



Radius Child & Youth Services
PREVENTION • INTERVENTION • RESEARCH

Practising with Pornography: They're watching it, are you talking about it?

Oct 26, 2020

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Trigger Warning

*“Warning! The following
contains strong language
graphic violence
disturbing to*

Agenda:

- Situating ourselves in relation to pornography
- What is new in pornography research?
- What is hot in the online porn world?
- Potential harms of pornography
 - Points for discussion with children and youth
- The Dissenters
- Pornography and Sexual Scripting Theory
- Clinical tools and questions
- Discussion questions for youth



My connection to Pornography

- Personal
- Political
- Academic

Attitudes toward Pornography

Danger at both ends!

Censored

Sanctioned

Sinful or Evil

Seen
As morally good

All porn removed
and censored

Anything Goes
for Anyone In
any medium

Soft Porn
Permissable with
age limit &
relationship. No
genital close up.

Content Censored
and Controlled –
Limit on Violence

Age Limits
Imposed

All content is
acceptable
but limits on
child sexual
abuse images

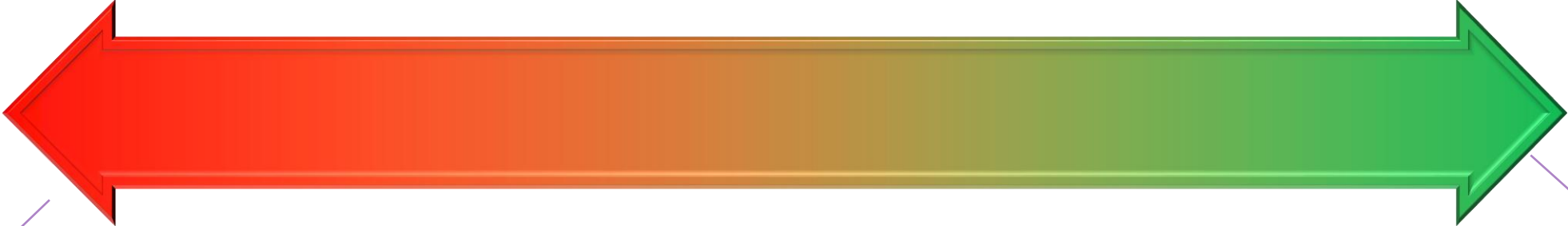


Attitudes toward Pornography
Danger at both ends in Clinical

Censored

Work!

Sanctioned



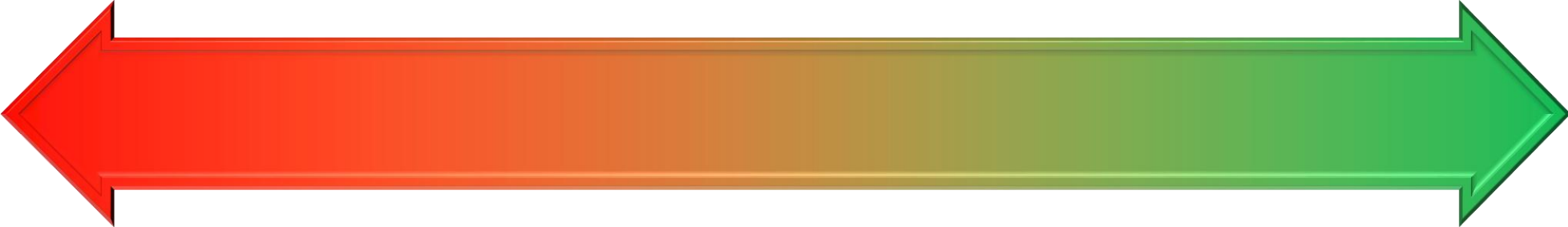
All porn removed
and censored

Anything Goes

How we View a Child

Positivist

Post-Modern



Vulnerable Child

Savvy or Agenic Child

Latest Research and Meta-Analyses

- Adolescent pornography use:
 - Free online mainstream pornography is an awful form of sex education, teens turn to it for education
 - 93% males 62% females by 18 years have seen pornography at least once (CDC)
 - Prevalence rates differ greatly
 - “A sizable minority of all adolescents use pornography”
 - Unintentional exposure is common
- Typical adolescent who uses pornography:
 - Male, pubertally more advanced, sensation-seeker, with weak or troubled family relations
 - Pornography is not poisoning minds or turning them into compulsive users – RARE
- Pornography & Sexual Attitudes/Behaviour:
 - Some relation but reviews have come to opposite conclusions & causality is unclear
 - By focusing on pornography alone we are missing the root causes of dating and sexual violence

The Truth About Pornography

“Some pornography under some circumstances may affect some people in some ways some of the time”.

Joseph Slade (2001)

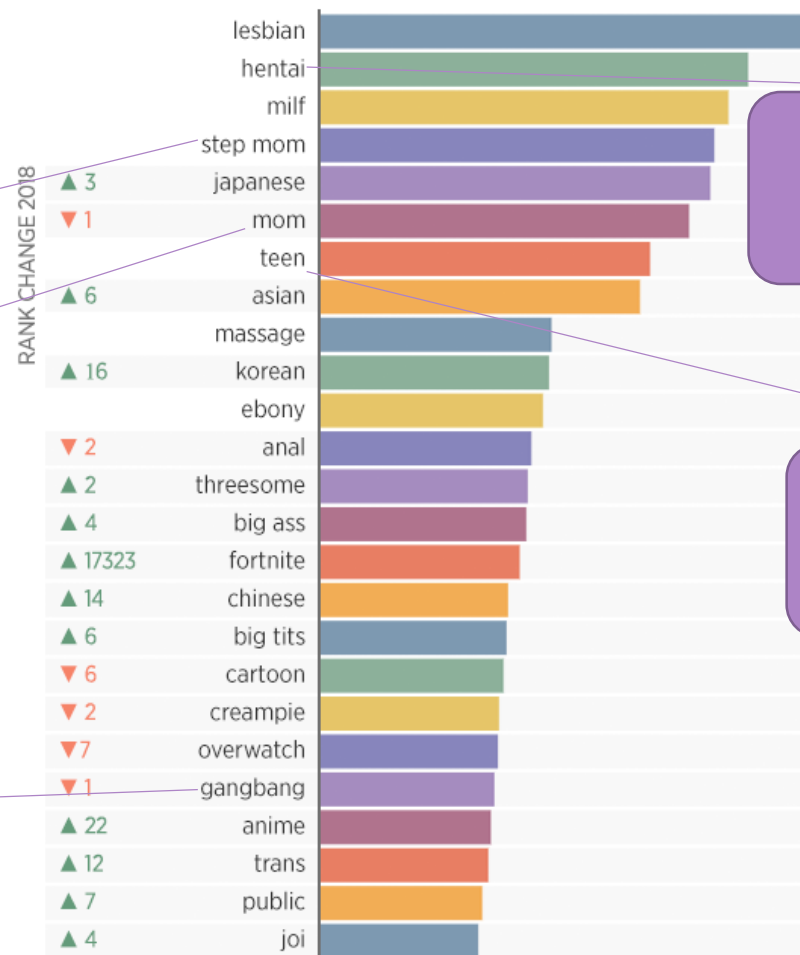


What's Hot in Porn?

- The rise in amateur porn stars
- Hentai
- Young girls
 - may be 18 yrs of age but attempt to portray as barely pubescent
- Gonzo porn
- Degradation
- Incest porn
- ATM porn

Pornhub List

Most Searched for Terms of 2018



Step mom

Mom

Gangbang

Hentai

Teen

ThisVId– Most watched videos of all time...

- Throat fucking puke compilation
- Hidden camera captures woman pissing and shitting
- Kinky girls fills her gaping pussy with sand
- Kinky blonde wife swallows my morning urine

The Potential Risks of Pornography Use

- Racism
- Sexism
- Desensitization
- Bad sex
- Poor sex education
- Sexual dysfunction
- Addictive
- Promotes attitudes supporting violence against women
- Endorses and promotes rape myths
- Dissatisfaction with one's partner

Promotes
and/or Teaches
Attitudes
Supporting
Violence
Against Women

- Regular users of pornography report more endorsement of rape myths. Hald, G., Malamuth, N., Yuen, C., 2010
- Physical, verbal and sexual violence against women is met with approval, and encouragement through groans of “More! More!” and is accompanied by a performance increased arousal. Ahlin, M., 2019
- First and foremost, mainstream pornography consists of socially sanctioned acts of direct violence against women. What would be seen as sexual violence and brutality in other contexts is par for the course in pornography. Jensen, 2020

The story it
tells about
people...

- Women
- Old folks
- People of color
- Disabled folks
- Children
- Men





Desensitization

Going down the Rabbit hole





Bad Sex!!!



Sexual Dysfunction

Its Potentially Addictive Nature

- The Dopamine Hypothesis
- Oxytocin



Addiction to Pornography

- Not scientifically supported:
 - Neither the DSM-5, ICD-11, WHO classify pornography as a mental disorder or addiction
 - most scientists have overtly rejected the addiction model
- No evidence supporting treatment
 - Large self-help industry surrounding the concept
 - impairment around seemingly compulsive sexual behaviors may be due to other causes such as moral judgments
- Replicates history of anti-masturbation efforts
 - Cornflakes
 - NOFAP
- Resonates to certain groups
 - Moral Incongruence

Addiction to Pornography

What we know about people who use porn more compulsively:

- More aggressive
- More impulsive
- Higher sex drive
- Sensation seekers
- Disposition to respond to sexual cues
- Narcissistic traits
- People who gravitate to violent, unhealthy porn are people who already have a disposition toward violence

Impact of watching Adults:

- Incongruence with behaviours and values/beliefs which causes the distress
- Societies around the world increased access to porn, rates of sex crimes including exhibitionism, rape and child abuse have gone down (it is correlational data but robust)
- IPU is associated with more permissive attitudes toward casual sex and more engagement in casual sex. These findings are particularly robust,
- IPU users are more likely to endorse sexually objectifying prospective sexual partners, viewing them as instruments for personal pleasure.

Like it or not, Teens Watch Porn

- Why should we keep an open mind about pornography?
 - Teens are interested in sex, pornography hasn't changed that
 - Our job is to be objective
 - Sex positive: people should be able to express their sexuality as long as it does not result in harm or the exploitation of others
 - Abstinence models don't work with teens
 - So much debate out there to denounce or defend pornography use

Can we let youth use pornography responsibly?

- It's normal adolescent development for teens to question things & think for themselves
 - Consumers of science and research: share what we know & don't know about pornography
 - Critical thinkers if & when they see it
 - Media literacy
 - Have them grapple with:
 - What they did and didn't want to see in porn
 - What they did and didn't want to do during sex
 - What is degrading to women, unfair to men, racist, etc.
 - Healthy dating relationship skills
 - Sexual consent, negotiation, safety, respect, pleasure

Pornography and Sexual Scripting: Thoughts from Media Studies, Sexology and Psychology

- Availability heuristic
- Vividness & Repetition
- Cultivation Theory
- Cultural Violence



Sexual Scripting and Porn

Rather than discussing simple causation, we should consider how various factors, in feminist philosopher Marilyn Frye's terms, "make something inviting." In those terms, pornography does not cause rape but rather helps make rape inviting. (Jensen, R. 2020)



Cultural Violence - Johan Galtung

Pornography as a mirror shows us how men see women.
Jensen, 2020.

First and foremost, mainstream pornography consists of socially sanctioned acts of direct violence against women. What would be seen as sexual violence and brutality in other contexts is par for the course in pornography.

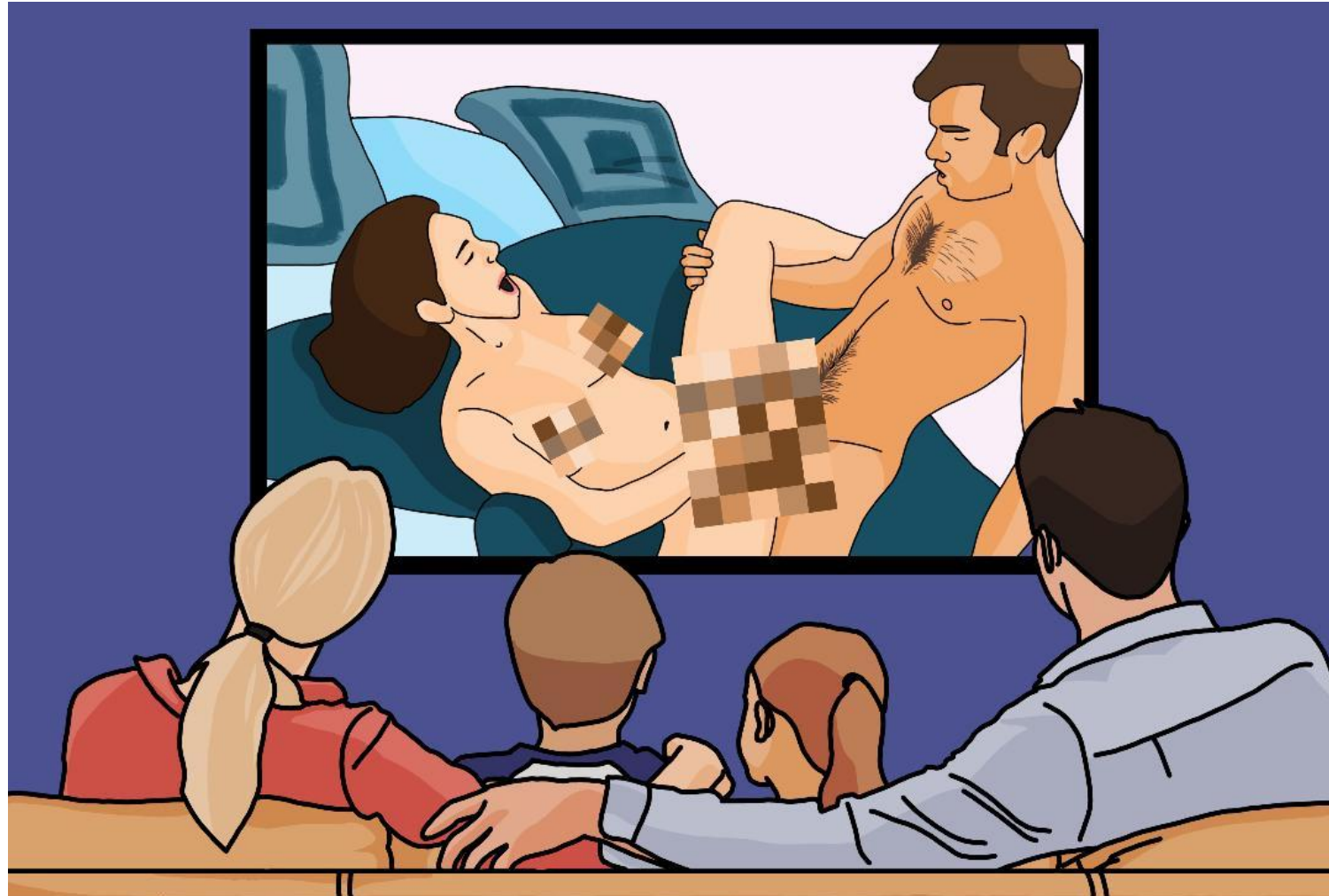
Here is example of mainstream advert mimicking the porn genre of upskirting.

One of the things that pornography does extremely efficiently is provide an endless flow of narratives of women being treated as objects, violated or “done to.”





Critical
Media Skills




Missing in
Porn

Critical Media
Skills do not
get practiced
and passed on
in the typical
fashion



In his own words

<https://itstimewetalked.com/resources/>



Regardless of your position on Porn
Regardless of what the research says

What does it mean for the young person you are working
with?



Questions to Consider

- What do you think about pornography and the easy access to it?
- How does it fit in your life?
- What do you make of some of the violent content?
- Would you want others to know that you use porn?
- How would it feel to have a partner boyfriend/girlfriend look at porn without you?

Am I a Perv?

- Moral Incongruence

Joshua B. Grubbs, J., Perry, S., Wilt, J., & C. Reid, C.,

Questions young men might ask themselves:

Is it possible that a “good guy’s” use of pornography could be a factor in shaping his imagination in ways that sexualize male dominance?

Does a “good guy” ever try to get a female partner to watch pornography with him to undermine her resistance to particular sexual acts that he wants but that she rejects?

Can regular use of pornography by a “good guy” make the line in his head between sexual fantasy and reality a bit blurry?

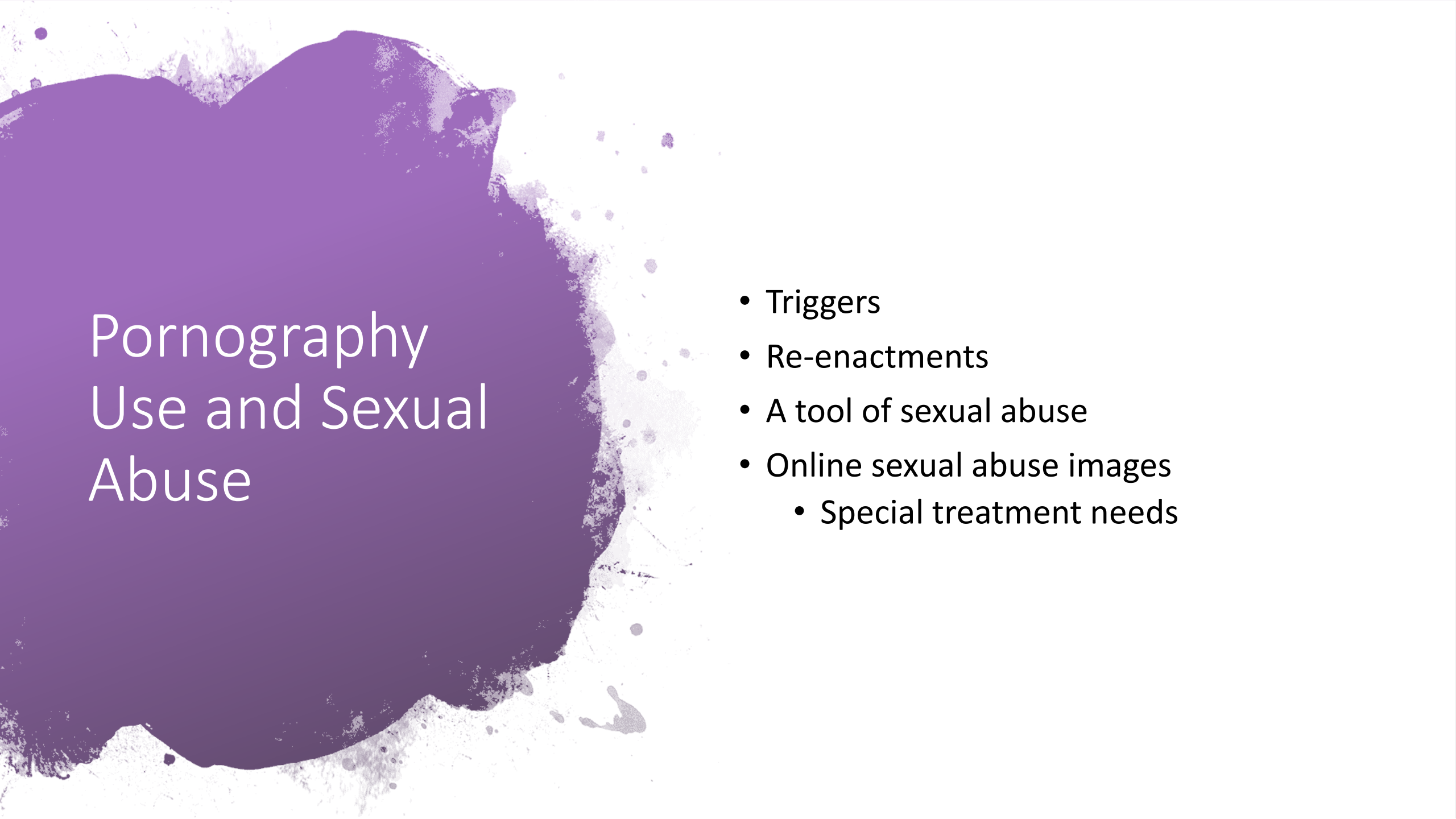
Does habitual use of pornography, especially those videos that feature extreme sex acts, ever give a “good guy” ideas about, and desires for, specific sexual acts that are denigrating to women that he otherwise might not have ever considered?

Robert Jensen, 2020



Girls and Porn

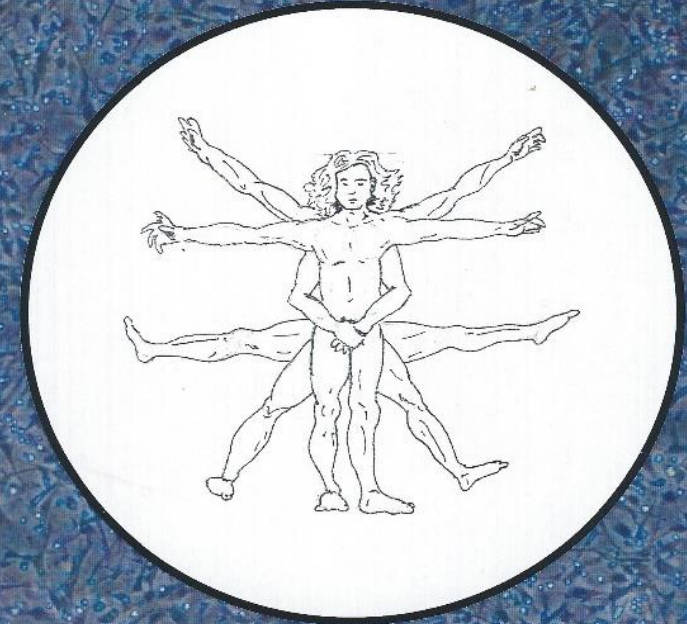
- Identity
 - What if I get turned on by things that are morally repugnant?
- Sexual scripts for women
 - Should I copy what I see girls doing in porn sex? Is that what my partner wants?
- Insatiable
 - Is there something wrong with me that I'm not turned on by porn and don't always want to have sex?
- Masochistic
 - Am I supposed to want it rough?
- Does porn teach girls to enjoy misogyny?
 - Should it be okay for my partner to call me names that I wouldn't normally allow in my life just because we are having sex?



Pornography Use and Sexual Abuse

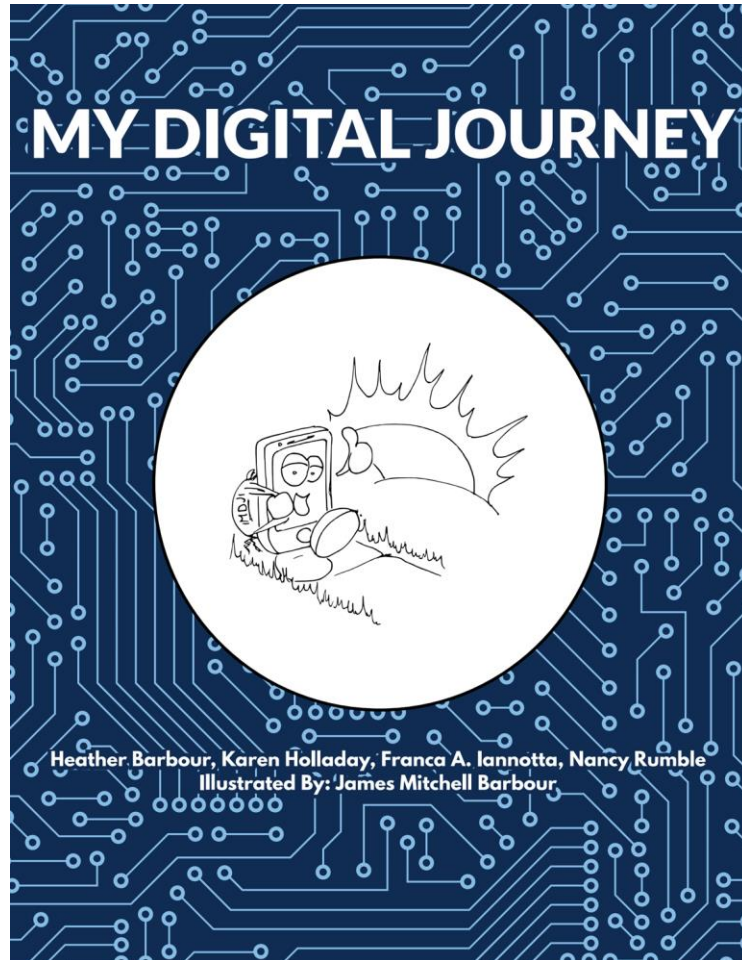
- Triggers
- Re-enactments
- A tool of sexual abuse
- Online sexual abuse images
 - Special treatment needs

Sexual Decision-Making: YOUR Personal Code



**Heather Barbour, Sean Basarke
Melissa Maltar and Bente Skau**

Clinical Tools



MY DIGITAL JOURNEY

Heather Barbour, B.Sc., R.S.W.

Karen Holladay, B.Sc., Dip.C.S., RP

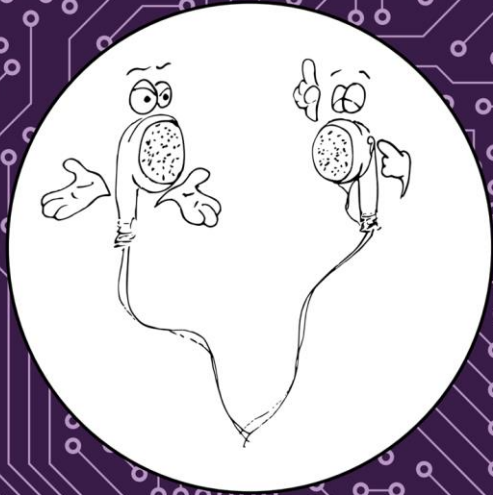
Franca A. Iannotta, C. Psych.

**Nancy Rumble, M.Sc, M.S.W.,
R.S.W.**

WHAT IS MDJ?

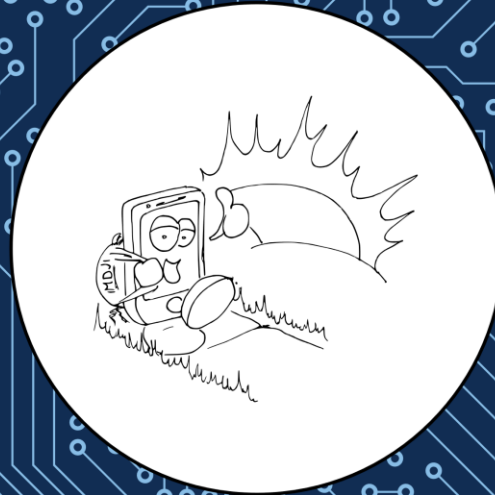
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9lvpfdsciv0lz8r/AACjBSwvpfVr3IvBAN0zdynLua>

MDJ Clinician Guide and Instructions



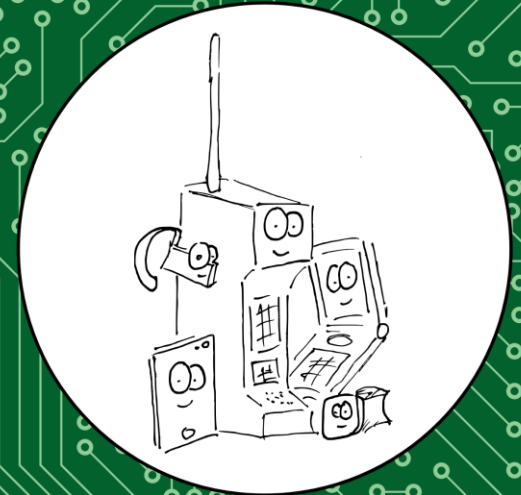
Heather Barbour, Karen Holladay, Franca A. Iannotta, Nancy Rumble
Illustrated By: James Mitchell Barbour

My Digital Journey Activity Book



Heather Barbour, Karen Holladay, Franca A. Iannotta, Nancy Rumble
Illustrated By: James Mitchell Barbour

MDJ Parent/Caregiver Questionnaire



Heather Barbour, Karen Holladay, Franca A. Iannotta, Nancy Rumble
Illustrated By: James Mitchell Barbour



MY DIGITAL JOURNEY

- Includes appendices with tools that can be used to accommodate for varying learning differences
- Includes game based modifications
- Includes a game board application with questions cards provided
- Includes a sample summary paragraph for clinicians to use when summarizing the findings from the MDJ in order to incorporate them into a comprehensive assessment report

Other Points for Discussion

Porn – The *Real* Deal?

Real

- People
- Some body parts

Fake

- Breasts
- Orgasms (sometimes)
- How they met
- Feelings
- Desire



Pornography and Empathy

- How can, or does, your pornography use affect others?
 - Parents/caregivers
 - Girlfriend/boyfriend
 - How do you imagine the porn actors are feeling while being...hit, spit on, called names etc..
 - Why might one choose to act on a porn site?

What is Missing in Pornography?

Critical Media Skills

Relationships

Foreplay

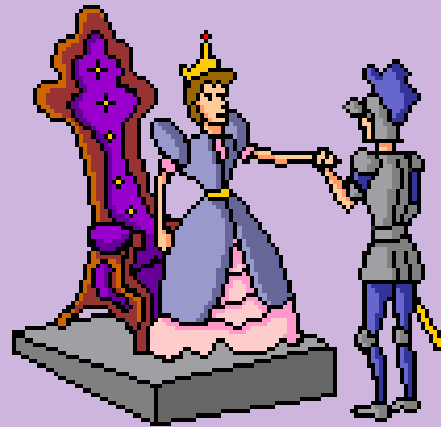
Negotiation

Consent

Safety - sti/birth control



Gender Expectations



- Appearance
- Performance
- Affect
 - How large is the realm of available feelings for women and men to express in the sexual arena



Is Pornographic Sex Good Sex?

Are the actors involved in pornography really having satisfying sex?
Where can you learn about how to have sex if not from porn?

Tools:

My Digital Journey <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9lvpfdsciv0lz8r/AACjBSwVr3lvBANoZdynLuaecision>

Sexual Decision Making: My Moral Code <https://radiuscys.ca/links-and-resources/>

Love and Sex in the age of Pornography – Film <https://itstimewetalked.com/resources/>

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