, 1 was removed after indicating they were below age 18, and 22 were removed after answering they had not been in a relationship for 6 months or more. The remaining 360 cases that met all the criteria were screened for analysis.

Of these 360 cases, 15 cases were identified as univariate outliers and excluded from analysis. Skewness and kurtosis diagnostics were run and 1 scale (Couple's Satisfaction Index) and 2 subscales (Positive subscale and Restrict subscale on Attitudes Towards Erotica Questionnaire) were transformed due to significant skewness. A square root transformation was conducted on the Harmful subscale of the Attitudes Toward Erotica Questionnaire. A reflect and square root transformation was conducted on the Couple's Satisfaction Index and on the Positive subscale of the Attitudes Toward Erotica Questionnaire. Due to this transformation lower score on the attitudes toward erotica questionnaire will now indicate more acceptance of pornography. The Couple's Satisfaction Index was also reflected to address skewness meaning that lower scores will now indicate more relationship satisfaction. The respective transformations fixed any issues of skewness for all three scales. No problems were found when testing for the assumptions of linearity and homoscedasticity. The data were then checked for multivariate normality using Mahalanobis distance and 5 cases were identified as multivariate outliers ($p < .001$) with values above the chi-square critical value (24.322), which were excluded from further analysis. Lastly, screening found that there was no multicollinearity in the data. At the end of analysis any cases with missing scores on scales needed for hypotheses were removed, leaving a total of $n = 303$ cases for analysis. When split by gender there were a total of $n = 177$ cases for males and a total of $n = 118$ cases for females.

Test of Hypotheses

A structural equation modeling program, EQS 6.4 (Bentler, 2008), to explore the relationship among pornography attitudes and frequency of use with self-esteem, sexual

satisfaction, and overall relationship satisfaction. The model initially was run for all participants; however, as previous research indicated a difference in results based on gender, the model was also run for males and females separately. The results for each analysis are shown on Figure 2 (below) to allow for ease of comparison. The robust maximum likelihood solution was used to analyze all groups. In each analysis, parameter estimates appeared to be within normal limits, no issues were encountered during optimization, and all equality constraints were correctly imposed.

The hypothesized model for all participants fit well, $\chi^2(1, n = 303) = 48.803, p < .001$, CFI = .964. The RMSEA was slightly above the .06 (Hu & Bentler, 1999) at .076. This result is not uncommon due to the smaller sample size ($n = 303$). The hypothesized model for all participants was significantly improved from the independence model, $\Delta\chi^2 = 747.599, \Delta df = 13, p < .001$.

The hypothesized model for male participants fit well, $\chi^2(1, n = 177) = 35.473, p < .001$, CFI = .954. The RMSEA was about the .06 established by Hu and Bentler (1999) at .083. Again, this is not unexpected with a smaller sample size ($n = 177$). The hypothesized model for male participants was a significant improvement from the independence model, $\Delta\chi^2 = 416.503, \Delta df = 13, p < .001$.

The hypothesized model for female participants fit well, $\chi^2(1, n = 118) = 33.599, p < .001$, CFI = .949. The RMSEA was much higher from the standard of .06 (Hu & Bentler, 1999) at .097. With a much smaller sample size compared to the other two groups, it would be expected that this number would be higher. The hypothesized model for female participants was improved significantly from the independence model, $\Delta\chi^2 = 341.378, \Delta df = 13, p < .001$.

The overall hypothesized model for all participants contained significant pathways between every hypothesized link with the exception of the path between self-esteem and relationship satisfaction.

The hypothesized model for males also contained many significant pathways; the exceptions were for the path from self-esteem to relationship and the path from attitudes toward pornography to frequency of pornography use.

The hypothesized model for females differed from the previously mentioned hypothesized models in that there were more insignificant paths, comparatively. In the hypothesized model for females the paths that were insignificant were the paths from attitudes

toward pornography to self-esteem, from frequency of pornography use to self-esteem, from frequency of pornography use to sexual satisfaction, and from self-esteem to relationship satisfaction.

Hypothesis One

Hypothesis one stated there would be a positive correlation between attitudes toward pornography and frequency of pornography use. Hypothesis one was supported in the overall model. This suggests that if one is more open or accepting attitudes of pornography then lower rates of pornography use would be expected. The analysis for females also resulted in a significant, positive relationship. However, hypothesis one was not supported in the model for males as there was not a significant relationship between attitudes toward pornography and frequency of use.

Hypothesis Two

Hypothesis two stated that attitudes toward pornography would be positively associated with self-esteem. Hypothesis two was supported as there was a negative relationship between attitudes toward pornography and self-esteem. The relationship was significant for the general model and for males. This suggests that generally and for males, attitudes of pornography are related to self-esteem. Results from the model run for females found this relationship insignificant suggesting that acceptance of pornography is not associated with females' self-esteem.

Hypothesis Three

Hypothesis three stated that attitudes toward pornography would be positively associated with sexual satisfaction. Hypothesis three was supported across all models. Results indicated a significant relationship between attitudes toward pornography and sexual satisfaction. This suggests that acceptance of pornography is positively associated with sexual satisfaction.

Hypothesis Four

Hypothesis four stated that frequency of pornography use would be positively associated with self-esteem for men and negatively associated for women. Hypothesis four was not supported because the relationship between frequency of use and self-esteem was not significant for women. Though it is important to note that for men there was a positive relationship between frequency of use and self-esteem. This suggests that for men a higher frequency of use is associated with higher self-esteem.

Hypothesis Five

Hypothesis five stated that frequency of pornography use would be positively associated with sexual satisfaction for men and negatively associated for women. Hypothesis five was not supported. For men there was a negative association which was not predicted. For women, the relationship between frequency of use and sexual satisfaction was not significant.

Hypothesis Six

Hypothesis six stated that there would be a positive correlation between self-esteem and sexual satisfaction. Hypothesis six was not supported across all models. The relationship was found to be significant but results shows a negative association between self-esteem and sexual satisfaction which was not predicted.

Hypothesis Seven

Hypothesis seven stated that self-esteem would be positively associated with relationship satisfaction. Hypothesis seven was not supported in that the relationship was not significant generally, for men, or for women.

Hypothesis Eight

Hypothesis eight stated that sexual satisfaction would be positively associated with relationship satisfaction. Hypothesis eight was supported across all three models. This suggests

higher rates of sexual satisfaction are positively associated with higher rate of relationship satisfaction.

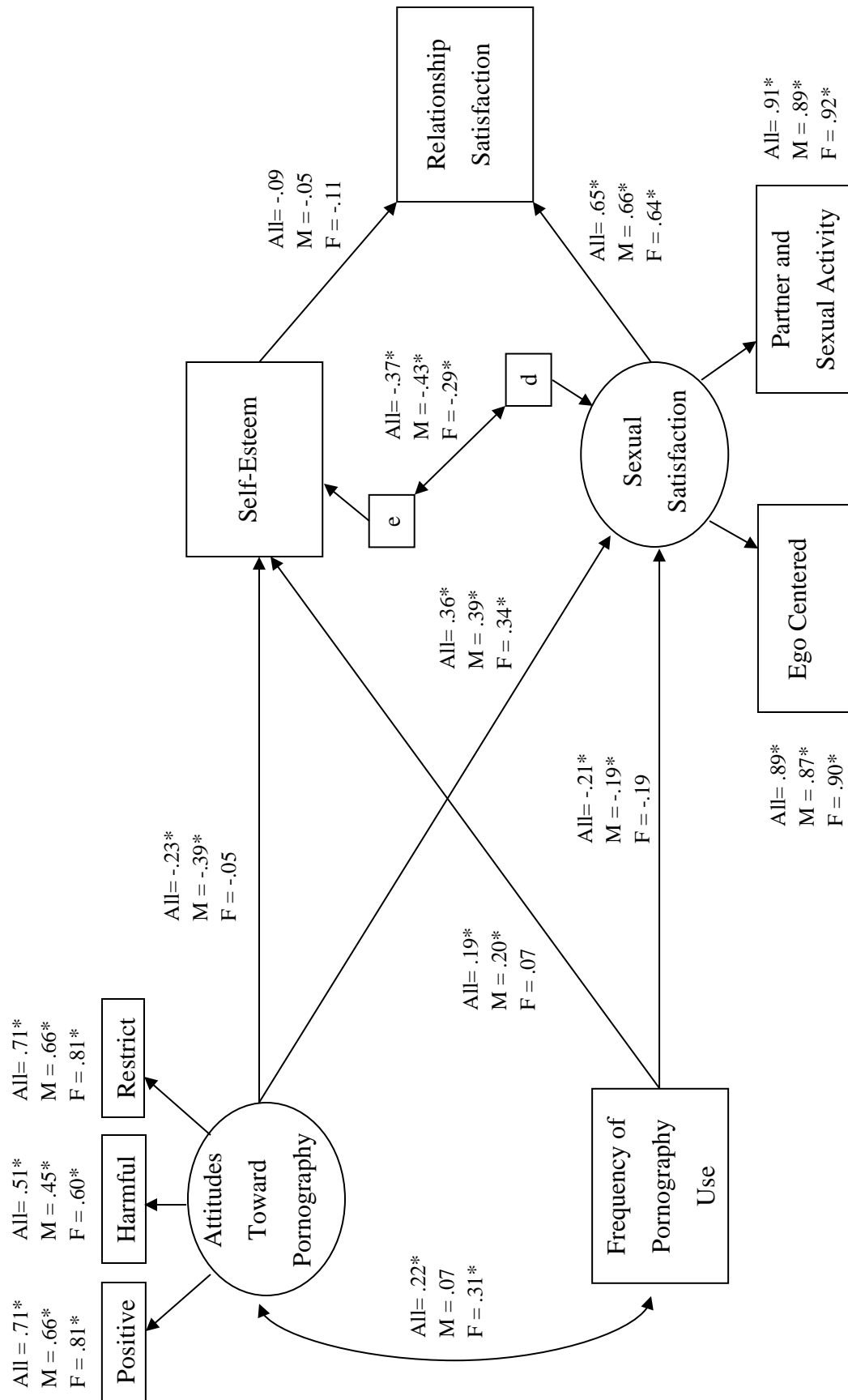


Figure 3. Structural Equation model and resulting coefficients. All= all participants, M= male participants, F= female participants

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to explore the relationship of pornography with self-esteem and sexual satisfaction and its impact overall relationship satisfaction. Literature had suggested one's pornography use and perceived effects were impacted by their beliefs about pornography (Carroll et al., 2008; Nelson, Padilla-Walker, and Carroll, 2010; Stulhofer, Busko, and Landripet, 2010; Willoughby, Carroll, Nelson, and Padilla-Walker, 2014). Sexual satisfaction was included as a variable in this study as an area that has previously been linked to being impacted by pornography use and one of the main reasons pornography is sought out (Emmers-Sommer, 2018; Fisher & Barak, 2001). Self-Esteem was included because there have been very few studies examining the relationship between pornography and one's self-esteem. Understanding how pornography use and attitudes were related to sexual satisfaction and self-esteem and how that relates to one's relationship was intended to help give more understanding to the current literature and understand relational impacts.

Attitudes Toward Pornography and Frequency of Use

Results indicated that one's attitude towards pornography would positively predict one's frequency of pornography use, suggesting that if an individual is more accepting of pornography they will view pornography more frequently. These findings are not surprising due to pornography use increasing in recent years (Price et al., 2016) along with an increased acceptance of pornography use (Gallup, 2018). The theoretical model presented as a part of this study would explain this through the way in which an individual had integrated their values and actions. Through interactions with their environment, individuals had developed beliefs on the acceptance of pornography. Self enhancement theory (Rosenberg, 1965) explains that individuals will take actions based on their beliefs; meaning that if one views pornography as acceptable, they will view more and vice versa.

It was not hypothesized that there would be a difference in acceptance and use based on gender. The overall and female participant models indicated that the relationship between attitudes toward pornography and frequency of use was significant. Interestingly so, when the analysis for males was run the relationship between attitudes toward pornography and frequency

of use was not significant. A likely explanation could be that the sample size of males ($n = 177$) was below the recommended 250 participants for structural equation modeling (Wolf, Harrington, Clark, & Miller, 2013) and therefore may not be representative of the U.S. male population.

Attitudes Toward Pornography and Self Esteem

It was predicted that attitudes toward pornography would be positively associated with self-esteem. Results indicated a significant relationship between the two variables, although there was a negative association between the two variables for the overall model and for men. It should be noted though that the relationship between attitude toward pornography and self-esteem was not significantly associated for women. This negative association would suggest that the more acceptance of pornography increases the more that self-esteem decreases. One research study of religious men who had agreed that pornography was unacceptable compared those who did with those who did not view pornography (Nelson, Padilla-Walker, & Carroll, 2010). Those who did not view pornography reported higher self-esteem compared to those who viewed pornography even though they all believed it was unacceptable (Nelson, Padilla-Walker, & Carroll, 2010). Due to frequency of use being correlated with attitudes toward pornography, it would not be abnormal for acceptance and higher use to be negatively associated with self-esteem. This is an area that future research will need to explore and assess.

Attitudes Toward Pornography and Sexual Satisfaction

Hypothesis three predicted that attitudes toward pornography would be positively associated with sexual satisfaction. Results supported this hypothesis implying that as acceptance of pornography increases it would be expected that sexual satisfaction would also increase. This was true not only overall, but both men and women as well. While pornography acceptance has not been thoroughly explored, this relationship can give insight into the narrative that individuals have developed surrounding sex. If their narrative includes viewing pornography as acceptable and positive then actions taken will follow the narrative they have developed. As self enhancement theory explains when ideologies and actions align an individual will feel better about themselves.

Another possibility could be based in sex positivity. Sex positivity is the idea that sex is not something to be hidden or ashamed about but rather something that is healthy and a part of everyone's life (International Society for Sexual Medicine, 2018). Acceptance of pornography could possibly be an indicator of sex positivity, although literature has not established this as a connection. Sex positivity involves and openness and acceptance of not only one's own sexuality but also others sexuality (International Society for Sexual Medicine, 2018). Both of these aspects could impact the way in which respondents answered to questions used to measure sexual satisfaction.

Frequency of Use and Sexual Satisfaction

It was hypothesized that frequency of pornography use would be positively associated with sexual satisfaction for men and negatively for women. Results indicated a significant relationship between the two variables but was negative for all participants, for male participants, and female participants. This suggests that a high rate of pornography use is associated with lowered sexual satisfaction. This matches with previous findings of a negative association in current literature between pornography use and sexual satisfaction (Bridges, Bergner, & Hesson-McInnis, 2003; Lambert, Negash, Stillman, & Olmstead, 2012; Lambert, Negash, Stillman, & Olmstead, 2012; Wright, Sun, Steffen, & Tokunaga, 2017). Additionally, previous literature found that individuals who viewed pornography were physically sexually satisfied but reported that they were emotionally and psychologically sexually satisfied (Emmers-Sommer, 2018). The New Sexual Satisfaction Scale (Štulhofer, Buško, & Brouillard, 2010) asks questions that focus on different areas of participants' sexual relationships. It is possible that responses reflect what Emmers-Somer (2018) found in their study. Results from the present study indicating dissatisfaction may be a result of dissatisfaction in emotional and psychological areas of sexuality and outweigh reports of being physically satisfied.

The internalization of images and desires that are developed from pornography use could also contribute to the resulting negative association found between frequency of pornography use and sexual satisfaction. It is possible that the ideas and beliefs one develops from viewing pornography creates beliefs and values around sex. Previous literature has found that there is a relationship between pornography and the sexual scripts that are developed (Braithwaite, Coulson, Keddington, & Fincham, 2015; Bridges, Sun, Ezzell, & Johnson, 2016; Sun, Bridges,

Johnson, & Ezzell, 2016). This formation of beliefs and values around sexuality influenced by viewing pornography in combination with a sexual relationship may be a mismatch of actions and values. This mismatch of actions and values may explain the negative association between frequency of pornography use and sexual satisfaction.

Frequency of Use and Self-Esteem

It was hypothesized that there would be a positive association between frequency of pornography use and self-esteem for men and a negative association for women. This hypothesis was met for men but not met for women. Results indicated a significant, positive association for all three groups of the overall sample, male participants, and female participants. Of the few published studies that have been completed examining pornography use and self-esteem some findings indicated a positive relationship (Kohut & Štulhofer, 2018; Morrison et al., 2004), others indicated a negative relationship (Kor et al., 2014; Levert, 2007; Young-Ho, 2001), and one found no significance (Peter & Valkenburg, 2016) between the two variables.

Results would fit with the proposed theoretical model that focuses on integration of information taken in to create values and how those fit with one's actions. As discussed above, pornography is one way that individuals receive information. The way in which individuals integrate this information compared to their actions was the Rosenberg's (1965) theoretical premise when introducing self enhancement theory. From this stance, the information that one is taking in through pornography use is fitting with the actions of participants. As self enhancement theory explains this leads to higher self-esteem as the results showed.

Self-Esteem and Sexual Satisfaction

Hypothesis six stated that there would be a positive correlation between self-esteem and sexual satisfaction. Results from the present study did not support the hypothesis as results indicated a significant, negative correlation. Analysis based on gender also followed the same pattern of a significant relationship, albeit negative rather than the hypothesized positive correlation. This would suggest that when taking into account pornography acceptance and use, a lowered self-esteem would be related to an increased sexual satisfaction. Previous literature had

indicated a positive relationship between self-esteem and sexual satisfaction (Hally & Pollack, 1993).

Results may not have been what was expected due to the many factors that play into both global self-esteem and sexual satisfaction. Literature has previously suggested that one's global self-esteem may be too broad to predict one's sexual satisfaction (Oattes & Offman, 2007). Another possible explanation is that acceptance of pornography and use of pornography are related to self-esteem and sexual satisfaction in opposite ways; where one is negatively associated the other is positively associated. This association with other variables could account for the resulting negative association.

Self-Esteem and Relationship Satisfaction

The relationship between self-esteem and relationship satisfaction was hypothesized to be positively associated with relationship satisfaction. An analysis of the data revealed that there was not a significant relationship between self-esteem and relationship satisfaction among any of the three groups of participants. While the relationship between the variables was not significant, it is an important finding of the present study. Both self-esteem and relationship satisfaction were measured using previously established scales. Reliability analyses for the current study were run on each scale and reported strong Cronbach's alphas for each ($\alpha = .87$ for RSES and $\alpha = .95$ for CSI; see Table 10). With strong reliability of the established scales it appears that each variable was consistently measured. From these results it appears that pornography acceptance and use does not significantly impact self-esteem in such a way that relationship satisfaction would be altered.

Research has examined the relationship between self-esteem and relationship satisfaction and found that changes in self-esteem are related to changes in relationship satisfaction (Hendrick, Hendrick, & Adler, 1988; Yasemin Erol & Orth, 2014). Of the small amount of research examining pornography use and individual self-esteem, there have been a few that have found an insignificant impact on self-esteem (Kohut & Štulhofer, 2018; Peter & Valkenburg, 2016). There have also been other studies indicating positive impacts (Kohut & Štulhofer, 2018; Morrison et al., 2004) and negative impacts (Kor et al., 2014; Levert, 2007; Young-Ho, 2001) of pornography on self-esteem. Due to the large amount of literature having indicated a strong relationship between self-esteem and relationship satisfaction, results from the current study

would indicate that pornography use and acceptance does not have a significant enough of an impact on self-esteem to alter relationship satisfaction. In addition to this, as discussed in the relationship between self-esteem, both relationship satisfaction and self-esteem have many contributing factors and could possibly be too large to detect impacts from one source. As this is still a new area of research more studies are needed to examine the relationship between self-esteem and relationship satisfaction as influenced by pornography.

Sexual Satisfaction and Relationship Satisfaction

It was hypothesized that sexual satisfaction would be positively associated with relationship satisfaction. Hypothesis 8 was supported overall, for men, and for women. This area was unsurprising as previous literature has found similar results (Bridges & Morokoff, 2011; Grov et al., 2011). This relationship in the model also had the highest coefficients across all three analyses. As discussed before, the bulk of the literature relating pornography use and relationship satisfaction has indicated a negative relationship with sexual satisfaction and relationship satisfaction. A prospective explanation may be based in research bias that is focused on finding negative effects of pornography (Grov et al., 2011; Weinberg et al., 2010). Alternatively the strong relationship between sexual satisfaction and relationship satisfaction may not be altered enough by pornography use and attitudes toward pornography to create a measurable impact.

Limitations

Defining Pornography

One of the largest limitations to this study is a lack of definition of pornography. Having different definitions of pornography impacts how participants answer questions. It also impacts results which vary across multiple studies. A lack of definition also makes it more difficult to compare results across studies. Literature has suggested that a lack of definition of pornography may be part of the reason there are mixed results amidst the literature (Goodson, McCormick, & Evans, 2001). Future research should address the definition of pornography used and consider using the Miller method (Waxman, 2016) as a starting point for defining pornography.

Theoretical Orientation

Due to the identified gap in the literature of needing to measure frequency of use and attitudes toward pornography together, the proposed theoretical model was created. The proposed theoretical model included in the current study combines theories that are used to help understand the process of meaning making and its integration. Other studies prior to the current one have either used a wide variety of different models (Peter & Valkenburg, 2016) or did not name a theoretical model from which they were working. Due to the variety or unnamed theoretical approaches, interpretations of the current study may differ from interpretations used in other research regarding pornography.

Sample

The sample of the current study may not be representative of the general population for several reasons. First, results were collected using a convenience sample restricted to those who access to the survey database. The majority of the participants identified as heterosexual (77.2%; see Table 4). Participants in the study were predominantly male (60 %; see Table 1). Another of the limitations regarding the sample was the small sample size once gender was accounted for (males $n = 177$, females $n = 117$). In order to ensure the structural equation modeling has enough statistical power, it is recommended that sample sizes are larger than 250 (Wolf, Harrington, Clark, and Miller, 2013). A smaller sample size could explain why there were more non-significant relationships between variables amongst females. Due to these constraints, the sample may not be representative of the population.

Attitudes Toward Pornography

In an effort to measure variables as reliably as possible, established scales were used to measure each variable. Research on established scales resulted in limited options by which to measure one's attitudes toward pornography. Previous literature had indicated a moderate reliability for all three subscales of the ATEQ; $\alpha = .86$ for the harmful effects subscale, $\alpha = .76$ for the positive effects subscale, and $\alpha = .85$ for the beliefs about restrictions subscale (Bloom, Gutierrez, & Lambie, 2017). In the current study the reliability test for the subscale measuring beliefs about restricting pornography access resulted in a Cronbach's Alpha of $\alpha = .34$ (see Table

10). The low reliability of the subscale creates some concern in the dependability of attitudes toward pornography measure.

Multi-faceted Variables

Social scientists have long known that there is rarely, if at all, the opportunity to measure variables in complete isolation. Control variables help to account for the many different factors that may impact the observed variables. In the present study the lack of control variables may explain some of the results that were found. Due to the many factors that play into self-esteem, sexual satisfaction, and relationship satisfaction it is possible that pornography use and acceptance may not have had enough positive or negative influence on these variables to create a measurable difference.

Implications

Theoretical Implications

Throughout the current study the lack of theoretical orientation has been mentioned and discussed. Theoretical understanding used in pornography related research needs further exploration and study overall. While there has been a lack of theoretical orientation, the proposed theoretical model has helped to give insight into the use of theory and research going forward. Prior to the current study there had only been a handful of studies that measured pornography use and acceptance together. Literature has suggested that due to the current social climate where pornography is easily accessed and accepted, understanding personal acceptance of pornography may give insight to resulting correlations that have been found in research on pornography consumption (Willoughby, Carroll, Nelson, & Padilla-Walker, 2014). With the need to also include personal views and acceptance of pornography going forward, it is suggested that researchers use theories that consider meaning making and its integration.

Clinical Implications

When discussions of pornography arise clinicians need to begin discussing one's attitudes toward pornography along with frequency of use. Results from the current study indicate that

frequency of pornography use and one's attitudes toward pornography influence variables differently. Thus discussing either one independently will not give an accurate depiction of the relationship between pornography and self-esteem, sexual satisfaction, and relationship satisfaction. This approach to examining both use and acceptance will give clinician's a more truthful view of the influence of pornography in their clients' lives.

Furthermore, clinicians should note when working with clients is how pornography impacts different genders. Results from the current study have indicated that individuals experience impacts from pornography differently. In many of the relationships between attitudes toward pornography and frequency of pornography use with the other variables indicated a significance for one gender or the other. Clinicians should structure their resulting discussions around the impacts that each gender may experience. Considering different sex couples, therapists should help the couple to understand the different impacts that pornography has on individuals of differing genders.

Clinicians need then to consider the goals and needs of their clients. Recommendations and emphases will vary based on client's needs and the goal for therapy. Understanding of client's needs and goals will impact the where clinicians should focus on in discussion around pornography use and acceptance, along with gender. In relation to increasing either self-esteem or sexual satisfaction a clinician may place more emphasis on changing either frequency of use or one's attitudes toward pornography. This is not to say that a clinician should ignore one or the other but rather emphasize improving one or the other and how they work together. However changing one of the two is dependent upon the client's goals and should be noted that the other is likely to be influenced as results indicated a correlation between the two.

Future Directions

Throughout this study many areas of additional research have been highlighted. The first suggestion for future research should consider the model of the current study and analyze and compare results between male and female groups. The current study had samples of males and females that were smaller than the recommended 250 to ensure enough statistical power in results (Wolf, Harrington, Clark, & Miller, 2013). As mentioned the small sample sizes may have contributed to the results that were found and especially the larger amount of insignificant relationships found when analyzed for only female participants.

The largest consideration that future research should consider is measuring both use and acceptance of pornography together. Previous literature has already highlighted the need for this consideration going forward (Carroll et al., 2008; Nelson, Padilla-Walker, and Carroll, 2010; Stulhofer, Busko, and Landripet, 2010). In the case of the study done by Willoughby, Carroll, Nelson, and Padilla-Walker (2014) they found differing results when they analyzed based solely on pornography use and when they considered both together.

Future research should consider providing participants with a definition of pornography. Participants were not provided with a definition as a part of the current study but were instead asked to provide a definition. Definitions were not analyzed as a part of the current study but there appeared to be a wide variety in the definitions provided. The Miller method (Waxman, 2016) could potentially be used or be used as a starting point for researchers in creating a definition of pornography.

A large area for future research to examine is the relationship between pornography use and acceptance as related to self-esteem. Current literature only contains a handful of published studies that examine pornography use and self-esteem or self-worth, and only one that accounts for both pornography use and acceptance. Going forward other researchers should consider examining the relationship between pornography use and acceptance with self-esteem with the use of control variables.

Conclusion

Pornography research is an area that has been growing within the literature in more recent times. Literature had previously highlighted the need in to measure both frequency of pornography use and acceptance of pornography concurrently (Carroll et al., 2008; Nelson, Padilla-Walker, and Carroll, 2010; Stulhofer, Busko, and Landripet, 2010; Willoughby, Carroll, Nelson, and Padilla-Walker, 2014). Result of the study showed that acceptance and frequency of use of pornography related to each variable differently. This highlights the need to measure both in pornography research in the future when assessing impacts of pornography.

APPENDIX

Survey

Start of Block: Default Question Block

Consent RESEARCH PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM Relational Impacts of Pornography Use and Acceptance David P. Nalbone, Ph.D., Dept. of Behavioral Sciences, Purdue University Northwest Alexandra Gillespie, B.S., Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Program, Purdue University Northwest Key InformationPlease take the time to review this information carefully. This is a research study. Your participation in this study is voluntary which means that you may choose not to participate at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may ask questions of the researchers about the study whenever you would like. If you decide to take part in the study, you will be asked to sign this form, so be sure to understand what you will do and any possible risks or benefits. What is the purpose of this study? You are being asked to participate in a study designed by Alexandra Gillespie of Purdue University Northwest. We want to understand what you think about several current social and political issues. What will I do if I choose to be in this study? If you choose to participate, you acknowledge that you are at least 18 years old, live in the US, and are a US citizen. Additionally you acknowledge that you are currently, or in the past have been, in a relationship which involved sex for a minimum of 6 months. You will be asked to complete a questionnaire asking about your views on social, relational, and sexual issues. There are two questions at the beginning of the survey that you must respond to that provide your consent and qualification for the study. After you respond to these questions, you may choose not to answer a question if it makes you feel uncomfortable, or to withdraw your participation at any time without penalty. How long will I be in the study? It should take approximately 20 minutes for you to complete the entire study. What are the possible risks or discomforts? Breach of confidentiality is a risk. To minimize this risk, only the researchers will access the data from this study, and no personally identifying information will be collected during the study. The questions involve no greater risk than that found in everyday life. Are there any potential benefits? You will not directly benefit from this

study. You will have a chance to take part in research, and your participation thus may contribute to the scientific understanding of how people view social and political issues. Will I receive payment or other incentive? You will receive compensation of less than \$1 for

participating in this research project, so long as you meet the study inclusion criteria and you complete the appropriate verification question to ensure your active participation. Will information about me and my participation be kept confidential? There is no personally identifying information on this questionnaire; all responses will remain anonymous, and will be used only in combination with the responses of other participants in this and related studies. In addition, you may choose not to answer particular questions, or to withdraw your participation at any time, without penalty. All data gathered in this study will be stored separately from the consent form, and will be accessed only by the researchers. The data file will be used for preparation of research reports related to this study, and kept for a period of three years after publication of any articles related to this study. The project's research records may be reviewed by departments at Purdue University responsible for regulatory and research oversight. What are my rights if I take part in this study? You do not have to participate in this research

project. If you agree to participate, you can withdraw your participation at any time without penalty. Who can I contact if I have questions about the study? If you have any questions about this research project, you can contact Alexandra Gillespie at 219-989-2079. If you have concerns about the treatment of research participants, you can contact the Committee on the Use of Human Research Subjects at Purdue University, Ernest C. Young Hall, Room 1032, 155 S. Grant St., West Lafayette, IN, 47907-2114. The phone number for the Committee's secretary is (765) 494-5942. The email address is irb@purdue.edu. Documentation of

Informed Consent I have had the opportunity to read this consent form and have the research study explained. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the research project and my questions have been answered. I am prepared to participate in the research project described above. I certify that I am at least 18 years old, and a U.S. citizen living in the U.S.,

and agree to participate in this study. I also certify that I am currently, or in the past have been, in a relationship which involved sex for a minimum of 6 months.

☐ Yes, I agree.

☐ No. do I not agree.

Skip To: End of Survey If RESEARCH PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM Relational Impacts of Pornography Use and Acceptance David P. N... = No. do I not agree.

Q1 Are you at least 18 years of age or older?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Skip To: End of Survey If Are you at least 18 years of age or older? = No

Q2 Are you currently, or have you in the past been, in a relationship which involved sex for six (6) months or longer?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Skip To: End of Survey If Are you currently, or have you in the past been, in a relationship which involved sex for six (6)... = No

Page Break

CSI- Q1 Please indicate the degree of overall happiness, all things considered, of your relationship (thinking of your current or most recent relationship):

- ☐ Extremely unhappy
 - ☐ Fairly unhappy
 - ☐ A little unhappy
 - ☐ Happy
 - ☐ Very happy
 - ☐ Extremely happy
-

CSI-Q2 In general, how often do you think that things between you and your partner (thinking of your current or most recent relationship) are going well?

- ☐ All the time
 - ☐ Most of the time
 - ☐ More often than not
 - ☐ Occasionally
 - ☐ Rarely
 - ☐ Never
-

CSI- Q3 Thinking of your current or most recent relationship, please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Not at all true	A little true	Somewhat true	Mostly True	Almost completely true	Completely True
Our relationship is strong	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My relationship with my partner makes me happy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have a warm and comfortable relationship with my partner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I really feel like part of a team with my partner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

CSI-Q4 Thinking of your current or most recent relationship, please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Mostly	Almost completely	Completely
How rewarding is your relationship with your partner (current or most recent)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How well does your partner meet your needs?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To what extent has your relationship (current or most recent) met your expectations?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In general, how satisfied are you with your relationship?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

CSI- Q5 Please rate how you feel on the following scale in regards to your current or most recent relationship:

☐ 5- Interesting

☐ 4

☐ 3

☐ 2

☐ 1

☐ 0-Boring

CSI-Q6 Please rate how you feel on the following scale in regards to your current or most recent relationship:

☐ 5- Good

☐ 4

☐ 3

☐ 2

☐ 1

☐ 0-Bad

CSI-Q7 Please rate how you feel on the following scale in regards to your current or most recent relationship:

☐ 5- Full

☐ 4

☐ 3

☐ 2

☐ 1

☐ 0-Empty

CSI-Q8 Please rate how you feel on the following scale in regards to your current or most recent relationship:

☐ 5- Sturdy

☐ 4

☐ 3

☐ 2

☐ 1

☐ 0-Fragile

CSI-Q9 Please rate how you feel on the following scale in regards to your current or most recent relationship:

- ☐ 5- Hopeful
 - ☐ 4
 - ☐ 3
 - ☐ 2
 - ☐ 1
 - ☐ 0-Discouraging
-

CSI-Q10 Please rate how you feel on the following scale in regards to your current or most recent relationship:

- ☐ 5- Enjoyable
 - ☐ 4
 - ☐ 3
 - ☐ 2
 - ☐ 1
 - ☐ 0-Miserable
-

ATEQ- P1/3 Please answer the following questions with the provided scale as they relate to
Internet pornography

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
The material (internet pornography) exploits women	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The material (internet pornography) should be publicly sold and publicly shown	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The material (internet pornography) should be available to adults	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The availability of the material (internet pornography) leads to a breakdown in community morals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The material (internet pornography) can improve sex relations among adults	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel the material (internet pornography) is offensive	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The material (internet pornography) exploits men	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

ATEQ- P2/3 Please answer the following questions with the provided scale as they relate to Internet pornography

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
The material (internet pornography) should be available to minors (under age 18)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The material (internet pornography) increases the probability of sexual violence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In this material (internet pornography), the positioning and treatment of men is degrading to men	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The material (internet pornography) may provide an outlet for bottled-up sexual pleasures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In this material (internet pornography), sex and violence are often shown together	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This material (internet pornography) can enhance the pleasure of masturbation for women	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This material (internet pornography) should be made illegal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

ATEQ- P3/3 Please answer the following questions with the provided scale as they relate to Internet pornography

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
The material (internet pornography) may teach people sexual techniques	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This material (internet pornography) should be protected by the 1st amendment (freedom of speech and the press)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People should be made aware of the positive effects of this material (internet pornography)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This material (internet pornography) serves a more positive than negative function in society	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This material (internet pornography) can enhance the pleasure of masturbation for men	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People should be made aware of the negative effects of this material (internet pornography)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In this material (internet pornography), the positioning and treatment of women is degrading to women	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

RSES Please answer the following questions in regard to yourself:

	1- Strongly Agree	2- Agree	3- Disagree	4- Strongly disagree
On the whole, I am satisfied with myself	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At times I think I am no good at all	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel that I have a number of good qualities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am able to do things as well as most other people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel I do not have much to be proud of	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I certainly feel useless at times	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel that I'm a person of worth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I wish I could have more respect for myself	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I take a positive attitude toward myself	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

NSSS- Q1/2 Please respond to the following questions using the following scale regarding your current or most recent relationship:

	1- Not at all satisfied	2- A little satisfied	3- Moderately satisfied	4- Very Satisfied	5- Extremely Satisfied
The intensity of my sexual arousal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The quality of my orgasms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My "letting go" and surrender to sexual pleasure during sex	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My focus (concentration) during sexual activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The way I sexually react to my partner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My body's sexual functioning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My emotional opening up in sex	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My mood after sexual activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The frequency of my orgasms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The pleasure I provide to my partner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

NSSS- Q2/2 Please respond to the following questions using the following scale regarding your current or most recent relationship:

	1- Not at all satisfied	2- A little satisfied	3- Moderately satisfied	4- Very Satisfied	5- Extremely Satisfied
The balance between what I give and receive in sex	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My partner's emotional opening up during sex	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My partner's initiation of sexual activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My partner's ability to orgasm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My partner's surrender to sexual pleasure ("letting go")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The way my partner takes care of my sexual needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My partner's sexual creativity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My partner's sexual availability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The variety of my sexual activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The frequency of my sexual activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Define How do you define pornography? (that is, what is it? What makes something pornography? How would you determine if something was considered pornography? etc.)

Frequency 1 How many days a **week** do you view **internet** pornography?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Less than once a week
- ☐ 1 day a week
- ☐ 2 days per week
- ☐ 3 days per week
- ☐ 4 days per week
- ☐ 5 days per week
- ☐ 6 days per week
- ☐ 7 days per week

Skip To: Age If How many days a week do you view internet pornography? = Never

Frequency 2 How many times in a **day** do you view **internet** pornography?

- ☐ Never
 - ☐ Once per day
 - ☐ 2 times per day
 - ☐ 3 times a day
 - ☐ 4 times a day
 - ☐ 5 times a day
 - ☐ More than 5 times a day
-

Time When you watch internet pornography how much time, in minutes, do you view it in a single experience? (if longer than 120 min, please move the slider to indicate 120)

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120

Time in Minutes	
-----------------	--

Partner Awareness Is your partner aware of your use of internet pornography?

- ☐ Definitely yes
 - ☐ Probably yes
 - ☐ Might or might not
 - ☐ Probably not
 - ☐ Definitely not
-

Acct Made Have you ever created an account for an internet pornography site?

- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
-

Paid Acct Have you ever paid for access to an internet pornography site?

- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
-

Q57 Finally, we have some questions about your background.

Age Please indicate your age in years

18 26 34 43 51 59 67 75 84 92 100

Age in years	
--------------	--

Gender Identity 1 Which gender identity were you assigned at birth?

- ☐ Male
 - ☐ Female
 - ☐ Prefer not to say
-

Gender Identity 2 What is your current gender identity?

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Transgender

☐ Gender non-binary

☐ Agender

☐ Genderqueer

☐ Trans Male

☐ Trans Female

☐ Other _____

☐ Prefer not to say

Education Please indicate your highest level of completed education:

- ☐ Less than high school
 - ☐ High school graduate
 - ☐ Some college
 - ☐ Trade School
 - ☐ Associate's degree
 - ☐ Bachelor's degree
 - ☐ Master's degree
 - ☐ Doctorate or professional degree
 - ☐ Prefer not to say
-

Income Please indicate your income level:

- ☐ \$1 - 20,000
- ☐ \$20,001 - \$40,000
- ☐ \$40,001 - \$60,000
- ☐ \$60,001 - \$80,000
- ☐ \$80,001 - \$100,000
- ☐ \$100,001 +
- ☐ No income
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Marital Status Please indicate your marital status:

- ☐ Married
- ☐ Widowed
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Separated
- ☐ Single
- ☐ Cohabiting or partnered
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Race Please indicate your race/ethnicity :

- ☐ White/Caucasian
 - ☐ Black
 - ☐ African
 - ☐ Asian Culture
 - ☐ Indian / Asian Subcontinent
 - ☐ First People / Native American
 - ☐ Latino/a/x
 - ☐ Middle Eastern
 - ☐ Multi-racial
 - ☐ Prefer not to say
-

Sexual Orientation Please indicate your sexual orientation:

- ☐ Heterosexual
 - ☐ Gay
 - ☐ Lesbian
 - ☐ Bisexual
 - ☐ Pansexual
 - ☐ Asexual
 - ☐ Queer
 - ☐ Questioning
 - ☐ Other
 - ☐ Prefer not to say
-

Religion Please indicate your religious affiliation:

☐ Christian

☐ Hindu

☐ Jewish

☐ Islam / Muslim

☐ Buddhist

☐ Wiccan

☐ Atheist

☐ Agnostic

☐ Spiritual

☐ None

☐ Other

Geography How would you describe the geographical location of where you live?

☐ Urban

☐ Suburb

☐ Rural

Regions Picture



Regions Using the picture above, what region of the United States do you live in?

- ☐ West
 - ☐ Southwest
 - ☐ Midwest
 - ☐ Southeast
 - ☐ Northeast
-

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