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Towards a Theory of Chronophilic Sexual Orientation in Heterosexual Men

Alexander F. Schmidt & Roland Imhoff

Alexander F. Schmidt, Department of Psychology, Social & Legal Psychology, Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany; Roland Imhoff, Department of Psychology, Social & Legal Psychology, Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany.

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Correspondence:

Alexander F. Schmidt

Social & Legal Psychology

Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz

Binger Str. 14-16

55122 Mainz, Germany

alexander.schmidt@uni-mainz.de

Abstract

Although sexual interest is a fundamental part of every sexually reproducing species, it still remains to a large extent an enigma. To this day, a general theory of sexual interest is lacking, specifically, in terms of a causal theory on how sexual interests are developed. This lack of a theoretical framework to explain sexual interest as an everyday phenomenon is exacerbated in the forensic domain where deviant sexual interests are established as prime precipitating and maintaining factors for sexual (re)offending. In this chapter we will argue, that theories of sexual deviance suffer from a crucial problem due to an inherent confound of deviant sexual interest and offending behavior. This hinders focusing on the *sexual* etiology of sexual offending. So far the history of theories of sexual deviance is largely a history of known general crime correlates and to a much lesser degree based on a detailed understanding of the underlying sexual inclinations. We suggest that the field will profit from a better understanding of how sexual orientations and motivations are related to sexual behaviors. To this end, we will outline our theoretical approach for heterosexual males' chronophilic interest and report preliminary data from an empirically testable evolutionary psychologically-informed theory. Implications for future research necessary to further solidify the evidence base for this framework are discussed.

Keywords: Chronophilia; Pedophilia; Sexual Offending; Etiology; Evolutionary Psychology.

Towards a Theory of Chronophilic Sexual Orientation in Heterosexual Men

Sexual interests are diverse. Humans are almost universally experiencing a vast amount of idiosyncratic sexual fantasies (Leitenberg, 1995) and there is a virtually endless repertoire of lived sexual behaviors as a quick unsystematic internet search will immediately reveal. Although sexual interest is a fundamental part of every sexually reproducing species, it still remains to a large extent an enigma. To this day, a general theory of sexual interest is lacking from a behavioral science perspective, specifically, in terms of a causal theory on how sexual interests are developed (Bailey et al., 2016). The proposed causal factors stem from a nature (i.e., biological factors such as genetics, hormone exposition etc.) vs. nurture (i.e., learned sexual interests) framework (Bailey et al., 2016; Walters, 1997; Quinsey, 2003) but are difficult to test in rigorous research designs for obvious ethical reasons (Bailey et al., 2016; Pfaus et al., 2020).

The lack of a theoretical framework to explain sexual interest as an everyday phenomenon is exacerbated from an applied point of view when it comes to the forensic domain where deviant sexual interests are empirically established as a) a prime recidivism risk factor for sexual reoffending (Mann et al., 2010) and are b) considered as a focal precipitating factor to explain the onset of deviant sexual behavior (e.g., Seto, 2019). According to the so-called sexual-preference hypothesis – a widely-held view among lay people and professionals alike – sexually deviant behaviors result from respective underlying deviant sexual interests.

In this chapter we will argue, that theories of sexual deviance suffer from a crucial problem due to an inherent confound of two related but empirically distinguishable phenomena, namely deviant sexual interest and offending behavior. This hinders focusing on the *sexual* etiology of sexual offending and runs the risk of resembling theories of general offending. Hence, so far the

history of theories of sexual deviance is largely a history of known general crime correlates and to a much lesser degree based on a detailed understanding of the underlying sexual inclinations. Although we certainly will not be able to close this theoretical gap, we suggest that the field will profit from a better understanding of how sexual orientations and motivations are related to sexual behaviors. This will form a necessary step to explain sexual deviation from the empirical average of socially adjusted sexual behavior. This will also be scientifically more parsimonious than developing specific theories for every sexual kink or deviation itself (Imhoff et al., 2017). We will exemplify an attempt at this effort by reporting preliminary data from an empirically testable evolutionary psychologically-informed theory that we have proposed as a building block in response to the puzzle of chronophilias (Seto, 2017) in heterosexual males sexual interest in females across varying age levels (Imhoff et al., 2017)¹.

The Confound in Theories of Sexual Deviance

For the ease of following our arguments in the remainder of the chapter, sexual deviance is defined as sexually criminal behavior (i.e., behavior involving sexual offences) and this is distinguished from deviant sexual interests (i.e., [mostly paraphilic] sexual fantasies that only if acted out constitute a sexual crime). Note, that according to the sexual-preference hypothesis there should be a strong fantasy-behavior link and, thus, reverse-inferences from offending behavior are often used as a proxy for sexual interest assessments (Lehmann et al., 2018). However, not every sexual offender necessarily shows marked deviant sexual interests or even preferences (i.e., relatively stronger deviant interests than normatively unproblematic sexual interests; e.g., Schmidt et al., 2013) and not every individual with deviant sexual interests is

¹¹ The much less specific sexual orientation of heterosexual women calls for a different theory of sexual interest (Bailey, 2009). For the same reasons as outlined in Seto (2017) we will restrict our reasoning to heterosexual males' development of deviant sexual interests.

acting on these as research involving non-offending community members has revealed (e.g., Dombert et al., 2016).

The following reasoning is largely informed by the seminal paper from Smid and Wever (2019). Numerous theories of sexual deviance have been proposed (see Ward et al., 2006 for the most comprehensive outlook to date) seeking to explain sexual offending. The common core that unites all these theories is a simple underlying structure that has been best exemplified in Seto's (2019) recent Motivation-Facilitation Model of sexual offending. Basically, two types of factors are postulated that drive sexual offending: a) sexually motivating forces in the narrow sense such as sexual interests in behaviors that are legally problematic (i.e., illegal paraphilic behaviors considered to be crimes in most Western jurisdictions such as sex with children, animals, or corpses, or sex with legal minors) or dispositionally high mating effort (i.e., sex drive; Klein et al., 2015); b) facilitating factors (not necessarily of a sexual nature) that lower the individual threshold to commit these respective crimes. These forms of disinhibition can be classified as either temporary states (e.g., acute intoxication, sexual arousal; Seto, 2019; Imhoff & Schmidt, 2014) or stable traits (e.g., dispositions of high impulsivity, antisociality; Ward & Beech, 2006; Mann et al., 2010; Klein et al., 2015).

Particularly the confounding relationship of the facilitating facets with common risk factors for non-sexual criminality (i.e., impulsivity, self-regulation problems, antisociality) is problematic as it renders these models unspecific. This is reflected in the fact that only the deviant sexual interest (motivating) factor is specific for sexual reoffending whereas the (non-sexual) disinhibiting factors predict general (non-sexual) reoffending (Brouillette-Alarie et al., 2018) in offenders as well. While drawing largely on research based on studies comparing offenders with non-offenders, sexual offending is treated as just another subcategory of general

offending (Smid & Wever, 2019). Hence, it is difficult to distinguish between sexual interests and factors linked to general crime-proneness (i.e., antisociality) as causal drivers of sexual deviance. This is corroborated, for example, by recent findings showing child sexual offending was specifically related to reduced executive functioning instead of pedophilic interest only once non-offending pedophilic control groups had been sampled concurrently (Massau et al., 2017). Only recently, research has started to disentangle deviant sexual interest and general risk factors for criminality in designs that incorporate non-institutionalized individuals with deviant sexual interests from the community (Jahnke et al., 2020). Utilizing such a design, Gerwinn et al. (2018) found "many of the factors reported as being related to paedophilia may [...] actually be associated with committing child sex offences and vice versa" (p. 75).

Distinguishing between delinquency that is driven by sexual factors in the narrow sense as opposed to delinquency that is just another form of general crime-proneness (i.e., antisociality) is important to understand vexing conundrums such as, on the one hand, why so many sexual offenders are desisting from further sexual offending even without treatment (Mews et al., 2017) and, on the other hand, why so many relatively well-adjusted community men admit coercive sexual acts (Andersen et al., 2019). Instead of focusing on sexual offending as another form of general delinquency, Smid and Wever (2019) argue that "enrichment of sex offender theory can be found in the description of sexual offending behavior as *sexual* behavior, especially if we aim to clarify possible mechanisms behind the development of sexual deviance" (p. 735).

In part, this theoretical gap has been tried to fill by evolutionary-psychological accounts of men's sexual offending (Quinsey & Lalumière, 1995; Camillieri, 2012) that postulate sexual offending to be adaptations or by-products of male strategies to increase their reproductive success under certain boundary conditions. However, these approaches have been much more

convincing for sexual offenders victimizing post-pubescent females than for decidedly non-adaptive victim selections such as children. In the following we will outline our theoretical approach for heterosexual males' chronophilic² interest that has been informed by the notion that sexual orientations are fueled by evolutionary-adaptive mechanisms whereas sexual motivations are acquired from gratifying sexual experiences.

Sexual Orientations and Sexual Motivations

Theories of human sexual interests need to be able to deal with the fact that human sexual interest comes in all shapes and forms. Instead of responding to this huge variety with a multidimensional array of sexual orientations to do justice to mostly all walks of (male) human sexuality (Seto, 2017), we propose that the larger share of variance in sexual interests stems from sexual experiences in the sense of learned behavior (Imhoff et al., 2017). Theoretically, an endless set of sexual behaviors and fantasies can be acquired through sexual learning (i.e., classical and operant conditioning, model learning; Hofmann et al., 2004; Pfaus et al., 2020). Regardless of the exact processes of how these sexual tastes (or sexual motivations as we will refer to them in the following) are acquired, we suppose that there is no critical developmental phase for these highly idiosyncratic associations to be formed but that they are subject to life-long learning. Consequently, such sexual motivations are, in principle, flexible and even reversible (Imhoff et al., 2017). Sexual motivations in the sense of sexual fantasies related to sexual activities or modes are frequently refined and tend to become increasingly sophisticated as long as individuals are sexually active. However, the acquisition process of sexual motivations is restricted and certain necessary boundary conditions need to be met in order for sexual fantasies and behaviors to become competent sexual stimuli that may be “loaded” or associated

² Chronophilia is a term used by Seto (2017) to refer to (paraphilic) sexual interests directed at different sexual maturity and age levels (i.e., pedophilia, hebephilia, teleiophilia, mesophilia, gerontophilia).

with sexual incentives (see Smid & Wever [2019] for an intriguingly rich – but in its entirety hard to test – theory of sexual deviance and its associated phenomena). These boundaries are largely a function of sexual orientations.

In opposition to sexual motivations, we propose to use the term sexual orientation for deeply engrained sexual inclinations that are not amenable (or exceedingly difficult) to change (Imhoff et al., 2017). Prototypical sexual orientations are highly typified gender (hetero- vs. homosexual) or sexual maturity (pedophilic vs. teleiophilic) orientations. Empirically, these can be best understood as discrete classes (or taxa) rather than dimensional continuums (Norris et al., 2015; Schmidt et al., 2013; McPhail et al., 2018) and most scholars agree on the facts that sexual orientations a) have an early onset (preceding the start of sexual activities as a form of “sexual awakening”; Bailey et al., 2016; McPhail, 2018) and b) cannot be changed effectively later in life. As sexual orientations are bound to general object features such as gender or pre-, peri-, or postpubescent sexual maturity status they form the frame within which sexual motivations may develop. This can be seen in analogy to vegetarian vs. meat food “orientations” that represent in each category a plethora of different dishes and cooking recipes. Based on this notion, it is likely that a heterosexual teleiophilic man, for instance, may develop a sexual motivation for high heels associated with his general sexual targets whereas it is unlikely that his fetish will generalize to elegant Italian men’s shoes (Imhoff et al. 2017).

Importantly, sexual motivations and orientations should not only differ descriptively (flexible vs. inflexible, early vs. later onset, highly vs. less detailed in terms of modes and forms of desired sexual behavior) but should also likely be caused by different psychological mechanisms. Furthermore, such a theory has not only to be able to explain sexual deviations from the norm but also the most frequent type of sexuality. We will be unlikely to understand

why some men become pedophilic or hebephilic until we understand why most men become teleiophilic (Imhoff et al., 2017).

A Sexual Orientation Theory of Heterosexual Male Chronophilias

Hitherto, evolutionary-psychological theories of sexual orientations fail to convincingly explain sexual victimization of prepubescent children and the origins of pedophilic interest are yet unknown (Quinsey, 2003). Inspired by the fact that men's mate selection strategies are highly dependent on visible cues (e.g., Ogas & Gaddam, 2012) and Seto's (2008) idea that pedophilic interest results from a malfunction of males' sexual preference for youthfulness, we hypothesize that sexual target identification in heterosexual males is a function of the interplay of several modules that are sensitive to differential visual target features (Imhoff et al., 2017). Accordingly, if it was an evolutionary successful strategy to detect female's ability to become pregnant, modules that direct sexual attraction to visible indicators of reproductive maturity and fertility should have been adaptive to men's reproductive fitness. As youth and sexual maturity are to a large degree culture-dependent social constructions rather than perceivable features of potential mating partners, these mate detection modules need to be sensitive to visible target characteristics that are easily accessible in everyday life. From Seto's (2017, Table 2) list of hypothetical features that are of interest to heterosexual men, breast size might be such a candidate signaling reproductive ability. Waist-to-hip ratio (WHR) might be another one, as wide enough hips are associated with reproductive ability while small enough waists indicate the absence of pregnancy and menopause. Finally, neotenous facial features and smoothness of skin signal youth and health. This list is not definitive and other features such as eye size and head-to-shoulder ratio are conceivable as well. All these characteristics carry important information

concerning the reproductive potential (e.g., years of reproductive life left), fertility (i.e., physical maturity of reproductive apparatus) and health status (i.e., genetic fitness) of female mates.

Importantly, these indicators have differential distributions over the female age span and, thus, cannot all be maximized at the same time. Smooth skin and neotenous facial features peak in early childhood, breast development does only start later with the onset of puberty and continues throughout adulthood. Similarly, the WHR of newborns is roughly 1 but decreases to the ideal of 0.75 for 16 to 21-year olds (Fredriks et al., 2005) only to slowly increase thereafter again (Shimokata et al., 1989). Hence, a trade-off needs to be found in order to arrive at the choice of an optimal mating partner. Within a system of checks and balances between these modules, seeking for an equilibrium between or an optimal combination of these features will arrive at young adult women (minimal WHR, fully developed breast, still sufficiently smooth skin and neotenous facial features). This combination explains normative teleiophilic heterosexual mate preferences (Imhoff et al., 2017).

How can other heterosexual chronophilic orientations be modeled based on this theoretical account? For whatever reasons (that must remain another open part of the puzzle of chronophilias and currently are hypothesized to be neurodevelopmental perturbations) it is conceivable that men differ in their module's sensitivity to parse information about breast size and WHR. Such decreased skills will maximize sexual attractiveness of mates with smooth skin and facial neoteny (i.e., prepubescent children) leading to a pedophilic orientation (potentially even relatively indifferent towards target gender). In contrast, males with a sole insensitivity to breast size will determine their optimal mating partners between youth indicators and WHR likely resulting in a hebephilic orientation predominantly toward female adolescents. Notably, men who do not take into account WHR, skin smoothness, or neoteny might likely be ending up

with a mesophilic (i.e., sexual interest in middle-age females) preference as breast size continues to grow at least slightly in postpubescence (Imhoff et al., 2017).

In summary, this account is able to explain various chronophilic orientations with the exception of a preference for elderly women (i.e., gerontophilia). Strikingly, no single combination of these modules will produce a strong attraction to the body schemas of elderly women. Certainly, this does not mean that such an attraction does not exist (which the Internet will prove readily) but rather that such sexual inclinations might better be framed as sexual motivations which are, in principle, flexible and only develop in later stages of life as opposed to the rigid sexual orientations with their early onset. An empirically testable question derived from this is whether there is a sizeable number (better a majority) of self-identified men who describe themselves as gerontophilic and report an early onset of these sexual interests in puberty or preferably before they started to become sexually active? Not expecting to find this, we hypothesize that gerontophilic interest is better understood as an acquired, transient sexual motivation likely to be co-shaped via compromising of sexual youth preferences and aging males' success in attracting sexual partners (Imhoff et al., 2017). As our proposed list of modules certainly might not be exhaustive, it is thinkable that the mate detection system also is attuned to indicators of child caregiving experience – an indicator whose sole overfunction might increase the age of the ideal mate into the gerontophilic realm. This, again, is an empirically testable prediction.

Finally, further empirically accessible predictions can be derived from this model: A mate detection system based on the modules described above should be highly sensitive to a maximization of all relevant characteristics at the same time. Hence, a super-ideal of the corresponding features should provoke the strongest response of this system (i.e., strongest

perceived sexual attractiveness). As these super-combinations of features are not common or even possible in the natural human environment turning to fictitious characters inspired by the hentai genre³ might pose a way of creating relevant stimuli. This economically thriving cultural subgenre depicts fully fictitious sexual targets that represent a highly idealized combination of extremely smooth skin, overly neotenous facial features, enormous breast sizes, and excessively low WHR. Notably, an unsystematic Internet search did not turn up super-ideals in the gerontophilic range whereas some hentai mesophilic pictures were found. This is anecdotal evidence challenging that the upper end of chronophilic interests could be construed as genuine gerontophilic sexual orientation as proposed by Seto (2017).

More importantly, however, these super-ideals point to a feasible empirical testing strategy. Stimuli characters could be construed along orthogonally manipulated experimental factors representing variations of the postulated mate detection modules. In such a full factorial design, teleiophilic men should report the strongest attraction to the unrealistically super-idealized character. In contrast, pedophilic men should be most sensitive to the youth indicators (potentially particularly those that are associated with affective endearment responses such as eye size and head-to-shoulder ratio; Smid & Wever, 2019; Ponseti et al., 2018). Breast size and WHR should either have no or even opposite effects for pedophilic men whereas hebephilic men should show increased sexual attractiveness perception on these factors. Finally, if our framework is corroborated, mesophilic men should reveal a strong attraction to large breasts (and there should be a lack of sexual attraction to flat-chested middle-aged women). Notably, such a research design will not only be restricted to self-reports but is in principle open to a large array of physiological and other more objective measures of sexual interest (e.g., viewing time

³ Hentai (Japanese for „abnormity, perversion“). Outside of Japanese culture this usually refers to pornographic media such as comics (manga) or films (anime).

measures are particularly easy to incorporate into such a design; Imhoff et al., 2010, 2012; Schmidt et al., 2017).

Feasibility Exploration

Can this basic assumption of a modular system in which different markers pull attraction in different direction and that typically settles for an ideal compromise be tested? In a pilot study (Imhoff, Posselt, & Walter, 2020) we used the above described hentai manga images as inspirations and created two stimulus sets that orthogonally manipulated four dimensions, two of which were expected to signal maturity (pronounced WHR, breast size), and two of which were expected to signal youthfulness (large eyes in relation to face size; large head in relation to shoulder):

- Waist-to-Hip-Ratio (5 steps: 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1.0)
- Breast Size (5 steps: none, only nipples, small, medium, large)
- Eye size (3 steps: small, regular, large)
- Head size (relative to shoulders; 3 steps: regular, large, extra-large)

(insert Figure 1 about here)

The orthogonal combination of these factors thus yielded 225 images per stimulus set (450 in total; see Figure 1 for examples). The first two factors signal maturity and thus pull attractiveness impressions in the direction of a pronounced (i.e., small) WHR and large breasts. The last two factors signal youthfulness and hence should create impressions of attractiveness for large eyes and large heads (in relation to shoulder). Our modular model now allows a few testable and falsifiable predictions: First, all factors should have an effect on attractiveness ratings in teleiophilic heterosexual men (H1). Second, in an idealized world liberated from

physical constraints, attractiveness in the eyes of heterosexual teleiophilic men should peak at the “ideal” combination of maximal youthfulness and maximal maturity (H2, akin to Figure 3).

Further predictions follow the above described “module dysfunction” explanation of chronophilias. If sexual interest in mature women (mesophilia) can be understood by a dysfunctional youthfulness module (and hence a lack of a force pulling in the opposite direction of maturity), only the first two factors should play a role (H3). On the contrary, for men sexually interested in minors (pedohebephilia), only the last two factors should influence attractiveness (H4). Their interest in young children would thus results from a perfectly normal preference for youthfulness combined with a lack of an antagonistic force pulling in the direction of sexual maturity. It might also be that such men are repulsed by maturity indicators and they thus exert an effect but in the opposite direction. This would challenge our mechanistic model of defect modules and thus require a less parsimonious adaptation of the theory. Importantly however, these predictions are testable and falsifiable.

We conducted a very first, preliminary feasibility exploration by having these images rated on sexual attractiveness. Although participation in this study was not restricted to them, here we only report results for (predominantly) heterosexual teleiophilic men ($n = 25$). Each participant rated all 225 pictures resulting from the orthogonal combination of the four factors ($5 \times 5 \times 3 \times 3$) on sexual attractiveness (from 1 to 7) in random order. Subjecting these ratings to a WHR x breast size x eye size x head size rmANOVA yielded significant main effects of all four factors. Specifically, WHR was the strongest predictor of attractiveness ratings with $F(1.97, 47.29) = 46.60, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .66$, with strong evidence for a linear contrast of increasing attractiveness with increasingly pronounced WHR, $F(1, 24) = 72.54, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .75$ (Figure 2a).

Likewise, but in a less pronounced fashion, increasing breast size increased impressions of attractiveness, $F(1.67, 40.12) = 8.94, p = .001, \eta_p^2 = .27$, in a mostly linear fashion, $F(1, 24) = 12.49, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .34$ (with a small dip for the images that only showed nipples; Figure 2b). For both youthfulness indicators, however, the effects were smaller and more compatible with quadratic than with linear effects (Figures 2c and 2d). The effect of eye size, $F(1.54, 36.90) = 11.59, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .32$, were composed of both a linear, $F(1, 24) = 8.25, p = .008, \eta_p^2 = .26$, as well as a quadratic contrast, $F(1, 24) = 15.20, p = .001, \eta_p^2 = .39$. The effect of head size, however, $F(2, 23) = 5.09, p = .015, \eta_p^2 = .31$, was only due to a quadratic effect, $F(1, 24) = 9.24, p = .006, \eta_p^2 = .28$.

(insert Figure 2 about here)

In total, thus, the data (Figure 2) do not fully conform to our hypotheses. Nevertheless, it might be too early to give up on the idea. Specifically, the large eyes were not just large, but also less dark and might not have signaled youthfulness, but made the image appear uncanny. The same issue of uncanniness might constitute an issue for physically impossible or rare combinations of, for instance, large breasts on an otherwise child-like figure. Looking in an isolated fashion at which image received the highest ratings it becomes apparent that this almost fully corroborates H2. The most attractively rated image maximizes breast size, minimizes WHR, maximizes head size and has “regular” (but admittedly still large) eyes (Figure 3). It is also noteworthy that WHR had by far the strongest influence, which seems compatible with our general reasoning. As WHR signals maturity and youthfulness at the same time and exhibits a maximally pronounced pattern for early adulthood, a parsimonious approach would be to rely mostly on this feature (if one can only process one signal, this would be most diagnostic).

Certainly, this research approach needs to be further developed and validated before the more interesting hypotheses about deviant sexual interest (H3, H4) can be reliably tackled.

(insert Figure 3 about here)

Conclusion and Outlook

We see a major advantage in providing a model of not only testable, but most importantly falsifiable predictions. Clearly, the very idea at present is speculative at best. At present, our preliminary data provide little more than a cliché image of male heterosexual teleiophilic preferences (wasp waist, large breasts, young appearance) and it may very well be that we will never move beyond this (and thus let dust settle on this speculation). If, however, we succeed in corroborating the idea (or rather failing to falsify its predictions) also for deviant sexual interests, that might provide a step forward in deriving a model of deviant sexual orientations that does not rely on general crime risk factors but stems from mechanisms that also explain normative sexual interests.

Although our model at present seems artificially and painfully restricted to heterosexual chronophilias, it might actually also provide a lead as to why homosexual pedohebephilia is so much more frequent than homosexual teleiophilia among child sexual abusers (Freund & Watson, 1992). The (admittedly oversimplified) reliance on visual cues creates an asymmetric situation when it comes to sex typicality. While the maturity indicators do not just signal maturity, but also femaleness (as breast and pronounced WHRs are typical for women but not men), the youthfulness indicators do not point to a specific sex (neotenous features are exhibited by young males and females). Taking the notion seriously that pedophilic men have dysfunctional maturity indicators would actually lead to the strong prediction that they should *not* have a greater preference for female over male individuals.

In summary, we propose to take up the challenge implied in our firm conviction that an explanation for the development of deviant sexual interest will remain out of reach unless we have a better understanding of the development of normative sexual interest and how it relates to sexual gratification. Unless we cannot explain why a sexual offender finds a specific sexual target attractive (or whether there are other [co-occurring] reasons that are related to his sexual offending) it will be difficult to understand his specific sexual needs and the specific risk factors that are relevant for specific predictions regarding his (future) sexual offending pattern.

Interestingly, when deviant sexual preferences (i.e., the relative stronger reaction to deviant target categories over normative ones) are referred to most clinicians tend to focus on sexual overreactions to the preferred deviant categories but might neglect the implications that stem from the deficiency to get aroused by normative sexual targets. Smid and Wever (2019) postulate intriguing ways of how particularly this deficit in normative arousability might relate to sexual offending in circumstances when deviant sexual interest is used as a sexual coping mechanism to upregulate erectile deficiencies. Literally speaking, we need to put back the sexual component into sexual offending.

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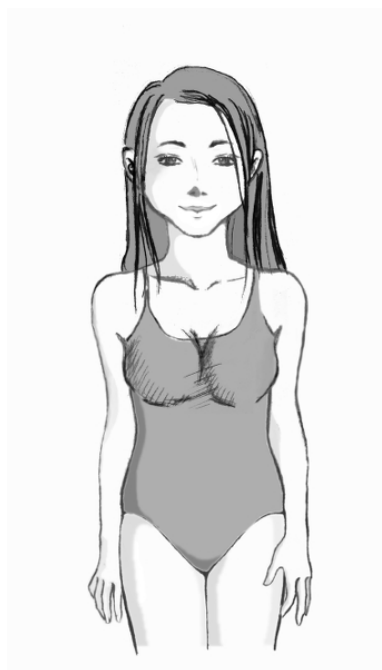
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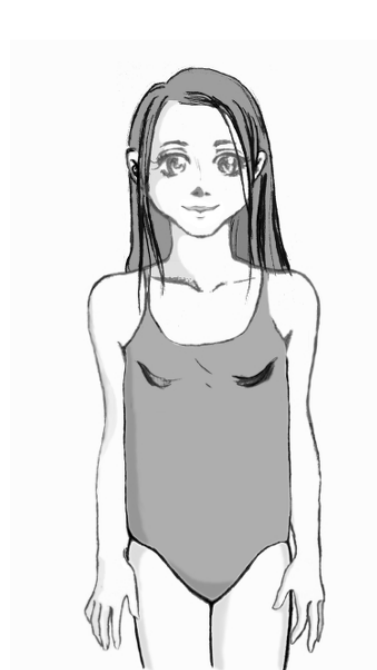
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Figure 1**Figure 1. Example Stimuli from one of the picture sets.**

WHR: 0.8
Breast Size: 5
Eye Size: small
Head Size: large



WHR: 0.6
Breast Size: none
Eye Size: regular
Head Size: extra-large



WHR: 1.0
Breast Size: small
Eye Size: large
Head Size: regular

Note: Pictures published by the authors under a CC-BY4.0 license.

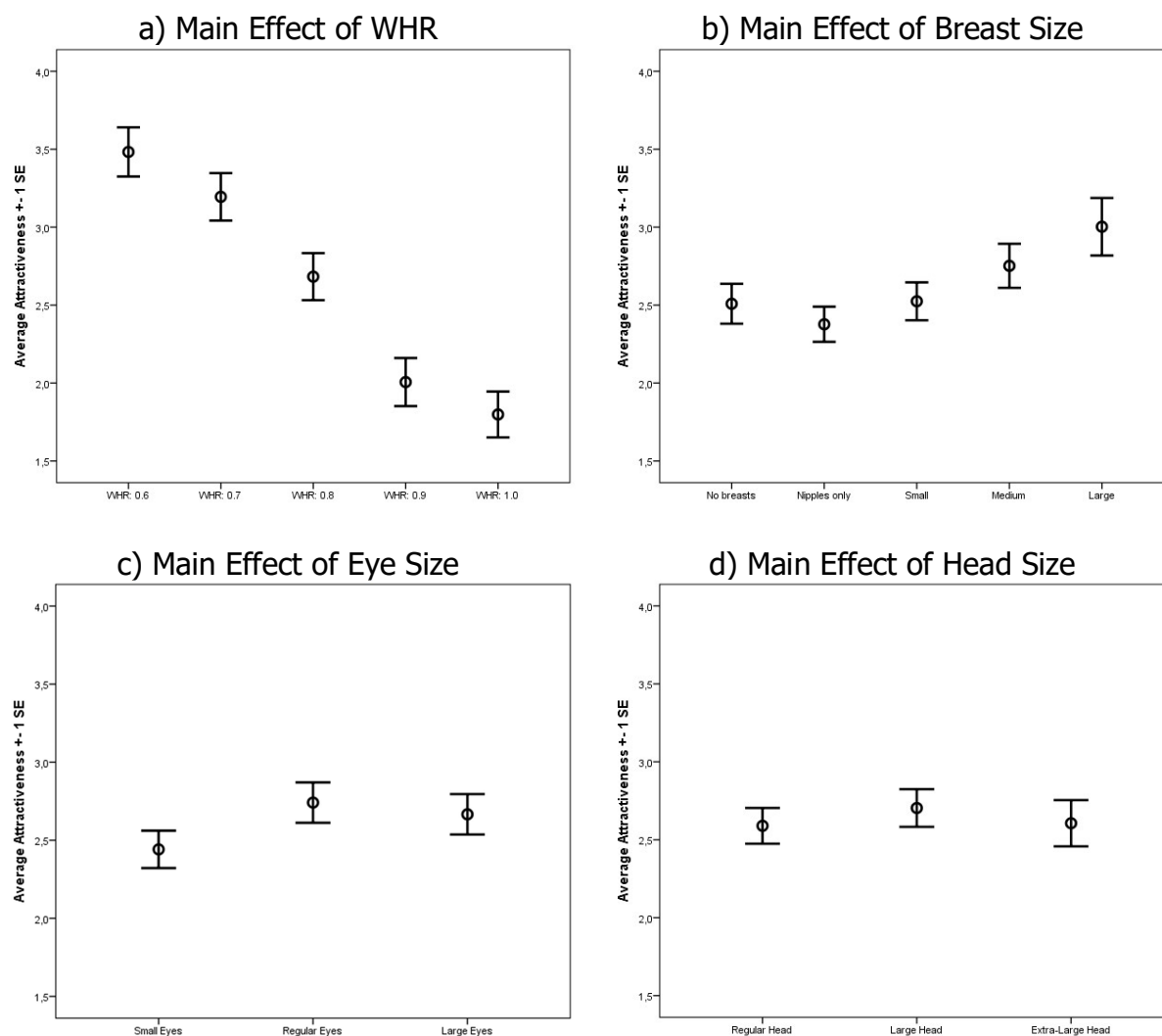
Figure 2**Figure 2. Main Effects of manipulated factors.**

Figure 3

Figure 3. Most attractively rated image



WHR: 0.6
Breast Size: large
Eye Size: regular
Head Size: extra-large