

# Topography of Human Erogenous Zones

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## Introduction

- “ Here we reveal detailed topographical organization of bodily regions sensitive to triggering sexual arousal by self-produced and external touching
- “ Touching a partner sexually may trigger and maintain their sexual arousal, thus preparing the partner physically for copulation and thus promoting sexual behaviour. It is therefore interesting to compare both sexes' self reports and perception of the opposite sex's erogenous zones to see, to which extent they correspond.
- “ If sexual touching only functions as a way to modulate sexual arousal, touching patterns should be concordant during masturbation and while having sex with partner. If touching patterns during masturbation and sex with partner differ, it might mean that touching during sexual interaction serves functions unrelated to

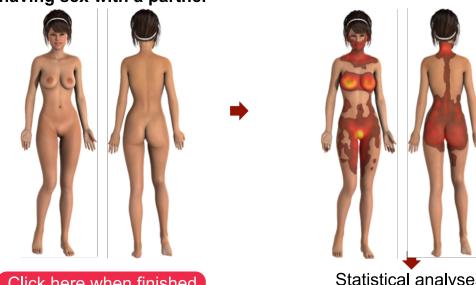
## Methods

704 Finnish participants (528 females, mean age = 26 years, SD = 6.5 years) used an online tool (Figure 1) to report their own erogenous zones and speculate on opposite sex members' erogenous zones while masturbating and having sex with partner. An independent sample of 88 volunteers (64 females, mean age = 26 years) participated in a control experiment mapping tactile and nociceptive sensitivity of different bodily regions.

### 1. Data acquisition with the emBODY tool

#### Initial screen with blank bodies

Use the pictures below to indicate the regions whose touching you would experience sexually arousing while having sex with a partner

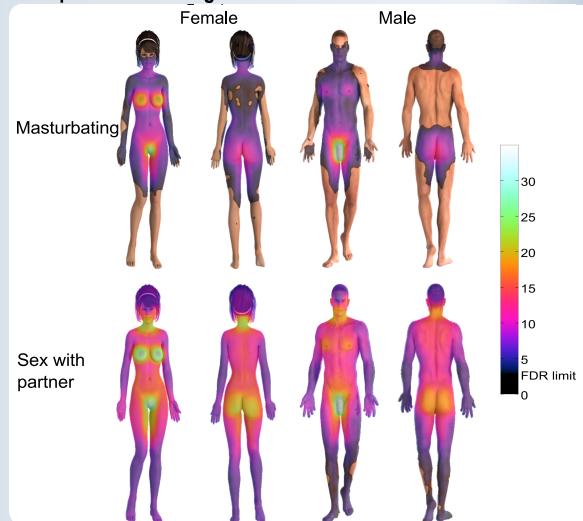


Click here when finished

#### Subject-wise erogenous zone maps (EZM)

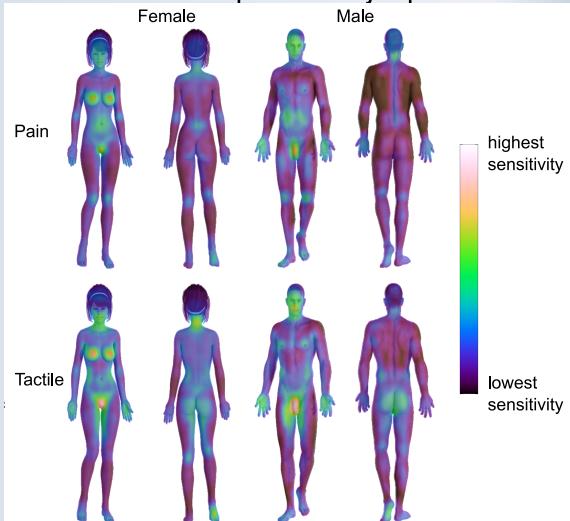
## Results

### 2. Maps of human erogenous zones



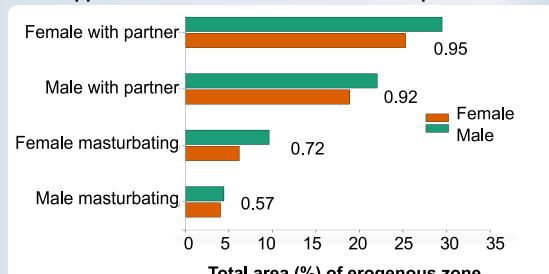
Maps of human erogenous zones during masturbation and sex with a partner. The data are thresholded at  $p < 0.05$ , FDR corrected. The colour bar indicates the t-statistic range in one sample test.

### 4. Mean tactile and nociceptive sensitivity maps



Mean tactile and nociceptive sensitivity maps for males and females. The data are shown on an arbitrary scale [0, 100], scaled individually for females and males, and are square root transformed to better visualize regional variation in the lower tail of the distribution. Tactile sensitivity correlates more strongly with erogenous zones (Fig. 2) than nociception (average correlations with all EZMs 0.64 and 0.32, respectively).

### 3. Participant predictions of total area of erogenous zones of the opposite sex is well matched with self reports



Effects of participant sex and touch type (masturbation vs. sex with partner) on the total area of erogenous zones in the male and female body. Number is the correlation between average predicted and reported topographies (all significant at  $p > 0.05$ ).

## Conclusions

- “ Whole human body supports triggering of sexual arousal by somatosensory stimulation.
- “ There is a clear topographical organization of core erogenous zones, which are engaged while masturbating, and extended erogenous zones, which are selectively used when having sex with a partner.
- “ Selectivity of extended erogenous zones might reflect the role of touching in establishment and maintenance of pair bonds.
- “ Tactile sensitivity is a good predictor of extended erogenous zones.

## Acknowledgements

Supported by Eemil Aaltonen foundation (personal grant to JS), European Research Council (Grant #313000 to LN) and Academy of Finland (MIND program grants #265915 to LN and #266187 to JKH)