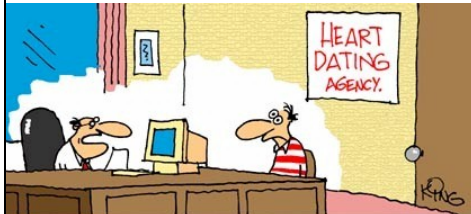


Conflict Between the Sexes



"Sorry, Mr. Jenkins, but we couldn't find one woman who was young, rich, sexy and would want to carry your golf clubs on the weekends."



"Didn't you get my e-mail?"

Sexual Conflict Defined

"A conflict between the evolutionary interests of individuals of the two sexes" (Parker, 2006, p. 235)

Key point: Not between "males as a group" and "females as a group," which cannot occur from an evolutionary perspective.

Strategic Interference

- When one person blocks or prevents the successful enactment of another person's strategy to attain a goal or fulfill a desire.

Examples of Strategic Interference

- Sexual aggression interferes with . . .
- Female delay of sex interferences with...
- Deception about one's mate value...
- Infidelity....
- Excessive mate guarding....

“Negative” Emotions and Strategic Interference

- Focus attention on interfering events
- Mark those events for storage in memory
- Motivate actions to eliminate interference
- Motivate actions to preempt future interference.

Conflict Over Mating Rate

Male adaptations that induce females to mate beyond their optimum.

Female adaptations that resist male traits designed to stimulate mating.

Strategic Interference

Example: Preferred Choice of Sex Partner and Timing of Sexual Intercourse

- Male sexual aggression interferes with female preference for optimal choice of partner
- Male sexual persistence interferes with female's preference for longer time delay before consenting to sex

Acts of Sexual Aggression

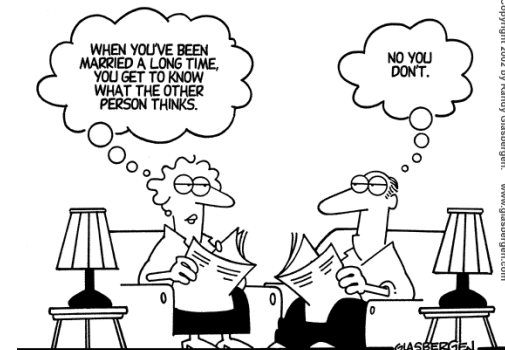
- Touched my body without my permission.
- Physically restrained me in order to kiss me.
- Tried for force sex acts on me.
- Insisted on sexual relations.
- Forced me to have sex.



Dyadic Antagonistic Coevolution: Between Sexes Within a Species

- Reciprocal evolutionary changes between the sexes within a single species.
- Producing adaptations that favor one sex, counter-adaptation defenses in the other sex, counter-counter adaptations, etc.
- Resulting in perpetual arms races.

- Cognitive biases in sexual mind reading
 - Error management theory



Error Management Theory

[Haselton & Buss, 2000]

1. We live in an uncertain social world.
2. Many psychological states are concealed or cryptic.
3. Chaos of probabilistic cues.
4. Two ways to err:
 - a. failing to detect state
 - b. falsely inferring state
5. Cost asymmetry between the two types of errors
6. Conclusion: "Adaptive biases" to avoid more costly error.

Two Types of Errors

Two states of Reality

		<i>Sexual Int. Present</i>	<i>Sexual Int. Absent</i>
<i>Two Inferences</i>	<i>Sexual Int. Present</i>	Correct Detection	False Alarm
	<i>Sexual Int. Absent</i>	Miss	Correct Rejection

Asymmetrical Costs of Errors for Men

Two states of Reality...

Two Inferences...

	<i>Sexual Int. Present</i>	<i>Sexual Int. Absent</i>
<i>Sexual Int. Present</i>		Lower Cost Error
<i>Sexual Int. Absent</i>	Higher Cost Error	

Sexual Over-Perception Bias

[from Greer & Buss]

Differences Between Women's Self-Reports and Men's Reports of Women's Actions

$M > F$ ($p < .01$)

- She hinted constantly about sexual things.
- She showed an increasing amount of skin by unbuttoning her shirt.
- She stuck out her chest.
- She sat in a sexy, provocative pose.
- She wore revealing clothing.

Sexual Over-Perception Bias

[Haselton & Buss, 2000]

Men and women imagined a date and then rated the degree of sexual interest communicated by 15 dating behaviors.

Women:

"If I engaged in this action, I would want to have sex with my date."

Men:

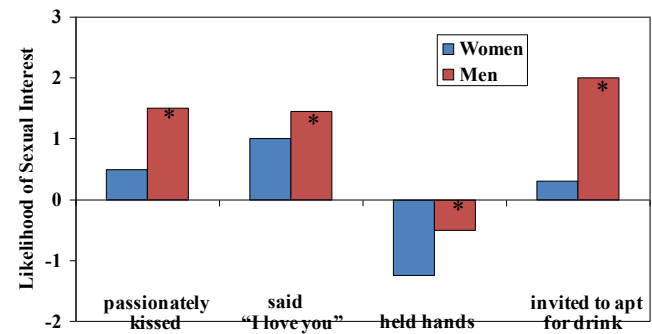
"If my date engaged in this action, she would want to have sex with me."

Scale:

-3 = extremely unlikely to +3 extremely likely

Ratings of Women's Sexual Interest Given Cue

[Haselton & Buss, 2000, JPSP]



Interim Conclusion

1. Dyadic antagonistic intersexual coevolution pervasive in human mating.
2. Resulting in many adaptations, counter-adaptations, and counter-counter-adaptations . . . such as . . .
3. Desires, preferences, behavioral strategies, cognitive biases, emotional defenses, etc.

- Sexual aggressiveness
 - Do men have evolved rape adaptations?



Theories of Rape

- Rape as pathology
- Rape as instrument of patriarchy
- Rape as byproduct of other mechanisms
- Rape adaptation theory

Motivation for Rape

- If sexual motivation had nothing to do with rape, why would men choose as victims those who tend to be younger [who are less powerful] rather than older [who tend to be more powerful]?

Rape as Byproduct

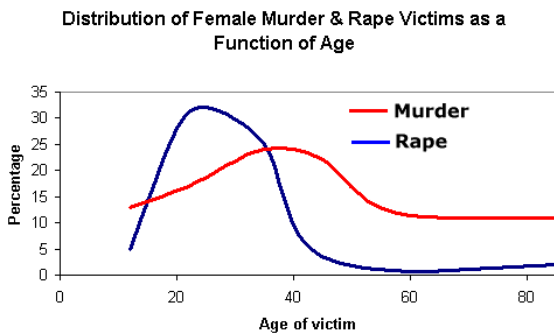
Potential Adaptations of Which Rape Might be a Byproduct (Symons, 1979)

- Desire for sexual variety
- Greater sex drive
- Willingness to engage in impersonal sex
- Less discriminating criteria for sex partners
- Greater physical size
- Aggressiveness evolved in non-rape contexts

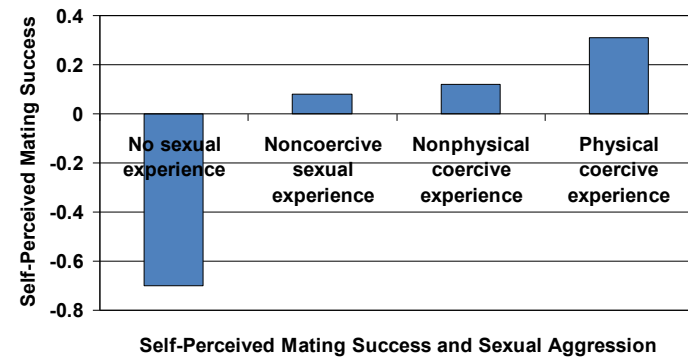
Rape Adaptation Theory: Hypothesized Adaptations for Rape

- Assessment of vulnerability of victim
- “Switch” that motivates rape when no access to regular partners
- Preference for fertile victims
- Increased sperm counts in rape
- Sexual arousal to the use of force
- Context-specific marital rape when sperm competition might exist

Rape as a Function of Age of Victim



Individual differences in sexual aggression – Mate deprivation hypothesis



Empirical Evidence on Rape

- 1. Victims disproportionately young, but non-reproductive females also raped.
- 2. Men who rape have more, not fewer, previous sex partners
- 3. Only a sub-group of men [convicted rapists] seem to be sexually aroused by videos depicting forced sex
- 4. One third of men say they would force sex if no negative consequence, BUT...
- 5. Rape pregnancy rate—6.4% [v 3.1% for consensual sex]
- 6. Marital rape more likely when infidelity suspected and around breakup.
- 7. Rape common occurrence in war

Modern Conditions That May Foster Rape

- 1. lack of extended kin in proximity
- 2. anonymity—ease of escaping consequences
- 3. mobility of modern living
- 4. sheer number of opportunities—many more victims available

Conclusions About Rape Theories

- No current compelling evidence for specialized adaptations to rape; but absence of evidence is not evidence of absence
- Some evidence contradicts rape adaptation theory (e.g., not solely sexually deprived men who rape)
- Some elements of all theories could be correct: Some rape adaptations, some byproducts, some pathology, some unusual conditions of modern living
- More research urgently needed on this problem

Hypothesized female anti-rape adaptations

- Alliances with males as “special friends”
- Bodyguard hypothesis
- Female-female coalitions for protection
- Specialized fears to avoid dangerous situations
- Avoidance of risky activities during ovulation
- Psychological pain from rape to avoid it in future

Empirical Evidence on Women's Anti-Rape Defenses

- 1. ovulating women engage in less risky activities.
- 2. young women experience more fear of sexual assault than older women.
- 3. women more fearful of stranger rape than acquaintance rape, despite greater risk from acquaintances.
- 4. married women less likely to report rape.
- 5. psychological pain specialized?
- 6. More research urgently needed!

Possible defenses prior to attempted rape to prevent getting raped.

- Mate choice for "body guard"
- Avoidance of risky situations
- Female coalitions
- Male "special friends"

Female and Male Minds

- The male psychology that motivates rape is largely unavailable to the female mind.
- The female psychology of the fear of rape and the often devastating effects of rape are largely unavailable to the male mind.
- How can we bridge these gulfs?

- Sexual withholding



“No sex until you win.”

Jealous Conflict



“We had a perfect marriage until his girlfriend started dating my boyfriend!”

Are You “Uncertain” About Your Partner’s Sexual Fidelity?

Response	Men	Women
Uncertain	36%	14%
Certain Faithful	36%	45%
Certain Unfaithful	28%	41%

Paul L. Foss, M.A. & Galloway, J. (1993).
Sexual jealousy in young women and men:
Aggressive responsiveness to partner and rival.
Aggressive Behavior, 19, 401-420

Problems Associated with Jealousy

- 40% report as significant relationship problem
- Psychological abuse
- Mate battering
- Marital rape
- 13% spousal homicide
- Violence against rivals
- Undermining trust
- Suspicions permeate relationship
- Walking around on eggshells
- Curtailment of “normal” interactions with opposite sex
- Undermine sexual relationship

Cross-Cultural Manifestations of Jealousy

- Veiling
- Harems
- Infibulation
- Clitoridectomy
- Cloistering
- Foot Binding
- Chastity Belts
- Rage and Violence

Explanations

- Neurosis
- Low self-esteem
- Insecurity
- Character defect
- Immaturity
- Pathology
- Delusions
- Capitalist society
- Culture
- Patriarchy

Jealousy as a “Negative” Emotion

- Because jealousy has been seen as a sign of immaturity, neurosis, psychosis, or the ills of society, previous scientists have failed to ask:
Might jealousy be functional?

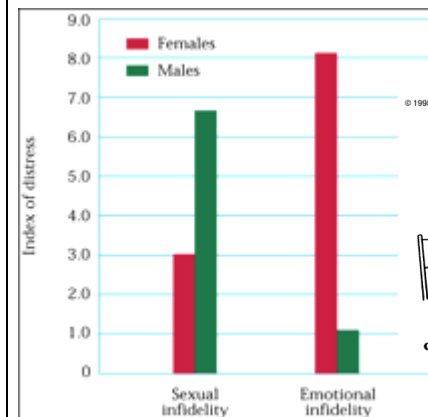
Possible Functions of Jealousy

- Sensitize person to signals of infidelity or defection.
- Prompt action to curtail interactions with potential rivals.
- Motivate actions such as threats or violence to fend off mate poachers.
- Increase own efforts to fulfill partner’s desires.
- Signal love and commitment to partner
- Prevent defection from relationship

Hypothesized Sex Differences in Ultimate Functions

- **For men:** Increase paternity certainty; maintain exclusive sexual access; monopolize entire reproductive value of women.
- **For women:** Maintain exclusive access to mate's resources, investments, time, attention, energy; prevent diversion of these to another woman and her children.

Sex differences in jealousy



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"Kathleen, I have a confession. I've been cold and indifferent with another woman."

Buss, et. al (1992)

Cues More Diagnostic of Sexual Infidelity

[Shackelford & Buss, 1997]

- He suddenly refuses to have sex with you.
- You notice that he seems bored when you have sex.
- He suddenly had difficulty becoming sexually aroused when he and you want to have sex.
- His clothing style suddenly changes

Cues More Diagnostic of Emotional Infidelity

[Shackelford & Buss, 1997]

- He starts looking for reasons to start arguments with you.
- He begins to avoid talking about a certain other woman in conversations with you.
- He doesn't respond any more when you tell him that you love him.
- He acts nervous when a certain woman's name comes up in conversations.

Spontaneous Recall of Cues

Men Women

24% 40% Emotional

42% 29% Sexual

From Schutzwohl & Koch (2004)

The co-evolution of conflict between the sexes

- Affective valence shifts

Sex differences in use of mate-retention tactics

Performed More by Men

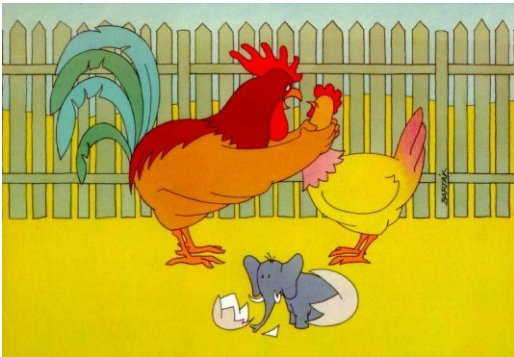
- I spent a lot of money on her.
- I bought her a bouquet of flowers.
- I bought her some jewelry.
- I held her hand when other men were around.
- I told her the other man was stupid.
- I read her personal mail.
- I told her that I would “die” if she ever left.

Performed More by Women

- I made him feel guilty about talking to other women.
- I made up my face to look nice.
- I started a bad rumor about another woman.
- I asked him to wear my ring.
- I performed sexual favors to keep him around.
- I pretended to be mad so that he would feel guilty.
- I talked to another man at a party to make him jealous
- I made myself “extra-attractive” for him.

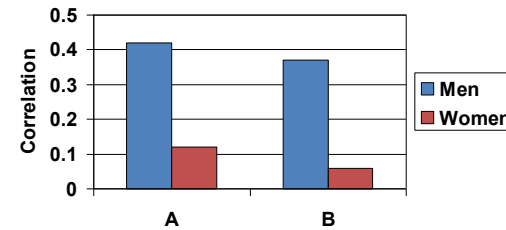
Contexts influencing the intensity of mate-retention tactics

- Perceived likelihood of infidelity
 - Signal Detection Problem: What contexts might generate the belief that your partner is having an affair?



- RV of the wife: Effects of age and physical attractiveness

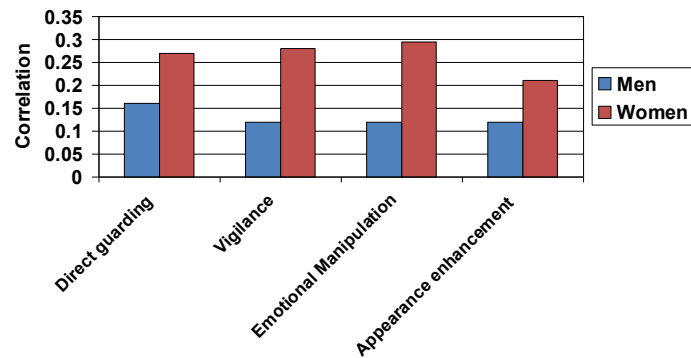
Mate Retention as a Function of Age of Spouse



A = Correlation between intensity of mate retention and age of spouse

B = Correlation between intensity of mate retention after controlling for own age and length of relationship

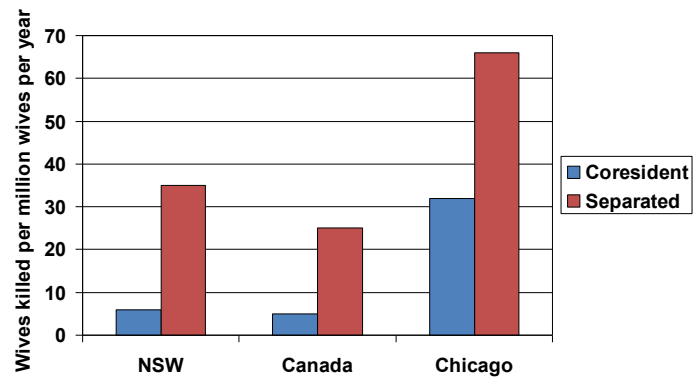
Income and status striving of the husband



Key Danger Signs of Men's Violence Toward Mates

- Doesn't want you talking to other men.
- Tries to limit your contact with family and friends.
- Insists on knowing where you are at all times.
- Undermines your self-esteem.

Rates of uxoricides perpetrated by registered-marriage husbands for co-residing vs. estranged couples



Mate Poaching Experiences

[Schmitt & Buss, 2001, *JPS*]

EXPERIENCES	Men	Women
Attempted to Poach	60%	53%
Received Poaching	93%	82%
Been Successfully Poached Away	67%	41%
Experienced Someone Trying to Poach Your Partner	87%	88%
Had a Past Partner Successfully Poached From You	53%	41%