

Exploring the Automatic Undercurrents of Sexual Narcissism: Individual Differences in the Sex-  
Aggression Link

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**ABSTRACT**

Sexual narcissism has recently been proposed to be a specific risk factor for the perpetration of sexual coercion based on both self-reports of previous behavior and self-estimated likelihood of engaging in acts of sexual violence. To explore one of the potential underlying mechanisms of sexual narcissism, we tested whether for highly sexually narcissistic males the subtle priming of sexual concepts would evoke aggressive behavior in a standard measure of aggressive behavior, the Taylor Aggression Paradigm. Results showed that only for sexually narcissistic men did a subtle priming with mildly erotic words lead to an increase in shock volumes administered to the alleged competitor on this task. For women, it was postulated that physical force would not be represented as a functional behavioral script for sexually narcissistic females and, in line with this hypothesis, no effects were found for women. The results were discussed with regard to the underlying processes of sexual narcissism and the importance of an individual difference perspective in sex-aggression links.

**KEY WORDS:** Sexual narcissism; sexual aggression; Taylor Aggression Paradigm; sex priming; behavior priming

## INTRODUCTION

Statistics suggest that sexual victimization of women by men is a pervasive phenomenon (Kolivas & Gross, 2007) because not only have a large proportion of women been found to report forced sexual experiences (15.0 % experienced rape, 39.4 % any form of sexual coercion) (Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewski, 1987), but also a substantially high number of men have admitted to having engaged in acts of sexual violence (4.4 % had committed a rape, 14.9 % any form of sexual coercion) (Koss et al., 1987) or admitted they would engage in such acts if they were guaranteed not to be caught or punished (35%) (Malamuth, 1981). Several risk factors have been proposed for men becoming perpetrators of sexual aggression, such as hypermasculinity, hostility towards women, attitudes and beliefs supportive of sexual violence, as well as a preference for impersonal sex with many partners and an inclination to assert personal interests at the expense of others (Jewkes, Sen, & Garcia-Moreno, 2002). The last factor corroborates the importance of narcissistic traits in the etiology of sexual aggression (Bushman, Bonacci, van Dijk, & Baumeister, 2003). In line with this, Widman and McNulty (2010) recently proposed that sexual narcissism (SN) is a central and specific risk factor for committing acts of sexual violence. This evidence for the relevance of SN in understanding sexual violence motivated us to explore one of its underlying automatic components. Specifically, we tested the idea that SN relates to the degree to which the concept of sexuality automatically elicits aggressive behavior.

Sexual narcissism relates to the extent to which components of general narcissism (e.g., grandiose beliefs, feelings of entitlement, lack of empathy, exploitive manipulation) are activated in and applied to sexual situations. Based on the reasoning that a narcissistic personality might not show in all domains of life and some narcissists may behave so in the workplace but not in the bedroom, Widman and McNulty developed items that related specifically to narcissism in the

sex-domain. The scale is comprised of feelings of entitlement, lack of empathy, sexually exploitive behaviors, and grandiose ideas about one's own sexual skills. Individual differences measured with the Sexual Narcissism Scale (SNS) (Widman & McNulty, 2010) correlated significantly with previous experiences of having committed acts of sexual aggression, having initiated unwanted sexual contact, having engaged in acts of sexual coercion or having attempted or completed rape. In addition, SN predicted the self-rated likelihood of engaging in forced sex if assured that one would not be caught or punished (Widman & McNulty, 2010). Importantly, Widman and McNulty also found support for the incremental validity of the SNS, as SN predicted self-reported acts of sexual aggression over and above general narcissism, a personality factor previously related to sexual coercion (Bushman et al., 2003). In sum, there is strong evidence that SN is a central risk factor for sexual aggression.

Given that SN is a risk factor for committing sexual aggression, we sought to better understand the psychological basis of what makes people high in SN different from people low in SN. Specifically, we were not interested in sexual aggression per se but in the automatic compatibility of sex and aggression. For many individuals, aggression may be experienced as incompatible with sexual arousal whereas for others this is not the case (Leitenberg & Henning, 1995). The available evidence that sexual narcissists report greater frequencies of having used force to attain sexual gratification as well as a greater likelihood of using aggression to reach sexual satisfaction (Widman & McNulty, 2010) suggests that, for them, sexual arousal and aggression are less incompatible.

The association of sex and aggression has long been a topic for heated debate in psychology. Meyer (1972) underscored contemporary fears about the unraveling effects of mass media violence and pornography by showing experimentally that provoked individuals returned

more electric shocks to the instigator when they had watched a violent or sexually arousing film. In a similar vein, Jaffe, Malamuth, Feingold, and Feshbach (1974) showed that, after reading erotic (vs. neutral) passages, participants distributed higher level of electric shock in a Buss aggression machine. A meta-analysis suggested that depictions of sexual activity increased reactive aggression in men and women (but that nudity alone decreased aggression) (Allen, D'Alessio, & Brezgel, 1995). Explanations for these findings were mostly based on the assumption of excitation transfer: Sexually induced arousal was functionally equivalent to anger-induced arousal and thus hypothesized to have a similar effect. Adopting a more recent social cognitive approach, Mussweiler and Förster (2000) established that semantic sex primes led to an increase in aggression. This finding is important because it suggested that the sex-aggression link is independent of (1) transfer of arousal and (2) an instrumental gain of sexual gratification via aggressive means. Instead, the activation of the semantic concept of sexuality seems to co-activate an aggressive behavioral schema because the two are inherently linked. The current works builds on this idea but adds an individual difference perspective: Not all individuals may have a comparable connection between sexual semantic and aggressive scripts.

In fact, despite existing evidence in support of a generic sex-aggression link, there are also findings showing the exact opposite. Baron (1974) provoked participants and instructed them to look at either clearly erotic images or neutral images before giving them a chance to retaliate against a provoker. In Baron's study, erotic stimuli decreased the mean shock intensity significantly. Similarly, the majority of male participants chose non-aggressive behavioral options after being angered by a female confederate and being exposed to violent pornography (Fisher & Grenier, 1994). In a related domain, Kiefer and Sanchez (2007) found an inhibition of

dominance (i.e., longer latencies in a lexical decision task) after subliminally priming men with mildly erotic words.

In the present article we follow the proposition brought forward by Seto, Maric, and Barbaree (2001), who argued that individuals who are already predisposed to sexually aggressive behavior should show effects of pornography exposure on behavioral aggression. Such an individual difference perspective has received empirical support in related research on the sex-power link. Comparing high and low scorers on the Likelihood to Sexually Harass Scale, Bargh, Raymond, Pryor, and Strack (1995) found that only high scorers were faster to pronounce power-related words after sex priming. Likewise, the degree to which sex words primed the detection of power words was related to self-reported sexually coercive behavior (Zurbriggen, 2000). Parallel to these findings, we argue that the subtle priming of sexual content may have antagonistic effects on individuals, depending on whether they are high or low in SN.

### **The Present Research**

In the present research, we explored whether individual differences in SN corresponded with individual differences in the automatic sex-aggression link. To this end, we combined the controlled character of experimental sex priming in social cognition (e.g., Mussweiler & Förster, 2000) with a well-established measure of behavioral aggression—the Taylor Aggression Paradigm (e.g., Giancola & Parrott, 2008; Giancola & Zeichner, 1995). We recruited a sample of heterosexual men and women to address gender differences. Specifically, we hypothesized that priming with mildly erotic words would inhibit aggressive behavior in men who scored low on SN whereas it should increase behavioral aggression in highly sexually narcissistic men. This assumption was based on the reasoning that sexually narcissistic men perceive aggressive behavior as functional in attaining the sexual goals to which they feel entitled. We did not expect

a similar pattern for women as we hypothesized that even for sexually narcissistic women physically aggressive behavior plays no functional role in their sexual scripts. Sexually narcissistic women may be inclined to engage in acts of deception or exploitive manipulation (i.e., relational aggression rather than physical aggression) to reach their goals. This is in line with the finding that women's sexually coercive strategies more often appear in the form of exploitation of an incapacitated state or verbal pressure than physical force (Krahé, Waizenhöfer, & Möller, 2003).

## **METHOD**

### **Participants**

A convenience sample of 82 participants (41 male, 41 female) were recruited via bulletin boards inside the university building and via university-related groups in online social networks to participate in a competitive, reaction time experiment in exchange for the chance to win one of ten vouchers (worth €10 each) for an online store. Participants' age ranged from 19 to 51 years ( $M = 26.74$ ,  $SD = 6.74$ ); no further demographic data were collected. Men and women were each randomly allocated to one of two experimental conditions such that an equal proportion of men and women were in both experimental conditions.

### **Measures**

#### *Modified Taylor Aggression Paradigm*

A modified version of the Taylor Aggression Paradigm (TAP) was developed to assess reactive aggression. The TAP constitutes a well-established laboratory measure of behavioral aggression and has repeatedly been shown to be related to self-reported physical aggression (e.g., Giancola & Parrott, 2008). Participants allegedly compete against a second player in a reaction time task. Whoever loses a round (i.e., reacts more slowly) receives a blast of white noise via

headphones (Bond & Lader, 1986). Before each trial, participants can set the volume level for the noise their opponent would receive in case of losing on a scale from 1-8. Commonly, two scores are derived from the TAP (Giancola & Parrott, 2008). The volume level set for the first trial before receiving the first noise blast is commonly interpreted as spontaneous aggression, reflecting baseline differences in aggressiveness. As a second indicator, the average noise level across all following trials (after having received noise blasts) is commonly interpreted as reactive aggression. Within the field of aggression research, the TAP is regarded as best practice in lab-based assessment of aggressive behavior (e.g., Anderson et al., 2010).

We adapted the TAP measure to include the experimental manipulation of sex vs. neutral priming. Instead of reacting as fast as possible to a signal (e.g., a red “hit light”) (Giancola & Zeichner, 1995), participants were instructed to decide as fast as possible whether a string of letters was a word or a non-word. In the sex priming condition, the words (appearing in half of the trials) had mildly sex-related but not aggression-related meaning (e.g., bed, skin, erect). Some of the words had been used in previous research to prime the concept of sex (Mussweiler & Förster, 2000; see Appendix 1) and others were added to reach a total of 25 words. In the neutral condition, words had a neutral, neither sex- nor aggression-related content (e.g., computer, read, table). Non-words were pronounceable letter strings that had no meaning in the German language (a full list of words and their English translations can be found in Appendix 1).

In each trial, participants first decided on the volume level of the blow their opponent would receive in case they responded more slowly. After an interval randomly ranging from 1,950 ms to 6,000 ms, a letter string appeared in the middle of the screen and participants had to indicate as fast as possible whether this letter string was a word or a non-word by pressing one of two buttons on the keyboard. In half of the trials, participants “lost” the competition, meaning



they immediately received a blow of white noise through their headphones. In order to maximize the power to detect individual differences, the volume level of these blows was pre-determined and the fixed order included two escalation phases of increasing volume levels (in order to clearly constitute provocation and prevent habituation). For the other half of the trials, participants “won” and received no noise. However, in order to increase credibility, a noise was also delivered when participants either pressed the wrong key or took more than 750 ms to react. The dependant variables were based on the volume levels participants set for their opponent before each trial.

Two scores were derived from the TAP (Giancola & Parrott, 2008). The volume level set for the first blow to be received by the opponent was interpreted as spontaneous aggression that could not have been influenced by the priming manipulation or the opponent’s behavior. All subsequent 49 volume levels were aggregated into an indicator of mean reactive aggression, hypothesized to be influenced by the priming condition.

### *Sexual Narcissism*

Sexual narcissism was measured with a German translation (by the authors; full wording and item characteristics can be found in Appendix 2) of the SNS (Widman & McNulty, 2010).

### **Procedure**

Two participants were scheduled for each session time to ensure credibility of the cover story (“competitive game with auditory stimulation”) that the participants engaged in a competitive task against other participants. However, to prevent any effects of the specific identity of the alleged opponent, the two competitors were scheduled to arrive with a five-minute lag between them. Participants knew about the presence of another person (e.g., they heard footsteps as the second player arrived) but never saw each other and received no information

about the age or gender of the other player, thus eliminating the chance of any effects related to the opponent's identity. This procedure was used to test the strength of a generic sex-aggression link. We intended to create a research setting in which the aggressive behavior could not be reframed as a form of courtship behavior of teasing an opponent of the opposite sex.

The participants arriving first were welcomed in front of the two lab rooms and led to one room where they completed a filler task (filling in 30 attitude items) while the alleged opponents, the second participants, arrived and were led to the other room. The two opponents had to listen to the various volume levels of sound blasts included in the game in ascending order (maximally 85 dB to prevent hearing damage). Participants were instructed to take off the headphones and to contact the experimenter in order to adjust the volume to a lower level if any sound blast was experienced as too loud or painful. Independent of gender and priming condition, nine participants asked to adjust the volume level so that the blasts they received during the experiment were five or ten decibels lower (adapted experimental scripts were pre-tested). Excluding these nine participants from the analysis did not alter the results reported below. After this adjustment procedure, a progress bar appeared on the screen with the sentence, "Connecting to the other player." After four seconds, the TAP started. After the TAP, participants filled in self-report measures, were thanked, and debriefed.

## **RESULTS**

Comparing men and women revealed that men were generally more aggressive but the genders did not differ in their mean scores of SN (Table 1). Women in our sample were as likely as men to show little empathy for the satisfaction of their sexual partner, engage in manipulative behavior to increase their own sexual pleasure, have grandiose ideas about their sexual skills, and feel entitled to sexual satisfaction. The zero-order correlation of the three relevant measures,

spontaneous aggression, reactive aggression, and SN, revealed that spontaneous and reactive aggression in the TAP were highly intercorrelated but not associated with SN across the whole sample,  $r_s < .01$  (Table 1). This indicates that SN is not related to more aggression per se but may have a different relationship depending on the activated context.

To test our specific prediction that SN was related to greater aggression in men primed with the concept of sex, we conducted a linear regression analysis. Spontaneous aggression (selected volume before the first trial) could not have been affected by the priming condition, and so we used this variable as a baseline measure to control for pre-existing individual differences. We also included effect-coded gender, effect-coded priming condition, standardized SN, and all of their cross-products, including the hypothesized three-way interaction, in the linear regression analysis. The overall model was significant,  $F(8, 73) = 21.44, p < .001, R^2 = .70$ , with pre-manipulation spontaneous aggression as the strongest predictor,  $\beta = .79, p < .001$ . There were no significant main effects of participant gender, priming condition, or SN, nor were there any significant effects of any two-way interactions. However, the three-way interaction of these three variables was significant,  $\beta = .17, p = .02$ . In line with our predictions, the plotted slopes show that SN was most strongly related to aggressive behavior only for men in the sex priming condition.

To further explore this interaction, we conducted simple slope analyses to test for the effect of low ( $-1 SD$ ) vs. high ( $+1 SD$ ) SN for men and women in the two different priming conditions (Preacher, Curran, & Bauer, 2006). The simple slope test confirmed that sexually narcissistic men exhibited more aggression than men low in SN after sex priming,  $B = 0.70, SE = 0.26, p = .01$ , whereas these two groups did not differ after neutral priming. Sex priming had no

observable effect on women's aggression. For women, no slope was significantly different from zero and the two slopes were also not significantly different from each other.

As gender was confounded with the baseline level of spontaneous aggression, we conducted control analyses in which we substituted the effect-coded gender variable with the standardized, spontaneous aggression variable. Importantly, the three-way interaction of spontaneous aggression, SN, and priming condition was not significant,  $\beta = .00$ , indicating the observed interaction constituted a genuine gender difference and not an artifact due to different baseline levels in spontaneous aggression.

## **DISCUSSION**

The present study showed that whether sex priming evoked aggression or not was contingent on individuals' degrees of SN. For some people (men high in SN), priming the semantic concept of sex automatically activated aggressive behavioral schemata, whereas for others sex primes seemed to inhibit aggression (men low in SN). This finding may elucidate one aspect of why SN constitutes a risk factor for committing acts of sexual aggression. The current study was the first to combine a more subtle sex priming technique from a social cognition background with a well-established and well-validated measure of behavioral aggression (Giancola & Parrott, 2008). With regard to the target of aggression, we have tested the automatic association of sex and non-specific aggression against an unidentified opponent of undisclosed gender. This was done to tap more directly into the automatic associations of sex and aggression and to eliminate an alternative explanation that sexually narcissistic men might interpret their aggression against female opponents as a form of teasing that is conducive to courtship aims (Diehl, Ress, & Bohner, 2012). The fact that we did find increased aggression after sex priming for sexual narcissists is compatible with at least two mechanisms. For one, a greater readiness to

aggress might relate to coercive behavior against potential sexual partners, i.e., sexual aggression. On the other hand, such heightened aggressiveness might also be explained in terms of mate competition. For sexual narcissists, both strategies—sexual coercion and aggression against potential mate rivals—might be perceived as functional strategies to reach the sexual gratification to which they feel entitled.

At first glance, it might seem that our data were not only compatible with the behavior priming account we proposed, but also with the notion that the observed effects were due to the misattribution of sex-induced arousal to the provoking situation (excitation transfer). However, a reasoning based on excitation transfer would not allow the prediction of an aggression-inhibiting effect on men low in SN. Instead, we would argue that our findings constitute an example of behavior priming. As has been argued previously (Bargh, Chen, & Burrows, 1996; Dijksterhuis & van Knippenberg, 1998), semantic content may automatically activate associated behavioral schemata. In addition to previous behavior priming effects, we provided evidence for individual differences in the architecture of the nomological network. For males exhibiting high SN, sexual content had a rather excitatory connection to aggressive behavioral schemata whereas, for males exhibiting low SN, the activation of the concept of sexuality inhibited aggression.

The fact that we did not find a significant main effect of sex priming on aggression in the direction of more aggressive behavior after sex priming deserves some attention. This finding was in contrast to previous results that showed main effects of the sex-aggression link for unselected samples (e.g., Jaffe et al., 1974; Meyer, 1972; Mussweiler & Förster, 2000). It is not easy to compare the results due to the different operationalizations used in these studies, but one possibility that might account for the differences could be societal change accompanied by corresponding individual mindsets. It has recently been argued by Kiefer and Sanchez (2007)

that their counterintuitive finding of male sex-dominance inhibition aligns well with a decrease in men's tendency to report acts of sexual coercion. As society moves towards being more egalitarian, the goal-directed inhibition of socially undesired behavior may become increasingly automated.

A similar development has been observed in the realm of negative stereotypes about minority groups. The suppression of prejudices has long been seen as an effortful, inhibitory, top-down regulation (Devine & Monteith, 1999), but more recent findings point to the possibility of overlearned, automated forms of prejudice inhibition. Specifically, participants highly motivated to control prejudiced responses not only expressed less explicit prejudice, but also less bias in tasks that did not afford conscious control, like evaluative priming (Maddux, Barden, Brewer, & Petty, 2005), startle eye blink response (Amodio, Harmon-Jones, & Devine, 2003), or an Implicit Association Task (Devine, Plant, Amodio, Harmon-Jones, & Vance, 2002). An analogous automated suppression of sex-induced aggression would seem highly desirable for the development towards a society without sexual aggression. Importantly, this may also provide an avenue for cognitive bias-modification interventions based on retraining automatic associations. Such interventions have been shown to be effective, such as in the domain of substance abuse (Wiers, Eberl, Rinck, Becker, & Lindenmayer, 2011). Re-training automatic aggression tendencies is similar to retraining dysfunctional substance use as both cases warrant the unlearning of excessive approach behavior. Future research will have to qualify whether the discrepancies between our and other results were predominantly an effect of the different methods and outcome measures employed or an authentic change in the associative mental networks of men.

An alternative, potentially more parsimonious explanation could be based on the SN scores of our male sample. Compared to the mean scores of men reported by Widman and McNulty (2010) the men in the current study scored relatively low on the SN scale. It is thus conceivable that a sample with a stronger endorsement of SN would show the main effect reported throughout the literature. Importantly, this alternative explanation does not invalidate our general hypothesis and finding that differences in the sex-aggression-link are contingent on individual difference in SN. Unlike men in the current study, women exhibited an almost identical degree of SN as the women tested by Widman and McNulty (2010; Study 1). However, although this effectively resulted in a lack of any gender differences in SN, even women high in SN did not exhibit a tendency of reacting more physically aggressively after sex priming. This was consistent with our assumption that physically aggressive behavior plays no functional role in women's sexual scripts. One explanation we have suggested is that SN among women might translate into forms of relational aggression (means of manipulation or exploitation) rather than physical aggression, which is consistent with the finding that relational aggression is more prevalent among women than physical aggression (e.g., Archer & Coyne, 2005). However, our experiment did not tap into such forms of aggression. Future research might specifically test whether sex priming increases the likelihood of engaging in relational aggression in sexually narcissistic women.

Despite the general consistency of our findings with our theoretical proposition of SN as relating to individual differences in the associational architecture regarding the sex-aggression link, our study had some limitations that might guide future research. First of all, and pertinent to the expected gender differences, we did not employ an additional dependent variable suitable for tapping into the relevant form of aggression expected of women. Second, future research should

control for potential contributions of general arousal to the effect by including an additional experimental condition with equally arousing but clearly non-sexual words. Third, although not central to our claim, future research could include other individual difference variables discussed as risk factors for committing sexual aggression (e.g., general narcissism, Bushman et al., 2003; preference for sexual violence, Larue et al., 2012) to see whether the association with sex-aggression link is specific to SN.

By conducting the first study to combine a relatively subtle, social cognitive priming of sexual concepts with a well-established measure of behavioral aggression, we provided preliminary evidence for the role of individual differences in the sex-aggression link in men. These findings not only shed some light on automatic undercurrents of SN, but also meet the need move beyond the assumption of a generic sex-aggression link and clarify the impact of potentially important moderators using experimental designs (Seto et al., 2001). Although no visual erotica were employed in the current study, the results might also have implications for the ongoing debate of the negative effects of (violent) pornography. In light of our results, it might be argued that whether erotica consumption heightens aggressiveness does not depend so much on whether pornography is consumed or not but rather by whom.



## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Words used as primes in the modified Taylor Aggression Paradigm

Sexual words	Neutral words	Non-words
Bett (bed)	Herd (oven)	bör
spüren (feel)	Computer (computer)	nonar
Haut (skin)	lesen (read)	gnatten
steif (stiff)	Haus (house)	Watz
schwitzen (sweat)	Ampel (traffic light)	Sulm
feucht (wet)	Tisch (table)	Mulp
sinnlich (erotic)	Schrank (cupboard)	worgle
verführen (seduce)	frieren (freeze)	Zaul
Brüste (breasts)	Zug (train)	Nimbe
stöhnen (moan)	Stadt (city)	cham
Lust (lust)	fahren (drive)	baser
ausziehen (undress)	essen (eat)	zerliesen
massieren (massage)	fliegen (fly)	bewann
küssen (kiss)	Kürbis (pumpkin)	kol
Dessous (lingerie)	zählen (count)	toleun
kommen (come)	Teller (plate)	Karilie
lutschen (suck)	Tür (door)	Treiß
stimulieren (stimulate)	gehen (walk)	Liech
lecken (lick)	Stuhl (chair)	surg
heiß (hot)	hören (hear)	Fraugde
Po (buttocks)	reisen (travel)	bistam
fummeln (fondle)	Mehl (flour)	Steue
Zunge (tongue)	schreiben (write)	Enstar
Slip (slip)	singen (sing)	Trinkang
nackt (naked)	Pflanze (plant)	Urfelk

Note. There was an identical, fixed, randomized alternation of words and non-words in both conditions. Words and non-words were presented in the order they appear here. For each category, the first six items were taken from Mussweiler and Förster (2000; Study 1).

Appendix 2: Sexual Narcissism Scale – German Version ( $\alpha = .88$ )

Original Subscale		<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>r<sub>it</sub></i>	Factor loadings			
					1	2	3	4
Sexual Exploitation ( $\alpha = .54$ )								
1	Wenn ich für einen Tag die ganze Welt beherrschen würde, hätte ich Sex mit wem ich will.	2.17	1.44	.47	.16	.19	<b>.46</b>	.21
2	Ein Weg, um jemanden ins Bett zu kriegen, ist, der Person zu sagen, was sie hören will.	2.82	1.32	.43	.05	.14	<b>.47</b>	.24
3	Wenn ich Sex haben will, mache ich alles dafür.	1.60	0.89	.27	.08	.04	<b>.48</b>	.00
4	Es würde mir leicht fallen, eine unwillige Person dazu zu überreden, Sex mit mir zu haben.	1.68	0.97	.24	.10	-.09	.07	<b>.40</b>
5	Ich wäre bereit dazu, eine Person zu täuschen, damit sie Sex mit mir hat.	1.59	1.01	.41	.14	.14	<b>.68</b>	-.04
Sexual Entitlement ( $\alpha = .67$ )								
6	Ich glaube, einen Anspruch auf Sex zu haben, wenn ich mich danach fühle.	2.16	1.17	.53	.12	.13	.18	<b>.80</b>
7	Ich habe ein Recht auf regelmäßigen Sex.	2.49	1.30	.45	.10	.10	.01	<b>.89</b>
8	Es sollte mir erlaubt sein, Sex zu haben, wann immer ich will.	2.90	1.41	.49	.13	.22	.20	<b>.43</b>
9	Ich wäre verärgert, wenn eine Person, mit der ich eine Verabredung habe, Sex ablehnen würde.	1.57	0.96	.45	.03	.32	<b>.54</b>	.15
10	Ich erwarte Sex, wenn ich mit jemandem eine teure Verabredung habe.	1.33	0.69	.29	-.12	-.01	<b>.61</b>	.10
Low Sexual Empathy ( $\alpha = .69$ )								
11	Wenn ich mit jemandem schlafe, weiß ich selten, was die Person denkt oder fühlt.	2.02	0.90	.19	-.09	.16	.28	.05
12	Es ist mir wichtig, zu wissen, was mein Sexualpartner empfindet, wenn wir Sex haben. <sup>a</sup>	4.34	0.93	.26	.15	<b>-.74</b>	-.13	-.03
13	Ich habe mehr Spaß am Sex, wenn ich das Gefühl habe, die andere Person wirklich zu kennen. <sup>a</sup>	4.05	1.14	.20	.14	<b>-.46</b>	-.17	-.02
14	Die Gefühle meiner Sexualpartner interessieren mich für gewöhnlich nicht.	1.18	0.55	.43	.18	<b>.82</b>	.10	.05
15	Normalerweise ist es mir egal, wie sich mein Sexualpartner nach dem Sex fühlt.	1.22	0.59	.56	.18	<b>.78</b>	.27	.14
Sexual Skill ( $\alpha = .82$ )								
16	Ich bin ein außergewöhnlicher Sexualpartner.	2.76	1.08	.44	<b>.63</b>	.06	.21	.09
17	Meine Sexualpartner denken, ich bin fantastisch im Bett.	3.37	0.82	.33	<b>.78</b>	.01	-.03	.04
18	Ich bin wirklich gut darin, einen Partner sexuell zu befriedigen.	3.65	0.93	.43	<b>.86</b>	-.09	.10	.12
19	Ich war bisher sehr erfolgreich in meinen sexuellen Beziehungen.	3.38	1.08	.22	<b>.66</b>	.04	-.17	.08
20	Andere haben mir gesagt, dass ich sexuell sehr begabt bin.	3.12	1.27	.41	<b>.59</b>	-.05	.11	.26

Note.  $N = 88$ . Descriptive statistics, corrected item-total-correlations for complete scale ( $r_{it}$ ), and factor loadings for four-factor solution of factor analysis (principal axis) with VARIMAX rotation. <sup>a</sup> reverse-coded item. For the English language original wording please refer to Widman & McNulty (2010).

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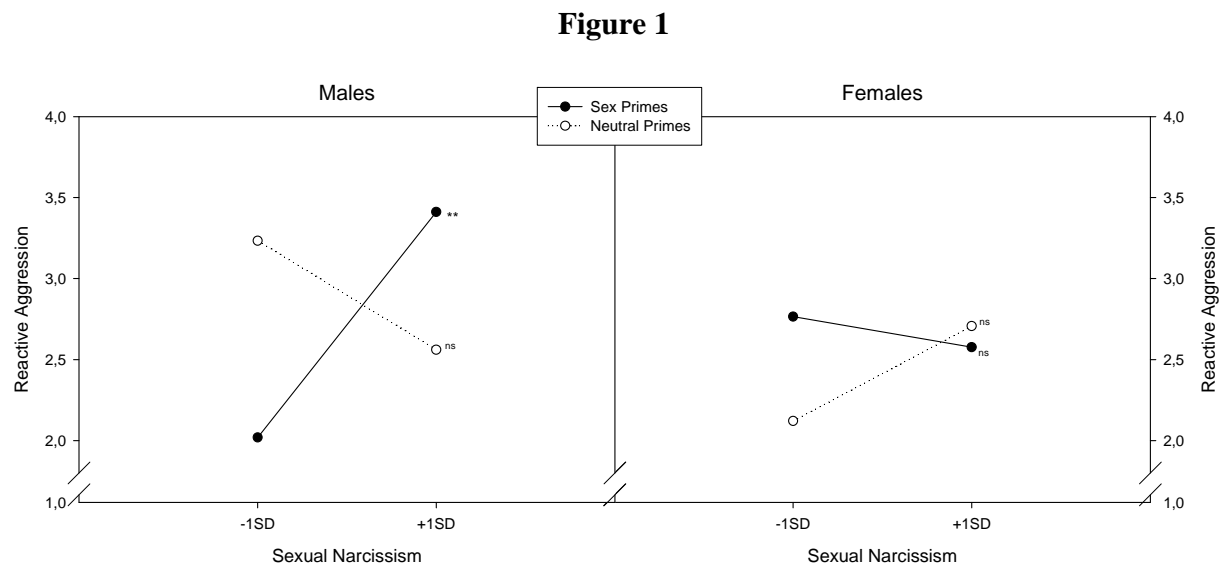
Table 1

Reliability, intercorrelations, and descriptive statistics separate by gender for all variables.

Correlations				Descriptives				
A	1.	2.	Males		Females		<i>t</i>	
			<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>		
1. Spontaneous Aggression	-		2.78	2.30	1.88	1.36	2.16*	
2. Reactive Aggression	.99	.81*	3.17	2.40	2.11	1.33	2.48*	
3. Sexual Narcissism	.80	.00	.01	2.26	0.53	2.20	0.43	0.64

*Note.* *N* = 82. Spontaneous Aggression = volume adjusted for opponent (from 1 to 8) on first trial. Reactive Aggression = average volume adjusted for opponent (from 1 to 8) on 49 following trials. Higher numbers indicate greater volume, i.e., greater aggression. Sexual Narcissism = average score across 20 items on a scale from 1 to 5.





*Figure 1.* Reactive aggression as a function of sexual narcissism, gender, and priming condition (plotted at the mean level of spontaneous aggression). <sup>ns</sup> non-significant slopes, \*\*  $p < .01$