Rape Prevention with Students:
Moderating Effects of Psychopathy and Sexual Coercion

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Rape Prevention

- Community and college men commit sexually aggressive acts including rape (e.g., Abbey & McAuslan, 2004; Abbey et al., 2007; Thompson et al., 2010)

- Sexual assault has a number of negative physical and psychology consequences for victims

- Rape prevention programs are important as they may reduce sexually aggressive behaviour

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Rape Prevention

O'Donohue, Yeater, and Fanetti (2003):

- **Purpose**: evaluate rape prevention program for college/ university men

- **Rape prevention program**:
  - Brief, easy to administer, cost effective
  - High treatment fidelity (videos vs. treatment providers)
  - Positive results from pilot work

  - **Targets:**
    - Rape myths
    - Victim empathy
    - Identifying negative outcomes of rape

Rape Prevention

O'Donohue, Yeater, and Fanetti (2003):

Participants:

- **Pilot Study** ($n = 101$)
  - Male undergraduate students
  - Mean age = 22 years ($SD = 5.6$)

- **Main Study** ($n = 102$)
  - Male undergraduate students
  - Mean age = 19.7 years ($SD = 2.4$)

Rape Prevention

Pilot Study:

Purpose: do rape prevention videos effect their target constructs?

- Randomly assigned
  - Rape-Prevention video conditions:
    - Rape myths
    - Consequences for victims
    - Consequences for date rape perpetrators
- Demographics
- Pre and post measurement of treatment target

Rape Prevention

Pilot Study:

- **Results**:
  - **Rape Myths**: participants rape myth endorsement significantly decreased post treatment

  - **Consequences for Victims**: participants victim empathy significantly increased post treatment

  - **Consequences for Date Rape Perpetrator**: participants rated negative outcomes as more likely to occur post treatment

Rape Prevention

Main Study:

- **Rape Prevention program** (*n* = 52):
  - 3 videos
    - Rape myths
    - Consequences for victims
    - Consequences for date rape perpetrator
- **Control program** (*n* = 50):
  - Video
    - The date rape backlash (Media Education Foundation, 1994)
    - Typical rape prevention program

Rape Prevention

Main Study:

- **Measures – administered pre-treatment**
  - Hypermasculinity Scale (Mosher & Sirkin, 1984)
  - Sexual Experience Survey (Koss & Oros, 1982)
  - Motivation ratings

- **Measures administered pre – and post-treatment**
  - Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (Burt, 1980)
  - Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence (Burt, 1980)
  - Adversarial Sexual Beliefs (Burt, 1980)
  - Attraction to Sexual Aggression Scale (Malamuth, 1989)
  - Rape Empathy Scale (Deitz et al., 1982)
  - Self-Efficacy Ratings (Bandura et al., 1977)

Rape Prevention

Main Study:

- Procedure:
  - Randomly assigned
  - Completed pre-test measures
  - Watched videos in groups
  - Completed post-test measures

Rape-Prevention

Results of main study:

- Groups **did not** differ on pre-manipulation:
  - Motivation ratings
  - Hypermasculinity scale
  - Sexually aggressive behaviour:
    - **Control group**: 24% unwanted sexual act, 8% attempted or completed rape
    - **Experimental group**: 46.2% unwanted sexual act, 3.8% attempted rape

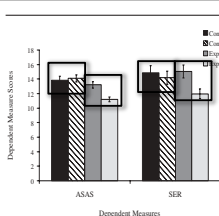## Rape Prevention

Results of main study:

Figure 1: Comparison of Mean Responses on the Attraction to Sexual Aggression Scale (ASAS) and Self-Efficacy Ratings (SER) at Pretest and Posttest for Experimental and Control Group Participants
NOTE: Lower scores on the Attraction to Sexual Aggression scale indicate less attraction to sexual aggression. Lower scores on the Self-Efficacy Ratings indicate improved self-efficacy.
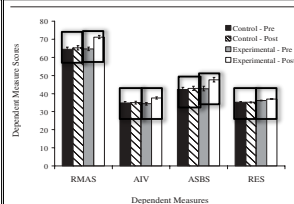
Figure 2: Comparison of Mean Responses on the Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (RMAS), Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence (AIV), Adversarial Sexual Beliefs Scale (ASBS), and the Rape Empathy Scale (RES) at Pretest and Posttest for Experimental and Control Group Participants
NOTE: Higher scores on the Rape Myth Acceptance scale, Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence, and Adversarial Sexual Beliefs scale indicate less acceptance of rape myths, interpersonal violence, and adversarial sexual beliefs. Higher scores on the Rape Empathy scale indicate increased empathy for victims of rape.

Purpose

- **Replicate O'Donohue, Yeater, & Fanetti (2003)**
  - Different sample

  - Different measures
    - Attitudes
    - Rape-supportive cognition
    - Self-reported likelihood to rape
    - Rape Empathy

  - Moderating effects of psychopathy and past sexually aggressive behaviour

Participants

- **248** male undergraduate students
  - **53** excluded (not mutually exclusive):
    - Responded too quickly on IAT ($n = 5$)
    - Could read Chinese ($n = 20$)
    - Reported they could not understand English ($n = 2$)
    - Failed manipulation check ($n = 17$)
    - Reported homosexual or bisexual sexual orientation ($n = 15$)
      - Measures focus on heterosexual rape

> - **195** participants
> - Median age 19 years
> - 66.2% were single

Manipulation

- Participants **randomly assigned**
- **Rape prevention videos** (O'Donohue, Yeater, & Fanetti, 2003)
  - *Rape myths video $n = 48$*
  - *Consequences for victims video $n = 49$*
  - *Consequences for date rape perpetrators video $n = 50$*
  - *Control video (nature) $n = 48$*

- Video groups **did not** significantly differ in:
  - Age
  - Relationship status
  - **Past sexually coercive and aggressive behaviour**
  - **Psychopathy**

Measures

Past sexually coercive and aggressive behaviour

- Coercive Sexuality Scale- Modified (CSS -M) – 18 items
  - Current study: $\alpha = .79$

Psychopathy

- Self-Report Psychopathy Scale – version three (SPR-III; Paulhus et al., in press)
  - Current study: $\alpha = .90$

Implicit attitudes toward rape

- Rape-Evaluation Implicit Association Test (RE-IAT)
  - Current study: $\alpha = .51$
- Affect Misattribution Procedure (AMP)

Measures

Explicit attitudes toward rape

- Rape Outcome Expectancies (ROE)
- Semantic Differentials evaluating rape (SDRAPE)
  - Current study: $\alpha = .62$

Rape supportive cognition

- RAPE scale (Bumby, 1996)
  - Current study: $\alpha = .93$

Self-Reported likelihood to rape
  - Likelihood to Rape (LR) (Malamuth, 1981)

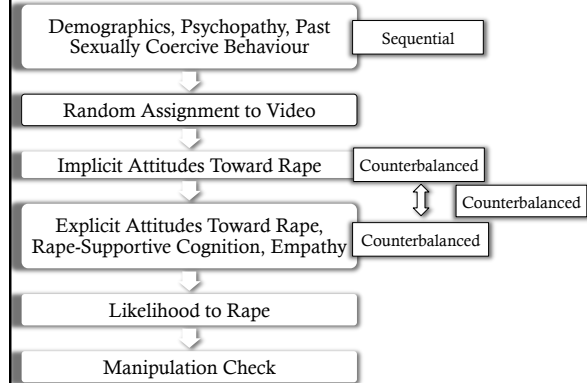## Measures

Empathy

- Rapist Empathy Measure (Fernandez & Marshall, 2003)
  - **Cognitive Empathy** – recognition of others' emotional states
    - Current study: $\alpha = .88$
  - **Affective Empathy** – adoption or emotional reaction to the emotional state of another individual
    - Current study: $\alpha = .83$

Demographic questions

Manipulation check

- What was the video you watched about?

Procedure

| Demographics, Psychopathy, Past Sexually Coercive Behaviour | Sequential |

Random Assignment to Video

| Implicit Attitudes Toward Rape | Counterbalanced |

| Explicit Attitudes Toward Rape, Rape-Supportive Cognition, Empathy | Counterbalanced |

Counterbalanced

Likelihood to Rape

Manipulation Check

Results

Cohen's d

- Effect size for differences between group means
  - 0.20 = small, 0.50 = medium, 0.80+ = large

- Positive Cohen's d = rape prevention group > control

  - On measures of "good" constructs positive Cohen's d reflects improvement (e.g., empathy)

  - On measures of "bad" constructs negative Cohen's d reflects improvement (e.g., likelihood to rape)

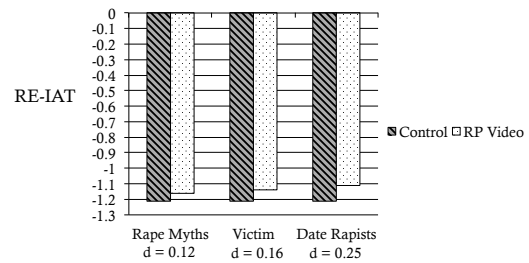## Results: Implicit Attitudes

Fig. 1. Group differences between each video condition and control group on the RE-IAT

Results: Implicit Attitudes
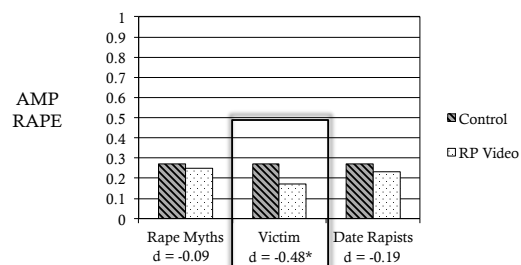

Fig. 2. Group differences between each video condition and control group on the AMP-RAPE

Results

Table 1. Group differences between **each rape prevention group** and **control group** on explicit attitudes toward rape, rape supportive cognition, and self-reported likelihood to rape.

	Cohen's d (Rape Prevention Group vs. Control)		
Measures	**Rape Myths**	**Con. Victim**	**Con. Offender**
SD Rape	0.03	-0.26	-0.19
ROE Eval.	0.37	0.25	0.23
ROE Total	0.13	0.07	0.12
RAPE Scale	0.08	-0.23	0.26
LR	-0.06	-0.06	0.05

Rape prevention groups **did not** significantly differ from control group on any of the explicit cognition measures or likelihood to rape
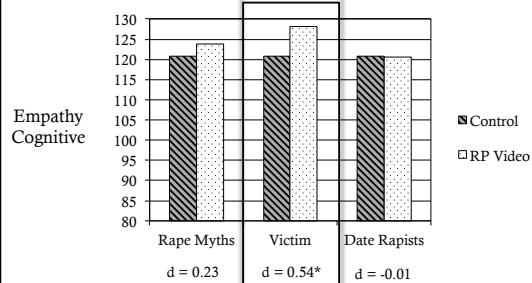
Results: Empathy

Fig. 3. Group differences between each video condition and control group on the Rapist Empathy Measure - Cognitive
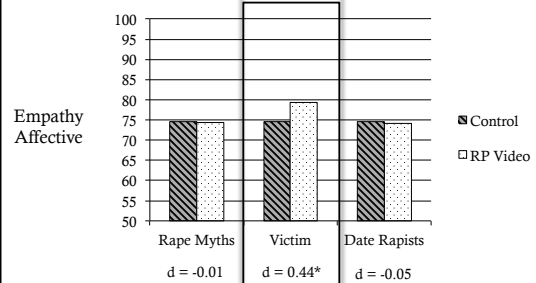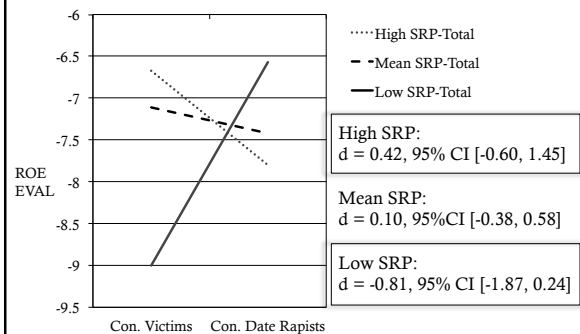
Results: Empathy

Fig. 4. Group differences between each video condition and control group on the Rapist Empathy Measure - Affective

Psychopathy

- Does psychopathy moderate the effectiveness of the videos?

- Hypothesized *consequences for victims* would be **less effective** for more psychopathic participants, *consequences for date rapists* would be equally effective

Psychopathy

Consequences for Victims vs. Consequences for Date Rapists:

High SRP:
d = 0.42, 95% CI [-0.60, 1.45]

Mean SRP:
d = 0.10, 95%CI [-0.38, 0.58]

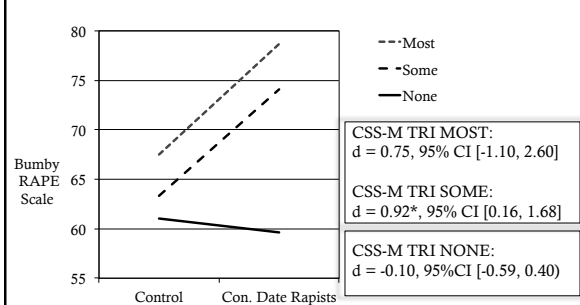Low SRP:
d = -0.81, 95% CI [-1.87, 0.24]

Sexually Aggressive Behaviour

- Does past sexually aggressive behaviour moderate the effectiveness of the videos?

- Hypothesized the videos may result in change on the outcome measures for men who **have been sexually aggressive** but not for men who have **no history of sexual aggression**

Sexually Aggressive Behaviour

Control vs. Consequences for Date Rapists:

CSS-M TRI MOST:
d = 0.75, 95% CI [-1.10, 2.60]

CSS-M TRI SOME:
d = 0.92*, 95% CI [0.16, 1.68]

CSS-M TRI NONE:
d = -0.10, 95%CI [-0.59, 0.40)

Summary

- Generally unable to replicate O'Donohue and colleagues (2003) findings

  - *Consequences for victims* video impacted participants' implicit attitudes toward rape (AMP-RAPE) and empathy

  - No other group differences

Summary

- Psychopathy moderated the effectiveness of the *Consequences for date rapists* video and *consequences for victims* video for explicit attitudes towards rape (ROE, ROE Evaluation)
  - Rape-prevention may be more effective for psychopathic men when consequences for perpetrators are emphasized

- Past sexually aggressive behaviour moderated the effectiveness of the *consequences for date rapists* video
  - For more sexually aggressive men, consequences for date rapists video resulted in higher Bumby RAPE scale scores than control video
  - The same pattern was not evident for less sexually aggressive men
    - Cohen's d **not significant** for most CSS-M group, **significant** for some CSS-M group

Limitations

- Between subjects design
- Poor internal consistency for RE-IAT
- Examined videos separately
- Recommendations from review of rape prevention programs for college/university students (Vladutiu, Martin, & Macy, 2011)

| Single gender audiences |
| Professionally facilitated |
| Multiple sessions |
| Targets: rape myths, rape attitudes, victim empathy, rape avoidance, dating communication, risk education etc. |

Future Directions

- Study rape-prevention programs incorporating recommendations from Vladutiu and colleagues (2011)
  - E.g., Multiple sessions
  - Effective?

- Longitudinally examine treatment effects on self-reported sexually aggressive behaviour

- Expand to community men

Thank you

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Questions?

More about our research

Aggressive Cognition and Behaviour Research Lab

http://www.carleton.ca/acbrlab/

Reference for this presentation:

Hermann, C. A., Pettersen, C., Woods, M. E., Lorincz, N., Berliant, J., Nunes, K. L. (2013, October). Rape-Prevention with Students: Moderating Effects of Psychopathy and Sexual Coercion. In C. A. Hermann (Chair) *Implicit and Explicit Cognition Associated with Rape.* Symposium to be conducted at the 32nd Annual Research and Treatment Convention of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, Chicago, Illinois.