



INTRODUCTION

- Theory and empirical evidence suggest a link between mood and sexual offending (Hudson, Ward, & McCormack, 1999; Polaschek & Hudson, 2004) as well as a link between attitudes and sexual offending (Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2004; Murnen, Wright, & Kaluzny, 2002).
- There is evidence that anger affects attitudes towards rape (Nunes, Ratcliffe, Babchishin, & Kessous, 2008) and is related to sexually aggressive behaviour (Hanson & Harris, 2000).
- We suggest that moods influence attitudes, and attitudes may in turn influence behaviour.
- This study is designed to test the extent to which moods influence attitudes towards sexual aggression

Hypothesis : Anger will lead to more positive implicit attitudes towards rape.

METHODS

- Participants:** 172 male university students completed a battery of computer based tasks and questionnaires after listening to a music mood induction procedure.
- They were all heterosexual, English speaking males
 - Median age category was 19-20
 - Groups did not significantly differ on levels of past sexual coercion.

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MATERIALS

- Rape Evaluation Implicit Association Test** (Nunes, Ratcliffe, Babchishin, & Kessous, 2008).
- Measures the strength of association in memory between a concept and an attribute using response latencies.
 - Two counter balanced phases of the RE-IAT
 - One when consenting sex and positive is paired first, and one in which rape and positive is paired first (Figure 1)
 - Higher scores indicate more positive attitudes towards rape (Table 1 shows the blocks and trials of the RE-IAT)
- **Mood manipulation:** Participants listening to a piece of music that was meant to induce a specific mood (Happy, Angry, Sad or Neutral), while imagining a situation in the recent past that had induced that mood within them (Mayer, Allen and Beaugard, 1995).

Table 1. RE-IAT blocks and trials

Block	Number of trials	Categories by response key	
		left hand (d key)	right hand (k key)
1	20	RAPE	CONSENTING SEX
2	20	positive	negative
3	20	RAPE + positive	CONSENTING SEX + negative
4	40	RAPE + positive	CONSENTING SEX + negative
5	40	CONSENTING SEX	RAPE
6	20	CONSENTING SEX + Positive	RAPE + Negative
7	40	CONSENTING SEX + Positive	RAPE + Negative

MATERIALS

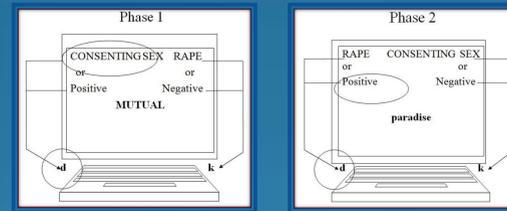


Figure 1. Two phases of the RE-IAT

RESULTS

- **A 4 x 2 factorial ANOVA design**
 - DV: RE-IAT scores
 - IV1: Mood condition
 - IV2: RE-IAT order
- No Main effect of mood
 - $F(3, 171) = 1.59, p = .19$
- No main effect of RE-IAT order
 - $F(1, 171) = 2.37, p = .13$
- Significant interaction between mood and RE-IAT order.
 - $F(3, 171) = 3.28, p = .02$

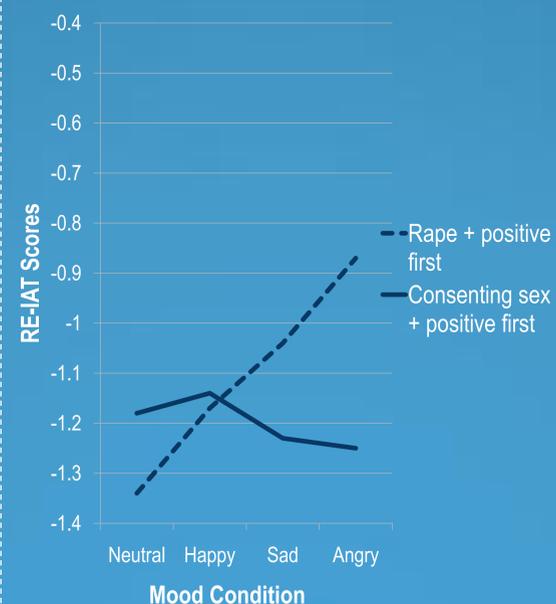


Figure 2. Mean RE-IAT scores for each mood x order condition

RESULTS

The simple effect of mood

- When participants received the consenting sex + positive phase first, there was no significant differences between mood groups
- When participants received the rape + positive pairing in the first phase of the RE-IAT, there was a significant difference between the neutral versus angry mood conditions.
- The effect sizes under the rape + positive condition range from moderate to large (Table 2)

Table 2. Effect sizes for each mood by order condition

	RE-IAT Order							
	Rape + Positive				Consenting sex + Positive			
	d	LL	UL	n	d	LL	UL	n
Neutral vs Happy	0.38	-.25	1.01	19	0.12	-.47	.72	22
Neutral vs Sad	0.60	-.01	1.20	23	-0.12	-.71	.48	23
Neutral vs Angry	1.02*	.37	1.68	20	-0.16	-.75	.44	23

* $p < .05$. Note: all neutral n's = 21

DISCUSSION

- Participants who experienced the anger mood manipulation had significantly less negative implicit attitudes towards rape than participants who experienced the neutral mood manipulation, but only when *rape + positive* were paired in the first phase of the RE-IAT.
 - Partially supports hypothesis

DISCUSSION

- These experimental findings provide some evidence for a causal influence of negative mood on attitudes towards rape. These findings are consistent with theory and correlational research implicating negative affect in sexual aggression
 - The difference between the sad and neutral mood conditions under the rape + positive pairing is approaching significance.
 - The results of this study also provide support for the use of affect regulation treatment programs with sexual offenders
 - These results raise the question of whether attitudes may mediate the relationship between mood and sexual offending.
- Limitations**
- Student sample
 - May not generalize to offender population
 - Mood manipulation was only moderately effective
 - 56% of participants could identify the emotion of the music they listened to.

➢ However, only 42% of participants felt a mood that was congruent with their assigned mood condition while listening to the music.

➢ In spite of the moderate effectiveness of the mood manipulation, moderate to large effects of mood on implicit attitudes towards rape were still found for some conditions