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Women's Perceptions of Sexual Assault Perpetrators and Fear of Rape

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WOMEN'S PERCEPTIONS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PERPETRATORS AND

FEAR OF RAPE

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A Thesis

Presented to the

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In Partial Fulfillment

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by

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ABSTRACT

The overarching goal of the present thesis was to study women's perceptions of sexual assault perpetrators and how those perceptions relate to fear of sexual assault. Previous researchers have developed a substantial literature on predictors and correlates of sexual assault perpetration. What is not known is how accurate women's perceptions are of these predictors. Rationale from both evolutionary mismatch theory and social psychological stereotype theory suggests that women's perceptions may be inaccurate. In the present thesis, I tested a set of hypotheses designed to examine individual differences in women's perceptions of sexual assault perpetrators and how these perceptions relate to fear of rape. A total of 128 women completed a survey assessing their perceptions of characteristics of sexual assault perpetrators, their fears about sexual assault, their perceived risk of sexual assault, and their previous sexual assault related experiences. Results indicated that women's perceptions of perpetrator characteristics were generally inaccurate. Furthermore, women's overall level of accuracy was not predictive of their fear nor risk of stranger or acquaintance rape. However, women's perceived risk of either stranger or acquaintance rape was predictive of their fear of each respective assault. These findings provide evidence for both evolutionary mismatch theory and social psychological stereotype theory. Implications regarding women's sexual assault education and fear reduction are discussed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to all my loved ones (platonic, romantic, and familial). Without them, I would not have had the encouragement nor confidence necessary to embark on this journey, let alone finish it. I wish I had the right words to say, but I fear that there aren't any, and certainly not enough time or space for me to write them coherently.

I also wish to dedicate this research to any victims of sexual abuse. This population was the reason I became interested in researching, and the very reason I am so passionate about my work as a therapist.

I also wish to dedicate this research to all the women in my life that either raised, shaped, or mentored me. If not for them, I would not be half the man I am today. No one could have gotten this far in life all on their own, and I most certainly did not.

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CHAPTER ONE

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

To date, there is a large body of literature in which researchers have examined predictive factors associated with sexual assault perpetration. While there have been a number of characteristics and contexts identified in the literature that are associated with sexual assault perpetration, it is unknown if women's perceptions of characteristics of sexual assault perpetrators map on to reality, and how their perceptions relate to their fear of sexual assault. Rationale from two theoretical frameworks- evolutionary mismatch theory and social psychological stereotype theory- suggests that women's perceptions of the characteristics of sexual assault perpetrators may by inaccurate. In the present thesis, I examined well-studied characteristics associated with sexual assault perpetration to determine how accurate women's perceptions of sexual assault perpetrators are, and to determine how their perceptions of these characteristics relate to their fear of sexual assault.

Evolutionary Mismatch

Evolutionary mismatch is the idea that characteristics, including physiological structures, neural systems, cognition, and behavior that were naturally selected for specific environmental conditions, may now be maladaptive due to rapid changes in the environment (Li, Van Vugt, & Colarelli, 2018).

Modern humans live in environments that differ vastly from the conditions under which many of our physiological and psychological adaptations were shaped. These differences are in a variety of domains. For example, humans eat different food, are exposed to novel environmental threats, and interact with a world of technology that did not exist in an ancestral environment. Because evolution by natural selection is a process that results in change over many generations, there may be many cases where our adaptations are calibrated to an environment differing from that of our modern environment.

Our social interactions, and social psychological mechanisms, are one domain in which evolutionary mismatch is seen. Throughout the majority of human history, humans lived in small hunter-gather groups, likely ranging from 50-200 individuals, many of whom were related to one another (Hill & Dunbar, 2003; Killworth, Bernard, & McCarty, 1984; Li, Van Vugt, & Colarelli, 2018). This differs from the large societies people live in today. Our current social world is marked by unprecedented anonymity and opportunities to interact with new people. In the United States in particular, people often move away from their kin and family members upon entering adulthood. Thus, it should be expected that any female adaptations related to the assessment of sexual assault perpetrators and fear of sexual assault will have been shaped by a social environment very different from the contexts under which modern sexual assault often takes place.

Two features of modern sexual assault highlight this potential mismatch. First, it is well-documented that modern women are more likely to be sexually

assaulted by acquaintances than strangers (Black et al., 2011). However, modern women report greater fear of stranger rape than acquaintance rape (Barbaret, Fisher, Farrell, & Taylor, 2003; Ferraro, 1996; Fisher & Sloan, 2003; Hickman & Muehlenhard, 1997; Warr, 1985; Wilcox, Jordan, & Pritchard, 2006). Ancestrally, small group living would have made it more difficult for men known to a woman to commit sexual assault. The circle of men she knew would have been smaller, and she likely would have had male kin nearby to provide a deterrent and protection. Men outside of a woman's group may have posed a larger threat (Gottschall, 2004) and women's fears of stranger rape may reflect this (McKibbin, Shackelford, Goetz, & Starratt, 2008). The emotion of fear likely evolved to motivate the avoidance of phenomena that recurrently threatened our ancestor's ability to survive and reproduce (Tooby & Cosmides, 1990). The costs associated with rape include pregnancy, decreased likelihood of investment from the biological father, physical damage, psychological trauma, social damage, sexual reputational damage, decrease in sexual interaction, and decrease in sexual drive (Anderson, McClain, & Riviello, 2006; Black et al., 2011; McKibbin & Shackelford, 2011; Perilloux, Duntley, & Buss, 2012). Such costs provide evidence that fears of sexual assault could have been shaped by natural selection. This may also provide an alternative explanation for women's fear of stranger rape. It may be that stranger rape was simply costlier than acquaintance rape; with far lower likelihood of investment from the biological father (rapist) in such instances. In any case, these fears demonstrate a mismatch between the

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modern environment, which is plagued with acquaintance perpetrators, and the ancestral environment in which women's fears were shaped.

Another feature of modern sexual assault is that it often involves substance use, with either the perpetrator, the victim, or both being under the influence of alcohol or drugs (Abbey, Ross, McDuffie, & McAuslan, 1996; Abbey, McAuslan, & Ross, 1998; Copenhaver and Grauerholz, 1991; Harrington and Leitenberg, 1994; Koss, 1989; Loiselle, & Fuqua, 2007; Schuster, Krahé, & Toplu-Demirtas, 2016). There is historical evidence that primates, including humans, have long consumed ripe and decaying fruit with low levels of ethanol (Dudley, 2002), and natural hallucinogenic substances have been consumed by humans throughout history (Dobkin de Rios, 1982; Tylš, Páleníček, & Horáček, 2014). However, in our modern environment, humans have developed drugs and alcoholic drinks that have far stronger effects on cognition and behavior than those that ancestral humans consumed (ElSohly, Mehmedic, Foster, Gon, Chandra, & Church, 2016). Furthermore, drugs and alcohol are often consumed in social settings for a variety of reasons including adherence to social norms, for enjoyment, and enhancement of one's own sexuality (Szmigin, Griffin, Mistral, Bengry-Howell, Weale, & Hackley, 2008). This is another instance of mismatch in our modern environment. Men and women often interact in social settings while under the influence of substances that alter inhibition, judgment, behavioral decisions, risk perceptions, and ability to act assertively (thus lowering women's ability to protect themselves; Melkonian & Ham, 2018; Loiselle, & Fuqua, 2007).

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In short, any evolved psychology related to perceptions of contexts that put women at risk for sexual assault, or characteristics of perpetrators, are not calibrated to this feature of modern sexual assault.

To summarize, a number of human characteristics have been shaped under the pressures of a pre-ancestral environment. Provided that such pressures and stimuli have changed over time, the psychological heuristics and behaviors once calibrated for utility in ancestral environments may not be properly calibrated for environments of late. As such, I expect that women's perceptions of both sexual assault perpetrators and perpetration may be inaccurate.

Rape Myths and Stereotypes

Another reason why misperceptions regarding perpetrator characteristics might exist includes the propagation of modern rape myths and stereotypes. Rape myths are inaccurate beliefs regarding rape, rapists, and sexual assault (Burt, 1980). Edwards, Turchik, Dardis, Reynolds and Gidycz (2011) conducted a historical review of rape myths and stereotypes that have been perpetuated over the years, and specifically point out that a common source of misinformation regarding rapists includes that of television. More specifically, Cuklanz (2000), highlights that the news media tends to heavily focus on instances of stranger rape, and continues to do so despite a large body of evidence that rape by an acquaintance is far more likely to occur (Black et al. 2011). Such news coverage may reinforce inaccurate perceptions of rapists as being more likely to be a

stranger despite the reality that rapists are far more likely to be familiar with the victim (i.e., acquaintances and intimate partners). This may also represent an instance where stereotypes are combined with mismatched features of our environment (i.e., the existence of television and news media) in ways that promote not only inaccurate perceptions about sexual assault, but do so quickly and to a mass audience. Additionally, the inherent and strong focus on stranger rape cases within news coverage may reflect society's own evolved psychological fears of strangers. Moreover, it might be that some of these rape myths are those generated by human's ancestral psychology, which may explain why so many of these myths are intuitively appealing to the general public.

Burt (1980) argued that other stereotypes about sexual assault held by the general public include the idea that rapists are "sex-starved, insane, or both" (p. 217). Additionally, there exists a rape myth that good looking men do not rape (Martinez, Wiersma-Mosley, Jozkowski, & Becnel, 2018). However, such stereotypes may not be warranted when examining the research conducted by Lalumière, Chalmers, Quinsey, and Seto (1996). These researchers determined that sexually coercive individuals were more likely to report having high mating success, as well as a large sexual history. These same researchers point out that mating success is a reflection of physical attractiveness as well as level of desirability to the opposite sex.

Provided the possible psychological mismatch due to the rapid change in environmental conditions, as well as an inundation of misinformation regarding

perpetrators via rape myths and stereotypes, there is ample reason to believe women may have inaccurate perceptions about contexts that would put them at greater risk of sexual assault in our modern environment, and the characteristics of sexual assault perpetrators. However, there is a substantial body of literature on characteristics associated with sexual assault perpetration. No research to date has examined the wide array of characteristics known to be associated with perpetration to determine if women understand these characteristics to be associated with perpetration or not.

Characteristics Associated with Sexual Assault Perpetrators

Although women's perceptions of sexual assault perpetration may be shaped by the ancestral conditions under which sexual assault took place in the past and current stereotypes about rape, empirical research provides us with accurate information about characteristics of sexual assault perpetrators. Greathouse, Saunders, Matthews, Keller, and Miller (2015) recently conducted a literature review of male perpetrator characteristics and behaviors. These researchers systematically lumped the existing findings and predictors of sexual assault perpetrators into clusters: childhood abuse, sexual behavior, interpersonal skills, attitudes and cognitions, peer attitudes and behaviors, and substance-use related factors. Two additional factors not reviewed in the Greathouse et al. (2015) framework are consumption of sexually explicit material and social status.

<u>Childhood Abuse</u>

The first noted cluster of interest was childhood abuse (Greathouse et al., 2015). The three forms of childhood abuse reviewed were emotional, sexual, and physical abuse. Using a sample of 369 incarcerated men, DeGue, DiLillo, and Scalora (2010) examined which forms of childhood abuse were associated with sexual aggression, sexual coercion, and consensual sexual behaviors. Sexual aggression was defined as attaining sex through physical force, threat, or incapacitation. Sexual coercion was defined as acquiring sex via verbal pressure or manipulation. The researchers determined that men with a history of sexual aggression reported higher levels of physical, sexual and emotional childhood abuse compared to men who had only been sexually coercive or engaged in consensual behavior.

Other researchers that have examined childhood abuse have demonstrated that it predicts later sexual perpetration as well. Jepersen, Lalumiere, and Seto (2009) conducted a meta-analysis comprised of 17 studies from the years of 1975 to 2005. Within this meta-analysis, researchers compared 1,037 sexual offenders and 1,762 non-sexual offenders regarding their past experiences of abuse. Researchers determined that sexual offenders (against children or adults) were more likely to have been sexually abused as children compared to non-sexual offenders. However, researchers specifically found that sexual offenders against adults were more likely (compared to offenders against children) to have suffered childhood physical abuse. Comparatively, sexual

offenders against children were more likely (compared to offenders against adults) to have been sexually abused as children. In short, experiencing childhood physical abuse is a better predictor of later adult sexual assault perpetration, and childhood sexual abuse is a good predictor of later sexual perpetration, but more strongly associated with sexual offenses against children.

Other researchers have found a clear link between experiencing childhood physical abuse and later engaging in adult sexual offenses. Widom and Ames (1994) conducted a prospective study and determined that boys who had experienced childhood physical violence were more likely to later be arrested for sexually violent crimes. Additionally, researchers found an association between men's past experiences of childhood physical abuse and later arrests for sexual offenses such as rape. In sum, there is converging evidence that childhood emotional abuse and physical abuse predict later sexual aggression. There is some evidence that childhood sexual abuse predicts later sexual aggression, but is more strongly associated with sexual perpetration against children compared to adults.

Sexual Behavior

The second cluster of interest was prior sexual behavior and attitudes towards sex including: sexual promiscuity, endorsing casual sexual behavior, and having a history of engaging in sexual perpetration (Greathouse et al., 2015).

Malamuth, Linz, Heavey, Barnes, and Acker (1995) asked men to report their lifetime number of sexual partners and their age of first sexual encounter as

two measures of sexual promiscuity. Participants also completed the Sexual Experiences Survey (SES), a self-reported measure of sexual assault perpetration (Koss & Oros, 1982). Researchers determined that both predictors were significantly positively correlated with sexual assault perpetration.

Abbey, Parkhill, BeShears, Clinton-Sherrod, & Zawacki (2006) conducted a study in which 163 men from a community population completed modified and shortened versions of the SES and the Sexual Attitudes Scale (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1987), which measures attitudes towards casual sex. Endorsement of positive attitudes regarding casual sex was significantly positively correlated with the frequency of sexual assault perpetration. Additionally, Abbey, Parkhill, Clinton-Sherrod, and Zawacki (2007) have demonstrated that self-reported rapists tend to endorse more casual attitudes toward sex compared to non-rapists.

The last factor to consider within the cluster of sexual behavior is history of sexually violent perpetration (Greathouse et al., 2015). During their literature review, researchers found a number of studies that have examined and subsequently found support for the fact that an individual's history of perpetration is a strong predictor of future perpetration. In particular, Loh, Gidycz, Lobo, and Luthra (2005) conducted a study in which they followed 325 college men across a seven-month period. They conducted an initial baseline assessment and follow-up assessments at three and seven months. At baseline and each subsequent assessment period, participants were asked about their cumulative

sexual experiences. Researchers determined that sexual assault perpetration at any one assessment period was predictive of future perpetration in follow-up periods. That is to say, individuals who endorsed engaging in sexual aggression at initial assessment were significantly more likely to perpetrate between every assessment period. This same phenomenon has been documented by Malamuth et al. (1995).

Interpersonal Skills

A number of researchers have examined factors related to interpersonal skills and likelihood of sexual assault perpetration (Greathouse et al., 2015). Interestingly, some researchers have not found that low empathy predicts sexual assault perpetration. Fernandez and Marshall (2003) compared incarcerated men convicted of sexual or non-sexual offenses. Upon review, researchers determined that there were no real differences between the two groups in social skills, empathy, or self-esteem. However, Abbey, Parkhill, Clinton-Sherrod, and Zawacki (2007) examined a community sample of men and determined that low empathy was far more common among self-reported rapists compared to non-criminals. One possible explanation for these discrepant findings is that low empathy is associated with criminal offenses in general, not only sexual assault perpetration.

Gender-Related Attitudes and Cognitions

Characteristics diagnostic of gender attitudes, including hostility toward women, rape myth acceptance, and hyper or hostile masculinity are also

predictors of sexual assault perpetration. Studies have demonstrated that repeat offenders of sexual assault have high scores on (strongly endorsing) hostile gender-role beliefs; a subset of hostility toward women (Abbey, McAuslan, Zawacki, Clinton & Buck, 2001; Abbey & McAuslan, 2004). Rape myths are inaccurate beliefs regarding rape, rapists, and sexual assault (Burt, 1980). These myths include beliefs such as "only bad girls get raped" and "women ask for it". A meta-analysis conducted by Suarez and Gadalla (2010) found that rape myth acceptance among men was strongly associated with sexually aggressive behaviors. Additionally, the same researchers found that rape myth acceptance was significantly associated with sexual promiscuity.

Hyper masculinity is defined as having callous sexual attitudes toward women, seeing violence as being manly, and endorsing danger as being exciting (Mosher & Sirkin, 1984). Similarly, hostile masculinity is defined as feeling a need to control and dominate women, combined with distrust and hostile feelings toward women (Malamuth et al., 1995). While these two characteristics are slightly different, they both have been demonstrated to predict sexual aggression. Murnen, Wright, and Kaluzny (2002) conducted a meta-analysis which examined 39 studies, all of which had previously examined relationships between at least one type of sexual assault measure and one type of masculine ideology measure. In total, 11 measures of masculine ideology and two measures of sexual assault were examined. Upon their analysis, researchers determined that the two components of masculine ideology that had the strongest relationships

with sexual assault perpetration were hostile masculinity and hyper masculinity. These two components of masculine ideology were associated with sexual assault perpetration measured both by the Likelihood to Rape Scale (Malamuth, 1981) and the Sexual Experience Survey (Koss & Oros, 1982).

Peer Attitudes and Behaviors

The penultimate cluster of characteristics associated with sexual assault perpetration are those related to perpetrator perceptions of their own peer's attitudes and behaviors (Greathouse et al., 2015). However, it is important to note that researchers who have conducted these studies within this cluster make no determination in whether their peers actually engage in such perceived behavior. Rather, these studies examine whether people who are likely to perpetrate sexual assault are also likely to think that their peers tend to participate in/condone such behavior.

Participants in Abbey, Parkhill, Clinton-Sherrod, and Zawacki (2007) study reported the percentage of their male friends who they believed approved of acquiring unwanted sex through lies, guilt, or force. As expected, individuals that self-reported engaging in the act of rape reported a higher percentage of their peers approved of forced sexual encounters. Additionally, Franklin, Bouffard, and Pratt (2012) have determined that when fraternity members experience higher levels of pressure from their peers to have sex, this reported peer pressure increases the likelihood of sexual assault behaviors among said members.

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<u>Substance Use.</u>

The final cluster of factors associated with perpetrators of sexual assault, included the use/abuse of alcohol and drugs (Greathouse et al., 2015). Alcohol lowers inhibitions and distorts judgements. Thus, it would follow that alcohol use could have a major influence on sexual assault perpetrators; specifically, as it relates to misinterpreting sexual cues. Abbey, Zawacki, and Buck (2005) experimentally determined that individuals who consumed alcohol were likely to misperceive a woman's behavior as sexualized and inviting sexual attention. Additionally, these same researchers determined that this misperception was less likely to occur among sober and placebo condition participants. Furthermore, Abbey, Parkhill, Clinton-Sherrod, and Zawacki (2007) have found that rapists tend to endorse the use of alcohol more frequently in sexual interactions compared to non-rapists

Unfortunately, while the association between that alcohol and perpetration has been well-studied, there is less research regarding drug use. However, Swartout and White (2010) conducted an analysis using data from 621 university men from a previously conducted longitudinal study. Participants were asked to answer questionnaires yearly regarding their sexual perpetration and drug use habits during their college careers. Researchers later determined that the endorsing of drug use was related to sexual aggression severity. Specifically, researchers determined that participants who indicated an increase in their drug

use were also more likely to increase in their reported levels of sexual aggression.

Consumption of Sexually Explicit Material

Sexually explicit material (SEM; i.e., pornography) has been theorized by many to potentially play a role in sexual behaviors. In a study using 489 college fraternity men, Foubert, Brossi, and Bannon (2011) sought to determine whether a relationship between pornography viewership and sexual assault behaviors existed. Participants were asked to indicate how much and what type of pornography they had seen in the past year (i.e., mainstream, sadomasochistic, or rape) and then asked to indicate their level of intent to rape if assured that no punishment would occur (as measured by the Attraction to Sexual Aggression Scale; Malamuth, 1989a;b). Watching sadomasochistic and rape pornography was significantly correlated with intent to rape; however, there was no correlation between consumption of mainstream pornography and intent to rape. Researchers found that the more violent the pornography, the higher the level of intent to rape that was endorsed. In line with these findings, Lohr, Adams, and Davis (1997) found that college men who watch violent pornography are more likely to use coercion to acquire sex.

Social Status

Greater social status and level of resources a person holds have been proposed to disinhibit behaviors toward subordinates (Keltner, Gruenfeld, & Anderson, 2003). As such, men with power (encompassing social status and

resources) may be more inclined to engage in violence toward women. Interestingly, Bargh, Raymond, Pryor, and Strack (1995) have found that sexually aggressive individuals tend to associate power with sex, and Abbey, Parkhill, Clinton-Sherrod, and Zawacki (2007) have found that rapists are more motivated to have sex as a means of achieving power over women compared to non-rapists. However, whether individuals tend to perceive sexual assaulters to hold such status has yet to be examined.

In summary, a wealth of predictive factors for sexual perpetrators have been theorized, explored, and tested in the academic literature. Yet little to no studies have examined what prototypical profiles of assailants are held among the general public; and more specifically among women. It is unknown if women have an accurate sense of the characteristics associated with sexual assault perpetrators, or if their perceptions of sexual assault perpetrators differ from reality. This is important to address because there are in fact unsupported hypothesized predictors of sexual assault perpetration, such as limited mating success (Lalumière, Chalmers, Quinsey, & Seto, 1996), that demonstrate instances where society's intuitions are not reflected in reality. Furthermore, evolutionary mismatch theory and research on stereotypes about rape suggest that women are likely to be inaccurate in their perceptions of sexual assault perpetrators. The present thesis is designed to explore variability in women's inaccuracy in their perception of sexual assault perpetrators and how it relates to fear of assault.

Women's fear of stranger rape and acquaintance rape provides a way of assessing individual differences in the source and accuracy of women's perceptions. While women overall demonstrate greater fear of stranger rape than acquaintance rape, having a relatively greater fear of acquaintance rape compared to other women would indicate that a woman's perceptions of rape are being influenced by modern, accurate information about rape. On the other hand, having a relatively greater fear of stranger rape compared to other women indicates her judgments about rape are being guided by mismatched adaptations and stereotypes. Therefore, I hypothesize that women with a greater fear of stranger rape will also have less accurate perceptions of perpetrator characteristics. The opposite should be true for fear of acquaintance rape- greater accuracy in perception of perpetrator characteristics indicates that a woman has a better idea of the current threat. Therefore, I hypothesize that greater accuracy in woman's perceptions of perpetrators will be associated with stronger fear of acquaintance rape.

Potential Moderators

Two additional factors may influence women's fear of rape: perceived risk of rape, and past experience with sexual assault.

Perceived Risk

For example, Warr (1985) assessed women's perceived risk and fear of crimes (i.e., murder, burglary, and rape) and found that there was a positive linear relationship between women's perceived risk of rape and their subsequent

fear of rape. More recent research has replicated this finding. Ferraro (1996) found the same relationship between fear and perceived risk in a sample of over 600 women. Additionally, Fisher and Sloan (2003), Hilinski (2010), and O¨zascilar (2013) all demonstrated that perceived risk of rape positively predicts fear of rape. Because the relationship between perceived likelihood of rape and fear of rape is so well-documented, I included this predictor in my investigation, 1) to control for its effects and 2) to explore if it interacted with accuracy of perceptions to predict fear.

Women's Previous Sexual Victimization

The relationship between past sexual assault victimization and fear of sexual assault is less straightforward. Previous researchers have demonstrated that victims of rape, when compared to non-victims and when assessed over a year long period intermittently, had significantly higher levels of rape-related fear and anxiety (Calhoun, Atkeson, & Resick, 1982; Kilpatrick, Resick, & Veronen, 1981). Similarly, Culbertson, Vik, and Kooiman (2001) found that women with a sexual assault history indicated feeling less safe than women without such victimization history. Additionally, Senn and Dzinas (1988) have found that previous sexual victimization predicts higher fear of rape. More recently, Hilinski (2010) assessed the specific relationship between past victimization and fear of sexual assault. In her study of 224 college women, she found that women's direct sexual victimization committed by a stranger significantly predicted fear of stranger rape, but not fear of acquaintance rape. However, women's direct

sexual victimization by an acquaintance did not predict fear of stranger rape or fear of acquaintance rape. These findings indicate that when assessing the relationship between accuracy and fear of stranger rape, it is necessary to control for past victimization by a stranger and explore for any interactions between past victimization by a stranger and accuracy on fear of stranger rape.

The Present Study

In the present thesis, I addressed the following research questions. First, I tested the extent to which women's perceptions of characteristics of sexual assault perpetrators mapped on to the empirically supported predictors of sexual assault perpetration. I presented with a number of characteristics to female participants and asked to what extent they believed each characteristic described a sexual assault perpetrator compared to an average man. Only some of the characteristics are known to be related to sexual assault perpetration, others were not. This allowed me to explore the extent to which women's intuitions about sexual assault perpetration were accurate or inaccurate, and allowed me to assess which characteristics were perceived the least accurately.

Second, I tested the extent to which women's perceptions of characteristics of sexual assault perpetrators predicted their fear of sexual assault. I tested the following hypotheses:

H1: Women's accuracy regarding perpetrator characteristics will be negatively associated with fear of stranger rape.

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H2: Women's perceived risk of stranger rape will be positively associated with their fear of stranger rape.

H3: Women's accuracy regarding perpetrator characteristics will be positively associated with fear of acquaintance rape.

H4: Women's perceived risk of acquaintance rape will be positively associated with fear of acquaintance rape.

H5: Women's previous victimization by strangers will be positively associated with their fear of stranger rape, but not predict their fear of acquaintance rape.

H6: Women's previous victimization by acquaintances will not be related to either their fear of stranger rape or fear of acquaintance rape.

CHAPTER TWO

METHOD

Participants

A total of 185 women participated in the study. I excluded 57 (30.8%)

participants from analyses because they failed attention checks ($n = 39$), failed to

respond to questions pertinent to the hypotheses being tested ($n = 13$), or took

the survey under 3.5 minutes (I used the rule of thumb of a minimum of 5

seconds for each assessment question and 3 seconds for each of the remaining

survey questions and excluded participants whose total time taking the survey

was less than the sum of the expected minimum time of all the questions; $n = 5$).

I analyzed data from the remaining 128 participants. Using a power analyses,

with parameters set to include three predictors and one outcome variable, I

determined that 114 participants would be necessary to attain sufficient power. In

short, the study was appropriately powered. All participants were recruited

through the University Department of Psychology participant pool and were

provided 0.5 units of extra credit towards a class of their choosing. All

participants were treated in accordance with Ethical Principles of Psychologists

and Code of Conduct (American Psychological Association, 2002).

Participants ages ranged between 18 to 56 years old ($M = 24.19$, $SD = $

5.84). Thirteen participants (10.2%) reported a sexual orientation other than

heterosexual (homosexual/other), and one participant (0.8%) did not respond to

the question assessing sexual orientation. Ninety-five participants (74.2%)

indicated being Hispanic/Latino, 18 (14.1%) indicated being Caucasian, six

(4.7%) indicated being Asian, four (3.1%) indicated being African

American/Black, four (3.1%) indicated being an Other ethnicity, and 1 (0.8%) did

not respond to the question assessing ethnicity. Three participants (2.3%)

reported being the victim of stranger rape, 14 (10.9%) reported being the victim

of acquaintance rape, and 2 (1.6%) reported being the victim of both. The

remaining 113 (88.3%) did not indicate being the victim of either type of sexual

assault.

Measures

Characteristics of Perpetrators Assessment (Cisneros, 2019)

In order to assess participant accuracy regarding characteristics of sexual

assault perpetrators, I created a measure that included 24 characteristics that

have been demonstrated to either be associated with sexual assault perpetration,

or have been shown to not be associated with perpetration but may fit women's

inaccurate, preconceived notions about perpetrators. Participants indicated

whether "a man who would commit sexual assault" would be higher, equal to, or

less than "an average man" on each characteristic (for all measures, see

Appendix A). Examples of these characteristics include "desirability", "empathy",

and "social skills". Eighteen of the characteristics have been demonstrated to be

positively associated with sexual assault perpetration, two have been empirically

demonstrated to be negatively associated with perpetration, and four are not

associated with perpetration. To score this measure, I allocated one point for

each accurate assessment of a characteristic. Indicating "higher than an average man" was scored as an accurate assessment for positive predictors, "less than an average man" was scored as an accurate assessment for negative predictors, and "equal to an average man" was scored as an accurate assessment for non-predictors. The total possible range of scores for this scale is 0 (no characteristics assessed accurately) to 24 (all characteristics assessed accurately). Final participant scores ranged from 0 to 21 ($M = 11.48$, $SD = 4.48$).

<u>Fear of Crime (Warr, 1985)</u>

In order to assess participant levels of fear regarding stranger and acquaintance rape, participants completed a shortened version of the Fear of Crime scale (Warr, 1985). Participants selected a number between 0 (*not at all afraid*) and 10 (*very afraid*) to indicate their level of fear for each of the eight crimes listed. Crimes listed included being threatened with a knife, being beaten up by a stranger, and being murdered. The original measure asked participants to indicate their level of fear regarding being raped. I modified this item into two separate items to assess fear of stranger rape separately from fear of acquaintance rape. It read as, "being raped by a stranger" and "being raped by someone you know". No psychometrics were available for this measure. For my analysis, I used participant responses to each of the fear of rape items as single-item measures of each construct (Fear of Stranger Rape, $M = 8.41$, $SD = 2.80$; Fear of Acquaintance Rape, $M = 7.39$, $SD = 3.67$).

Perceived Risk of Crime (Warr, 1985)

In order to assess participant levels of perceived risk of stranger and acquaintance rape, participants completed a shortened version of the Perceived Risk of Crime measure (Warr, 1985). Participants selected a number between 0 (*certain it will not happen*) to 10 (*certain it will happen*) to indicate their level of risk for each of the same crimes listed in the Fear of Crime scale. Similar to the modification to the Fear of Crime scale, I separated the original single-item assessing perceived risk of rape into one assessing stranger rape and another assessing acquaintance rape. No psychometrics were available for this measure. For my analysis, I used participant responses to each of the perceived risk of rape items as single-item measures of each construct (Perceived Risk of Stranger Rape, $M = 2.63$, $SD = 2.64$; Perceived Risk of Acquaintance Rape, $M = 1.71$, $SD = 2.32$).

Criminal Victimization Assessment (Cisneros, 2019)

To assess sexual victimization history, participants indicated whether they have or have not been a victim of each of the crimes that were also listed in Fear of Crime and Perceived Risk of Crime scales.

Demographics and Attention-Checks

Participants self-reported their sex, sexual orientation, age, and ethnicity. The entire survey included two attention-check items embedded within the Fear of Crime and Perceived Risk of Crime measures. Participants were asked to "Add together two and three and select that number", and "Select '8' for this

item". Participants who missed either attention checks were excluded from the analysis.

Procedure

Participants read the following recruitment statement. "This research examines perceptions of men who commit crimes. You will be asked to answer questions about your experience with and feelings related to certain crimes. Some of the items will ask you about experiences and feelings related to negative events, including physical or sexual assault." For the full informed consent, see Appendix B. They then completed the Characteristics of Perpetrators Assessment, the Fear of Crime measure, the Risk of Crime measure, the Criminal Victimization Assessment, and then reported their demographic information. Participants were thanked for their time and awarded class credit for their participation. For information related to the Institutional Review Board (IRB), see Appendix C.

CHAPTER THREE

RESULTS

Accuracy of Perpetrator Characteristics

Of the 18 positive perpetrator characteristics presented, nine characteristics were misperceived by 50% or more of the sample population. These characteristics were: Known to Victim, Number of Mate Options, Social Status, Wealth, Mate Value, Mating Success, Promiscuity, Endorsing Casual Sexual Behavior, and Substance Abuse. This means that most participants inaccurately believe perpetrators do not possess these characteristics more than an average man. Both the negative predictors of perpetration, Empathy and Ability to Interpret Sexual Interest, were accurately perceived by the majority of the sample population. The majority of women indicated that a perpetrator possessed these characteristics less than an average man. Of the four non-perpetrator characteristics presented, two were misperceived by 50% or more of the sample population: Self Esteem and Social Skills; believing that a perpetrator and average man were different in these characteristics when in fact they are equal. Overall, 11 of the 24 characteristics were inaccurately rated by more than 50% of the sample (Table 1).

Table 1. Number and Percentage of Women Who Were Accurate by Characteristic

Positive Predictors	*n*	%
Number of Mate Options	14	10.9
Mate Value	20	15.6
Mating Success	24	18.8
Social Status	30	23.4
Wealth	35	27.3
Promiscuity	38	29.7
Substance Abuse	45	35.2
Endorsing Casual Sexual Behavior	46	35.9
Known to Victim	55	43.0
Perceived Peer Approval of Sexual Assault	75	58.6
Consumption of Violent SEM	76	59.4
Childhood Sexual Abuse	77	60.2
Hyper Masculinity	78	60.9
Childhood Emotional Abuse	82	64.1
Rape Myth Acceptance	82	64.1
History of Perpetration	82	64.1
Childhood Physical Abuse	83	64.8
Hostile Masculinity	88	68.8
Negative Predictors	*n*	%
Ability to Interpret Sexual Interest	80	62.5
Empathy	95	74.2
Non-Predictors	*n*	%

Self Esteem	58	45.3
Social Skills	61	47.7
Consumption of Mainstream SEM	66	51.6
Physical Attractiveness	79	61.7

Fear of Stranger Rape Analyses

To test the hypothesis that accuracy regarding perpetrator characteristics would be negatively associated with fear of stranger rape (H1) and perceived likelihood of stranger rape would be positively associated with fear of stranger rape (H2), I conducted a multiple regression analysis. Additionally, I conducted a hierarchical regression analysis to explore the possibility that there was an interaction between these two predictors.

The two-predictor model was statistically significant, $R^2 = .09$, $F(2, 125) = 5.99$, $p < .01$. However, only perceived risk of stranger rape was a significant predictor of fear of stranger rape, $B = .31$, $SE = .09$, $\beta = .29$, $t = 3.38$, $p < .001$. Accuracy did not relate to fear of stranger rape, $B = -.04$, $SE = .05$, $\beta = -.07$, $t = -0.83$, $p = .41$. The hierarchical model that included the interaction term was statistically significant, $R^2 = .09$, $F(3, 124) = 4.16$, $p < .01$; however, the interaction between accuracy and perceived risk was not significant, $B = .01$, $SE = .02$, $\beta = .18$, $t = .72$, $p = .47$ (Table 2).

Table 2. Summary of Multiple Regression Analysis for Variables Predicting Fear of Stranger Rape

Model	Variable	B	SE	β	t	R^2	ΔR^2
1						.09**	-
	PRSR	.31*	.09	.29	3.38		
	APC	-.04	.05	-.07	-.83		
2						.09**	.00
	PRSR	.15	.24	.14	.62		
	APC	-.09	.08	-.14	-1.09		
	Interaction	.01	.02	.18	.72		

Note. PRSR = Perceived Risk of Stranger Rape, APC = Accuracy of Perpetrator Characteristics. * $p < .001$, ** $p < .01$.

Fear of Acquaintance Rape Analyses

To test the hypothesis that accuracy regarding perpetrator characteristics would be positively associated with fear of acquaintance rape (H3) and perceived likelihood of acquaintance rape would be positively associated with fear of acquaintance rape (H4), I conducted a multiple regression analysis. Additionally, I conducted a hierarchical regression analysis to explore the possibility that there was an interaction between these two predictors.

The two-predictor model was statistically significant, $R^2 = .12$, $F(2, 125) = 8.22$, $p < .001$. However, only perceived risk of acquaintance rape was a significant predictor of fear of acquaintance rape, $B = .48$, $SE = .13$, $\beta = .30$, $t = 3.59$, $p < .001$. Accuracy did not relate to fear of acquaintance rape, $B = -.12$, $SE = .07$, $\beta = -.14$, $t = -1.69$, $p = .09$. The hierarchical model that included the

interaction term was statistically significant, $R^2 = .12$, $F(3, 124) = 5.70$, $p < .001$;

however, the interaction between accuracy and perceived risk was not

significant, $B = .02$, $SE = .03$, $\beta = .19$, $t = .84$, $p = .40$ (Table 3).

Table 3. Summary of Multiple Regression Analysis for Variables Predicting Fear of Acquaintance Rape

Model	Variable	B	SE	β	t	R^2	ΔR^2
1						.12*	-
	PRAR	.48*	.13	.30	3.59		
	APC	-.12	.07	-.14	-1.69		
2						.12*	.01
	PRAR	.21	.34	.14	.62		
	APC	-.16	.09	-.19	-1.87		
	Interaction	.02	.03	.19	.84		

Note. PRAR = Perceived Risk of Acquaintance Rape, APC = Accuracy of Perpetrator Characteristics. * $p < .001$.

Table 4 contains the bivariate correlations for the variables of interest.

Furthermore, due to a small number of participants who indicated being either a

victim of stranger and/or acquaintance rape, I was unable to test the fifth and

sixth hypotheses regarding the predictive power of victimization on level of fear.

Table 4. Intercorrelations for Perceived Risk, Fear, and Accuracy of Perpetrator Characteristics

Variables	1	2	3	4	5
1. Perceived Risk of Stranger Rape	-				
2. Perceived Risk of Acquaintance Rape	.76**	-			
3. Fear of Stranger Rape	.29**	.21*	-		
4. Fear of Acquaintance Rape	.26**	.31**	.67**	-	
5. Accuracy of Perpetrator Characteristics	.01	-.05	-.07	-.16	-

Note. * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$ (2-tailed).

CHAPTER FOUR

DISCUSSION

Accuracy of Perpetrator Characteristics

While many researchers have theorized and empirically tested a variety of

characteristics associated with perpetration, the question remained whether there

existed a discrepancy between what women *think* perpetrators are like and what

research has demonstrated perpetrators are like. In this study, women were

inaccurate about a number of characteristics that are linked to sexual assault

perpetration, including the level of familiarity to the victim, number of mate

options, social status, wealth, mate value, mating success, promiscuity,

endorsement of casual sexual behavior, and substance abuse; believing

perpetrators are not higher than an average man on these traits. They were also

inaccurate regarding the characteristics of self-esteem and social skills, which

have not been shown to be associated with perpetration; believing that

perpetrators were not equal to an average man on these traits. Furthermore,

women's perceived risk of (and fear of) stranger rape was greater than their

perceived risk of (and fear of) acquaintance rape. This is consistent with the idea

that the majority of women in my sample were inaccurate in their belief that

perpetrators were unfamiliar with their victims.

These inaccuracies may be a reflection of internalizing inaccurate

narratives and stereotypes about sexual assault perpetrators, particularly that

they are undesirable men who cannot gain sexual access through consensual

sexual relationships (Burt, 1980; Lalumière, Chalmers, Quinsey, & Seto, 1996; Martinez, Wiersma-Mosley, Jozkowski, & Becnel, 2018). Additionally, some characteristics that may have been misperceived due to modern stereotypes include mate value, and wealth. Specifically, women in my study believed that perpetrators were not high in mate value, nor did they believe perpetrators were high in wealth. Martinez, Wiersma-Mosley, Jozkowski, and Becnel (2018) noted that "rapists are typically stereotyped as being poor" (p. 2). The same researchers determined that the sentiment, "good guys don't rape" (p. 6) is also strongly believed. This sentiment may also explain why individuals don't suspect acquaintances of being perpetrators. Perhaps the assumption is that individuals surround themselves with "good guys", no one capable of being a "bad guy". This in turn may lower women's fears of acquaintances.

Alternatively, from an evolutionary perspective, women's tendency to be inaccurate regarding perpetrator characteristics may be the result of evolutionary mismatch (Li, Van Vugt, & Colarelli, 2018). Arguably, all of the perpetrator characteristics that were outlined by Geathouse et al. (2015) were based on modern perpetrator information (which are more likely to be acquaintances than strangers; Black et al., 2011). Provided that ancestral women's psychology was shaped and calibrated under the pressures of a pre-modern environment in which strangers were more likely to be perpetrators (Gottschall, 2004; McKibbin, Shackelford, Goetz, & Starratt, 2008), modern women's lack of accuracy may be evidence of such a mismatch. Some perpetrator characteristics that may have

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been inaccurately judged due to mismatch include level of familiarity, and drug abuse. The majority of women in my sample did not believe perpetrators were high in familiarity to victims, nor did they believe perpetrators were high in level of drug abuse. Provided that ancestral women were more likely to be victims of strangers (Gottschall, 2004), and ancestral humans have consumed drug-like substances for generations (Dobkin de Rios, 1982; Tylš, Páleníček, & Horáček, 2014; Dudley, 2002), it may be the case that such characteristics in a modern environment are not enough to trigger an alarm. In short, my sample of women may have psychological mechanisms better suited for intuiting characteristics of stranger perpetrators rather than the characteristics presented to them in this study (likely based on acquaintance perpetrators). Furthermore, what makes strangers inherently "strange" is that very little is known about them. As a result, women may not have been naturally selected to intuit perpetrator characteristics at all, explaining these results of women's general inaccuracy. Additionally, if the list of characteristics presented to participants was in fact based on acquaintance perpetrators, it is unlikely they would have been accurate due to said evolutionary mismatch. Lastly, while I argued that stranger rape may have been more likely in ancestral environments, helping explain the existence of women's greater fear of stranger rape compared to acquaintances, another alternative is that such fears were shaped by the possibility that stranger rape was costlier than acquaintance rape in an ancestral environment.

In short, a number of women's inaccuracies may be the result of either mismatch or stereotypes. In fact, it may be the case that women's inaccuracies result from the amalgam of the two. The innate focus on stranger rape as both viewers and promulgaters (regarding media coverage; Cuklanz, 2000) may be an example of such an amalgam. Not only does the modern technology of television allow widely disseminating misinformation easier than ever thought possible in ancestral environments, but the seemingly inherent focus and internalization of such information may reflect our own evolved fears.

Conversely, women were accurate regarding perpetrators higher levels of childhood emotional/physical/sexual abuse, history of sexual perpetration, hyper masculinity, hostile masculinity, rape myth acceptance, use of violent SEM, and perceived peer approval of sexual assault. They were also accurate regarding perpetrators lower levels of empathy, and ability to interpret sexual interest. They were also generally accurate in their assessment of two characteristics that have not been demonstrated to predict sexual assault perpetration and assessed perpetrators as equal in attractiveness and use of mainstream SEM compared to an average man.

Similar to the reason why women may be inaccurate regarding certain perpetrator characteristics, it may be the case that women's accuracy regarding the above characteristics is also the result of information propagated in news media coverage of rape-related crimes or portrayals of rapists in film/television. However, unlike the characteristics that women were inaccurate about, these

characteristics may be those that are *accurately* depicted in modern mediums

and *substantiated* by previous research findings. Alternatively, most of the

characteristics that were accurately perceived by the majority of women are

arguably overt in presenting the dangerous mix of sexuality and violence (i.e.,

using violent pornography and desire to dominate women). It may be the case

that women may have been accurate regarding such characteristics because

they were blatantly indicative of sexual assault perpetration, being too hard to

ignore.

If women's accuracy regarding perpetrator characteristics is the result of

mismatch or environmental learning, these findings underscore some societal

implications in the realm of public safety. First, it is apparent that education

regarding perpetrator characteristics would be necessary for women to be aware

of perpetrator hallmarks. More specifically, addressing any inaccurate

perceptions through educational means may serve to help women engage in

precautionary and protective behaviors, reducing rates of sexual assault and

empowering women in the process. Educational programs focusing on sexual

assault related information (i.e., risk factors and prevention measures) have been

demonstrated to significantly increase women's knowledge surrounding rape

(Rau et al., 2011).

Accuracy and Women's Fear of Rape

I did not find support for my hypotheses that accuracy would predict either

fear of stranger rape or fear of acquaintance rape. Perceived risk of each assault

predicted fear of that type of assault respectively, which is consistent with previous research findings (Warr, 1985; Ferraro, 1996; Fisher & Sloan, 2003; Hilinski, 2010; and O¨zascilar, 2013). However, women's accuracy was not a predictor of fear, and it did not interact with perceived risk to predict fear. Provided that no previous research (to my knowledge) has examined women's accuracy regarding perpetrator characteristics, these findings may be the first of their kind to demonstrate a lack of relationship between knowledge and fear. These null relationships may indicate that women's fear of sexual assault is strongly rooted in natural selection. More importantly, it may demonstrate that knowledge about perpetrator characteristics does not immediately influence women's fear. These findings suggest that while education about perpetrator characteristics may help women protect themselves from victimization, education may not lower women's perceived risk of rape or subsequently reduce their fear of rape either.

Lastly, while I sought to determine whether women's previous sexual victimization had any relationship to their level of accuracy and fear, I did not attain a sufficient number of participants with such history to run said analyses. Future researchers ought to seek out and recruit from a sample of women who have a history of sexual victimization. This would allow future researchers to determine whether victimization history does relate to accuracy of perceptions regarding perpetrator characteristics, or if their victimization history relates to their fear of victimization.

Limitations and Conclusions

One important limitation to the study was the assessment of accuracy I created. Participants were scored as either accurate or inaccurate on each characteristic. An alternative measure that could have assessed degree of inaccuracy on each characteristic, in addition to degree of inaccuracy overall, may have generated different results. My measure of past sexual assault victimization was similarly constrained. Perhaps a more nuanced assessment of previous sexual assault victimization would have allowed this variable to be assessed as a moderator in my data. Another issue with this measure was that participants were provided an operationalized definition of predictors negatively and positively associated with perpetration, being "less than" and "more than" an average man. While said operationalization was used to provide better instruction/understanding for participants unfamiliar with such terminology, these definitions are not exactly the same and thus leaving the measure subject to criticism.

The population from which I drew my sample may have influenced my results in important ways. Ferraro (1996) points out that women who are between the ages of 18-34, and have recently moved to a new location, express higher fear of rape. Because my sample population consists of women (94.5% of which fell within the aforementioned age range), and many of whom may be newly attending this university where my sample was extrapolated from, fear levels (and relationships to said fears) may not be as strong outside this sample

population. However, it should be noted that participants were not assessed for their college year standing. Thus, I cannot definitively state whether women within my sample had higher levels of fear resulting from their new (campus) environment. Additionally, the population from which I drew my sample are social science students attending a university in which sexual assault prevention training is mandatory. As a result, it may be that women within my sample hold more accurate perceptions of perpetrator characteristics than women outside of the university system. In short, the findings from this study may not be fully generalizable to women outside this demographic.

The present study may have been influenced by recent events; the '#MeToo' movement in particular. The current social-political atmosphere may have influenced participants' levels of perceived risk as a result of the widespread notoriety that the movement has gained. While participants level of familiarity with the #MeToo movement was not assessed for, it may be the case that participants have become aware of certain perpetrator characteristics (i.e., history of perpetration and rape myth acceptance) as a result of high profile '#MeToo' cases (i.e., Bill Cosby). However, if such a movement were responsible for women's perceptions within my study, this would not explain why more than half of women in my sample inaccurately determined that perpetrators were equal or less than an average man in level of familiarity to victims (as opposed to being higher than the average man). This may indicate that alternative reasons for women's level of accuracy exists. In any case, future researchers may wish to

account for such historical influences when assessing individuals' beliefs regarding crimes pertinent to the current political atmosphere, while monitoring for alternative influences as well. Such future considerations would help to determine consistent beliefs/knowledge held by individuals rather than transient beliefs/knowledge resulting from current events.

In short, these findings may be the first of their kind to provide insight into women's knowledge on sexual assault perpetrators. Furthermore, these findings lend themselves to untangling the mysteries of our female ancestors' evolutionary past, more specifically demonstrating evidence for the hypotheses of environmental mismatch. These findings regarding accuracy may also be evidence of societal misinformation being taught and internalized throughout the years. Furthermore, these findings indicate that an interplay between rape myths and evolutionary mismatch may be influencing women's perceptions of perpetrators characteristics as well as perceived risk and subsequent fear. Lastly, these findings provide guidance regarding potential avenues (and dead ends) on how women's fears of rape can be augmented.

APPENDIX A

MEASURES

Characteristics of Perpetrators Assessment (Cisneros, 2019)

Imagine a man who would commit sexual assault. For each of the following characteristics, please rate if a man who would commit sexual assault would be higher, lower, or equal to an average man on each of the listed characteristics. There are no right or wrong answers- we are interested in your perceptions of a man who would commit sexual assault and ask you to provide your honest opinions.

Again, for each characteristic, select if a man who would commit sexual assault would have that characteristic less than an average man, equal to an average man, or more than an average man.

1) Is a person the victim knows
   (Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)
2) Has many options for sexual and romantic partners
   (Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)
3) Has social status
   (Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)
4) Has wealth
   (Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)
5) Overall attractiveness as a mate
   (Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)
6) Has success in attracting sexual and romantic partners
   (Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)
7) Experienced childhood emotional abuse
   (Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)
8) Experienced childhood physical abuse
   (Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)
9) Experienced childhood sexual abuse
   (Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)
10) Is promiscuous
   (Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)
11) Endorsing engaging in casual sexual behavior
   (Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)
12) Has a history of sexual assault perpetration

(Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)

13) Believes violence is manly
(Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)

14) Desires to dominate/be hostile towards women
(Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)

15) Agrees with statements like, "Only bad girls get raped"
(Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)

16) Uses illicit drugs
(Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)

17) Watches or looks at violent pornography
(Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)

18) Believes his peers are ok with sexual assault perpetration
(Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)

19) Is empathetic
(Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)

20) Can accurately judge whether someone is sexually interested in him or not
(Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)

21) Has self esteem
(Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)

22) Has social skills
(Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)

23) Watches or looks at non-violent pornography
(Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)

24) Is physically attractive
(Less than an average man, Equal to an average man, Higher than an average man)

Fear of Crime (Warr, 1985)
At one time or another, most of us have experienced fear of becoming the victim of a crime. Below is a list of different types of crime. We are interested in how afraid you are about becoming the victim of each type of crime in your everyday life. If you are not afraid at all, then select the number 0 beside the crime. If you

are very afraid, then select the number 10 beside the crime. If your fear falls somewhere in between, then select the number between 0 and 10 which best describes your fear.

1) Being threatened with a knife
   (0 = Not afraid at all, 10 = Very Afraid)
2) Having something taken from you by force
   (0 = Not afraid at all, 10 = Very Afraid)
3) Being beaten up by a stranger
   (0 = Not afraid at all, 10 = Very Afraid)
4) Being murdered
   (0 = Not afraid at all, 10 = Very Afraid)
5) Being raped by a stranger
   (0 = Not afraid at all, 10 = Very Afraid)
6) Being raped by someone you know
   (0 = Not afraid at all, 10 = Very Afraid)
7) Being beaten up by someone you know
   (0 = Not afraid at all, 10 = Very Afraid)
8) *Attention Check: Add together two and three and select that number*
9) Having someone break into your home while you are home
   (0 = Not afraid at all, 10 = Very Afraid)

Perceived Risk of Crime (Warr, 1985)
For each type of crime listed below, please indicate how likely you think it is to happen to you during the next year. If you feel certain that it will not happen to you, then select the number 0 beside the crime. If you feel certain that it will happen to you, then select the number 10. If you think the likelihood that it will happen to you lies somewhere in between, then select the number between 0 and 10 that best indicates how likely you think it is to happen to you in the next year. No one can predict the future, of course, so your answer will only be a guess. But give us your best guess based on your own circumstances and experiences.

1) Being threatened with a knife
   (0 = Certain it will not happen to me, 10 = Certain it will happen to me)
2) Having something taken from you by force
   (0 = Certain it will not happen to me, 10 = Certain it will happen to me)
3) Being beaten up by a stranger
   (0 = Certain it will not happen to me, 10 = Certain it will happen to me)
4) Being murdered
   (0 = Certain it will not happen to me, 10 = Certain it will happen to me)
5) Being raped by a stranger
   (0 = Certain it will not happen to me, 10 = Certain it will happen to me)
6) Being raped by someone you know
   (0 = Certain it will not happen to me, 10 = Certain it will happen to me)
7) *Attention Check: Select "8" for this item*

8) Being beaten up by someone you know
   (0 = Certain it will not happen to me, 10 = Certain it will happen to me)
9) Having someone break into your home while you are home
   (0 = Certain it will not happen to me, 10 = Certain it will happen to me)

Criminal Victimization (Cisneros, 2019)
At one time or another, many of us have been the victim of a crime. Below is a list of different types of crime. We are interested in which of the following crime (if any) you have been the victim of.
If you have never been the victim of the listed crime, then select the number 0 beside the crime. If you have ever been the victim of the listed crime, then select the number 1 beside the crime.
1) Being threatened with a knife
   (0 = I have *not* experienced this crime, 1 = I have experienced this crime)
2) Having something taken from you by force
   (0 = I have *not* experienced this crime, 1 = I have experienced this crime)
3) Being beaten up by a stranger
   (0 = I have *not* experienced this crime, 1 = I have experienced this crime)
4) Being murdered
   (0 = I have *not* experienced this crime, 1 = I have experienced this crime)
5) Being raped by a stranger
   (0 = I have *not* experienced this crime, 1 = I have experienced this crime)
6) Being raped by someone you know
   (0 = I have *not* experienced this crime, 1 = I have experienced this crime)
7) Being beaten up by someone you know
   (0 = I have *not* experienced this crime, 1 = I have experienced this crime)
8) Having someone break into your home while you are home
   (0 = I have *not* experienced this crime, 1 = I have experienced this crime)

Demographics Questionnaire
1) Please indicate your age (in years): _____
2) Sex:
   a) Male
   b) Female
3) Sexual Orientation:
   a) Heterosexual (Straight)
   b) Homosexual (Gay/Lesbian)
   c) Other
4) Ethnicity (Select all that apply):
   a) Casuacasin
   b) Hispanic/Latino
   c) African American Black
   d) American Indian
   e) Asian

f) Other
g) I do not wish to answer

APPENDIX B

INFORMED CONSENT

Consent Form

Introduction/Purpose: This research examines perceptions of men who commit crimes. You will be asked to answer questions about your experience with and feelings related to certain crimes. Some of the items will ask you about experiences and feelings related to negative events, including physical or sexual assault.

Procedures: You will answer survey questions about yourself and your perceptions of others. Compensation & Duration: This study will take no more than 15 minutes to complete. You will receive 0.5 units of SONA credit for completing the survey. The survey does contain questions to assess if you are paying attention. If you do not answer those questions correctly, you will not receive credit for participation.

Confidentiality: The information you give us will remain confidential. Your name will not be associated with your data in any way. Your data will be assigned a code number and will not appear on any data reports. The research might be presented in aggregate form at professional conferences or submitted to scientific journals for publication.

Risk and Benefit Statement: This study involves no risks beyond those routinely encountered in daily life, nor any direct benefits to participants. Although we hope the results of this study will benefit society, participants may not directly benefit from taking part in this research.

Participant's Rights: You have the right to refuse to participate in this study or answer any questions, or to terminate your participation at any time.

If you have any complaints or comments regarding this study, you can contact Dr. Cari Goetz at cgoetz@csusb.edu. You can also contact Dr. Goetz for a copy of the study results after December 2019.

APPENDIX C

IRB APPROVAL

April 26, 2019

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD
Administrative/Exempt Review Determination
Status: Determined Exempt
IRB-FY2019-232

Dear Aaron Cisneros and Cari Goetz :

Your application to use human subjects, titled "Women's Perceptions of Sexual Assault Perpetrators and Fear of Rape" has been reviewed and approved by the Chair of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) has determined that your application meets the requirements for exemption from IRB review Federal requirements under 45 CFR 46. As the researcher under the exempt category you do not have to follow the requirements under 45 CFR 46 which requires annual renewal and documentation of written informed consent which are not required for the exempt category. However, exempt status still requires you to attain consent from participants before conducting your research as needed. Please ensure your CITI Human Subjects Training is kept up-to-date and current throughout the study.

Your IRB proposal (IRB-FY2019-232 - Women's Perceptions of Sexual Assault Perpetrators and Fear of Rape) is approved. You are permitted to collect information from 228 participants for .50 credits from Sona. This approval is valid from 4/26/19 to 4/24/20.

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