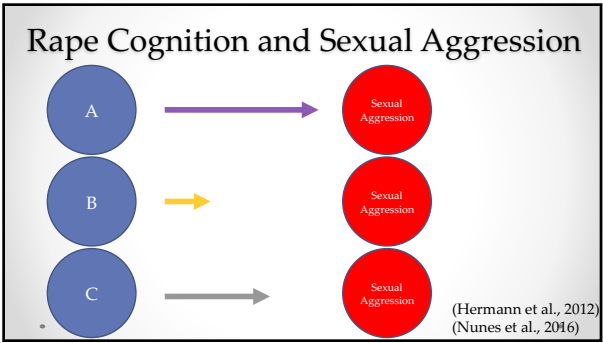
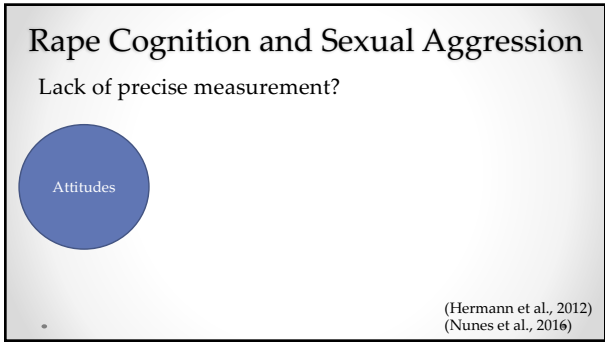
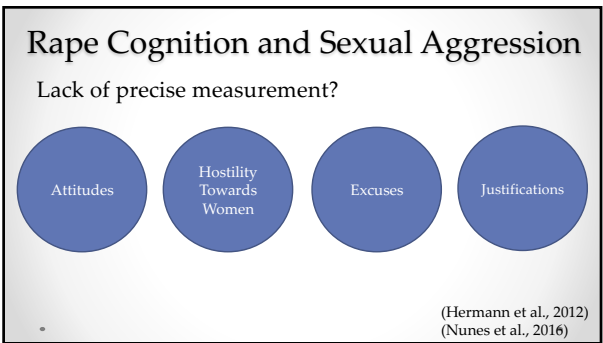
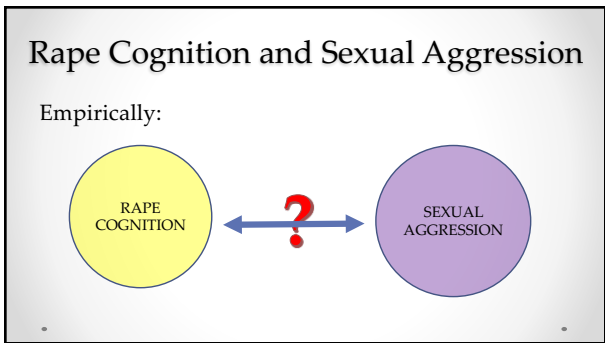
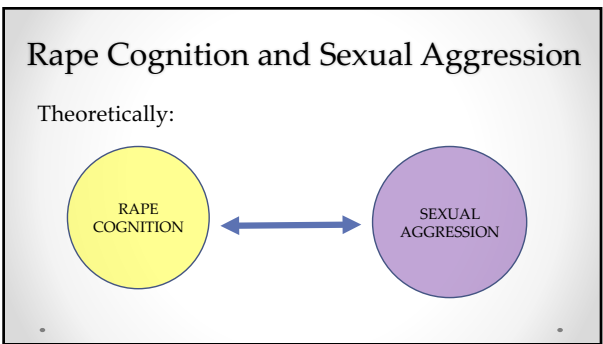


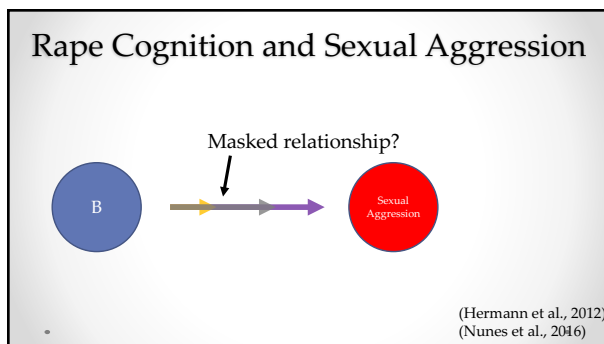
Pham, A. T., Nunes, K. L., Maimone, S., & Hermann, C. A. (2017, October). Exploring the underlying constructs of rape cognition scales. In Y. Fernandez (Chair) Conceptualization and Assessment of Cognitions and Other Risk Factors. Symposium conducted at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Research and Treatment Convention of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, Kansas City, MO.

### Exploring the Underlying Constructs of Rape Cognition Scales

Anna T. Pham<sup>1</sup>, Kevin L. Nunes<sup>1</sup>, Sacha Maimone<sup>1</sup>, &  
Chantal A. Hermann<sup>2</sup>  
Carleton University<sup>1</sup>  
Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services<sup>2</sup>  
36<sup>th</sup> Annual Research and Treatment Convention of the  
Association of the Treatment of Sexual Abusers  
Kansas City, MO, October 26 – 28, 2017



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### Purpose of the Current Study

- To explore the number of distinct constructs both within and between measures of rape cognition
  - Exploratory factor analysis (EFA)
- To examine the bivariate relationships between resulting factor(s), rape cognition, and self-reported sexually aggressive behaviours
  - Correlation analyses

### Method

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>EFA</b>   | <b>Correlation</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 191 community men                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Almost a quarter were between 40 and 49 years old (22.5%, <i>n</i> = 43)</li> <li>➤ Majority were of Caucasian ethnicity (78.5%, <i>n</i> = 150)</li> <li>➤ Over half were married (51.8%, <i>n</i> = 99)</li> <li>➤ Almost a quarter attending college/university (24.6%, <i>n</i> = 47)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 152 community men                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Almost a quarter were between 40 and 49 years old (21.2%, <i>n</i> = 33)</li> <li>➤ Majority were of Caucasian ethnicity (78.9%, <i>n</i> = 120)</li> <li>➤ Almost half were married (48.0%, <i>n</i> = 73)</li> <li>➤ Less than a quarter attending college/university (20.4%, <i>n</i> = 34)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

### Method

Measures (completed online)

- **Demographic questionnaire**
- **Rape Cognition**
  - Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (RMAS; Burt, 1980)
  - RAPE Scale (Bumby, 1996)
  - Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (IRMAS; Payne et al., 1999)
- **Sexually Aggressive Behaviours**
  - Sexual Experiences Survey-Tactics Version Revised (SES-TV-R; White, 2015)
  - Proclivity: SES-TV-R (White, 2015)

} Completed in random order

### Example Rape Cognition Items

**RAPE Scale**  
"Women often falsely accuse men of rape."

1                      2                      3                      4  
Strongly disagree                      Strongly agree

**IRMA Scale**  
"Many women secretly desire to be raped."

1                      2                      3                      4  
Strongly disagree                      Strongly agree

### Example Sexual Aggression Item

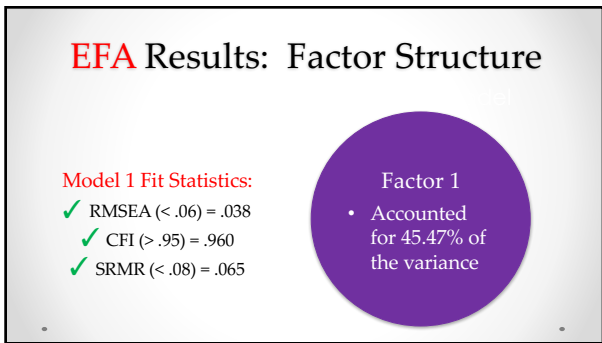
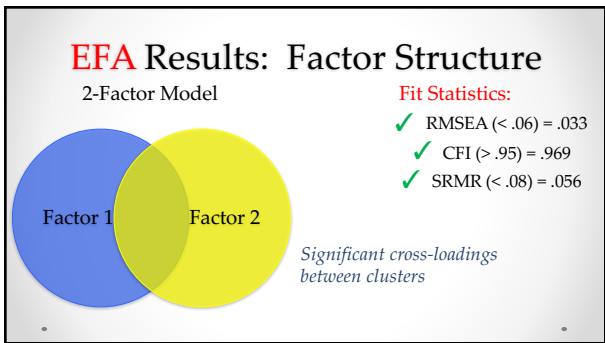
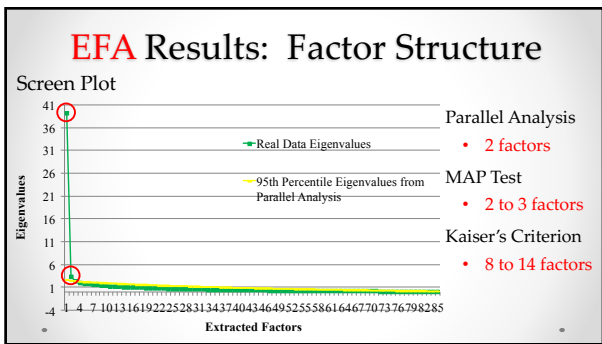
How many times SINCE YOU WERE 16 years old have you **threatened to physically harm a woman or someone she cares about** in order to...

- Try to kiss, sexually touch, or make her have some sort of sex (oral, vaginal, or anal) with you when she didn't want to, but for some reason it didn't happen?
- Kiss and/or sexually touch her when she didn't want to?
- Make her have some sort of sex with you (oral, vaginal, or anal) when she didn't want to?
- Take sexual pictures or videos of her when she didn't want to?

0      1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9  
Never                      times or more

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## Results from the EFA



## Results from Correlation

### Correlation Results

| Measures | Past SA       |         | Future SA     |         |
|----------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|          | Pearson's $r$ | 84% CI  | Pearson's $r$ | 84% CI  |
| Factor 1 | .22*          | .11-.38 | .28*          | .17-.38 |
| RMAS     | .16*          | .05-.27 | .22**         | .11-.33 |
| RAPE     | .23**         | .12-.33 | .28**         | .17-.38 |
| IRMAS    | .22**         | .10-.32 | .28**         | .17-.38 |

\* $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$       *No significant differences.*

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## Summary and Discussion

- ❖ All items from the RMA Scale, RAPE Scale, and IRMA Scale loaded onto one factor, which is inconsistent with some previous studies (e.g., Briere et al., 1985; Hermann et al., 2012)
- ❖ Correlations further suggest that these scales are interchangeable
- Possible explanations:
  1. EFA detected a super latent construct (e.g., Payne et al., 1999)?
  2. Statistical issues (e.g., Heywood cases)?
  3. True results?
    - Consistent with some previous studies (e.g., Nunes et al., 2016; Uji et al., 2007)

## Limitations

- Multivariate collinearity?
  - Sequential analysis of the covariance matrix could identify multivariate collinearity (e.g., Wothke, 1993)
- Small sample size?
  - Suggested minimum is 300 cases (e.g., Comrey & Lee, 1992; Tabachnick & Fidell, 2012), but this is not consistent across studies
  - Factors with 10 or more loadings greater than .40 are reliable if sample size is at least 150 (e.g., Guadagnoli & Velicer, 1988)
  - **May not be a significant limitation in the current study**

## Implications

- ❖ Not only do the rape cognition measures seem to assess the same underlying construct, they seem to assess only one construct
- ❖ May not be practically necessary to distinguish between specific types of cognitive distortions (or rape myths) to predict future sexually aggressive behaviours



**THANK YOU!**

Any questions?

The Aggressive Cognition and  
Behaviour Research Lab:  
<https://carleton.ca/acbrlab>

Email:  
[AnhTPham@mail.carleton.ca](mailto:AnhTPham@mail.carleton.ca)