

Implicit and Explicit Attitudes Towards Rape, Rape Outcome Expectancies, and Sexual Aggression



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Overview

- **Introduction**
 - Attitudes and behaviour
 - Define attitudes towards rape (explicit and implicit)
 - Past research
 - Purpose and hypotheses
- **Method**
 - Measures used
 - Sample
- **Results**
- **Discussion**
 - Summary of results
 - Interpretation
 - Limitations
 - Future directions



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Introduction

- Past research has found 4.3% to 15% of community and college men commit rape and 11% to 64% commit sexually aggressive acts (e.g., Abbey, Koss, Kingree, Goree, & Rice, 2010)
- Research suggests cognition supportive of offending is an important factor associated with sexually and non-sexually violent behaviour (e.g., Anderson & Bushman, 2002; Ward, Gannon, & Keown, 2006)



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Introduction

- Clarify relationship between cognition and sexually aggressive behaviour (Nunes, Hermann, Ratcliffe, 2013)
- Focus on more specific cognitions such as attitudes
- Many theories of sexual offending hypothesize that attitudes towards a behaviour can influence the likelihood of engaging in that behaviour (e.g., GAM; Anderson & Bushman, 2002; HCM; Malamuth, 2003; JMCD; Ward, Gannon, & Keown, 2006)
- Meta-analyses have found medium ($r = .38, k = 88$, Kraus, 1995) to large ($r = .52, 95\% \text{ CI } [.49 \text{ to } .54], N = 4,598$; Glasman & Albarracín, 2006) associations between attitudes and behaviour
- Attitudes important determinants of behaviour



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Definition of attitudes

- Attitudes have typically been defined as summary evaluations (e.g., positive vs. negative) of psychological objects (Eagly & Chaiken, 1993)
 - Attitudes towards rape are evaluations of rape
- **Implicit attitudes:** immediately automatically activated evaluations of a psychological object (Gawronski & Bodenhausen, 2006)
 - response latency measures (i.e., IAT)
- **Explicit attitudes:** deliberative propositional reasoning about a psychological object (Gawronski & Bodenhausen, 2006)
 - self-report measures
- Implicit and explicit attitudes are distinct constructs (e.g., Nosek & Smyth, 2007) and independently predict behaviour (Cameron, Brown-Iannuzzi, & Payne, 2012)



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Past Research

- Only two studies to date have examined implicit attitudes towards rape using response latency measures
1. **Nunes, Hermann, & Ratcliffe (2013):**
 - **Found** implicit and explicit attitudes towards rape were independently associated with past sexually aggressive behaviour
 2. **Widman & Olson (2012):**
 - **Found** implicit attitudes towards rape were positively associated with past sexually aggressive behaviour among student and community men

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Purpose and Hypotheses

- **Purpose:**
 - Replicate and further examine the relationship between implicit and explicit attitudes towards rape and sexual aggression by implementing implicit attitude measures.
- **Hypotheses:**

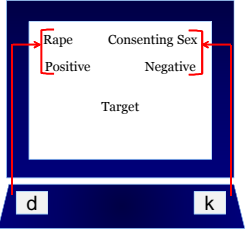
Implicit and explicit attitudes towards rape will be:

 1. Intercorrelated (associated with one another)
 2. Are associated with self-reported sexually aggressive behaviour (past and future likelihood)
 3. Explicit attitudes will moderate the relationship between implicit attitudes and sexually aggressive behaviour

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Measures

- **Implicit Attitudes Towards Rape**
 1. **Implicit Association Test (IAT; Greenwald, McGhee, & Schwartz, 1998)**
 - **Categories:**
 - "Rape + Positive" and "Consenting Sex + Negative"
 - "Rape + Negative" and "Consenting Sex + Positive"
 - Measures response latencies
 - Faster response latencies when sorting words for categories that share greater association
 - **Compute difference score =**
[Rape + Negative] - [Rape + Positive]



Internal consistency = .58

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Implicit Attitude Measures (cont.)

2. **Affect Misattribution Procedure (AMP; Payne, Cheng, Govorun, & Stewart, 2005)**
 - **Procedure:** Show a prime word (e.g., rape) for 200 ms, blank screen for 125 ms, then neutral Chinese character for 100 ms, and then a gray screen
 - Evaluate whether Chinese character is positive or negative
 - Expect that prime will influence the evaluation of Chinese character
 - Those who view rape positively will evaluate the Chinese character more positively following a rape prime word
 - Higher scores indicate a more positive evaluation of the prime word

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Explicit Attitude Measures

- **Explicit Attitudes Towards Rape**
 1. **Semantic Differential Measure (SDRAPE)**
 - *Five 7-point bipolar scales assessing rape (i.e., rape is...)*
 - negative to positive
 - bad to good
 - not enjoyable to enjoyable
 - wrong to right
 - immoral to moral
 - The index used is the average of the scales assessing rape.
 - *Higher SDRAPE scores indicate more positive evaluations of rape*
 - *Internal consistency was .90*

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Measures (cont.)

- **Explicit Attitudes Towards Rape (continued)**
 1. **Rape Outcome Expectancies Scale (ROE)**
- **Cognitive Distortions**
 1. **Bumby Rape Scale (BRAPE; Bumby, 1996)**
 - *36 statements assessing extent of agreement or disagreement with various rape-supportive statements*
 - *Internal consistency was .94*

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Outcome Measures

- **Behavioural Outcome Measures**
 1. **Past Sexual Aggression:**
 1. **Coercive Sexuality Scale (CSS; Rapaport & Burkhart, 1984)**
 - *Used modified CSS (as described previously)*
 - *Used continuous scores rather than grouped*
 2. **Future Likelihood of Sexual Aggression:**
 1. **Date Rape Analogue (DRA; Pullman, 2011)**
 - *Measures of self-reported future likelihood of sexual aggression*
 - *Read a story describing date-like interaction between man and women (POV of male)*
 - *Higher scores indicate greater likelihood of future sexual aggression*
 2. **Likelihood to Rape Question (LR; Malamuth, 1981)**

Method

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- **Sample used**
 - Initial sample was 86 heterosexual male Carleton undergraduates
 - Excluded:
 - Those most sexual attracted to men or both men and women and ($n = 6$)
 - Who could not understand written English ($n = 0$)
 - Who could understand written and/or spoken Chinese ($n = 5$)
 - Those who had response latencies faster than 300 ms on more than 10% of the IAT trials ($n = 4$)
 - This left a final sample of 72 males

Results

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- **Pearson's r Correlations**

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. REIATD	-								
2. AMP	-.14	-							
3. SDRAPE ^a	-.13	.10	-						
4. ROE	.29*	-.15	-.27*	-					
5. ROEEVAL	.25*	-.05	-.30*	.88***	-				
6. BRAPE	.29*	.03	-.47***	.35**	.28*	-			
7. CSS	.11	-.04	-.67***	.30*	.36**	.30**	-		
8. LR ^a	-.15	-.06	.34**	-.12	-.14	-.46***	-.30*	-	
9. DRA	.09	-.01	-.45***	.23	.15	.39**	.52***	-.15	-

^aInversely transformed
 * $p < .05$
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 *** $p < .001$

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Results (cont.)

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- **Examined interactions between implicit and explicit attitudes towards rape**
 - Determine whether explicit attitudes towards rape moderates the relationship between implicit attitudes towards rape and sexually aggressive behaviour
 - **Moderator:** Relationship between 2 variables is different at different levels of a 3rd variable
 - **Q 1:** Does the relationship between implicit attitudes towards rape and sexually aggressive behaviour differ depending on one's explicit attitude towards rape?

 **Results (cont.)**
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- Interactions between implicit and explicit attitudes:
 - *Rape Evaluation IAT × Semantic Differential (SDRAPE)*
 - *Rape Evaluation IAT × Rape Outcome Expectancies (ROE)*
 - *AMP × Semantic Differential (SDRAPE)*
 - *AMP × Rape Outcome Expectancies (ROE)*
- No meaningful significant results were found using DRA, LR, or CSS as outcome

 **Summary of Results**
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- **Intercorrelated?**
 - Implicit and explicit attitudes (SDRAPE)- **No**
 - Implicit and outcome expectancies (ROE & ROEEVAL)- **Yes**
 - Implicit measures- **No**
 - Semantic differential scale and outcome expectancies- **Yes**
- **Associated with sexual aggression?**
 - Explicit evaluations of rape (semantic differential)
 - *associated with past and future self-reported likelihood of sexual aggression*
 - Rape outcome expectancy scale (ROE)
 - *Associated with past sexual aggression only*
 - Implicit evaluations of rape (i.e., IAT)
 - *Not associated with past or future likelihood of sexual aggression*
 - AMP not associated with anything

 **Interpretations**
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- **Consistent with previous research we found that**
 - Implicit and explicit attitudes towards rape are significantly associated with one another
- **However...**
- **Inconsistent with previous research**
 - Only explicit attitudes towards rape were significantly associated with sexually aggressive behaviour
- **Therefore...**
 - Attitudes towards rape (explicit) appear to be important factors associated with sexually aggressive behaviour
 - Consistent with research suggesting attitudes influence various behaviours

 **Limitations**
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- **Study used a sample of male undergraduate students who reported little past sexually aggressive behaviour**
- **Cross-sectional nature of the data (data on all measures collected at same time)**
- **The fact that there were so few sexually aggressive participants**

 **Future Directions**
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- **Look at the association between attitudes towards rape and sexually aggressive behaviour among a more sexually violent sample**
- **Examine potential causal relationships between attitudes towards rape and sexually aggressive behaviour**

 **Thank you**
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Questions?

- Maimone, S. A., Hermann, C. A., Atlas, M., Berliant, J., & Nunes, K. L. (2013, October). Implicit and Explicit Attitudes, Rape Outcome Expectancies, and Sexual Aggression. 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.
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