

## PERSONALITY AND SEXUALITY

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**Summary**—Although Eysenck's book *Sex and Personality* would seem to have broad implications for understanding sexual behavior, there has been relatively little empirical research that has attempted to test Eysenck's theory. The present research tested aspects of this theory by examining the correlations between personality characteristics and a variety of sexual attitudes and behavior in a sample of male Canadian college students. Results were, for the most part, supportive of Eysenck's theory. Extraverts were characterized by a hedonistic outlook on sex and by more active participation in a variety of sexual activities. High P scorers were characterized by more favorable attitudes to and enjoyment of force and unconventional sexual activities. Correlations with the N scale were, in general, not statistically significant. High L scores were associated with more negative attitudes toward sex, and lower reporting for virtually all types of sexual activity.

### INTRODUCTION

In 1976 Eysenck published a book on sex and personality (Eysenck, 1976) which seemed to have far-reaching implications for our understanding of sexual behaviors and the treatment of sexual disorders. At the time this book was released it met with mixed reviews (e.g. Broadhurst, 1977; Johnson, 1977). In her review of *Sex and Personality*, Broadhurst concluded that Eysenck's work cried out for replication and extension. To date, at least, this cry does not seem to have been answered. A scanning of the *Social Science Citation Index* revealed that there are 32 citations of Eysenck's book in the literature up to the end of 1981. An examination of the articles citing Eysenck's work revealed that very few of these papers actually report empirical tests of Eysenck's theory. The purpose of the present project was to replicate and extend Eysenck's (1976) work by examining the associations between personality and human sexuality in a sample of Canadian college students. In addition to attempting to replicate the associations between personality and sexual attitudes and behavior observed by Eysenck, the association between personality and various other cognitive aspects of sexuality will be explored in detail in this paper.

The central thesis in Eysenck's (1976) book is that current work on human sexuality has failed to account for the tremendous variability in human sexual behavior and that part of this variability can be explained on the basis of differences in personality characteristics. More specifically, Eysenck predicts that extraverts, by virtue of their greater propensity to seek stimulation and lack of socialization, will be more likely to indulge in all sorts of heterosexual behavior. The six specific predictions made by Eysenck (1976) are listed below.

- “1. Extraverts will have intercourse earlier than introverts.
2. Extraverts will have intercourse more frequently than introverts.
3. Extraverts will have intercourse with more different partners.
4. Extraverts will have intercourse in more different positions than introverts.
5. Extraverts will indulge in more varied sexual behavior outside intercourse.
6. Extraverts will indulge in longer pre-coital love play than introverts.” (p. 19)

Predictions made concerning the relationship between neuroticism and sexual behavior are also fairly specific.

“High N scorers, in view of their strong, labile and lasting emotions of fear and anxiety to even mildly stressful situations (in which category we must include social

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contact generally, and perhaps sexual contact particularly), would perhaps be less likely to indulge in sexual contacts, to worry more about sex, to be disgusted by certain aspects of sex and to have fewer contacts with sexual partners; this would be particularly true of unmarried subjects, because of their well-known difficulties in social relations." (p. 22)

Eysenck's predictions regarding the association between psychoticism and sexuality are less explicit. He states that high P scorers might be expected to be more interested in impersonal sex or aggressive sex and be more inclined to participate in socially-disapproved acts. Eysenck (1976) suggests that the L scale should be used both as a measure of possible dissimulation and as a scale for measuring "some ill-defined dimension of conservative orthodoxy or social obedience." (p. 28). Eysenck (1976) predicted that high L scorers should prefer socially-approved sexual attitudes and behaviors.

The empirical evidence presented by Eysenck (1976) consists primarily of three studies. In the first of these, a large sample of 802 university students were administered the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQ) along with an extensive sexual behavior and attitudes inventory. Correlational analyses revealed the following pattern of results.

High P scorers were characterized by a combination of promiscuity, premarital sex and curiosity, along with hostility and lack of satisfaction. Correlations between P scores and sexual behaviors were positive but quite low.

High E scorers were characterized by promiscuity, plus high satisfaction, and lack of nervousness. Correlations between E scores and sexual behaviors were generally positive.

High N scorers were characterized by low satisfaction and high guilt feelings; correlations between N scores and sexual behaviors were generally negative.

In a second large-scale survey study of 863 adults, Eysenck found similar associations between personality and sexual orientations. Correlations between sexual behaviors and personality in this study were very low, however. In fact, Eysenck concluded that there was "little evidence for any involvement of personality with sexual behavior as here indexed." (p. 148)

In the third study reported by Eysenck, 186 criminally-insane males were tested. In this sample correlations between E scores and sexual libido were positive, while P and N scores were negatively correlated with sexual satisfaction; E scores were also positively correlated with sexual behavior.

In general, research has supported Eysenck's (1976) contention that the L scale may be useful as a measure of conservative orthodoxy with high L scorers more likely to endorse socially-approved sexual practices. Results reported in adult surveys (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1971; Eysenck, 1976) support the hypothesis that high L scorers have a greater tendency to endorse socially-approved sexual attitudes and behavior.

Apart from the research conducted by Eysenck which is reviewed above, there is little empirical data available to date to support Eysenck's theory of sexuality. There are two experimental studies in which Eysenck personality factors have been related to sexual arousal (Farkas, Sine and Evans, 1979; Kantorowitz, 1978) and one correlational study (Bentler and Peeler, 1979) examining the association between Eysenck personality factors and sexual behavior. All of these studies provide some support for Eysenck's theory. Farkas *et al.* (1979) reported that high scorers on the Eysenck L scale were associated with lower average tumescence and longer latency to maximum tumescence during their experimental manipulations. High N scorers also took longer to reach maximum tumescence. Kantorowitz (1978) showed greater conditioning to sexual cues during high sexual arousal for extraverts than for introverts. These results were interpreted as providing some evidence for Eysenck's theory that extraverts condition more readily under conditions of high arousal. Introverts on the other hand showed greater conditioning of detumescence to sexual cues provided following ejaculation. Research by Bentler and Peeler (1979) in a female sample showed that extraversion was positively correlated with the Bentler (1968) Heterosexual Behavioral scale ( $r = 0.22$ ), while neuroticism was negatively correlated with this measure ( $r = -0.16$ ).

In the present study an attempt will be made to further test Eysenck's theory by examining the association between Eysenck's personality dimensions, P, E, N and L and sexual attitudes and

behavior in a sample of male college students. As noted earlier, in addition to replicating some of the relationships reported by Eysenck (1976) an attempt will also be made to relate personality factors to various cognitive aspects of sexuality including sexual thoughts, perceptions of sexual functions or motivations and behavioral intentions.

The functions that a behavior serves have been shown to be important mediators between personality and behavior, particularly in the field of drug use (cf. Jessor, Young, Young and Tesi, 1970; Kohn, Fox, Barnes, Annis, Hoffman and Ejchental, 1979). Sexual behaviors may also serve different functions for different personality types. The relationship between personality and sexual functions will be investigated in this study using the Nelson (1979a, b) Sexual Functions Inventory (SFI).

Behavioral intentions have also proven to be important predictors of behavior in the social psychological literature. In the area of aggression against women in particular, research by Malamuth and his colleagues (Malamuth, 1981a, b; Malamuth, Haber and Feshbach, 1980; Malamuth and Check, 1980, 1983; Check and Malamuth, 1983a, b) has shown that Ss' self-perceived likelihood of raping is a good predictor of varied responses reflecting sexually-aggressive inclinations, including sexual arousal to rape depictions, calloused attitudes and aggressive behavior in the laboratory, as well as in dating interactions (see Malamuth, 1981b, 1984 for a review of this research). The relationship between personality and behavioral intentions in the sexual realm will be examined in this study.

## METHOD

### *Subjects*

Three hundred and seven male Introductory Psychology students participated in this study. Ss were given experimental credit for participating in this study.

### *Procedure*

Questionnaires were administered as part of an orientation session in a program of research on sexual arousal to rape depictions (Malamuth and Check, 1983). Ss were tested in large groups.

### *Materials*

#### *Background information*

A number of questions were asked concerning the Ss' background including their age, marital status and religious affiliation.

#### *Sexual knowledge*

Subjects were asked to indicate the age at which they had acquired sexual knowledge in the following areas: (1) what masturbation is, (2) what sexual intercourse involves, (3) the relationship between sexual intercourse and pregnancy, (4) what menstruation is, (5) what an orgasm is and (6) what homosexuality is.

#### *Sexual functions*

The functions served by sexual behaviors were assessed by using the Nelson (1979a, b) SFI. The sexual functions measured by this test include: hedonism, recognition, dominance, submission, conformity, personal love and affection and novelty. Reliability and validity data provided by Nelson suggests that these scales are reliable (alpha's range between 0.77 and 0.85) and valid indicators of sexual functions. In this inventory each scale contains eight items with Ss asked to indicate how important each item is on a 4-point scale of importance ranging from 1 (very important) to 4 (not important at all).

#### *Sexual thoughts*

Sexual thoughts were assessed by asking each S whether or not they had ever thought of engaging in any of the following activities: (1) intercourse, (2) oral-genital contact, (3) lesbian acts,\* (4) male

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\*Although male Ss clearly cannot commit lesbian acts, they can imagine what this experience would be like.

homosexual acts, (5) group sex, (6) forcing someone to do something and (7) being forced to do something.

#### *Enjoyment of sexual thoughts*

Subjects were asked to indicate how attractive thoughts listed above were on a 4-point scale ranging from 1 (very attractive) to 4 (very unattractive). These items provided some indications as to *Ss*' attitudes regarding different sexual behaviors.

#### *Behavioral likelihood*

Subjects were asked how likely (1 = not at all likely, 6 = very likely) they would be to engage in each of the following sexual activities if there was no likelihood of being caught: (1) anal intercourse, (2) group sex, (3) forcing female to do something sexual she did not want to do, (4) sadomasochism, (5) homosexuality and (6) pedophilia.

#### *Behavioral intentions*

Subjects were also asked simply how likely (1 to 6) they thought they would be to engage in the following activities: (1) intercourse, (2) oral-genital contact, (3) homosexual acts, (4) group sex, (5) using force, (6) being forced, (7) dressing as opposite sex and (8) anal intercourse.

#### *Sexual behaviors*

Sexual behaviors were assessed by a number of items including the Bentler Sexual Behavior Inventory (Bentler, 1968). Since the Bentler measure assesses heterosexual behavior only, additional items were included to assess other less conventional sexual behaviors (i.e. homosexual acts, group sex, forced sex). *Ss* were also asked to indicate how much they enjoyed the various sexual activities they had engaged in on a 4-point scale (1 = very much, 4 = not at all).

#### *Pornography*

Since pornography represents a significant area of public concern in the field of human sexuality, *Ss* were asked a number of questions concerning their exposure to various types of pornography including: (1) intercourse, (2) oral-genital contact, (3) lesbian acts, (4) male homosexual acts, (5) group sex and (6) someone being forced. Reactions to each of these types of pornographic content were also assessed by having *Ss* circle adjectives describing their reactions to each of these activities. These questions were adapted from Goldstein and Kant (1973). Adjectives used were: (1) aroused, (2) disgusted, (3) interested, (4) shocked, (5) curious, (6) disinterested, (7) informed, (8) happy and (9) uncomfortable. The adjectives numbered above as 1, 3, 5, 7 and 8 were considered positive reactions whereas those numbered 2, 4, 6 and 9 were judged negative affective reactions. *Ss* were given a score of 1 for each positive adjective they checked and a 1 for each negative adjective they did not check. Scores on each type of content could then range between 0 (least positive) and 9 (most positive). Expectations were that extraverts would be characterized by positive reactions to conventional sexual acts and negative reactions to unconventional sex, while high *P* scorers would be characterized by positive reactions to unconventional sex and less positive reactions to conventional sex.

#### *Personality*

The EPQ (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1975) was employed as a measure of extraversion, psychoticism and neuroticism and tendency to lie.

#### *Data analyses*

The data analyses were planned in such a way to allow maximum comparability with Eysenck's (1976) work. Since we did not have a large enough sample to factor analyze our entire inventory of questions, separate factor analyses were conducted within the various domains (including sexual knowledge, sexual fantasies, attitudes toward sexual thoughts, behavioral intentions, sexual behavior and pornography). Correlations between individual items and scales based on factor analyses and personality characteristics were then conducted in a similar manner to the techniques employed by Eysenck (1976). While statistical purists may argue that presentation of large numbers

of correlations might artificially inflate the type II error rate, readers can take this into consideration when interpreting our results. Where a consistent pattern of results emerges across different types of measures, greater confidence can be placed in the results.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### *Sample Characteristics*

The mean age in the sample was 19 yr. Only 3.6% of the sample reported that they were married. Ss were primarily Protestant (35.4%), Catholic (20.3%) or professed to having no religion (29.5%). The mean scores on the EPQ were as follows: (1) P,  $\bar{X} = 2.37$ ,  $SD = 1.84$ ; (2) E,  $\bar{X} = 13.14$ ,  $SD = 3.43$ ; (3) N,  $\bar{X} = 10.91$ ,  $SD = 4.16$ ; and (4) L,  $\bar{X} = 6.13$ ,  $SD = 3.11$ . These means are quite similar to norms on the EPQ reported by Eysenck and Eysenck (1975). Examination of the intercorrelations among the four scales indicated a fair degree of independence. Only two significant correlations emerged (P and E,  $r = -0.16$ ,  $P < 0.004$ ; N and L,  $r = -0.18$ ,  $P < 0.002$ ).

### *Personality and Sexual Knowledge*

The sexual knowledge items were first subjected to a principal component factor analysis to determine whether or not there was a large principal component in these items. Results showed that there was in fact a large principal component in sexual knowledge (eigenvalue = 4.00) accounting for 66.7% of the variance. These items formed a reliable scale (Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.90$ ). Correlations between sexual knowledge items and the overall scale score and personality are provided in Table 1. These results show that high P and high L scores are positively correlated with acquiring sexual knowledge at an older age. Extraversion on the other hand is negatively correlated with acquiring sexual knowledge at an older age. In other words, extraverts learn about sexual matters at a younger age. No significant correlations with neuroticism were observed. The finding that psychoticism is associated with the acquisition of sexual knowledge at a later age may be important. Sexual offenders tend to be high P scorers (Eysenck, 1976). Perhaps proper sexual education could contribute to a reduction in inclinations to commit sexual offenses.

### *Personality and Sexual Functions*

Correlations between the Eysenck personality factors and the Nelson (1979a, b) SFI scales are provided in Table 2. The pattern of correlations seems to indicate that sex does indeed serve different functions for different personality types. For the high P scorer the functions of dominance, submission, conformity and novelty seem particularly important. The significant negative correlation between the P scale and the love and affection sexual functions variable is also noteworthy. High P scorers appear less motivated to engage in sexual activities as an expression of love and affection. As expected, the correlations between high E scores and the sexual functions of hedonism and novelty are high. Other motivations that were also important for extraverts included:

Table 1. Correlations between sexual knowledge items and P, E, N and L scales

Items	Scales			
	P	E	N	L
<i>About how old were you when you first had a fairly accurate idea of:</i>				
1. What masturbation is	0.20†	-0.16**	0.00	0.27†
2. What sexual intercourse involves	0.18***	-0.14**	-0.03	0.19†
3. The relationships between sexual intercourse and pregnancy	0.18***	-0.14**	-0.03	0.17**
4. What menstruation is	0.15**	-0.11*	-0.06	0.19***
5. What an orgasm is	0.17**	-0.12*	0.02	0.18***
6. What homosexuality is	0.16**	-0.17**	-0.08	0.18***
Sexual knowledge scale ( $\alpha = 0.90$ )	0.21†	-0.17***	-0.04	0.24†

\* $P < 0.05$ ; \*\* $P < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ ; † $P < 0.0005$ .

Table 2. Correlations between sexual function scales and P, E, N and L scales

Sexual function scales	Scales			
	P	E	N	L
1. Hedonism	0.03	0.21†	0.09	-0.27†
2. Recognition	0.09	0.15**	0.23†	-0.20†
3. Dominance	0.16**	0.23†	0.16**	-0.23†
4. Submission	0.16**	0.18***	0.19***	-0.14**
5. Conformity	0.18***	0.07	0.20†	-0.09
6. Love and affection	-0.10*	0.09	0.03	0.05
7. Novelty	0.16**	0.22†	0.10*	-0.19***

Levels of significance as given in Table 1.

recognition, dominance and submission. High N scorers did not appear to be as motivated by sensation-seeking types of motives. Instead, high N scorers seemed to be motivated more by needs for recognition and conformity. High L scorers seem relatively reluctant to admit that they are motivated to engage in sex for any reason except the expression of love and affection. These findings appear to be in fairly good agreement with Eysenck's (1976) theory.

### *Personality and Sexual Thoughts*

Principal component factor analysis of the sexual thought items revealed that there were three sexual thought factors with eigenvalues > 1. Varimax rotation of these factors revealed three interpretable sexual thought factors. The lesbian acts and homosexual acts formed a homosexual factor. On the second factor, group sex and the two items involving force loaded highly. On the third sexual thought factor, intercourse and oral-genital contact had the highest factor loadings. Scales were constructed on the basis of this factor analysis in the following manner. Items were assigned to the scales on which they had the highest factor loadings. Scale scores were then computed by summing the total obtained score for items answered and dividing by the total possible score for these items. Correlations between personality scales and sexual thought items and scales are reported in Table 3. In general, the correlations for the P, E and N scales are not significant, suggesting that personality may be more important in predicting sexual behavior or behavioral inclinations than sexual thoughts. Introverts, for instance, although behaviorally inhibited may be less inhibited in terms of their sexual thoughts. It is noteworthy, however, that higher P scores were found to be related to thoughts associated with the use of force. High L scores

Table 3. Correlations between sexual fantasy items and P, E, N and L scales

Items	Scales			
	P	E	N	L
<i>For each kind of sexual activity listed, please indicate whether or not you had ever thought of trying that activity</i>				
1. Intercourse	-0.07	0.05	-0.05	-0.06
2. Oral-genital contact	-0.10*	0.06	-0.02	-0.23†
3. Lesbian acts	0.09	-0.05	-0.02	-0.04
4. Male homosexual acts	0.03	-0.05	0.13*	-0.12*
5. Group sex	-0.08	0.09	0.03	-0.23†
6. Forcing someone to do something she/he didn't want to do	0.10*	-0.01	0.09	-0.27†
7. Being forced to do something you didn't want to do	-0.03	0.04	0.09	-0.12*
<i>Scales</i>				
Thoughts of intercourse/oral-genital contact ( $\alpha = 0.31$ : Items 1 & 2 above)	-0.11*	0.07	-0.03	-0.22†
Thoughts of lesbian acts, homosexual acts ( $\alpha = 0.71$ : Items 3 & 4 above)	0.06	-0.06	0.02	-0.06
Other thoughts ( $\alpha = 0.59$ : Items 5-7 above)	0.01	0.06	0.08	-0.28

Levels of significance as given in Table 1.

Table 4. Correlations between sexual attitude items and P, E, N and L scales

Items	Scales			
	P	E	N	L
<i>Whether or not you had ever thought of it, do you find the idea of . . . . . attractive?</i>				
1. Intercourse	-0.17**	0.12*	-0.03	-0.16**
2. Oral-genital contact	-0.23+	0.17**	0.05	-0.24+
3. Lesbian acts	0.09	-0.03	0.03	-0.06
4. Male homosexual acts	0.02	-0.20+	0.07	0.07
5. Group sex	-0.03	0.12*	0.06	-0.21+
6. Forcing someone to do something she/he didn't want to do	0.11*	0.02	0.13*	-0.22+
7. Being forced to do something you didn't want to do	-0.01	0.04	0.13*	-0.06
<i>Scales</i>				
Intercourse/oral-genital contact ( $\alpha = 0.50$ ; Items 1 & 2 above)	-0.25+	0.18***	0.02	-0.25+
Other attitudes ( $\alpha = 0.66$ ; Items 3-7 above)	0.06	0.00	-0.12*	-0.15**

Levels of significance as given in Table 1.

were associated with lower scores on most sexual thought items and scales. This suggests that high L scorers either have very restricted sexual thoughts or tend to deny their sexual thoughts.

#### *Personality and Attitudes Toward Sexual Thoughts*

Principal component factor analyses of Ss' reactions to their sexual thoughts produced two factors with eigenvalues  $> 1$ . Varimax rotation of these factors produced two interpretable dimensions. On the first factor the items dealing with group sex, homosexuality and force all weighted appreciably (i.e. loadings  $> 0.33$ ). On the second factor, the intercourse and oral-genital contact items weighted the highest. Scales were constructed based on this factor analysis in a similar manner to that described above. Correlations between the personality scales and sexual attitude items and scales are provided in Table 4.

The correlations shown in Table 4 indicate that extraverts have more positive attitudes toward conventional heterosexual activities than introverts. They also tend to have negative attitudes toward homosexual acts, and somewhat more positive attitudes toward group sex than introverts. High P scorers, on the other hand, do not enjoy thoughts of the more typical heterosexual activities, and tend to enjoy more thoughts of forcing others. Correlations with the N dimension were generally low. High L scores were significantly associated with more negative attitudes toward sex on most items and scales. These results agree with predictions by Eysenck (1976) that extraverts would be characterized by a positive outlook on normal heterosexual activities. The finding that high P scorers enjoy thoughts of using force also agrees with Eysenck's (1976) predictions and results.

#### *Personality and Likelihood of Engaging in Unconventional Sexual Behavior When there is No Chance of Getting Caught*

In this study there were two sets of items tapping behavioral intentions. One set of items asked how likely Ss would be to engage in a variety of unconventional sexual behaviors when there was no chance of getting caught. Factor analyses of these items, using similar procedures to those used previously in this report, indicated that there were three interpretable factors for these behavioral intentions. Anal intercourse and group sex formed one factor. Rape and forcing a female formed a second factor and the rest of the unconventional sexual behaviors formed a third factor. Scales were constructed based on these items. Correlations between personality and unconventional sexual behavioral intentions items and scales are reported in Table 5. These results show that high P scorers reported a greater likelihood of engaging in many of these activities than low P scorers. Particularly distressing are the significant positive correlations between high P scores and the rape

Table 5. Correlations between unconventional sex likelihood items and P, E, N and L scales

Items	Scales			
	P	E	N	L
<i>If you could be assured that no one would know and you could not be punished, how likely would you be to engage in the following acts?</i>				
1. Anal intercourse	0.06	0.03	0.06	0.03
2. Group sex	-0.01	0.15**	0.10*	-0.24†
3. Rape	0.15**	0.02	0.06	-0.11*
4. Forcing a female to do something sexual she didn't want to do	0.16**	0.08	0.10*	-0.22†
5. Transvestism (dressing as the opposite sex)	0.12*	0.00	0.08	0.00
6. Sadomasochism	0.12*	0.05	0.04	-0.08
7. Homosexuality	0.13*	-0.17**	0.09	0.04
8. Pedophilia (sex with young children)	0.15**	0.01	0.06	0.01
<i>Scales</i>				
Anal intercourse/group sex ( $\alpha = 0.60$ ; Items 1 & 2 above)	0.04	0.10*	0.10*	-0.12*
Rape/forcing a female ( $\alpha = 0.82$ ; Items 3 & 4 above)	0.17**	0.05	0.09	-0.18***
Other unconventional activities ( $\alpha = 0.77$ ; Items 5-8 above)	0.15**	-0.04	0.08	-0.01

Levels of significance as given in Table 1.

and pedophilia items. These results are consistent with findings reported by Eysenck (1976) on high P scorers. Extraversion was positively correlated only with inclination toward group sex and negatively correlated with inclinations toward homosexuality. Neuroticism was not strongly associated with unconventional sexual behavioral intentions. On the forced sex and unconventional sex intentions scales (based on the factor analyses) results confirm the greater inclinations of high P scorers toward forced sex and unconventional forms of sex. High L scores were generally associated with lower scores on unconventional sex likelihood items and scales.

#### *Personality and Behavioral Intentions*

On a second set of behavioral intention items, Ss were simply asked how likely they were to engage in a series of sexual behaviors. Factor analyses of these items revealed a two-factor solution and scales were constructed based on these factor analyses. Correlations between personality scales and these behavioral intention items and scales are provided in Table 6. Results in Table 6 show

Table 6. Correlations between behavioral intention items and P, E, N and L scales

Items	Scales			
	P	E	N	L
<i>Do you think you will ever try the following activities?</i>				
1. Intercourse	-0.26†	0.16**	-0.07	-0.27†
2. Oral-genital contact	-0.24†	0.19***	0.06	-0.31†
3. Homosexual acts	0.14**	-0.09	0.03	0.06
4. Group sex	0.10*	0.23†	0.05	-0.23†
5. Forcing someone to do something she/he didn't want to do	0.21†	0.16**	0.09	-0.22†
6. Being forced to do something you don't want to do	0.12*	0.14**	0.12*	-0.14**
7. Dressing as the opposite sex	0.16**	0.03	0.01	-0.03
8. Anal intercourse	0.01	0.07	0.03	-0.02
<i>Scales</i>				
Intercourse/oral-genital contact ( $\alpha = 0.66$ ; Items 1 & 2 above)	-0.28†	0.20†	0.02	-0.33†
Other behavioral intentions ( $\alpha = 0.74$ ; Items 3-8 above)	0.16**	0.15**	0.08	-0.17**

Levels of significance as given in Table 1.



Table 7. Correlations between sexual behavior items and P, E, N and L scales

Items	Scales			
	P	E	N	L
<i>Have you ever tried any of the following activities?</i>				
1. Intercourse	0.05	0.13*	-0.01	-0.14**
2. Oral-genital contact	-0.06	0.21†	0.07	-0.22†
3. Male homosexual acts	0.06	-0.07	0.16*	0.01
4. Group sex	-0.03	0.04	0.02	-0.08
5. Forcing someone to do something she/he didn't want to do	0.05	0.12*	0.11*	-0.17**
6. Being forced to do something you didn't want to do	0.02	0.02	-0.03	0.04
<i>Scales</i>				
Conventional sexual behavior ( $\alpha = 0.66$ ; Items 1 & 2 above)	0.00	0.19†	0.04	-0.21†
Unconventional sexual behavior ( $\alpha = 0.70$ ; Items 3-6 above)	0.06	0.03	0.07	-0.06

Levels of significance as given in Table 1.

that high P scorers are characterized by negative inclinations toward the more conventional sexual activities, and positive inclinations toward the less conventional sexual activities. Extraversion was correlated positively with most of the sexual behavioral intentions, except for homosexuality where the correlation was negative. Correlations between neuroticism and behavioral intentions were generally not significant. High L scores were once again associated with lower scores on behavioral intention items and scales.

#### *Personality and Sexual Behavior*

Sexual behaviors were assessed through a series of items asking Ss which sexual behaviors they had tried and how much they had enjoyed these activities. Factor analyses of the items shown in Table 7 revealed a familiar pattern. Two factors emerged: a conventional sex (intercourse and oral-genital sex) and a forced and unconventional sex factor comprised of the other items. Correlations between personality scales and these sexual behavior items and scales are shown in Table 7. The correlations between psychoticism and sexual behaviors are not significant. Extraversion on the other hand, is positively correlated with the more conventional sexual behaviors and the conventional sexual behavior scale. Neuroticism is positively correlated with the less conventional sexual activity of homosexual acts and with the use of force. Once again high L scores were associated with lower scores on sexual behavior items and scales.

Because the correlations between sexual behavior and personality found in this study (see Table 7) were not as high as the correlations between personality and the attitudinal items, particularly for the P scale, several possible reasons for these generally low correlations were considered. The first possibility considered was that the distributions of the sexual behavior and personality scales were so skewed that the Pearson  $r$  might not be the most appropriate measure for examining this association. This problem is particularly noticeable for the association between the P scale and the unconventional sexual behavior items, where both sets of data have J-shaped distributions. To ensure that our results were not an artifact of the method of data analysis chosen, Kendal tau  $\beta$  measures of association between personality scales and sexual behavior items and scales were computed. Results produced by these analyses did not vary from results produced by Pearson  $r$  analyses (see Table 8 for results of P-scale analyses).

A second possible source for artificially low correlations in this study was also examined. If high L scores reflect a tendency to dissimulate rather than a tendency to be more orthodox and conservative, then it is possible that Ss may be denying participation in sexual activities, particularly those that are unconventional in nature. There are two possible ways for controlling for possible dissimulation that were explored in this study. First, as suggested by Eysenck (1976), the top 5% of L scorers can be eliminated and correlations reexamined. As shown in Table 8, elimination of the top 5% of L scorers did not change the correlations between the P scale and self-report measures of sexual behavior. Similar findings were observed for other personality scales.

Table 8. Alternative measures of association between the P scale and sexual behavior items

Items (ever tried)	P		
	Eliminating top 5% L scorers	Partial <i>r</i>	Tau $\beta$
1. Intercourse	0.05	0.05	0.04
2. Oral-genital contact	-0.07	-0.06	-0.06
3. Male homosexual acts	0.07	0.06	0.07
4. Group sex	-0.03	-0.03	0.00
5. Forcing someone to do something she/he didn't want to do	0.05	0.04	0.06
6. Being forced to do something you didn't want to do	0.01	0.02	0.02
<i>Scales</i>			
Conventional sexual behavior ( $\alpha = 0.66$ ; Items 1 & 2 above)	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01
Unconventional sexual behavior ( $\alpha = 0.70$ ; Items 3-6 above)	0.05	0.06	0.08

The second strategy employed for controlling for the effects of dissimulation involves computing partial correlations. The partial correlations between P and self-reported sexual behaviors, partialling out L scores, are shown in Table 8. Once again partial correlations did not vary much from results found using simple zero-order correlations.

If the rather low correlations between the P scale and sexual behavior are genuine, it becomes necessary to look for possible mediating factors. It should not be surprising that this personality scale predicts behavioral intentions better than actual behaviors. For instance, it may be one thing to have an interest in participating in forced sex, but quite another thing to risk the consequences of doing so. Another limiting factor might be the relatively young age in the sample. Some high P scorers, for instance, may act out their deviant behavioral intentions later in life.

Correlations between personality scales and the Bentler sexual behavior items and scales are provided in Table 9. These results show that: (1) correlations between these sexual behaviors and extraversion are uniformly positive; (2) correlations with psychoticism and neuroticism are not significant; and (3) correlations with the L scale are negative. These data strongly support Eysenck's (1976) predictions noted in the Introduction. The results are also in agreement with the findings reported by Bentler and Peeler (1979).

In addition to being asked to indicate what they had done, Ss were asked to indicate how much they had enjoyed these activities. Since some activities were engaged in very infrequently no factor analyses were conducted on these items. Correlations between these items and Eysenck personality scales are reported in Table 10. These results indicate that high P scorers who had engaged in these activities reported greater enjoyment of oral-genital contact and the use of force than did low P scorers. Extraversion is positively correlated with enjoyment of more conventional heterosexual activity, and negatively correlated with enjoyment of force in sexual activities. High N scorers report enjoying homosexual activities less than low N scorers. Perhaps they are more likely than low N scorers to feel guilty after participating in these activities. Correlations between the L scale and sexual enjoyment items and scales were all non-significant. These findings are generally consistent with Eysenck's theory.

#### *Personality and Pornography*

Subjects were asked to indicate which types of pornography they were familiar with, and what their reactions were to the various types of topics in pornography. Factor analyses of the exposure to pornography items revealed a fairly large principal component accounting for 46.3% of the common item variance. Correlations between personality scales and the individual pornography items and overall scale are summarized in Table 11.

Correlations between extraversion and pornography are generally positive indicating that extraverts tend to seek out this type of stimulation more than introverts. An interesting pattern emerges with high P scorers tending to report lower exposure to most pornography items except for the tendency to report more exposure for the force items and male homosexual acts. Correlations with neuroticism are generally low. High L scores are associated with a lower reported exposure to pornography.

Table 9. Correlations between Bentler's heterosexual Behavior scale items and P, E, N and L scales

Items	Scales			
	P	E	N	L
1. I have kissed the lips of a female for one minute continuously.	-0.02	0.31†	0.04	-0.16**
2. I have engaged in sexual intercourse with a female	0.01	0.15**	0.01	-0.13*
3. I have manipulated the genitals of a female with my tongue.	-0.02	0.23†	0.06	-0.14**
4. I have manipulated the breasts of a female with my hands underneath her clothes.	0.01	0.35†	0.00	-0.12*
5. I have manipulated the genitals of a female with my hands over her clothes.	-0.04	0.38†	0.02	-0.19†
6. A female has manipulated my genitals with her tongue.	-0.04	0.21†	0.04	-0.15**
7. I have engaged in mutual hand-manipulation of genitals with a female.	-0.09	0.29†	0.03	-0.16**
8. I have kissed the nipples of the breast of a female.	-0.03	0.32†	-0.02	-0.16**
9. I have engaged in mutual mouth-genital manipulation with a female to the point of her orgasm and my ejaculation.	-0.01	0.17***	0.00	-0.02
10. I have manipulated the genitals of a female with my hand underneath her clothes.	-0.03	0.29†	-0.05	-0.12*
11. A female has manipulated my genitals with her mouth to the point of my ejaculation.	-0.08	0.19†	-0.07	-0.13*
12. A female has manipulated my genitals with her hand over my clothes.	-0.08	0.27†	0.04	-0.13*
13. I have engaged in heterosexual intercourse using rear entry to the vagina.	0.03	-0.04	-0.02	-0.04
14. I have touched the genitals of a female with my lips.	-0.04	0.25†	0.01	-0.17**
15. A female touched my genitals with her lips.	-0.05	0.21†	0.02	-0.16**
16. I have engaged in mutual mouth-genital manipulation with a female.	0.06	0.11*	0.05	-0.07
17. I have manipulated the genitals of a female with my hand to the point of massive secretions from her genitals.	-0.05	0.25†	0.00	-0.15**
18. A female has manipulated my genitals with her hand to the point of ejaculation.	0.11*	0.23†	0.04	-0.08
19. A female has manipulated my genitals with her hand underneath my clothes.	0.01	0.28†	-0.02	-0.16**
20. I have engaged in mutual hand-manipulation of genitals with a female to the point of her orgasm and my ejaculation.	-0.04	0.19***	0.05	-0.05
21. I have manipulated the breasts of a female with my hands over her clothes.	-0.07	0.30†	0.03	-0.14**
Sexual Behavior scale ( $\alpha = 0.96$ ; Items 1-21 above)	-0.05	0.31†	0.01	-0.16**

Levels of significance as given in Table 1.

When the reactions toward pornography are considered (see Table 12) a familiar pattern once again emerges. Extraverts enjoy seeing conventional sexual activities and group sex portrayed. High P scorers do not tend to enjoy exposure to conventional sexual activities. They do, however, enjoy seeing someone being forced, more than low P scorers.

Table 10. Correlations between sexual enjoyment items and P, E, N and L scales

Items	Number answering question	Scales			
		P	E	N	L
<i>If you tried it, did you enjoy it?</i>					
1. Intercourse	191	-0.08	0.13*	-0.01	-0.09
2. Oral-genital contact	190	0.22***	0.13*	-0.09	0.09
3. Male homosexual acts	31	-0.01	0.05	-0.30*	-0.02
4. Group sex	28	0.05	0.01	-0.08	-0.15
5. Forcing someone to do something she/he didn't want to do	40	0.20	-0.18	-0.10	0.11
6. Being forced to do something you didn't want to do	32	0.02	-0.25	0.17	0.02

Levels of significance as given in Table 1.

Table 11. Correlations between pornography experience items and P, E, N and L scales

Items	Scales			
	P	E	N	L
<i>Have you ever read anything (not including technical books) or seen pictures or movies of the following:</i>				
1. Intercourse	-0.03	0.13**	-0.05	-0.06
2. Oral-genital contact	-0.13*	0.17**	-0.01	-0.12*
3. Lesbian acts	-0.07	0.05	-0.09	-0.10*
4. Male homosexual acts	0.12*	0.11*	0.10*	-0.05
5. Group sex	-0.08	0.13*	0.01	-0.16**
6. Someone being forced to do something she/he didn't really want to do	0.10*	0.11*	0.03	-0.12*
<i>Scales</i>				
Pornography scale ( $\alpha = 0.69$ ; Items 1-6)	-0.07	0.18**	-0.06	-0.14**

Levels of significance as given in Table 1.

Correlations between neuroticism and reactions to pornography are generally low. High N scorers do, however, report less enjoyment of portrayals of intercourse. Presumably, people who were high in neuroticism and low in extraversion would be the ones most likely to be offended by any open expression of sexuality. High L scorers also reported less enjoyment of pornography than low L scorers.

#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A summary of the correlations between extraversion and sexuality reveals that, as predicted by Eysenck (1976), the high E scorer is characterized by a generally hedonistic outlook toward sex. Extraverts acquire sexual knowledge at a younger age and tend to engage in sex for hedonistic and novelty types of motivation. Attitudes and behavioral intentions toward conventional sex and group sex among extraverts are generally more positive but they have less favorable attitudes toward homosexuality. Although extraverts have somewhat more favorable attitudes toward the use of force, those who have tried the use of force seemed somewhat 'turned off' by this activity. Extraversion is positively correlated with conventional sexual behavior and group sex and with enjoyment of these activities. Extraverts also seek out and enjoy pornography more than introverts.

In general, correlations between the Eysenck N scale and various indices of sexuality employed in this study were not significant. Sexual motivations, however, were somewhat related to this scale. Recognition, submission and conformity were relatively more important than love and affection, hedonism and novelty for higher N scorers. Although high N scorers report somewhat more favorable attitudes toward homosexuality, those who engage in this activity report less satisfaction than low N scorers. High N scorers are somewhat less likely to enjoy pornography even when it is fairly conventional.

High P scorers on the Eysenck scale were found to be characterized by a predilection toward more unconventional sexual behaviors. High P scorers were associated with a tendency to: (1) acquire sexual knowledge later in life; (2) engage in sex for motives involving power (dominance, submission) as well as conformity and novelty, but to be less motivated by the expression of love and affection; and (3) have more favorable attitudes and behavioral intentions surrounding the use of force, and less favorable attitudes and behavioral intentions concerning more conventional sexual behavior. High P scorers did not score much differently than low P scorers on actual sexual

Table 12. Correlations between reactions to pornography and P, E, N and L scales

Items	Scales			
	P	E	N	L
1. Intercourse	-0.04	0.13*	-0.12*	-0.18**
2. Oral-genital contact	-0.16**	0.15**	-0.07	-0.13*
3. Lesbian acts	-0.06	0.05	-0.06	-0.17**
4. Male homosexual acts	0.00	0.03	-0.04	-0.03
5. Group sex	-0.02	0.15**	0.00	-0.19†
6. Someone being forced	0.12*	0.06	0.00	-0.13*

Levels of significance as given in Table 1.

behaviors, but reported significantly more enjoyment of oral sex and the use of force when they had tried these activities. In the area of pornography, high P scorers did report less exposure to most types of pornography and more exposure to pornography involving force and male homosexual acts. High P scorers also reported more enjoyment of pornography that involved force.

On the whole, results for the P-scale variable provide strong support for Eysenck's concept of psychoticism and the association between psychoticism and proclivity toward unconventional sex. Results are in agreement with Eysenck's (1976) finding that sexual offenders were high P scorers. The results concerning the association between psychoticism and unconventional sexual behavioral intentions and enjoyment of the use of force are particularly noteworthy. Our own recent experimental research (Barnes, Malamuth and Check, 1984) has shown that high P scorers respond with greater sexual arousal to rape depictions than low P scorers. It would appear, then, that the responses of high P scorers in this study cannot be dismissed as a response set or trivial tendency to respond inconsistently to questionnaire items on the part of high P scorers. The Eysenck P scale seems to be measuring an important personality trait that relates to forced sex and unconventional sexual interests.

The most consistent set of relationships found in this study was between the L scale and inhibited sexuality and/or tendency to deny sexuality. High L scores were associated with:

- (1) acquisition of sexual knowledge later in life;
- (2) reluctance to admit that they are motivated to engage in sex for any reason other than the expression of love and affection;
- (3) fewer reported sexual thoughts;
- (4) less favorable attitudes toward sex;
- (5) less self-reported likelihood of engaging in sex (either conventional or unconventional);
- (6) less self-reported sexual behavior (conventional or unconventional);
- (7) less reported exposure to pornography;
- (8) less enjoyment of pornography.

Although it is possible that high L scorers simply tend to deny their sexual experiences, this seems unlikely for several reasons. First of all, research by Farkas *et al.* (1979) showed that L scores were related not only to self-reports, but to inhibited sexual response as measured physiologically. Secondly, the correlation between the L scale and neuroticism found in this study was fairly low ( $r = -0.18$ ). Eysenck and Eysenck (1976) suggest that when the pressure to dissimulate is very high, correlations between N and L will also be very high (i.e. in the 0.5 range). The relatively low correlation observed here suggests that pressure to dissimulate may not have been overly high. Responses were anonymous which should have minimized the tendency to fake good. It is more likely that the L scale in this study measured a tendency toward conservative orthodoxy that is associated with inhibited sexuality.

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