[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [Template:Redirect](/wiki/Template:Redirect) [Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Redirects here](/wiki/Template:Redirects_here) [thumb|](/wiki/File:XXX_P_icon.png)[*XXX*](/wiki/X_rating) is used to designate pornographic material in the U.S. and other regions around the world.

**Pornography** (often abbreviated as "**porn**" or "**porno**" in informal usage) is the portrayal of [sexual](/wiki/Human_sexual_activity) subject matter for the purpose of [sexual arousal](/wiki/Sexual_arousal). Pornography may be presented in a variety of media, including [books](/wiki/Erotic_literature), [magazines](/wiki/Pornographic_magazine), postcards, photographs, sculpture, drawing, painting, animation, [sound recording](/wiki/Sound_recording_and_reproduction), [film](/wiki/Pornographic_film), video, and [video games](/wiki/Video_game). The term applies to the depiction of the act rather than the act itself, and so does not include live exhibitions like [sex shows](/wiki/Sex_show) and [striptease](/wiki/Striptease). The primary subjects of pornographic depictions are pornographic [models](/wiki/Model_(profession)), who pose for still photographs, and [pornographic actors](/wiki/Pornographic_film_actor) or porn stars, who perform in [pornographic films](/wiki/Pornographic_film). If dramatic skills are not involved, a performer in a porn film may also be called a model.

Various groups within society have considered depictions of a sexual nature [immoral](/wiki/Morality), [addictive](/wiki/Pornography_addiction) and noxious, labeling them pornographic, and attempting to have them suppressed under [obscenity](/wiki/Obscenity) and other laws, with varying degrees of success. Such works have also often been subject to [censorship](/wiki/Censorship) and other legal restraints to publication, display or possession. Such grounds and even the definition of pornography have differed in various historical, cultural, and national contexts.[[1]](#cite_note-1) Social attitudes towards the discussion and presentation of sexuality have become more tolerant and legal definitions of obscenity have become more limited, notably beginning in 1969 with [*Blue Movie*](/wiki/Blue_Movie) by [Andy Warhol](/wiki/Andy_Warhol), the first [adult erotic film](/wiki/Pornographic) depicting explicit [sex](/wiki/Sex) to receive wide theatrical release in the [United States](/wiki/United_States), and the subsequent [Golden Age of Porn](/wiki/Golden_Age_of_Porn),[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) leading to an industry for the [production](/wiki/Production_(economics)) and [consumption](/wiki/Consumption_(economics)) of pornography in the latter half of the 20th century. The introduction of [home video](/wiki/Home_video) and the [Internet](/wiki/Internet) saw a boom in the worldwide porn industry that generates billions of dollars annually. Commercialized pornography accounts for over US$2.5 billion in the United States alone,[[5]](#cite_note-5) including the production of various [media](/wiki/Multimedia) and associated [products](/wiki/Sex_toy) and [services](/wiki/Sex_work). This [industry](/wiki/Sex_industry) employs thousands of [performers](/wiki/Pornographic_film_actor) along with support and production staff. It is also followed by dedicated [industry publications](/wiki/Category:Business_magazines) and [trade groups](/wiki/Trade_association) as well as the mainstream press, private organizations ([watchdog groups](/wiki/Watchdog_group)), government agencies, and political organizations.<ref name=1999AVNWhitePaper>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> More recently, sites such as [Pornhub](/wiki/Pornhub), [RedTube](/wiki/RedTube) and [YouPorn](/wiki/YouPorn), have served as repositories for home-made or semi-professional pornography, made available free by its creators (who could be called [exhibitionists](/wiki/Exhibitionists)). It has presented a significant challenge to the commercial pornographic film industry.

Irrespective of the legal or social view of pornography, it has been used in a number of contexts. It is used, for example, at [fertility clinics](/wiki/Fertility_clinic) to stimulate [sperm donors](/wiki/Sperm_donor). Some couples use pornography at times for variety and to create a sexual interest or as part of [foreplay](/wiki/Foreplay). There is also some evidence that pornography can be used to treat [voyeurism](/wiki/Voyeurism).[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[7]](#cite_note-7)

## Contents

* 1 Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
* 2 History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
* 3 Classification[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 3.1 Subgenres[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
* 4 Commercialism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
  + 4.1 Economics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
    - 4.1.1 Non-commercial pornography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
  + 4.2 Technology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]
    - 4.2.1 Advancement[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]
    - 4.2.2 Computer-generated images and manipulations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]
    - 4.2.3 3D pornography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]
  + 4.3 Production and distribution by region[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]
* 5 Study and analysis[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]
  + 5.1 Effects[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]
  + 5.2 Statistics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]
* 6 Legal status[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]
  + 6.1 What is not pornography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]
  + 6.2 Copyright status[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]
* 7 Views on pornography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]
  + 7.1 Feminist views[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]
  + 7.2 Religious views[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]
* 8 See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]
  + 8.1 Government and legislation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]
  + 8.2 Lists[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]
* 9 References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]
* 10 Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]
  + 10.1 Advocacy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]
  + 10.2 Opposition[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]
  + 10.3 Neutral or mixed[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]
* 11 External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The word is similar to the [Modern Greek](/wiki/Modern_Greek) πορνογραφία (*pornographia*), which derives from the Greek words πόρνη (*pornē* "prostitute" and πορνεία *porneia* "[prostitution](/wiki/Prostitution)"[[8]](#cite_note-8)), and γράφειν (*graphein* "to write or to record", derived meaning "illustration", cf. "[graph](/wiki/Graphics)"), and the suffix -ία (*-ia*, meaning "state of", "property of", or "place of"), thus meaning "a written description or illustration of prostitutes or prostitution". No date is known for the first use of the word in Greek; the earliest attested, most related word one could find in Greek, is [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), *pornographos*, i.e. "someone writing of harlots", in the [*Deipnosophists*](/wiki/Deipnosophists) of [Athenaeus](/wiki/Athenaeus).[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10) The Modern Greek word *pornographia* is a translation of the French *pornographie*.[[11]](#cite_note-11) "*Pornographie*" was in use in the French language during the 1800s. The word did not enter the English language as the familiar word until 1857[[12]](#cite_note-12) or as a French import in [New Orleans](/wiki/New_Orleans) in 1842.[[13]](#cite_note-13)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Details](/wiki/Template:Details) [thumb|Oil lamp artifact depicting](/wiki/File:LampArtifactDoggystyle.jpg) [coitus more ferarum](/wiki/Doggy_style)

Depictions of a sexual nature are older than civilization as depictions such as the [venus figurines](/wiki/Venus_figurines) and [rock art](/wiki/Rock_art) have existed since [prehistoric](/wiki/Prehistory) times.[[14]](#cite_note-14) However, the concept of pornography as understood today did not exist until the [Victorian era](/wiki/Victorian_era). For example, the French [Impressionism](/wiki/Impressionism) painting by [Édouard Manet](/wiki/Édouard_Manet) titled [Olympia](/wiki/Olympia_(Manet)) was a nude picture of a French courtesan, literally a "prostitute picture". It was controversial at the time.

Nineteenth-century legislation eventually outlawed the publication, retail, and trafficking of certain writings and images regarded as pornographic and would order the destruction of shop and warehouse stock meant for sale; however, the private possession of and viewing of (some forms of) pornography was not made an offence until recent times.[[15]](#cite_note-15) When large-scale excavations of [Pompeii](/wiki/Pompeii) were undertaken in the 1860s, much of the [erotic art](/wiki/Erotic_art) of the [Romans](/wiki/Ancient_Rome) came to light, shocking the Victorians who saw themselves as the intellectual heirs of the [Roman Empire](/wiki/Roman_Empire). They did not know what to do with the frank depictions of [sexuality](/wiki/Human_sexuality) and endeavored to hide them away from everyone but upper-class scholars. The moveable objects were locked away in the [Secret Museum](/wiki/Secret_Museum,_Naples) in [Naples](/wiki/Naples) and what could not be removed was covered and cordoned off as to not corrupt the sensibilities of women, children, and the working classes.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[*Fanny Hill*](/wiki/Fanny_Hill) ([1748](/wiki/1748_in_literature)) is considered "the first original English [prose](/wiki/Prose) pornography, and the first pornography to use the form of the novel."[[16]](#cite_note-16) It is an [erotic](/wiki/Erotic_literature) [novel](/wiki/Novel) by [John Cleland](/wiki/John_Cleland) first published in [England](/wiki/England) as *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*.[[17]](#cite_note-17)[[18]](#cite_note-18) It is one of the most prosecuted and banned books in history.[[19]](#cite_note-19) The authors were charged with "corrupting the King's subjects."

The world's first law criminalizing pornography was the English [Obscene Publications Act 1857](/wiki/Obscene_Publications_Act_1857) enacted at the urging of the [Society for the Suppression of Vice](/wiki/Society_for_the_Suppression_of_Vice). The Act, which applied to the [United Kingdom and Ireland](/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland), made the sale of obscene material a statutory offence, giving the courts power to seize and destroy offending material. The American equivalent was the [Comstock Act](/wiki/Comstock_Act) of 1873<ref name=Comstock>*The Comstock Act* [Template:USStat](/wiki/Template:USStat)</ref>[[20]](#cite_note-20) which made it illegal to send any "obscene, lewd, and/or lascivious" materials through the mail. The English Act did not apply to [Scotland](/wiki/Scotland), where the [common law](/wiki/Common_law) continued to apply. However, neither the English nor the United States Act defined what constituted "obscene", leaving this for the courts to determine. Prior to the English Act, the publication of obscene material was treated as a [common law](/wiki/Common_law) misdemeanour[[21]](#cite_note-21) and effectively prosecuting authors and publishers was difficult even in cases where the material was clearly intended as pornography.

The Victorian attitude that pornography was for a select few can be seen in the wording of the [Hicklin test](/wiki/Hicklin_test) stemming from a court case in 1868 where it asks, "whether the tendency of the matter charged as obscenity is to deprave and corrupt those whose minds are open to such immoral influences." Despite the fact of their suppression, depictions of erotic imagery were common throughout history.<ref name=libido7>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

[Pornographic film](/wiki/Pornographic_film) production commenced almost immediately after the invention of the motion picture in 1895. Two of the earliest pioneers were [Eugène Pirou](/wiki/Eugène_Pirou) and [Albert Kirchner](/wiki/Albert_Kirchner). Kirchner directed the earliest surviving pornographic film for Pirou under the trade name "Léar". The 1896 film [*Le Coucher de la Mariée*](/wiki/Le_Coucher_de_la_Mariée) showed Louise Willy performing a [striptease](/wiki/Striptease). Pirou's film inspired a genre of risqué French films showing women disrobing and other filmmakers realised profits could be made from such films.[[22]](#cite_note-22)[[23]](#cite_note-23) Sexually explicit films opened producers and distributors to prosecution. Those that were made were produced illicitly by amateurs starting in the 1920s, primarily in France and the United States. Processing the film was risky as was their distribution. Distribution was strictly private.<ref name=history/><ref name=time>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> In 1969, [Denmark](/wiki/Pornography_in_Denmark) became the first country to abolish censorship, thereby decriminalizing pornography, which led to an explosion in investment and of commercially produced pornography. However, it continued to be banned in other countries, and had to be smuggled in, where it was sold "under the counter" or (sometimes) shown in "members only" cinema clubs.<ref name=history>[Template:Cite video](/wiki/Template:Cite_video) [Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback)</ref> Nonetheless, and also in 1969, [*Blue Movie*](/wiki/Blue_Movie) by [Andy Warhol](/wiki/Andy_Warhol), was the first [adult erotic film](/wiki/Pornographic) depicting explicit [sex](/wiki/Sex) to receive wide theatrical release in the [United States](/wiki/United_States).[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) The film was a seminal film in the [Golden Age of Porn](/wiki/Golden_Age_of_Porn) and, according to Warhol, a major influence in the making of [*Last Tango in Paris*](/wiki/Last_Tango_in_Paris), an internationally controversial erotic drama film, starring [Marlon Brando](/wiki/Marlon_Brando), and released a few years after *Blue Movie* was made.[[3]](#cite_note-3) The scholarly study of pornography, notably in [cultural studies](/wiki/Cultural_studies), is limited, perhaps due to [the controversy about the topic in feminism](/wiki/Feminist_views_of_pornography). The first peer-reviewed academic journal about the study of pornography, [*Porn Studies*](/wiki/Porn_Studies), was published in 2014.[[24]](#cite_note-24)

## Classification[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

Pornography is often distinguished from [erotica](/wiki/Erotica), which consists of the portrayal of sexuality with high-art aspirations, focusing also on feelings and emotions, while pornography involves the depiction of acts in a sensational manner, with the entire focus on the physical act, so as to arouse quick intense reactions.<ref name=MIT>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[25]](#cite_note-25)[[26]](#cite_note-26) Pornography is generally classified as either [softcore](/wiki/Softcore_pornography) or [hardcore](/wiki/Hardcore_pornography). A pornographic work is characterized as hardcore if it has any hardcore content, no matter how small. Both forms of pornography generally contain [nudity](/wiki/Nudity_in_film). Softcore pornography generally contains nudity or partial nudity in sexually suggestive situations, but without explicit sexual activity, [sexual penetration](/wiki/Sexual_penetration) or "extreme" [fetishism](/wiki/Sexual_fetish),<ref name=Amis>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> while hardcore pornography may contain graphic sexual activity and visible penetration,[[27]](#cite_note-27) including [unsimulated sex](/wiki/Unsimulated_sex) scenes.

### Subgenres[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Pornography encompasses a wide variety of genres. Pornography featuring heterosexual acts comprises the bulk of pornography and is "centred and invisible", marking the industry as heteronormative. However, a substantial portion of pornography is not normative, featuring more nonconventional forms of scenarios and sexual activity such as "'fat' porn, amateur porn, disabled porn, porn produced by women, queer porn, BDSM and body modification."[[28]](#cite_note-28) Pornography can be classified according to the physical characteristics of the participants, fetish, sexual orientation, etc., as well as the types of sexual activity featured. Reality and voyeur pornography, [animated](/wiki/Animation) videos, and legally prohibited acts also influence the classification of pornography. Pornography may fall into more than one genre. The genres of pornography are based on the type of activity featured and the category of participants, for example:

* [Alt porn](/wiki/Alt_porn)
* [Amateur pornography](/wiki/Amateur_pornography)
* [Ethnic pornography](/wiki/Ethnic_pornography)
* [Fetish pornography](/wiki/Sexual_fetishism)
* [Group sex](/wiki/Group_sex)
* [Reality pornography](/wiki/Reality_pornography)
* [Sexual-orientation](/wiki/Sexual_orientation)-based pornography
  + Straight porn (unless otherwise stated this is assumed in this article)
  + [Gay pornography](/wiki/Gay_pornography)
  + [Lesbian pornography](/wiki/Lesbian_pornography)
  + [Bisexual pornography](/wiki/Bisexual_pornography)

## Commercialism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

### Economics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Revenues of the adult industry in the United States are difficult to determine. In 1970, a Federal study estimated that the total retail value of hardcore pornography in the United States was no more than $10 million.[[29]](#cite_note-29) In 1998, [Forrester Research](/wiki/Forrester_Research) published a report on the online "adult content" industry estimating $750 million to $1 billion in annual revenue. As an unsourced aside, the Forrester study speculated on an industry-wide aggregate figure of $8–10 billion, which was repeated out of context in many news stories,[[30]](#cite_note-30) after being published in [Eric Schlosser's](/wiki/Eric_Schlosser) [book on the American black market](/wiki/Reefer_Madness_(2003_book)).[[31]](#cite_note-31) Studies in 2001 put the total (including video, pay-per-view, Internet and magazines) between $2.6 billion and $3.9 billion.[[5]](#cite_note-5) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the porn industry was believed to bring in more than $13 billion on a yearly basis in the United States.<ref name=Szymanski>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref>

[CNBC](/wiki/CNBC) has estimated that pornography was a $13 billion industry in the USA, with $3,075 being spent on porn every second and a new porn video being produced every 39 minutes.[[32]](#cite_note-32) A significant amount of pornographic video is shot in the [San Fernando Valley](/wiki/San_Fernando_Valley), which has been a pioneering region for producing adult films since the 1970s, and has since become home for various models, actors/actresses, production companies, and other assorted businesses involved in the production and distribution of pornography.

The pornography industry has been considered influential in deciding [format wars](/wiki/Format_war) in media, including being a factor in the [VHS](/wiki/VHS) vs. [Betamax](/wiki/Betamax) format war (the [videotape format war](/wiki/Videotape_format_war))[[33]](#cite_note-33)[[34]](#cite_note-34) and in the [Blu-ray](/wiki/Blu-ray) vs. [HD DVD](/wiki/HD_DVD) format war (the [high-def format war](/wiki/High_definition_optical_disc_format_war)).[[33]](#cite_note-33)[[34]](#cite_note-34)[[35]](#cite_note-35)

#### Non-commercial pornography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

In addition to the porn industry, there is a large amount of non-commercial pornography. This should be distinguished from commercial pornography falsely marketed as featuring "amateurs".

### Technology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

#### Advancement[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

Pornographers have taken advantage of each technological advance in the production and distribution of pornography. They have used lithographs, the printing press, and photography. Pornography is considered a driving force in the development of technologies from the [printing press](/wiki/Printing_press), through [photography](/wiki/Photography) (still and motion), to [satellite TV](/wiki/Satellite_television), other forms of [video](/wiki/Video), and the [Internet](/wiki/Internet). With the invention of tiny [cameras](/wiki/Camera) and wireless equipments [voyeur pornography](/wiki/Voyeur_pornography) is gaining ground.<ref name=2014AVNTech>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=GuidePornTech>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [Mobile cameras](/wiki/Camera_phone) are used to capture pornographic photos or videos, and forwarded as [MMS](/wiki/Multimedia_Messaging_Service), a practice known as [sexting](/wiki/Sexting).

#### Computer-generated images and manipulations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

Digital manipulation requires the use of source photographs, but some pornography is produced without human actors at all. The idea of completely [computer-generated](/wiki/Computer-generated_imagery) pornography was conceived very early as one of the most obvious areas of application for computer graphics and 3D rendering.

Until the late 1990s, digitally manipulated pornography could not be produced cost-effectively. In the early 2000s, it became a growing segment, as the modelling and animation software matured and the rendering capabilities of computers improved. As of 2004, computer-generated pornography depicting situations involving children and sex with [fictional characters](/wiki/Fictional_character), such as [Lara Croft](/wiki/Lara_Croft), is already produced on a limited scale. The October 2004 issue of [*Playboy*](/wiki/Playboy) featured topless pictures of the title character from the [*BloodRayne*](/wiki/BloodRayne) video game.[[36]](#cite_note-36)

#### 3D pornography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

Due to the popularity of 3D blockbusters in theaters such as [*Avatar*](/wiki/Avatar_(2009_film)) and [*How to Train Your Dragon*](/wiki/How_to_Train_Your_Dragon), companies are now looking to shoot pornography movies in 3D. The first case of this occurred in [Hong Kong](/wiki/Hong_Kong), when a group of filmmakers filmed [*3D Sex and Zen: Extreme Ecstasy*](/wiki/3D_Sex_and_Zen:_Extreme_Ecstasy) released in April 2011.[[37]](#cite_note-37)[[38]](#cite_note-38)

### Production and distribution by region[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The [production](/wiki/Filmmaking) and [distribution](/wiki/Distribution_(business)) of pornography are economic activities of some importance. The exact size of the economy of pornography and the influence that it has in political circles are matters of controversy.

In the United States, the sex film industry is centered in the [San Fernando Valley](/wiki/San_Fernando_Valley) of [Los Angeles](/wiki/Los_Angeles). In Europe, [Budapest](/wiki/Budapest) is regarded as the industry center.[[39]](#cite_note-39)[[40]](#cite_note-40)[[41]](#cite_note-41) Piracy, the illegal copying and distribution, of adult material is of great concern to the industry,<ref name=2009Tubesites>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> the subject of litigation, and formalized anti-piracy efforts.<ref name=2014Nightline>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=2014PiracyTake5th>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

## Study and analysis[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

### Effects[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Medref](/wiki/Template:Medref) Research concerning the effects of pornography is concerned with multiple outcomes.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Such research includes potential influences on [rape](/wiki/Rape), [domestic violence](/wiki/Domestic_violence), [sexual dysfunction](/wiki/Sexual_dysfunction), difficulties with [sexual relationships](/wiki/Sexual_relationship), and [child sexual abuse](/wiki/Child_sexual_abuse). Viewers of novel and extreme pornographic images may become [tolerant](/wiki/Drug_tolerance) to such images, which may impact sexual response.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Currently, there is no evidence that visual images and films are addictive.<ref name=krueger>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Several studies conclude the liberalization of porn in society may be associated with decreased rape and sexual violence rates, while others suggest no effect, or are inconclusive.[[43]](#cite_note-43)[[44]](#cite_note-44)[[45]](#cite_note-45)[[46]](#cite_note-46)[[47]](#cite_note-47)[[48]](#cite_note-48)[[49]](#cite_note-49) A 2012 academic study surveyed 308 young adult college women in romantic heterosexual relationships, examining the degree of correlation between their psychological and relational well-being and their partners' use of pornography.<ref name=Stewart>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> A negative correlation was found, which worsened for longer relationships in regard to the women's sexual satisfaction.

A following study examined the ways in which chronic porn use affects antecedents such as gender roles and levels of attachment among straight men in their romantic relationships.<ref name=Szymanski/> The study went on to link this to lower sexual satisfaction as well as a deterioration in the quality of the relationship.<ref name=Szymanski/> The point of pornographic content is to stimulate [sexual desire](/wiki/Sexual_desire) which as a result presents potential problems among couples.<ref name=Szymanski/> By porn affecting one’s gender roles, this enables problems that affect the viewers psychologically, their views of their own sexuality, how others view their sexuality, and can cause self-inflicted or outward violence.<ref name=Szymanski/> An antecedent found to be affected by porn use by men was emotional attachment as well as attachment style in relationships, which can lead to physical and emotional issues among couples.<ref name=Szymanski/> The men in this study tended to avoid intimacy with their partner, which then led to even more porn use.<ref name=Szymanski/> This was also linked to heightened anxiety in the relationship.<ref name=Szymanski/> Men with lower anxiety tend to have a more stable level of attachment, whereas those that are unstable are either overly or not at all attached.<ref name=Szymanski/> Men that display less attachment and more avoidance also showed higher instances of casual sex and more frequent viewings of porn.<ref name=Szymanski/> This also meant that these men tended to avoid romantic or serious relationships and the relationships they did engage in did not last long.<ref name=Szymanski/> The consequences of higher porn use by men in relationships showed a lower quality in their relationships and reduced satisfaction sexually, including displeasure with a partner’s appearance, the act of sex, and intimacy.<ref name=Szymanski/> This then led to emotional feelings of shame and sometimes resentment.<ref name=Szymanski/>

A meta-analysis of 22 studies found that pornography "consumption was associated with sexual aggression in the United States and internationally, among males and females, and in cross-sectional and longitudinal studies. Associations were stronger for verbal than physical sexual aggression, although both were significant. The general pattern of results suggested that violent content may be an exacerbating factor."[[50]](#cite_note-50)

### Statistics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

More than 70% of male internet users from 18 to 34 visit a pornographic site in a typical month.[[51]](#cite_note-51) A 2009 study published in the *Journal of Economic Perspectives* found that [Utah](/wiki/Utah) was the largest consumer of paid internet pornography per capita in the United States.[[52]](#cite_note-52)

## Legal status[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [Template:Sex and the Law](/wiki/Template:Sex_and_the_Law) [300px|thumb|left|World map of pornography (18+) laws](/wiki/File:Pornography_laws.svg) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) The legal status of pornography varies widely from country to country. Most countries allow at least some form of pornography. In some countries, softcore pornography is considered tame enough to be sold in general stores or to be shown on TV. Hardcore pornography, on the other hand, is usually regulated. The production and sale, and to a slightly lesser degree the possession, of [child pornography](/wiki/Child_pornography) is illegal in almost all countries, and some countries have restrictions on pornography depicting violence (see, for example, [rape pornography](/wiki/Rape_pornography)) or [animal pornography](/wiki/Animal_pornography), or both. [thumb|left|upright|Pornographic entertainment on display in a](/wiki/File:Peep_Show_by_David_Shankbone.jpg) [sex shop](/wiki/Sex_shop) window. There is usually a minimum age to go into pornographic stores. Most countries attempt to restrict minors' access to hardcore materials, limiting availability to [sex shops](/wiki/Sex_shop), mail-order, and television channels that parents can restrict, among other means. There is usually an age minimum for entrance to pornographic stores, or the materials are displayed partly covered or not displayed at all. More generally, [disseminating pornography to a minor](/wiki/Disseminating_pornography_to_a_minor) is often illegal. Many of these efforts have been rendered practically irrelevant by widely available [Internet pornography](/wiki/Internet_pornography). A [failed US law](/wiki/Child_Online_Protection_Act) would have made these same restrictions apply to the internet.

In the United States, a person receiving unwanted [commercial mail](/wiki/Direct_marketing) he or she deems pornographic (or otherwise offensive) may obtain a [Prohibitory Order](/wiki/Prohibitory_Order), either against all mail from a particular sender, or against all sexually explicit mail, by applying to the [United States Postal Service](/wiki/United_States_Postal_Service). There are recurring [urban legends](/wiki/Urban_legend) of [snuff movies](/wiki/Snuff_film), in which murders are filmed for pornographic purposes. Despite extensive work to ascertain the truth of these rumors, law enforcement officials have been unable to find any such works.

Some people, including pornography producer [Larry Flynt](/wiki/Larry_Flynt) and the writer [Salman Rushdie](/wiki/Salman_Rushdie),[[53]](#cite_note-53) have argued that pornography is vital to freedom and that a free and civilized society should be judged by its willingness to accept pornography.

The UK Government has criminalized possession of what it terms "[extreme pornography](/wiki/Section_63_of_the_Criminal_Justice_and_Immigration_Act_2008)" following the highly publicized [murder](/wiki/Murder) of [Jane Longhurst](/wiki/Murder_of_Jane_Longhurst).

[Child pornography](/wiki/Child_pornography) is illegal in most countries, with a person most commonly being a child until the age of 18 (though the age does vary). In those countries, any film or photo with a child subject in a sexual act is considered pornography and illegal.

Pornography can infringe into basic [human rights](/wiki/Human_rights) of those involved, especially when consent was not obtained. For example, [Revenge Porn](/wiki/Revenge_Porn) is a phenomenon where disgruntled sexual partners release images or video footage of intimate sexual activity, usually on the internet.[[54]](#cite_note-54) In many countries there has been a demand to make such activities specifically illegal carrying higher punishments than mere breach of privacy or image rights, or circulation of prurient material.[[55]](#cite_note-55)[[56]](#cite_note-56) As a result, some jurisdictions have enacted specific laws against "revenge porn".[[57]](#cite_note-57)

### What is not pornography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

In the U.S., a July 2014 criminal case decision in [Massachusetts](/wiki/Massachusetts) (COMMONWEALTH v. John REX.)<ref name=2014NatGeoNotporn>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> made a legal determination of what was not to be considered "pornography" and in this particular case "child pornography".<ref name=2014MACaseNotPorn>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> It was determined that photographs of naked children that were from sources such as [National Geographic](/wiki/National_Geographic_(magazine)) magazine, a sociology textbook, and a nudist catalog were not considered pornography in Massachusetts even while in the possession of a convicted and (at the time) incarcerated [sex offender](/wiki/Sex_offender).<ref name=2014MACaseNotPorn/>

### Copyright status[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

In the United States, some courts have applied US [copyright](/wiki/Copyright) protection to pornographic materials.<ref name=Gousse>Goussé, Caroline (2012-02-16). ["No Copyright Protection for Pornography: A Daring Response to File-Sharing Litigation"](http://www.ipbrief.net/2012/02/16/4803/). Intellectual Property Brief. Retrieved 2012-03-01.</ref>[[58]](#cite_note-58) Although the first US copyright law specifically did not cover obscene materials, the provision was removed subsequently.[Template:When](/wiki/Template:When) Most pornographic works are theoretically [work for hire](/wiki/Work_for_hire) meaning pornographic models do not receive statutory royalties for their performances. Of particular difficulty is the changing community attitudes of what is considered obscene, meaning that works could slip into and out of copyright protection based upon the prevailing standards of decency. This was not an issue with the copyright law up until 1972 when copyright protection required registration. When the law was changed to make copyright protection automatic, and for the life of the author.

Some courts have held that copyright protection effectively applies to works, whether they are obscene or not,[[59]](#cite_note-59) but not all courts have ruled the same way.[[60]](#cite_note-60) The copyright protection rights of pornography in the United States has again been challenged as late as February 2012.[[61]](#cite_note-61)[[62]](#cite_note-62)

## Views on pornography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|A](/wiki/File:La_grande_Epidemie_de_PORNOGRAPHIE.jpg) [caricature](/wiki/Caricature) on "the great epidemic of pornography, 19th-century French illustration." Views and opinions of pornography come in a variety of forms and from a diversity of demographics and societal groups. Opposition of the subject generally, though not exclusively,[[63]](#cite_note-63) comes from three main sources: [law](/wiki/Law), [feminism](/wiki/Feminism) and [religion](/wiki/Religion).

### Feminist views[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Many [feminists](/wiki/Feminism), including [Andrea Dworkin](/wiki/Andrea_Dworkin) and [Catharine MacKinnon](/wiki/Catharine_MacKinnon), argue that all pornography is demeaning to women or that it contributes to [violence against women](/wiki/Violence_against_women), both in its production and in its consumption. The production of pornography, they argue, entails the physical, psychological, or economic coercion of the women who perform in it, and where they argue that the abuse and exploitation of women is rampant; in its consumption, they charge that pornography eroticizes the domination, humiliation and coercion of women, and reinforces sexual and cultural attitudes that are complicit in [rape](/wiki/Rape) and [sexual harassment](/wiki/Sexual_harassment).<ref name=stanford-shrage>[Shrage, Laurie](/wiki/Laurie_Shrage) (Fall 2015), "[Feminist perspectives on sex markets: pornography](http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminist-sex-markets/#Por)", [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>[[64]](#cite_note-64)[[65]](#cite_note-65) They charge that pornography presents a severely distorted image of sexual relations, and reinforces sex myths; that it always shows women as readily available and desiring to engage in sex at any time, with any man, on men's terms, always responding positively to any advances men make.[[66]](#cite_note-66) They argue that because pornography often shows women enjoying and desiring to be violently attacked by men, saying "no" when they actually want sex, fighting back but then ending up enjoying the act – this can affect the public understanding of legal issues such as [consent](/wiki/Consent) to sexual relations.[[67]](#cite_note-67) In contrast to these objections, other [feminist](/wiki/Feminist) scholars argue that the lesbian feminist movement in the 1980s was good for women in the porn industry.<ref name=Ziv>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> As more women entered the developmental side of the industry, this allowed women to gear porn more towards women because they knew what women wanted, both for actresses and the audience.<ref name=Ziv/> This is believed to be a good thing because for such a long time, the porn industry has been directed by men for men.<ref name=Ziv/> This also sparked the arrival of making lesbian porn for lesbians instead of men.<ref name=Ziv/>

Furthermore, many feminists argue that the advent of VCR and consumer video allowed for the possibility of feminist pornography.[[68]](#cite_note-68) Consumer video made it possible for the distribution and consumption of video pornography to locate women as legitimate consumers of pornography. Tristan Taormino says that feminist porn is "all about creating a fair working environment and empowering everyone involved."[[69]](#cite_note-69) Feminist porn directors are interested in challenging representations of men and women, as well as providing sexually-empowering imagery that features many kinds of bodies.[[70]](#cite_note-70)

### Religious views[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Religious organizations have been important in bringing about political action against pornography.[[71]](#cite_note-71) In the United States, religious beliefs affect the formation of political beliefs which concern pornography.[[72]](#cite_note-72)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal) [Template:Div col](/wiki/Template:Div_col)

* [Adult movie theater](/wiki/Adult_movie_theater)
* [Adult video arcade](/wiki/Adult_video_arcade)
* [Cartoon pornography](/wiki/Cartoon_pornography)
* [Erotic literature](/wiki/Erotic_literature)
* [Erotica](/wiki/Erotica)
* [Golden Age of Porn](/wiki/Golden_Age_of_Porn)
* [History of erotic photography](/wiki/History_of_erotic_photography)
* [Internet pornography](/wiki/Internet_pornography)
* [Mormon pornography](/wiki/Mormon_pornography)
* [Sex in advertising](/wiki/Sex_in_advertising)
* [Sex-positive feminism](/wiki/Sex-positive_feminism)
* [Sex worker](/wiki/Sex_worker)
  + [Pornographic film actor](/wiki/Pornographic_film_actor)
* [Women's erotica](/wiki/Women's_erotica)
* [X rating](/wiki/X_rating), sometimes referred to as "XXX"

[Template:Div col end](/wiki/Template:Div_col_end)

### Government and legislation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

* [Antipornography Civil Rights Ordinance](/wiki/Antipornography_Civil_Rights_Ordinance)
* [Meese Report](/wiki/Meese_Report), 1986 U.S. Attorney General's Commission on Pornography
* [President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography](/wiki/President's_Commission_on_Obscenity_and_Pornography), 1969, United States
* [Stanley v. Georgia](/wiki/Stanley_v._Georgia), U.S. Supreme Court case that established a right to pornography
* [Williams Committee](/wiki/Committee_on_Obscenity_and_Film_Censorship), 1979 U.K. Committee on Obscenity and Film Censorship

### Lists[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

* [List of authors of erotic works](/wiki/List_of_authors_of_erotic_works)
* [List of pornographic book publishers](/wiki/List_of_pornographic_book_publishers)
* [List of pornographic film studios](/wiki/List_of_pornographic_film_studios)
* [List of pornographic magazines](/wiki/List_of_pornographic_magazines)
* [Lists of pornographic actors](/wiki/Lists_of_pornographic_actors)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Refbegin](/wiki/Template:Refbegin)

### Advocacy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book) Both of Bright's books challenge any equations between feminism and anti-pornography positions.
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news) Student run newspaper.
* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)
* [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal) Performance artists and literary theorists who challenge Dworkin and MacKinnon.
* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web) Defends the availability of pornography, and condemns feminist anti-pornography campaigns.
* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)
* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)
* [Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

*Review of Strossen's book*: [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)

* [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)
* [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal) Critique of Stoltenberg and Dworkin's positions on pornography and power.

### Opposition[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book) Assiter advocates seeing pornography as epitomizing a wider problem of oppression, exploitation and inequality which needs to be better understood.
* [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal) An argument for approaches to end harm to women caused by pornography.
* [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal) (Online version before inclusion in an issue.) An illustration of Catharine Mackinnon's theory that pornography silence's women's speech, this illustration differs from one given by [Rae Langton](/wiki/Rae_Helen_Langton) (below).
* [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal) A critique of the pornographic industry within a [Kantian](/wiki/Immanuel_Kant#Moral_philosophy) ethical framework.
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book) A variety of essays that try to assess ways that pornography may take advantage of men.
* [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal) [Pdf.](http://web.archive.org/web/20150919105752/http://web.mit.edu/langton/www/pubs/SpeechActs.pdf) A description of Catharine Mackinnon's theory that pornography silence's women's speech, this description differs from the one given by Alex Davies (above).
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal) [Pdf.](http://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1034&context=ylpr) An argument that pornography is one element of an unjust institution of the subordination of women to men.
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation) [Preview.](https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=rxE8FQzjpYMC&pg=PA181) An argument that pornography silences women therefore acting as an infringement of free speech (see Davies above, and Langton, also above).
* [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)
* [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal) A defence of the Dworkin-MacKinnon definition and condemnation of pornography employing putatively relatively rigorous analysis.

*See also*: [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal) A criticism of Vadas' paper.

* [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal) An argument that pornography increases women's vulnerability to rape.
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book) A representation of the causal connections between pornography and violence towards women.
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

*Also as*: [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

### Neutral or mixed[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book) Collection of papers from 1982 conference; visible and divisive split between anti-pornography activists and lesbian S&M theorists.

[Template:Refend](/wiki/Template:Refend)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Commons](/wiki/Template:Commons) [Template:Sister](/wiki/Template:Sister) [Template:Wiktionary](/wiki/Template:Wiktionary) [Template:Wikiquote](/wiki/Template:Wikiquote) **Commentary**

* [Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news) Interactive web site companion to a [*Frontline*](/wiki/Frontline_(U.S._TV_series)) documentary exploring the pornography industry within the United States.

**Technology**

* [From teledildonics to interactive porn: the future of sex in a digital age](http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/jun/06/teledildonics-interactive-porn-sex-in-digital-age) (2014-06-06), [*The Guardian*](/wiki/Theguardian.com)

**Economics**

* [Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)

**Government**

* [Kutchinsky, Berl](/wiki/Berl_Kutchinsky), Professor of Criminology: [The first law that legalized pornography](http://www.fanny-hill.net/html/o1a_danish_pornography_laws.htm) (Denmark)

**History**

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

**Sociology**

* [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)
* [Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)

[Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Pornography](/wiki/Category:Pornography) [Category:Sexuality](/wiki/Category:Sexuality)