**SYNOPSIS**

As part of an undergraduate independent study project, the student in the course will conduct a survey on TSU students’ perception of sexual assault. Prior research has shown that college-age students often hold gender stereotypes, which affects perceptions of sexual assault—yet few studies have been done on this recently. Also, few studies have assessed how these stereotypes relate to different variables: alcohol use, relationship between victim and offender, how victim behaved before/after victimization, and gender of victim. These variables will be assessed in this study.

**How participants will be identified/recruited:** From the registrars office, all classes containing over 100 students have been identified. From this list, FIVE classes will be randomly selected. The instructors will be contacted and asked if the survey can be distributed during their class. We will continue to contact instructors until five classes have been identified. Jessica and I (with the help of Criminal Justice graduate assistants) will actually go into the class to administer the survey.

**Identifying info:** No identifying information will be collected from the respondents. It is possible asking students questions about their attitude toward sexual assault will produce some ill effects (i.e., psychological harm). It is believed these will affect a small number of students and only a slight degree of psychological harm (e.g., distress from remembering a sexual assault victim they were previously affected by) will be experienced. The guards in place to prevent this include telling the students that they will be asked to read short sexual assault scenarios and ensuring them of voluntary participation. Also for those who do take the survey and experience ill effects, they will have the information for free counseling on campus.

The survey is self-administered (respondents fill out) and the respondents will be provided w/ an envelope for their surveys. (Informed) Consent sheets will be included on the first page of the survey for students to take with them. Signatures will not be obtained on the consent sheet, given that the risks are low and the collecting their signatures can cause the potential problem of breach of confidentiality.

The benefits of this project are two-fold: (1) as a teaching strategy, the student will learn how to develop and conduct a survey by actually administering one and (2) much information will be gained about sexual assault perceptions that will add to the literature on this topic.

**Consent Form**

**This study involves research and is being conducted by Dr. Donna Vandiver, a faculty member at TSU([vandiver@txstate.edu](mailto:vandiver@txstate.edu); 512-245-7907; Academic Hines, Office 105) and Jessica Rager, a TSU student (jr1510@txstate.edu). The purpose of the study is to assess TSU students’ perceptions of sexual assault.**

**You were selected as a potential participant for this research after a random sample of large classes (100+ students) were identified and your instructor agreed to allow us distribute the survey during his/her class. Anyone who is a Texas State Student and is over the age of 17 can take the survey.**

**It will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to answer approximately 30 survey questions regarding sexual assault. If you choose to take the survey, please fill out the questions and place the survey in the envelope provided. There are no intended benefits for those who fill out the survey. Your participation is voluntary—you may refuse to take the survey or quit at anytime for any reason without penalty. You may refuse to answer any question for any reason.**

**An example of a question that will be asked in this survey is as follows:**

Susan is walking home from the bar alone late at night when two men attack her in the street. The two perpetrators use force to remove Susan’s underwear. Susan tries to get away but the two men overpower her and use force to penetrate her.

Definitely Definitely

Rape NOT Rape

1 2 3 4 5

**Those who have been exposed to sexual assault in any way may feel psychological stress from reading questions that describe sexual assault situation. Students should be aware psychological services are available at TSU. More information can be found at** [**http://www.counseling.txstate.edu/**](http://www.counseling.txstate.edu/) **or by calling 512-245-2208. Their office is located at 5-4.1 LBJ Student Center. The services are free to registered students, though the number of sessions allowed may be limited.**

**The information collected in this survey is ANONYMOUS—no information can or will be linked directly to you. No one will be able to link your answers to your identity.**

**No compensation (money, coupons, extra credit) are being offered to students who participate.**

**The data collected for this research will be kept for five years. If students would like a copy of the results, please email Dr. Vandiver (vandiver@txstate.edu).**

**Pertinent questions about the research, research participants’ rights, and/or research-related injuries to participants should be directed to the IRB chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3414 –** [**lasser@txstate.edu**](mailto:lasser@txstate.edu)**), or to Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-2101).**

**This study has been approved by TSU Institutional Review Board; Approval Number XXXXX.**

**\*\*PLEASE REMOVE CONSENT SHEET AND KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS\*\*\***

**The following is a draft of the survey. It will be refined later.**

**Perception of Sexual Assault Survey**

1. Susan is walking home from the bar alone late at night when two men attack her in the street. The two perpetrators use force to remove Susan’s underwear. Susan tries to get away but the two men overpower her and use force to penetrate her.

Definitely Definitely

Rape NOT Rape

1 2 3 4 5

2. Susan is an openly gay female who is walking home from the bar alone late at night when two people attack her in the street. The two perpetrators use force to remove Susan’s underwear. Susan tries to get away but the two men over power her and use force to penetrate her.

Definitely Definitely

Rape NOT Rape

1 2 3 4 5

3. Susan was at a party with her friends and has had too much to drink. Susan lies down on the couch and passes out. Michael is a handsome male, who has always had a crush on Susan, he saw that Susan was extremely intoxicated and decided to make an advance towards her, while she is highly intoxicated and unable to comprehend any situation effectively, he climbs on top of her and has sex with her.

Definitely Definitely

Rape NOT Rape

1 2 3 4 5

4. Susan is 16 years and dating a 19 year old guy. She goes out with him in his new car. He takes her to a wooded area and has sex with her and she consents.

Definitely Definitely

Rape NOT Rape

1 2 3 4 5

5. Susan is at a party. She has always been known for having sex with a lot of partners. While at a party, she is flirting with all the guys. At the end of the night, she agrees to go for a walk with one of the guys. The guy decides that because Susan is known for being easy that he is going to take advantage of her with out asking her permission.

Definitely Definitely

Rape NOT Rape

1 2 3 4 5

6. Susan is at a party. She has always been known for having sex with a lot of partners. While at a party, she is flirting with all the guys. At the end of the night, she agrees to go for a walk with one of the guys. They both consent to take off all of their clothes. Susan has been leading him on this whole time but right before the guy gets to the point of penetration, she tells him “no” and that she cannot have sex with him, he ignores this and begins, she does not physically resist but continues to cry and request that he stops.

Definitely Definitely

Rape NOT Rape

1 2 3 4 5

7. Michael is at a party and sees Susan, a previous girlfriend whom he used to have sex with. After the two talk for a while, he physically forces her to have sex when she says she does not want to. His rationale was “Well, we have had sex before.”

Definitely Definitely

Rape NOT Rape

1 2 3 4 5

8. Michael has Susan in a room, on a bed, and has begun to have sex with her. Susan puts up no fight and offers no physical resistance; instead she lies there motionless, without making a sound, and cries softly. Susan waits until Michael has finished before making a move to leave the room, but at the doorway turns around and glares at Michael for several seconds. Then she leaves.

Definitely Definitely

Rape NOT Rape

1 2 3 4 5

9. Michael has Susan in his bedroom, both have been drinking heavily, he begins to take off her clothing and she in return helps him in this process of removing her clothing. Susan places his hands on her body and makes several advances at Michael, leading him to believe that sex is what she wants too. Michael begins to have sex with Susan, Susan begins to push him away but Michael holds her down and covers her mouth. Afterwards Susan stays in Michael’s room and talks to him for over an hour.

Definitely Definitely

Rape NOT Rape

1 2 3 4 5

10. Michael and Susan are husband and wife. Alone together in their home, Michael “initiates” foreplay, and Susan assists him in removing her clothes, fondling and caressing her body (even returning the favor a little bit herself); she “allows” sex to take place, even though she tells him “no, I am not in the mood” repeatedly. Although Susan was not herself “in the mood”, as a Michael’s wife she feels obligated and forced.

Definitely Definitely

Rape NOT Rape

1 2 3 4 5

11. Susan was at a party with her friends and has had too much to drink. Susan lies down on the couch and passes out. Michael, who recently contracted gonorrhea and is contagious, he has always had a crush on Susan, Michael saw that Susan was extremely intoxicated and decided to make an advance towards her, while she is highly intoxicated and unable to comprehend any situation effectively, he climbs on top of her and has sex with her.

Definitely Definitely

Rape NOT Rape

1 2 3 4 5

12. Susan was at a party with her friends and has had too much to drink. Susan decides to lie down on the couch and pass out. Michael saw that Susan was extremely intoxicated and decided to make an advance towards her, while she is highly intoxicated and unable to comprehend any situation effectively. Susan and Michael have been dating for over a year and have had sex several times; he lies on top of her and has sex with her.

Definitely Definitely

Rape NOT Rape

1 2 3 4 5

13. Susan has never had sex before. She decides to go to a party and have some drinks with her friends. Susan drinks too much and passes out from the alcohol. Michael has always had a crush on her, saw that Susan was extremely intoxicated and decided to make an advance towards her, while she was unable to comprehend any situation effectively, he climbed on top of her and had sex with her.

Definitely Definitely

Rape NOT Rape

1 2 3 4 5

***Note to IRB: The following questions are derived from The Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (Payne et al., 1999)***

A woman who is raped while she is drunk is at least somewhat responsible.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

Although most women wouldn’t admit it, they generally like being physically forced to have sex.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

If a woman is willing to “make out” with a guy, then it’s no big deal if he goes a little further and has sex with her.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

Many women secretly desire to be raped.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

If a woman doesn’t physically fight back, you can’t really say that it was rape.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

Men from nice middle-class homes almost never rape.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

Rape accusations are often used as a way of getting back at men.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

Usually, only women who dress sexy are raped.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

If the rapist doesn’t have a weapon, you really can’t call it a rape.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

Rape is unlikely to happen in a woman’s own neighborhood.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

Women tend to exaggerate how much rape affects them.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

A lot of women lead a man on and then they cry rape.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

A woman who “teases” men deserves anything that might happen.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

When women are raped, it’s often because the way they said “no” was unclear.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

Men don’t usually intend to force sex on a woman, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

A woman who dresses in skimpy clothes should not be surprised if a man tries to force her to have sex.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

Rape happens when a man’s sex drive gets out of control.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

Most rape and sexual assaults are committed by strangers.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

In Illinois, a 15 year-old can give consent to have sex.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

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If someone came to me and claimed that they were raped, my first reaction would be to not believe them.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

**Personal Information/ Demographics**

1. What race/ ethnicity do you consider yourself?

(Please check one response):

 African American

 Asian/Pacific Islander

 Hispanic

 Native American

 White

 Other (Please specify)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is your age?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your sex?

 Female

 Male

4. What is your current student status?

 Freshman

 Sophomore

 Junior

 Senior

 Graduate Student

5. How religious would you describe yourself?

Very religious Not at all religious

1 2 3 4 5

6. What is your current major?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**(**If you do not have one please put undecided**)**