

4: Sexual Deviance

Discovery

Introduction

Society makes **rigid** distinctions regarding sexual identity. Many who fit **outside** of these norms are considered sexual deviants

Sexual deviance is the rule-breaking and unexpected behaviour associated with sexuality

Paraphilias are any sexual desires that lie outside the norms

- Some are harmless
- Some harm the deviant
- Some harm other people

The Double Standard and Romantic Love

Views on sexuality are gendered. There are arbitrary distinctions between men and women

Men → supposed to want sex intensely

Women → supposed to be passive

... this is a norm across most of the world

Data shows that sexual pleasure is only possible for people who freely choose it. Sex sucks when the man wants sex intensely and the woman is passive

Child-bearing increases gendered inequality (because only one gender can give birth). There is an idea that women are in **romantic love** with men, which is not necessarily sexually motivated.

Sexual “rule-breaking” is becoming more common in younger generations... the old norms are being broken

Marital Infidelity

Marital Infidelity is cheating → having sexual or emotional relationship outside of your relationship without consent from your partner

A breaking of contracts

- Smith (1988)
 - Husbands are twice as likely to cheat.
 - Affairs are more common in low-income groups
 - Affairs more common in non church goers
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- Meldrim (2005)
 - People who are cheated on see it as abandonment

Research shows men are more concerned with sexual infidelity, and women are more concerned with emotional infidelity.

- Whitty (2005)
- Found that emotional infidelity in online “Cyber-affairs” is as important and harmful as sexual infidelity

Heteronormativity

Heteronormativity: normal sexual activity (cisgendered, heterosexual, gender roles)

- Kinsey
- Human sexuality has other goals than reproduction
- Pleasure is a priority

Kinsey: Sexual behaviour in the human male

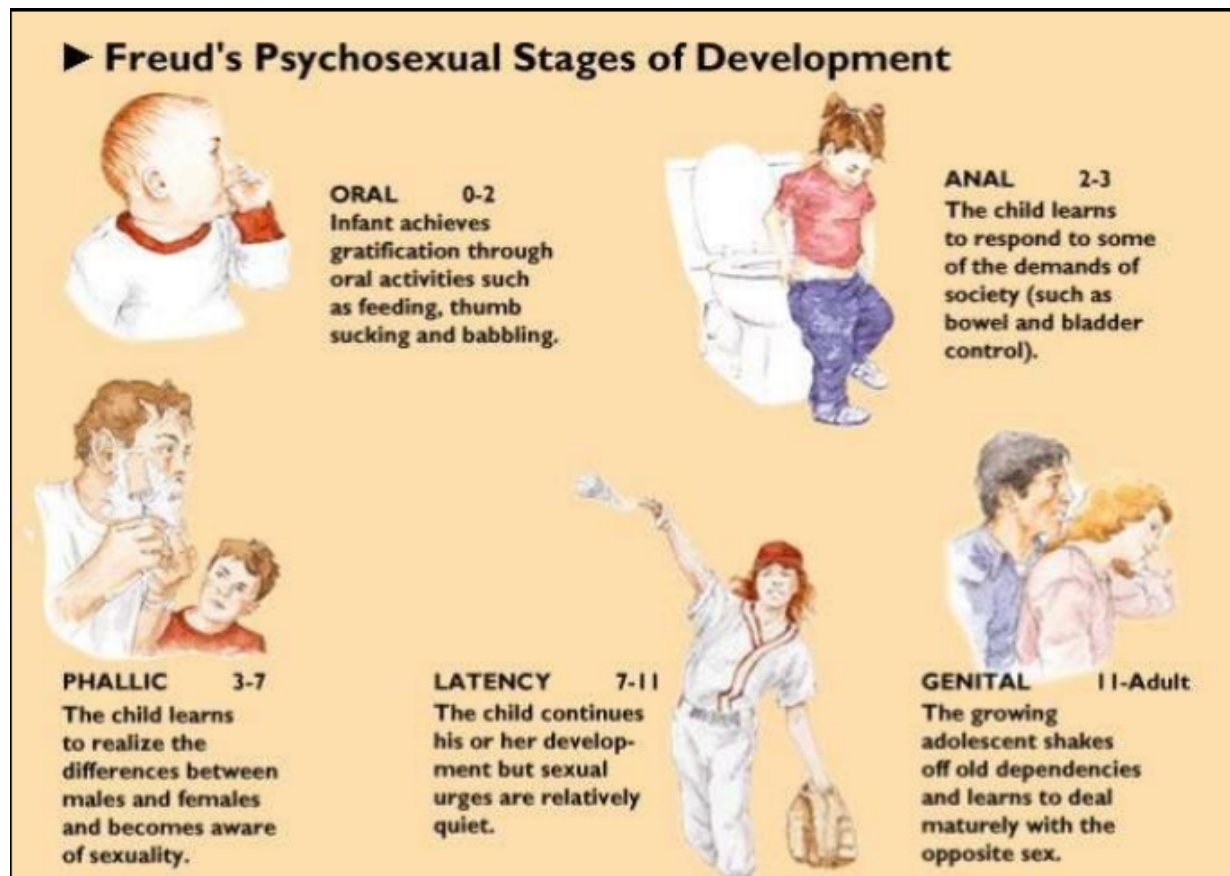
- Males sexuality exists on a spectrum

Ellis: Psychopathia Sexualis:

- masturbation does not lead to illness
- homosexuality is not a disease
- Homosexuality is innate

Freud: Theory of human sexual development and identity

- Development of a healthy adult depends on passage through stages of psychological and psychosexual development
- Repression of sexual desire results in neurosis



Today, there is a continued trend towards sex as a form of intimate pleasure with numerous legitimate, idiosyncratic forms within a growing context of gender equality.

Gay and lesbian communities assert that 10% of the survey is homosexual
Surveys show that only 1% of Canadians identify as homosexual, and 0.7% identify as bisexual

Studies find that there are more homosexual men than women

History of Sexual Deviance and Public reaction

Gannon and Simon (1967)

- Three dimensions of sexual deviance
 - Incidence or frequency
 - The level of invoked sanctions (how much people push back on it)
 - The existence of a specialized social structure that arises to support sexually deviant activity

Prostitution

Prostitution more common among impoverished and socially vulnerable

- In countries where elders run the family, youth may be forced into prostitution to support the family
- “Floating” sex workers are people who have families outside of prostitution
 - Ashamed of living double life

Three classes of prostitution

- Street prostitution
 - Originally slaves, then commonly the entrenched poor
- Those in brothels and bordellos
 - From working class backgrounds
- Courtesans
 - Upper class, providing sex to wealthy and aristocratic

In Canada, prostitution is not illegal, but one can be arrested for prostitution related offences:

- Solicitation (selling stuff without a license)
- Bawdy house offenses
- Procuring

Because prostitution is kept illegal...

- Prostitutes put in criminal justice system
- Prostitutes are in unsafe places
- ... no way out

On the street, places to find prostitutes are referred to as **tracks**

- Women often pimped out
- Violence commonly used by pimp

Why people enter the sex trade

- In Canada no more than 4% of all prostitutes are sex slaves
- Most do it by choice
 - physically or sexually abused in childhood
 - Desperation for money
 - Flight from home (average age to enter prostitution is 14)
 - Parental issues (absence, abandonment, drug/alcohol, abuse)
 - Limited education

In the developing world, women have few opportunities for financial independence apart from men

- Prostitutes in USA often from overseas
- Poverty and transience due to being from war-torn countries

In recent years, prostitutes are more often seen as victims, and the men who control the sex trade “johns” are more likely to be persecuted

Pornography

Pornography is the description or display of sexual activity

There is much debate over whether pornography is healthy or pathological

The pornography industry has links to organized crime

Pornography is not deviant because it is uncommon, pornography is deviant because...

- it is seen as easy and glutinous fulfillment of sexual fantasy (rather than earning sex with a partner)
- It also shows deviant behaviour (usually sexually deviant, taboo acts)

Porn may support patriarchal views by showing women as playthings

Transgressing a norm like “do not harm/molest children” is criminal not necessarily for promoting the ideas, but for the harm caused to the children when being photographed/videoed...

In some respects, pornography has helped the women's and gay rights movement by challenging established notions of sexuality

- However, feminists believe that porn “commodifies” women

Paraphilia

Paraphilia: any kind of sexual deviation

Fetishism and Voyeurism

- Freud was one of the first to talk about **sexual fetishism**
 - S form of sexual deviance where the object of affection is a specific item or body
- **Voyeurism**
 - Sexual pleasure felt by observing people in states of undressing or having sex
 - Non-criminal if consensual
 - Most often practiced by men → related to “the male gaze” that puts women under scrutiny

Criminal Paraphilias

- Usually non-consensual
- Exhibitionism
 - Displaying genitals in public
- Pedophilia
 - Most common criminal paraphilia
 - Most victims are girls 8-11
 - Most pedophiles are men

Sado-Masochistic Communities

- Sadism: taking pleasure in inflicting pain
- Masochism: taking pleasure through getting beat, humiliated
- Sado-Masochism is the combination of the two
- Sado-Masochist community is well-organized
 - 30-50% of Americans are involved in SM-related activities
 - Small things, like handcuffs, might fall in this category

Homosexual Communities and Cultures

- Not well-accepted in Canada
- LGBTQ2S+ is an acronym that stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Two-Spirit and additional sexual orientations and gender identities.
- Was considered to be paraphilia for a long time
- Homosexuals have developed a subcultural world as a response to continued disapproval for the general public
- The term “queer” has been reclaimed to describe any deviant sexual behaviour
- Query theory: challenging the male-female thinking about sexuality

D’Emilio (1983)

- Beginning of homosexual subculture began during second world war (sailors)
- War brought homosexuals together
- San Francisco and New York began attracting homosexuals

Anti-Homo as a form of Sexual Deviance

Homophobia, the irrational and persistent fear of homosexuality, was first defined as a psychopathology in the 1970s.

With changing thoughts about homosexuality, homophobia has come to be seen as akin to xenophobia (irrational hatred of outsiders).

Today, 'homophobia' has largely been replaced as an idea by 'heteronormativity' or 'heterosexism' (a positive preference for, or occupation with, heterosexual relations)

- People with first- or second-hand knowledge of homosexuality are less homophobic.
- Class and education correlate with homophobia, as people from large communities are more likely to know homosexuals.

The best predictor of anti-homosexual sentiment is **sex-role rigidity**

- The belief that sexes have traditionally defined sex roles
- Often exists alongside **homosociality**
 - Your friends are all the same gender
- Often exists alongside **authoritarian personalities**
- Sex-role confusion may explain why men are more homophobic than women

Media Predictions of Sexual Deviance

Queercore filmmaking (1970s-1990s)

- Resulted in presence of deviant sexual identities in media

Today, discussion of Queer sexuality is commonplace in media

However, it would be folly to claim that mass media deal in a particularly nuanced way with all deviant sexual identities

Theories

Theories About Sexual Deviance

Functionalist Theories

- Some sexual deviations (prostitution, pornography) play a valuable role in society
 - They test the boundaries of socially acceptable behaviors, helping promote social cohesion
 - Sexual deviations provide sexual outlets for fantasies
 - Deviants can be members of a separate social group
- Reiss
 - Homosexuality reinforced negative and positive stereotypes
 - **Peers** were young, masculine men who had sex with effeminate prostitutes (**queers**)
 - If you don't "take it" (bottom) then you retain your masculinity

- This shows that people reinforced traditional heterosexual gender roles in non-traditional acts

Symbolic interactionism

- Sexual deviants are different because they have been labelled and stigmatized
- Sexual norms and values change over mostly through means of social and sexual interaction between individuals
- As more people come to know and accept varieties in the sexual behaviour of others, they come to admit acceptability and normality

Critical Theories

- People with power give labels to sexually deviant
 - Also determine what is legal and illegal
- Many types of sexual deviance reflect social inequality
 - Prostitution reflects gender inequality and poverty
 - Prostitutes can be exploited by pimps
- Feminist Approaches
 - People typically condemn a sexually active teenage girl, but praise a sexually active teenage boy
 - Many people think that teenage sex and unmarried pregnancy is a fault of the woman
 - Women are most likely victims of sexual crime
 - Studies find that husband violence happens in up to a third of couples

Postmodern approaches

- Foucault: The History of Sexual Rigidity
 - The “state” intervenes in personal sexuality by making sex, like crime, an object of scientific analysis
 - Officials try to influence feelings about sexual desire and needs
 - People are turned into self-monitoring, self-forming sexual subjects
 - Society’s goal should be to liberate people from conventional ideas of sexuality

Consequences

Social Consequences

- Prostitution: traffic in young people violates rights to education, leisure, good health, a family life, and safety from conformity
- Homosexuality: people still see heterosexuality as ideal. Hate crimes exist
- Pedophilia: Male victims of pedophilia often grow up to experience confusion, more likely to become pedophiles themselves

Health Consequences

Prostitution and Homosexuality

- Risk of STDs
- Mental health consequences
- Violence and sex traffic

Paraphilia

- Criminal paraphilias can be dangerous
- Fetishes can have fatal consequences

Social Policy Implications

Social policies are highly controversial

- Some believe we should decriminalize all forms of prostitution

Canadian laws provide a hybrid form of criminalization, where sex is concerned

Laws of prostitution are uncertain after March 2012 court of appeals decision in Ontario

To deal with human rights violations, we need policies that combat human trafficking