Sex and Sexuality in NYC-2014
Age and Sexualizaton: You Can Take a Deep Breath (Really!)
Melanie Hinck, FYS Anthropology 100 – The Ethnography of Youth and Justice in New York City – Professors Curtis and Marcus

Introduction
Commentators, scholars and policymakers have identified youth “sexualization” as an escalating social problem tied to internet communication and social media. Conservatives have viewed it as dangerous, immoral, and potentially damaging, while Liberals have been less pessimistic. We wondered whether things have really changed that much. Responses to the question “at what age did you first have sex” and how many friends have used the internet to procure sex with strangers suggest that America needs to stop, take a deep breath and calm down.

Methods
766 interviews were completed by 101 students enrolled in ANT100
An analysis of 424 young people age 18-24 in the social networks of first-year college students is presented
Literature reviewed focused on the intersections between intimacy, sexuality, adolescence, and political-economy

Conclusions
Respondents reported a median age of 17 for first sexual intercourse and a majority reported no use of the internet to “hook up”. Research suggests little change in age of virginity-lost over the past half century and slightly higher ages of first sexual intercourse since the advent of the internet, calling into question the moral panic. America, take a deep breath, already.

References
Introduction

Body modification is a gendered domain. In the West, tattooing has historically been identified with deviant and marginal male populations, while piercing attaches to more mainstream female adornment. However, these gender antipodes are shifting in reflection of changing gender roles and socialization. Extensive questions about gender, sexuality and body modification suggest that significant gender differences remain, but in a surprising and changed form.

Methods

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Literature reviewed focused on the intersections between intimacy, sexuality, adolescence, and political-economy

Composite scores were concatenated for all questions addressing body modification – maximum possible score 55

Discussion/Conclusions

Respondents were asked if they would consider or had already had body modifications of varied sorts, including tattooing, piercing, surgery, and injection-based augmentations involving the face, body, and pubic area. In nearly all dimensions women were more favorable to such procedures. Considering the vast literature on female body image it may be inferred that women are more insecure about their bodies as they are. However, an equally ubiquitous literature on fashion and identity suggests greater freedom and confidence afforded to women in using their bodies as sites of play and creativity. Separated questions about body hair removal suggest confirmation of data on body modification.

References


**Introduction**

Elizabeth Bernstein has argued, in a widely cited book and several articles that sex work is increasingly about marketing intimacy and unique qualities of the self. She has described this as “sex work for the middle classes” – white collar professionalized prostitution. We surveyed over 1000 female commercial sex providers advertising on the internet to gauge the prevalence of this type of marketing of self that has been described as “the girlfriend experience” of GFE.

**Methods**

More than 150 students from 6 separate freshman classes extracted information from ads that had been downloaded from Backpage.com and Rentboy.com. Multiple metatagging by students from several classes was used to ensure the fidelity of the data since each ad was metatagged more than once.

**Findings**

“Asian” commercial sex providers working in “spas” (McSex-work) are the majority of the sex for sale observed on the internet. These providers overwhelmingly advertise generic fuck-me-fast sex. Promoted as foreign and exotic, these women have no specified country or nationality, no specified likes, dislikes, personal quirks, language competencies or special traits. They are the diametric opposite of the girl friend experience described by Bernstein and her followers as the harvest of the struggle for intimacy in post-modern late capitalism.

**Discussion**

While some sectors of the sex industry clearly conform to the model being promoted by Elizabeth Bernstein and her followers that highlights the increased opportunities for middle class women and men to draw on professional training, skills and marketing of self, the majority of internet sex continues to be based on sexual and racial stereotyping and colonial fantasies of mysterious Asian women. This marketing of submissive post-colonial pleasures suggests skilled labor, perhaps, but certainly not the bourgeoisieification of sex work.

**Conclusions**

Asian ads on Backpage (n=434)

- Barbershop: 9%
- Independent: 37%
- Not Obvious: 41%
- Spa: 13%

Latinas ads on Backpage (n=49)

- Barbershop: 12%
- Independent: 32%
- Not Obvious: 49%
- Spa: 6%

White ads on Backpage (n=38)

- Barbershop: 13%
- Independent: 47%
- Not Obvious: 37%
- Spa: 2%

Black ads on Backpage (n=36)

- Barbershop: 14%
- Independent: 47%
- Not Obvious: 31%
- Spa: 8%
Introduction
This Study examines the attitudes, orientations and self-reported behaviors of young New Yorkers, 18-24, with regard to sex and sexuality. The question “were you in love the first time you had sex” was meant to gauge the currently held values of respondents about the importance of love in their sex lives.

Methods
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- An analysis of 424 young people age 18-24 in the social networks of first-year college students is presented
- Literature reviewed focused on the intersections between intimacy, sexuality, adolescence, and political-economy

In Love the First Time You Had Sex
Males/Females

In Love the First Time You Had Sex
Race/Ethnicity

Discussion
African Americans and West Indians report lower percentages of love in their first sexual encounter than Whites, Latin@s and Asian Americans. Predictably, men reported far lower rates of love in their first sexual encounter than women. Gender and race stereotyping around such statistics is ubiquitous in news media and disreputable scholarship. However, conclusions about the affective content of early sexual experiences based upon retrospective reporting should be approached with caution. Such reports may tell us more about later sexual experiences and the new expectations they have generated with regard to sexually-based kinship than what was actually experienced during early sexual encounters.

Conclusions
Low rates reported for “in love” in the first sexual encounter among African Americans and West Indians confirm research indicating skewed black marriage markets and pessimism about the durability of long term commitments in face of the structural inequality of American caste-color oppression and its attendant mass incarceration, economic inequality, and reduced human development outcomes for these populations.
Gender, Jobs and Careers in the Online Sex Business
Rabia Javed
FYS Anthropology 100 – The Ethnography of Youth and Justice in New York City – Professors Curtis and Marcus

Introduction
Prostitution is said to be becoming more mainstream and that it is packaged in ways that make it seem more than just sex. Examining online sex ads, this study looks at gender differences and the professionalization of sex work as a career.

Methods
More than 150 students from 6 separate freshman classes extracted information from ads that had been downloaded from Backpage.com and Rentboy.com. Multiple metatagging by students from several classes was used to ensure the fidelity of the data since each ad was metatagged more than once.

Survey Findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Backpage: Age of Single Providers</td>
<td>n=655</td>
<td>18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Backpage: Girlfriend Experience (GFE) Scale</td>
<td>n=985</td>
<td>Just Sex 2 3 4 Girlfriend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rentboy: Age of Single Providers</td>
<td>n=369</td>
<td>18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rentboy: Boyfriend Experience (BFE) Scale</td>
<td>n=467</td>
<td>Just Sex 2 3 4 Boyfriend</td>
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Discussion
Findings from the data suggest that men rather than women are better able to take advantage of the internet, and more of them appear to have success selling BFE experiences. The idea that sex work for women is a career with a future is not supported by the data from this study.

References
Research Questions
Many say that American society is both racist and sexist. Does the sex industry reflect this claim? What evidence of it at work in the sex business?

Methods
More than 150 students from 6 separate freshman classes extracted information from ads that had been downloaded from Backpage.com and Rentboy.com. Multiple metatagging by students from several classes was used to ensure the fidelity of the data since each ad was metatagged more than once.

Sexual Preferences

Conclusions
Racism, sexism and discrimination are evident in online sex markets, but not nearly to the extent that is prevalent in society at large.
Gender socialization creates different conditions under which individuals develop their sexual orientation. For men the process of going outside hetero-normative models is different from that of women. Past research has observed that lesbians are socially less visible than gay men and bisexuality often has a different meaning and context for women than for men, leaving women’s sexuality more fluid. This study examined some of the ways this may be true for young people today.

**Methods**

- Careful study of the statistical data gained through surveys.
- In-depth study of literature related to women’s sexuality.
- Analysis of data from literature to back up individual thought.

**Findings**

![Gender and Sexual Orientation of "Non-Straight" Sample](chart.png)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Bi-curious</th>
<th>Bisexual</th>
<th>Gay/lesbian</th>
<th>Not Sure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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<td>Female</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>6</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources**


**Discussion**

In the surveys provided by the students of Anthropology 100 (private 1 on 1 surveys); it showed that out of 18 participants who stated that they were bisexual, 13 were female and only 5 were men. A study was done by Thompson and Morgan in the year 2008, it shows that women tend to declare themselves bisexual, rather than lesbian or straight. In the Journal for Bisexuality, women reported more pressure to declare as bisexual and to engage in performativity tied to this identification.

**Conclusions**

Through studying literature and statistical data, one can draw the conclusion that women declare themselves bisexual because it has become something of a norm. Recent research by Thompson and Morgan suggests that women, when in private, are more likely say they are bisexual than lesbian or straight. This suggests that social forces that have been observed for a long time may be yielding a new norm for young women.