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Does Pornography Use Contribute to Antiwoman Aggression? Re-examination of the Confluence Model Considering Third Variable Explanations

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DOES PORNOGRAPHY USE CONTRIBUTE TO ANTIWOMAN AGGRESSION? A RE-EXAMINATION OF THE CONFLUENCE MODEL CONSIDERING THIRD VARIABLE ALTERNATIVES

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Abstract
The confluence model of sexual coercion suggests that the individual difference factors of hostile masculinity (HM) and sexual promiscuity (SP) work in conjunction with frequent pornography use to encourage sexual aggression (e.g., Malamuth, Hewey, & Linz, 1993; Malamuth, Addington, & Koss, 2000). However, this model fails to examine type of sexual content consumed (violent, non-violent, etc.), simply defining “pornography use” as consumption of static nude media, relying on a sample of college males drawn in 1984. Furthermore, the confluence model has failed to consider third variable explanations that may account for the effects that are typically observed in correlational studies.

Introduction
The confluence model of sexual coercion suggests that the individual difference factors of hostile masculinity (HM) and sexual promiscuity (SP) interact with high risk HM and SP factors to increase self-reported acts of coercive behavior.

Method
Participants: Community sample of 188 adult male participants, recruited through online snowball sampling.

Procedure: Participants followed a hyperlink from a Facebook to a Qualtrics survey, where they completed a battery of demographics, attitudinal, and behavioral measures.

Measures:
HM = “When I am angry at a woman, I sometimes feel as if I could end up acting on my impulses and behaving violently (using abusive language, breaking something, punching, hitting, kicking),” (“other people say I am capable of behaving violently toward women”

SP = “Over the past 5 years, with how many different partners have you engaged in sexual contact, that is, penile-vaginal, penile-anal, or oral-genital sex?”

Pornography use = “In any given week, I read, watch, or look at pornography (e.g., sexually explicit images, videos, sound clips, erotic fiction), minutes”, “times”, “in any given week, violent pornography (e.g., rape, self-inflicted, and/or child pornographic)”, “hours”, “times”, “minutes”, “in any given week, violent pornography (e.g., rape, self-inflicted, and/or child pornographic)”

Results
H1a: Taken together, HM, SP, and pornography use should be associated with coercion.
H1b: The interaction between HM and SP should contribute to the prediction of coercion over and above HM, SP, and pornography use individually.

Discussion
Confluence model supported: Pornography use increases risk of sexual coercion among high HM, high SP males.

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