
Symposium WA-1
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Risk Factors of Sexual Aggression: Evidence across Nations and Genders

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Sexual aggression has long been recognized as a major problem across the world. In order to develop effective strategies for prevention, we need to know more about the factors that are associated with an increased probability of sexual aggression. The proposed symposium will bring together evidence from four countries (Germany, Russia, United Kingdom and United States) that sheds light on risk factors of sexual aggression at the individual, interpersonal and societal levels. Moreover, it will broaden the predominant perspective of men's sexual aggression against women by including two presentations that look at women's sexual aggression against men. Five contributions are proposed for the symposium, as detailed below. A sixth timeslot will be used for a general discussion with the audience to explore directions for future research as well as promising approaches to the prevention of sexual aggression.

Three contributions will focus on risk factors of men's sexual aggression. Viki and Thomä examine cognitive antecedents of sexual aggression, focusing on the role of sexist attitudes and the normative acceptance of sexual aggression. Abbey et al. differentiate between men who use verbal coercion vs. exploit women's intoxication and examine differential risk factors of each aggressive strategy. White presents findings from a longitudinal study that analyzed patterns of sexual and nonsexual aggression over time and identified biographical and behavioral risk factors of sexual aggression.

Two further contributions extend the scope to women's sexual aggression. Krahe presents parallel data on the risk factors of men's and women's sexual aggression, stressing the role of sexual scripts. Anderson et al. contribute data on Russian women's propensity toward sexual aggression examined in the context of socio-structural variables.

In combination, the five contributions assembled in this symposium will present a multi-faceted data base on sexual aggression across nations and genders. The final time slot will be used for a general discussion with the audience.

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