

# COMMODI- FIELD

## BODIES

CONSTRUCTED VALUE SCHEMES ACROSS INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

JACK MAGNUS

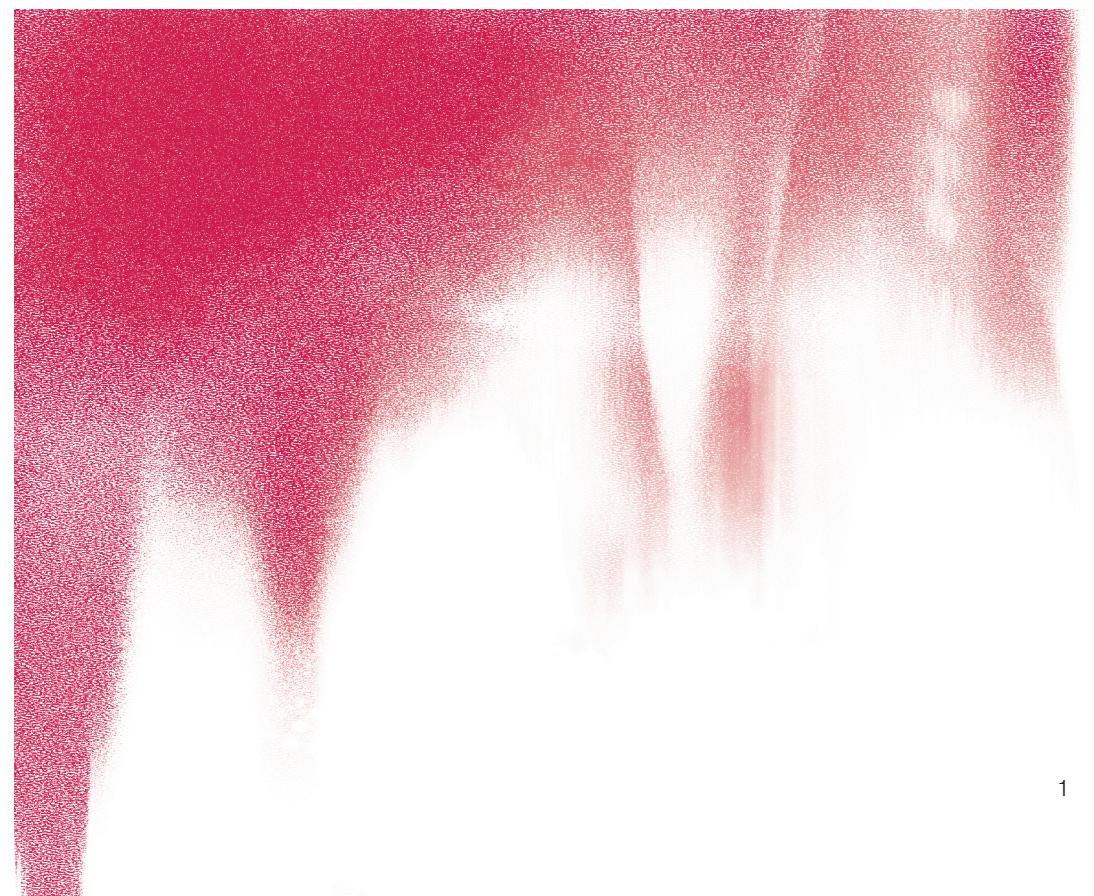
# ABSTRACT

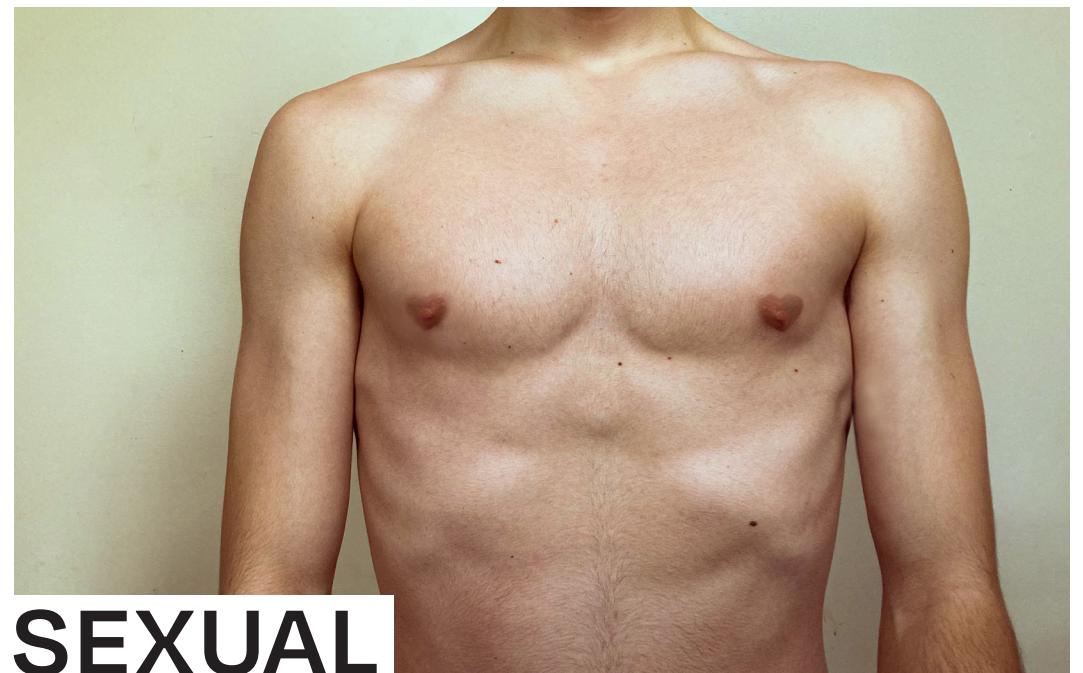
i

ncreasingly hypersexual narratives in digital and physical environments has warranted the need to understand how they affect the constructed value schemes of emerging adults. The complexities of these values are first constructed in digital media, then close social networks and spaces, and finally are internalized within the self. This research begins with a survey of existing analyses. Particular attention is given to hypersexual individuals and the resulting behavior and creation of self identity. Within sexual relationships, non sexual relationships, and the relationship with the self, the body of existing work is understood. The research ends with a survey distributed to fifty one individuals, aged nineteen to twenty three years old. Along with the survey were two, one on one interviews. The results found statistical relationships between effort in friendships and wellbeing, and frequency of sexual thoughts and perceived desirability of self. Conclusions were able to be made about the threats of more sexual environments on the target group, and how these can add detrimental narratives to existing social pressures.

nd creation of self identity. Within sexual relationships, non sexual relationships, and the relationship with the self, the body of existing work is understood. The research ends with a survey distributed to fifty one individuals, aged nineteen to twenty three years old. Along with the survey were two, one on one interviews. The results found statistical relationships between effort in friendships and wellbeing, and frequency of sexual thoughts and perceived desirability of self. Conclusions were able to be made about the threats of more sexual environments on the target group, and how these can add detrimental narratives to existing social pressures.

The complexity of modern social environments are influencing the way people behave and feel across their different relationships. Social metanarratives in these environments include those that exist with a higher level of toxicity and detriment. Specifically, hypersexual influences are more prevalent on and offline. The higher concentration of this messaging changes the way people understand their different relationships. As a result, feelings of an individual's value are warped and incongruent across sexual relationships, non-sexual relationships, and their relationship with the self. All of these relationships are then compared across the media and entertainment consumed, the social environments interacted in, and the internalization of these places within the self. With increasing difficulty to find satisfaction and validation, research was performed to better understand the impact of hypersexual influences on youth emerging into adulthood. Including literary research, survey design, and one on one interviewing, quantifiable and qualitative conclusions were made concerning an individual's constructed value systems across their interpersonal relationships.





## SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS

i

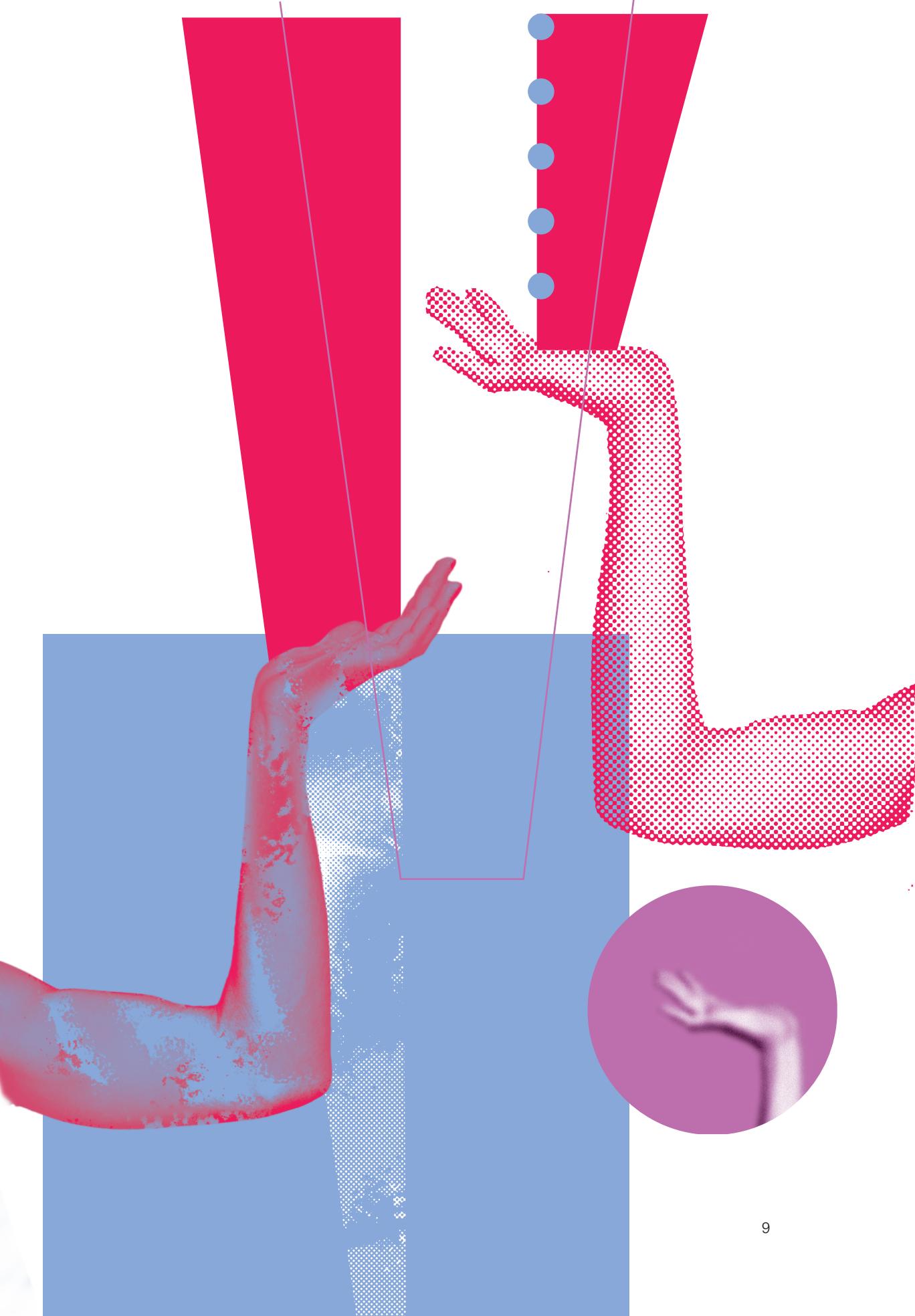
nterpersonal relationships begin with an individual's perception of others, where they belong in social narratives, and how they value their place in society. The social arena currently under evaluation for young adults has never been so large. Constant access to others is available by one on one connection, in person events, socially prioritized environments, online digital platforms, and social media. From romantic dates, to clubs and bars, to who people choose to connect with online, there is an increasing presence of connectedness. Beyond this connectivity, there are different perceived value systems existing in each environment. Although social places are more complex, they're all similarly more sexual. Specifically in media, hypersexuality has had an increasing prevalence that exists as unhealthy relationship portrayals, unhealthy behaviors of sex seeking, immediate gratification, and unrealistic fantasies. In real social environments, there is an increased sexual narrative that judges, profiles, and assumes. It also exists as warped priorities that place more value on sexual gratification. Relationships as evaluated by the individual are wrapped up in sexualization as well. This creates ties between sex and validation, promises unrealistic expectations, and reinforces feelings of fulfilment only through action with others.

# NON-SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS

a

An individual's support system is the next layer of interpersonal relationships that influence feelings of validation. In a hypersexual system, these relationships are portrayed in media and entertainment as unfulfilling. These relationships often lack narratives of platonic love, care, and respect. Unrepresented healthy support systems allow real social relationships to prioritize sexual partners over non-sexual partners. A mindset is then preserved that contributes to a lack of nurture and attention to non-sexual relationships.

The unpresent role of friendships within hypersexual systems, social narratives, and sense of self contributes to a poorly constructed support system. Digitally, the lack of presence is evident in consumed and interactive media. In all genres of entertainment, there is less representation of healthy, platonic love, care, and respect.<sup>28</sup> Friendships in media are often laced with masculine leads, and/or unfulfilling benefits.<sup>29</sup> Beyond digital spaces, there are social pressures that prioritize sex, seek fulfillment through sex, and lack mutual attention from non sexual partners. Internalized, this is evident by behaviors that desire sexual interaction in relationships and contribute to insecure support systems. Within hypersexual individuals, the ability to form meaningful, non-sexual relationships is greatly impacted; similar too is the ability to find secure feelings of attachment to non-sexual partners.<sup>30</sup> Although there is more presence and connectivity to non-sexual relationships, these support systems are often not at the forefront of an individual's constructed value schemes and attention.



Finally, the relationship people have with themselves, evaluated by themselves, is the most at risk. When influences from sexual relationships and non-sexual relationships impound the self, there are often conflicting and non-conventional value systems. Beyond this, these influences are generated from a complex social setting that includes digital and physical landscapes. Within the context of an increasing hypersexual narrative, there are an abundance of indicators presented to an individual that rank their value. In a hypersexual environment, there is witness to a loss of self control, a loss of self efficacy, and a loss of emotional wellbeing.<sup>36 37 38</sup> Especially

within the self, hypersexuality can cause a disruption in the ability to associate control. Feelings and behaviors are attributed to external sources, and what's internalized is a sense of shame related to an inability to control, affect, or stop these actions.<sup>39</sup> The increasing danger of presenting hypersexual influences to the self, is that there is considerable association with poor mental health and poor feelings of wellbeing.<sup>40</sup> Although consuming hypersexual content does not solidify hypersexuality, nor do these effects directly threaten those who aren't hypersexual, there are huge risks if self efficacy slips, feelings of doubt are harbored, or sexuality becomes out of control. The relationship with the self is the most fragile of all, and is the most internalized when it comes to feelings that are difficult to share with others. This makes complex and increasingly sexual environments coded with external narratives as an individual evaluates their sense of self.

