

RUNNING HEAD: IBSA FACTORS AND MOTIVATORS

iPredator: Image-based Sexual Abuse Risk Factors and Motivators

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Abstract

Image-based sexual abuse (IBSA) can be defined as the non-consensual sharing or threatening to share of nude or sexual images of another person. This is one of the first studies examining how demographic characteristics (gender, sexual orientation), personality traits (Dark Tetrad), and attitudes (aggrieved entitlement, sexual entitlement, sexual image abuse myth acceptance) predict the likelihood of engaging in IBSA perpetration and victimization. In a sample of 816 undergraduate students (72.7% female and 23.3% male), approximately 15% of them had at some point in their life, distributed and/or threatened to distribute nude or sexual pictures of someone else without their consent and 1 in 3 had experienced IBSA victimization. Higher psychopathy or narcissism scores were associated with an increased likelihood of having engaged in IBSA perpetration. Additionally, those with no history of victimization were 70% less likely to have engaged in IBSA perpetration compared to those who had experienced someone disseminating their intimate image without consent themselves. These results suggest that a cyclic relationship between IBSA victimization exists, where victims of IBSA may turn to perpetration, and IBSA perpetrators may leave themselves vulnerable to future victimization. The challenges surrounding IBSA policy and legislation highlight the importance of understanding the factors and motivators associated with IBSA perpetration.

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List of Abbreviations

HSAQ: Hanson Sex Attitude Questionnaire

IBSA: Image-Based Sexual Abuse

NCSI: Non-Consensual Sexual Image

PSMU: Problematic Social Media Use

PTSD: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

RPPS: Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale

RP: Revenge Pornography

SD3: Short Dark Triad

SD4: Short Dark Tetrad

SIAMA: Sexual Image Abuse Myth Acceptance

TFSV: Technology Facilitated Sexual Violence

iPredator: Image-based Sexual Abuse Factors and Motivators

It is estimated that there are more than 3.6 billion people with access to the internet, so in other words, roughly 56.1% of the world's population and 81% of the developed world are online (World Internet User Statistics, 2019). Recent reports suggest that the average adult spends 5.9 hours a day on digital devices, including smartphones, laptops, and other connected devices, like game consoles (Meeker, 2018). On average, more than 40% of the online time is spent on communication and social media apps like Facebook, which translates to more than 25 hours a month spent connecting with others online (Hwong, 2018). This surge of increased Internet access has brought along changes in mate selection with the Internet now representing one of the most popular places to find a romantic partner (Rosenfeld & Thomas, 2012). In fact, over the last few years the field of online dating has exploded, with online dating websites (e.g. Match.com, eHarmony, etc.) and dating mobile applications (e.g. Tinder, Bumble, etc.) gaining hundreds of thousands of active members. Online dating can offer significant benefits and has generated new forms of dating and as a result, sexual behaviour (Clemens et al., 2015; Finkel et al., 2012). As the rapid technological changes shift the cultural landscape and nature of interpersonal communication, it is crucial to consider how digital technologies could potentially be used as tools to perpetuate psychological and sexual harm. In general, online interactions have been shown to be capable of lowering inhibitions, accelerating intimacy, and allowing individuals to produce an identity for themselves that may not correspond with reality (Greenfield, 1999; O'Sullivan, 2014). This might produce the optimal hunting grounds for individuals who are prone to deception and favor multiple, exploitative, short-term relationships. However, to date, little research has explored the personal factors and characteristics that might motivate such behaviours. In this study, I will explore different personality factors,

characteristics, and attitudes that could potentially play a significant role in the perpetration and/or victimization of a specific form of technology facilitated sexual violence (TFSV), image-based sexual abuse (IBSA).

Life and Dating in the Online World

The widespread prevalence of sexual violence among young adults is alarming, as it could place them on a path of chronic violence, either as perpetrators or victims. In fact, it is widely accepted that sexual violence and harassment constitute serious public health issues and are recognized as significant human rights problems (World Health Organization, 2013). Global estimates published by the World Health Organization indicate that one in three women have experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetime by a partner, family member, friend, or stranger (World Health Organization, 2013). Estimates on male victims of sexual abuse are not as clear, but some research suggests as many as one in six men have experienced sexual victimization at some point in their lifetime (Finkelhor et al., 1990). Growing acceptance also exists for the well-documented problem of sexual violence in university campuses (e.g., Koss et al., 1987; Krebs et al., 2016). In fact, a meta-analysis of studies from 27 European countries reported that up to 80% of male and 40% of female students had perpetuated sexually aggressive behaviours (Krahé et al., 2014). Experience of sexual harassment can have very negative consequences on the victim that include emotional distress, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and reduced self-esteem (Larsen & Fitzgerald, 2011; Willness et al., 2007).

It is perhaps not surprising that as the way young adults communicate and form relationships evolves, so do the ways sexual harm is perpetuated. Thus, there is a real need to extend the boundaries of what is considered sexual harassment and abuse and to acknowledge how the cyber environment can cultivate such behaviours. This inclusive approach requires more

research into the dynamics between TFSV perpetration and other generally accepted risk factors of offline sexual abuse, and into the prevalence, incidence, duration, and effects of TFSV victimization. Such research could later be used to inform policy and legislation to better protect and serve the victims of TFSV. It is also necessary to acknowledge the unique challenges that arise when conducting research or forming policy and legislation on TFSV (Roberts, 2008).

Similar to other cases of cyber-crime, investigating cases of TFSV can be problematic (Roberts, 2008). This is because the victim and perpetrator might be separated geographically and so issues with determining jurisdiction, as well as applicable potential sentences arise (Roberts, 2008). In general, TFSV challenges the notion of the need for physical proximity in order for harm to occur. In cases of TFSV, sexual abuse, may be perpetrated online, but the impact it can have on the victims is very real and just as pronounced as if they were experienced face-to-face, or as Brown (2006) put it: “[the] endlessly circulating, shifting, pixels affect *real lives... real humiliations* and human pains are generated...”(p. 233, emphasis original). Thus, it becomes apparent that in order for the criminal justice system to be able to effectively respond to cases of TFSV, laws that recognize the cross-jurisdictional nature of the crime need to be formulated (Roberts, 2008). This is dependent on the cooperation between jurisdiction that is based on a common, clear understanding of the types of behaviour that represent TFSV and an appreciation of the serious harm it can inflict upon its victims.

Technology Facilitated Sexual Violence – Terms and Definitions

A plethora of terms, such as “cyberstalking”, “cybervictimization”, or “cyber harassment”, are used almost interchangeably in the broader research literature to describe online sexually abusive behaviours. However, such terms can simultaneously be too broad, as they do not differentiate between different types of abuse, or too specific, as they often focus on a

specific form of abuse ignoring others. Therefore, a term that could better capture the broader array of sexually abusive behaviours involving technology while clearly defining dimensions that can distinguish between different behaviours was needed. Technology facilitated sexual violence (TFSV) refers to criminal, civil, or otherwise harmful, sexually aggressive, harassing, or coercive behaviours that are perpetuated with the aid of digital communication technology (Henry & Powell, 2018). Using existing legislation on stalking, sexual harassment, and hate speech in offline contexts as general guidelines, Henry and Powell organized TFSV into five distinct, but interconnected, dimensions: (1) online sexual harassment, (2) gender- and sexuality-based harassment, (3) cyber-obsessive pursuit (cyberstalking), (4) the use of a carriage service to perpetrate a sexual assault or coerce an unwanted sexual experience, and (5) image-based sexual exploitation. Despite the potential overlap between these dimensions and the broader view some research on them takes, it is important to highlight and have conceptual clarity on their distinctions so as to better guide not only research endeavors but the formulation of policy and legislation. Next, I will discuss each dimension of TFSV separately and provide a definition for it informed by previous research and guided from other, often legal, conventional definitions. A discussion on previous work on the nature, prevalence rates, and potential impact of each dimension will be included.

Online Sexual Harassment

Drawing from legal statutes, a more narrow definition of online sexual harassment is that of unwanted sexual attention in online spaces (Henry & Powell, 2018). This could include any form of unsolicited behaviours that communicate explicit sexual interest and that take place through virtual contact in online public forums or chat rooms, or through private communications using a digital media device, like a mobile phone, or through any other type of

Internet websites (Barak, 2005; Henry & Powell, 2018). Research on online sexual harassment has mostly focused on children and adolescent victims (e.g., Livingstone & Smith, 2014; Mitchell et al., 2001, 2007; Ybarra et al., 2006) or perpetrators (e.g., Jennings et al., 2012; Pereira et al., 2016; Ybarra & Mitchell, 2004, 2007). There is some research done on adult samples, however, that can offer a general estimate of online sexual harassment victimization and perpetration amongst adults. For example, Ballard and Welch (2017), in a community sample, found that 23% of their participants ($N = 151$) had experienced sexual harassment while playing multiplayer online games. Goodson and colleagues (2001), found that in a sample of college students, 24% of the female and 8% of the male participants felt that they had been sexually harassed during online conversations ($N = 506$). Further, in a sample of Dutch adults ($N = 1026$), around 5% of male and 7% of female participants had received unwanted requests to talk about sex or do something sexual (Baumgartner et al., 2010). On the higher end of the spectrum, a study using a sample of female university students in Egypt ($N = 2350$) found that 80% of them had experienced at least one form of online sexual harassment in the past 6 months (Arafa et al., 2017).

These prevalence rates of online sexual harassment are worrisome when taking into consideration the well-established negative impact that conventional harassment can have. Research on workplace harassment suggests that experiencing sexual harassment increases financial stress, precipitates job change, and can significantly alter the victim's career attainment (McLauhlin et al., 2017). Additionally, recent research suggests that victims of sexual harassment were more than 2 times more likely to experience a negative outcome regarding their mental health (Östergren et al., 2018). Within the context of online interactions, individuals who had been victims of cyberbullying (i.e., bullying online) were found to be more likely to

experience suicidal ideation and scored higher on other depression, anxiety, and distress measures compared to those who had not (Schenk & Fremouw, 2012). Online harassment victimization within the context of a romantic relationship is accompanied by increased feelings of depression and anxiety (Lindsay et al., 2016.). Another important consideration when discussing the impact of online harassment victimization is the response that victims encounter, which more often than not includes a form of victim blaming (Sugiura & Smith, 2019). A similar pattern is observed in the framing of online harassment, sexual or otherwise, on media coverage that often reinforces silencing strategies that attempt to remove the victim from participation in online public spaces, by advising them to completely disengage and ignore their harassers (Lumsden & Morgan, 2017). It has to be noted, that given the fact that research on online sexual harassment is in its infancy, as well as the broadness of the term, the specificities of the impact on the victim are yet to be empirically established. That being said, based on the effect of sexual harassment in different contexts, and other forms of online harassment, it is presumed to be overall negative and to correlate with the mental wellness of the victim specifically negatively.

Gender- and Sexuality- Based Harassment

Gender- and sexuality- based harassment refers to any form of unwelcome comments that aim to insult or cause distress to another person because of their gender or sexuality (Henry & Powell, 2018). This type of harassment is by no means novel, but the perceived anonymity and often mob-like mentality of the internet appears to have breathed new life in it. Forms of gender- and sexuality- based harassment include, but are not limited to, threats of sexual violence like rape, hate speech, the use of online discussion boards to promote rape-supportive attitudes, reputation harming lies, and cyber-attacks that shut down blogs and websites (Citron, 2009; Henry & Powell, 2018). Although at first glance instances of harassment online might appear to

be isolated or random, anonymous cyber-mobs tend to systematically and disproportionately target women, members of the LGBTQ+, and people of colour (Citron, 2009).

This type of harassment is particularly evident in the gaming community. Research has shown that female gamers are more likely to experience abuse or sexual harassment from other players and are more likely to report being called names with sexual meaning (Ballard & Welch, 2017). In addition, a study showed that female voices were more likely to receive negative comments and treatment from the other players (Kuznekoff & Rose, 2013). Perhaps, as a response to this, female players are much more likely to engage in gender masking, an attempt to conceal their true gender identity through the use of male or gender neutral usernames and avatars (Fox & Tang, 2017). This could indicate that women make decisions, often before they even start playing, to avoid gender-specific harassment (Fox & Tang, 2017). The pervasive gender-specific harassment in the gaming community is exemplified by the event known as #GamerGate (Mortensen, 2018). Some of the main targets of this online harassment campaign were game designer Zoe Quinn, feminist critic Anita Starksian, game developer Brianna Wu, and actress Felicia Day who all had their personal information and address published online (i.e., they were doxed), and as a result had to receive protection or leave their homes (Mortensen, 2018).

Another form of gender-specific harassment that is becoming increasingly more popular is the posting of misogynistic threads on blogs, forums, and websites such as Incels.me, /r/redpill, the pick-up artist community etc., that are collectively commonly referred to as the manosphere. Despite some conflicting agendas and tribalism, these groups unify over a common vehement opposition to feminism, a general antagonistic attitude towards women, and the use of a discourse so hyperbolically misogynistic that it was been dubbed as “Rapeglish” (Jane, 2014).

Such discourse is often reframed as “acceptable” and a form of uniquely technologically-bound type of humor of little consequence (Drakett et al., 2018). However, it is of great importance to not overlook online misogynistic rhetoric or online harassment, sexual or otherwise, of women and marginalized groups. This is because, similarly to different forms of TFSV, the effects of this form of gender-specific harassment are not restricted to the cyberspace. An egregious example of this is the van attack in Toronto on April 23, 2018 (Mehler Paperny & Saminather, 2018). Shortly after posting on his Facebook wall the message: “The Incel Rebellion has begun!”, Alek Minassian drove a van through a crowd, killing 10 and injuring 16 (Mehler et al., 2018). It is believed that Minassian was inspired by Elliot Rogers, who stabbed and shot 6 people to death near the UCLA campus, after posting his manifesto online, in which he asserted that his perceived rejection by women was what drove him to his actions (Larkin, 2018). Taken together, it appears that gender-specific rhetoric in the form of rape threats and misogynistic discourse is thriving on the cyberspace. However, despite an intuitive sense that is also supported by anecdotal and media reports, no studies have examined the prevalence rates of this specific form of gender-based harassment (Henry & Powell, 2018).

Cyber Obsessive Pursuit (Cyberstalking)

Cyber obsessive pursuit, or as is more commonly referred to, cyberstalking, is defined as an extension of offline forms of stalking that incorporate the use of information and communication technology, like the internet, in order to harass, intimidate, and/or cause fear and distress (Henry & Powell, 2018). Similar to offline methods of criminal harassment and stalking, cyberstalking is predatory in nature and is characterized by repeated, unwanted contact that can make the victim feel afraid for their own personal safety (Henry & Powell, 2018).

Prevalence rates of cyberstalking vary considerably across studies, with victimization rates ranging from as low as 4% (Alexy et al., 2005) to as high as 82% (Bocij, 2002). In fact, research on the prevalence of cyberstalking has been the target of harsh criticism with some researchers claiming that these estimates “[...] represent little more than guesswork and extrapolation” (Spitzberg & Hoobler, 2002, p. 76). This is partly because most surveys do not allow a distinction between cyberstalking and other stalking behaviours and combine telephone calls, mail, and electronic communication into a single category (Roberts, 2008). Another reason for the large discrepancies found in these prevalence rates is the inconsistency of definitions used to describe cyberstalking (Reyns et al., 2012). For example, research utilizing a more restrictive definition of cyberstalking, like a requirement for a particular duration of unwanted contacts, reports lower prevalence rates that are consistently less than 10% (e.g., Dreßing et al., 2014; Finkelhor et al., 2000; Finn, 2004; Wolak et al., 2007). Unsurprisingly, on the other hand, in research using more general criteria approximately a quarter to half of the sampled participant are reported to have been victimized by cyberstalking (e.g., Reyns et al., 2012; Spitzberg & Hoobler, 2002; Strawhun et al., 2013).

In general, across studies, the impact of cyberstalking on the victims' well-being appears to be comparable to that of offline, conventional forms of stalking. More specifically, similar negative psychosomatic, psychological, and social consequences are reported by those who have experienced cyberstalking and those who have experienced offline stalking (Dreßing et al., 2014). This includes feelings of inner unrest, sleep disorders, feelings of helplessness, headaches, and depression or panic attacks (Dreßing et al., 2014). Additionally, cyberstalking victimization has also been associated with feelings of isolation, irritability, and guilt, as well as, higher levels of psychological distress than the general population (Short et al., 2015). Finally, cyberstalking

victimization, especially by an ex- or current partner have been shown to be predictive of psychological trauma (Hensler-McGinnis, 2008). Thus, the empirical data underlining the significant negative impact of cyberstalking on the victims highlights the seriousness of this type of cybercrime.

The use of a carriage service to perpetrate a sexual assault or coerce an unwanted sexual experience

In this section I will discuss predatory sexual behaviours that perpetuate unwelcome sexual experiences through the use of digital communication devices that are not covered by one of the other dimensions. First, “sextortion”, refers to sexual coercion using blackmail, bribery, or threats to pressure the victim in unwanted sex acts (Barak, 2005, p. 80). Sextortion usually entails threats of releasing intimate, sexual pictures of the victim to their social or professional circle with the primary objective of obtaining additional, and often increasingly more explicit, sexual content (Humelnicu & Humelnicu, 2017; Wittes et al., 2016). Often, the initial sexual images of the victims reached the hands of the sextortionists without their knowledge or consent (Wolak, 2016). This highlights the wide use of hacking techniques in sextortion, like the use of a Trojan horse that can install malware and give access to the victim’s files as well as webcam to the perpetrator (Humelnicu & Humelnicu, 2017). Using published news stories of both adult or underage victims and perpetrators, Wittes and colleagues (2016) found 80 cases of sextortion with an estimate of 3000 to 6,500 victims. This highlights that, similarly to other sex crime perpetrators, “sextortionists” are highly prolific, repeat offenders, with some of them targeting hundreds of victims (Wittes et al., 2016). Additionally, despite the identified perpetrators being uniformly male and the vast majority of the adult victims being female, a sizable percentage of the underage victims were male (Wittes et al., 2016). The impact of sextortion victimization can

be devastating, leaving victims in a constant state of anxiety, fear, and helplessness and feeling as if they were sexual slaves (Humelnicu & Humelnicu, 2017). Additionally, there have been widely reported cases in the media with victims of sextortion committing suicide as a direct result of their victimization (e.g., Megas, 2018; Reavy, 2019; The Independent, 2019). Taken together, it becomes apparent that despite the wide media coverage of sextortion and its potentially devastating impact as is implied by anecdotal cases, the empirical research on this topic is very limited and more efforts need to be put towards understanding this form of TFSV and supporting its victims.

Even less is known about the two other forms of technology-facilitated sexual experiences falling under this dimension of TFSV: perpetrators of sexual abuse using online resources like dating apps to initiate contact and arrange meeting in person potential victims before they sexually assault or soliciting and arranging a third party to engage in sexually abusive behaviours using technology (Henry & Powell, 2018). Only scarce research exists on this topic, and most of what we know comes from reports from law enforcement forces and sexual assault services (Henry & Powell, 2014; Powell & Henry, 2018).

Image-Based Sexual Abuse

In the media, but also in the empirical literature, the term IBSA is often referred to interchangeably with revenge porn. However, this definition is restrictive, both in the form of perpetration that it describes, as well as the motivation behind it (Maddocks, 2018). As new forms of abuse using images online were identified and the knowledge behind the motivation for engaging in revenge porn became more nuanced and moved away from the simple “scorned lover” explanation, new definitions to better capture these behaviours were formulated. One of the most popular terms in research for this type of behaviour is “non-consensual pornography”,

which is defined as the disclosure of sexually explicit images and/or video in the absence of consent and for no legitimate reason (Maddock, 2018). This definition puts emphasis on the idea of consent, thus, drawing conceptual connections to other non-consensual acts. However, some scholars argue that the word “pornography” should be removed from the term since the images being circulated were not created for public consumption (Maddock, 2018). Harper and colleagues (2019) proposed a taxonomic approach and put forward the definition of non-consensual sexual image offending (NCSI) that describes a range of behaviour falling under the same umbrella term. This definition is broad enough to encapsulate a wide range of behaviours, while not making any strong assertions about the motivators behind the described offence.

Finally, IBSA, refers to the non-consensual creation, distribution, or threat of distribution of sexually explicit images and covers an almost identical range of harms as NCSI offending (Maddock, 2018; McGlynn et al., 2017). The broadness of this definition allows for a wider range of behaviours to be captured and moves the conversation of what constitutes IBSA forward. The main difference between the aforementioned definitions lies on the framing of the event and the emphasis. Terms like NCSI and non-consensual pornography, by not explicitly naming the sexually abusive harms experienced by the victims, seemingly take the focus away from the abusive impact of the perpetrated actions and do not acknowledge how they represent a form of sexual violation, abuse, and/or exploitation (Powell et al., 2018). For the above reasons, in this paper, I will use the term “image-based sexual abuse” that is also embraced by other researchers in the field (DeKeseredy & Schwartz, 2016; Farries & Sturm, 2019; Powell et al., 2019). In this paper, I will explore the characteristics of perpetrators of IBSA in general, that are particularly pertinent to forms of TFSV, cyber-flashing, deepfake media productions, and the non-consensual dissemination of nude or sexual images or videos (i.e., revenge pornography).

Cyber-flashing refers to the sending of unsolicited, unwanted, explicit sexual or nude images of oneself to someone else using digital media, like text, apps (i.e., Snapchat, Twitter or Instagram direct messaging), or even digital technologies like Bluetooth or Apple's AirDrop feature (McGlynn et al., 2017). Receiving such unsolicited sexual images can be considered as a form of sexual harassment (Hayes & Dragiewicz, 2018; Waling & Pym, 2019). This behaviour is considered distinct from the solicited and exchange of sexual messages, videos or images, also known as "sexting" between consensual adults (for a review on sexting in young adults see: Drouin et al., 2013). However, it has to be noted that even consensual sexting between adults may leave the individual vulnerable for later victimization to revenge pornography. Interestingly, qualitative studies show that female victims are more likely to be held responsible for their pictures being shared with others without their consent, with the reasoning that they voluntarily and on their own accord took the pictures in the first place (Burkett, 2015; Dobson & Ringrose, 2016; Walker & Sleath, 2017). Receiving unsolicited sexual images is increasingly common when online dating, to the point where many women report that receiving such an image is often the first form of communication between them and the sender (Ley, 2016). In fact, a recent survey in Britain polling more than 2000 women and more than 1700 men, found that 41% of the female responders had received an unsolicited sexually explicit picture of male genitals (Smith, 2018). Yet, only 22% of the men polled reported ever sending such a picture (Smith, 2018). To date, most research on the topic of unsolicited sexual images has focused on the response of women receiving what is colloquially known as "dick pics" and suggests that women overwhelmingly object to receiving such pictures (e.g., Hayes & Dragiewicz, 2018; Mandau, 2019; Salter, 2016; Waling & Pym, 2019).

Deepfake media productions, refer to the use of visual editing software, like Photoshop, or more technologically advanced methods, like machine learning tools, to doctor a non-explicit image of a person into sexually explicit material (McGlynn et al., 2017). In these situations, the image of the face/head of the victim will be superimposed onto a still image or video of sexualized material (McGlynn et al., 2017). Examples of deepfakes include a Tupac hologram performing at Coachella, the popular prank where Nicholas Cage replaces the faces of other actors in iconic movie scenes, and doctored videos of Barack Obama lip-syncing. As amusing as deepfakes may appear based on these examples, a darker side of this technology exists. Worries have already been raised over the use of deepfakes for the spreading of misinformation in politics and their potentially vast destabilizing impact (Chesney & Citron, 2019). Although these are all valid concerns that need to be taken seriously and addressed swiftly, policy should also closely examine the use of deepfake technology for the production of non-consensual pornography, which reportedly accounts for 96% of the total deepfake videos found online (Ajder et al., 2019). As these tools become ever more sophisticated and user-friendly, it is important to consider how deepfake technology can be used as a tool for the perpetration and perpetuation of technology-facilitated sexual violence (TFSV). Alarmingly, the technical threshold required to produce deepfake content is constantly reduced. For example, the face-swapping source code used in the deepfake algorithm is publicly available at no cost on the open-source code repository GitHub for anyone to download and use at their convenience. Alternatively, for those less technology-savvy, deepfake applications and software like, FakeApp, Dublicat, or ZAO that require little to no coding skills have been developed. Finally, reports indicate that there are even service portals that generate deepfake video as requested for a price as low as \$2.99 (Ajder et al., 2019). All this indicates that creating a pornographic video

using deepfake pornography is becoming increasingly easier and that there are stakeholders that are in prime position to get significant financial gain by the creation and distribution of deepfake pornography. This surge in the accessibility and commodification of deepfake technology leaves public figures and private citizens vulnerable to victimization. Currently, anyone with an online presence and pictures of themselves on social media, may appear without their consent, or even knowledge, in a pornographic video.

The colloquial term revenge pornography generally refers to the non-consensual distribution or threat of distribution of physical or digital media of explicit, intimate content. In Canada, the publication of an intimate image of a person without their consent is punishable by law and can lead to a sentence of up to five years in prison (Criminal Code of Canada, Section 162.1). Pinpointing the exact prevalence of victimization or perpetration of this form of IBSA is challenging because of the variations in terminology and definitions of non-consensual sharing both in the literature and in legislation (Walker & Sleath, 2017). When adult samples were asked if their intimate sexual pictures were shared without their consent online or privately between 1-25% of them responded affirmatively (Gámez-Guadix et al., 2015; Henry et al., 2018; Marganski & Melander, 2018; Powell & Henry, 2016). Generally, higher rates were associated with intimate pictures shared without consent in private with others, and lower rates referring to intimate pictures shared without consent online (Gámez-Guadix et al., 2015; Marganski & Melander, 2018; Powell & Henry, 2016). Typically, women report higher rates of victimization, and men higher rates of perpetration (Henry et al., 2019). Finally, when examining the association between sexual orientation and non-consensual sharing of nude or sexual pictures, research seems to suggest that members of the LGBTQ+ community are at higher risk of being victimized (Priebe & Svedin, 2012). Pictures uploaded online can be shared and re-shared

hundreds of times on different platforms resulting in web searches of the victim's name becoming dominated by these images, making it all the more likely for the victim's friends, family, associates or acquaintances to come across them (Franks, 2014). As a result, the negative impact on the victim can be devastating. For instance, one in three employers said that finding provocative images of a prospective employee online is one of the main reasons that would prevent them from hiring them (Ryan, 2010). This negative impact includes experiencing extreme feelings of humiliation and shame, verbal and physical harassment, or stalking (Citron & Franks, 2014). Concerns over the mental health of the victims have also been raised since research suggests that those reporting experiencing the distribution or threats of distribution of their private pictures showed levels of psychological distress consistent with a diagnosis of moderate to severe depression, anxiety disorder, or PTSD (Bates, 2017; Cripps, 2016; Henry et al., 2018). This type of IBSA victimization has also been associated with feelings of distress and reduced self-esteem (Priebe & Svedin, 2012), as well as higher rates of alcohol and drug use (Patrick et al., 2015).

Theoretical Understanding of IBSA

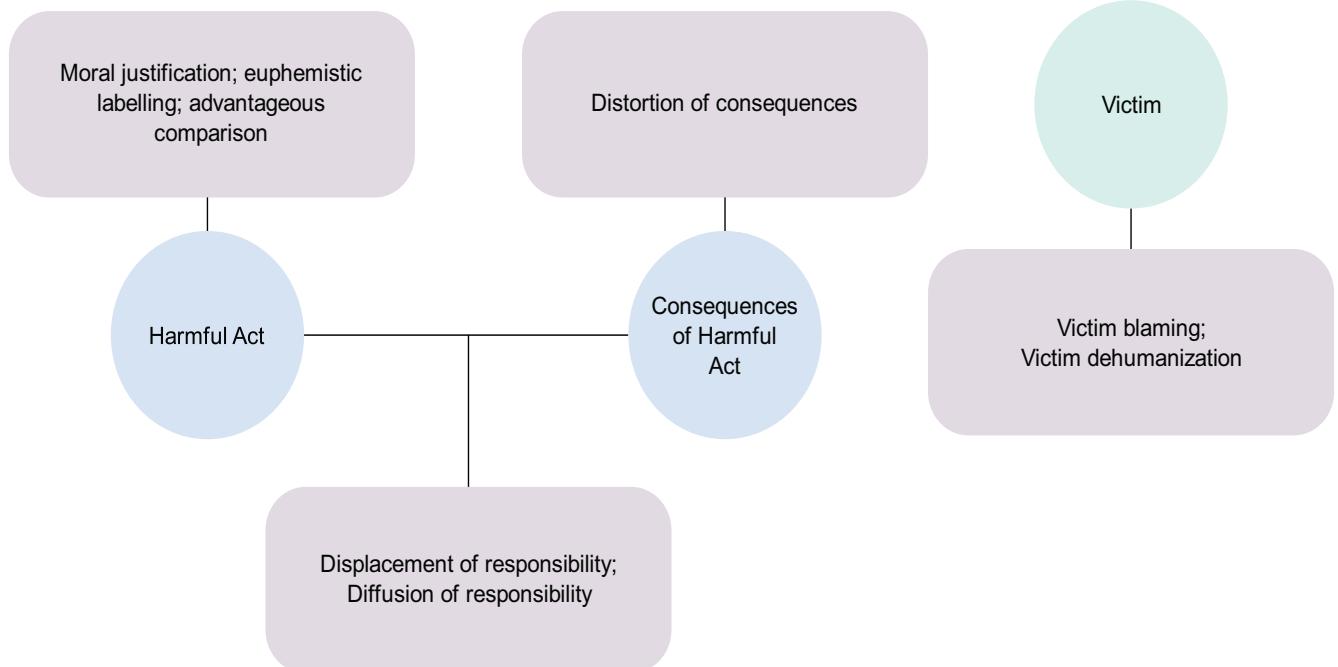
According to the social cognitive theory, people constantly regulate their own thoughts, feelings, and actions, by comparing them against their internal moral standards (Bandura, 1990, 1999). Acting maliciously goes directly against internalized and cultural moral standards and can seriously challenge self-image notions and produce internal conflict and tension. In order to eliminate these adverse feelings, individuals may employ social cognitive processes that will allow them to transform wrongful, harmful, and antisocial behaviors to something less morally reprehensible. By switching off the innate tendency to evaluate one's own actions as right or wrong, moral disengagement allows individuals to dismiss moral self-sanctions that would

otherwise prohibit them from engaging in antisocial behaviors. Bandura noted that it is a lot easier to cause harm to another person when the harm is not readily visible to the perpetrator either due to distance or time between the harmful act and the consequent harm (Bandura, 2002). Consequently, moral disengagement may be more prevalent in the cyberspace which provides affordances that put artificial or real distance between perpetrators and victims (Runions & Bak, 2015). In addition to that, the lack of non-verbal or para-linguistic social-emotional cues, the ease of masking one's identity, and the perceived presence of an audience that will validate and support the perpetrator's behavior may also contribute to higher rates of moral disengagement online (Meter et al., 2020; Runions & Bak, 2015). A recent meta-analysis found that moral disengagement had one of the strongest correlations with cyberbullying perpetration ($r = .27$) (Kowalski et al., 2014). The positive association between cyberaggression and moral disengagement has been demonstrated in a variety of cultural contexts, including samples of Australian (Robson & Witenberg, 2013), German (Perren & Sticca, 2011; Wachs, 2012), Chinese (Wang et al., 2016, 2017), Italian (Renati et al., 2012), and American (Meter et al., 2020; Meter & Bauman, 2018) adolescents and young adults. In the context of sexual violence, moral disengagement could be employed as a cognitive defense employed by perpetrators to exonerate their actions while blaming the victim, a process that could be highlighted by the acceptance of rape myths (Bandura, 1990; Page & Pina, 2015). The empirical or theoretical application of moral disengagement on explaining sexual violence may be limited (Page et al., 2016; Page & Pina, 2015). That being said, moral disengagement offers a promising framework to promote a better understanding of the cognitive processes that facilitate the perpetration and perpetuation of sexual violence (Page & Pina, 2015).

Moral disengagement groups eight different mechanisms that are used to convince oneself that their actions are not morally reprehensible. Figure 1 summarizes the main points in self-regulation that moral disengagement may be employed. This includes when the harmful act is perpetrated, at which point the perpetrator may downplay what they did by comparing it to another act that is even more wrong morally, using euphemistic language or by attempting to find a moral justification for their action. The next set of moral disengagement mechanisms is employed when the harmful effects of the act become apparent, usually in the form of distorting the consequences. Moral disengagement may also take the form of distorting the relationship between the harmful act and its consequences using displacement or diffusion of responsibility. Finally, moral disengagement mechanisms that dehumanize or put the blame on the victim may also be employed at any point.

Figure 1

Moral Disengagement Mechanisms (adapted from Petruccelli et al., 2017)



Although no empirical work has applied the moral disengagement mechanisms to IBSA, borrowing from Page and Pina (2015), I present a conceptualization of how they may explain IBSA in the form of non-consensual dissemination of sexual or explicit media in Table 1.

Table 1

Moral Disengagement Mechanism in the context of IBSA

Point mechanism is employed	Moral disengagement mechanism	Description	Application to IBSA
Harmful act	Moral justification	Reframing inflicted harm to appear morally justifiable	IBSA is way to stand up for yourself when you are harmed by your partner
	Euphemistic labelling	Using language to make harmful act seem benign	IBSA is funny, a prank or harmless joke
	Advantageous comparison	Comparing harmful act to behaviors perceived as worse	IBSA is not as serious as face-to-face harassment
Relationship between harmful act and its consequences	Displacement of responsibility	Displacing responsibility on social pressures or some other authority	Others pressured me to engage in IBSA perpetration
	Diffusion of responsibility	Placing responsibility for the harmful act on a larger group	A lot of people engage in IBSA perpetration
Consequences of the harmful act	Distortion of consequences	Minimizing or distorting harmful consequences	IBSA is not a big deal
Victim	Victim blaming	Believing that the victim brought the suffering they endured onto themselves	Victim should have known better before they sent a sext
	Dehumanization of victim	Victims are degraded and denied their full humanness	IBSA victims are promiscuous sluts

The first set of moral disengagement mechanisms refer to reframing the harmful act. The non-consensual dissemination of nude or sexual media often takes place when a relationship

ends (e.g., Bloom, 2014; Dawkins, 2014). In these situations, the breakdown of the relationship was often brought by cheating, and the narrative is created where the person who disseminated the pictures only did so because they felt disempowered, humiliated, or deeply hurt by the infidelity (Hall & Hearn, 2019; Hearn & Hall, 2018). Analysis of posts on MyEx.com, a website that typically hosts revenge pornography-related content, found that IBSA perpetrators frequently engaged in a self-legitimation process to prove that they had “good reasons” for their actions (Hearn & Hall, 2018). Thus, by claiming that the victim was the one who actually hurt them, perpetrators attempt to flip the narrative and position themselves as supposed victims. Using the mechanism of moral justification, in the eyes of the perpetrator, their actions are justifiable, as they represent a way for them to gain back power and control (Hearn & Hall, 2018). Thus, the act of non-consensual dissemination of sexual content, may act as a vehicle to reinstate the control over the person they lost once the relationship broke down (Hall & Hearn, 2019). Hall and Hearn also highlight the importance of gender hierarchies when discussing self-disclosed motives for revenge pornography (Hearn & Hall, 2018). They note that the perceived loss of power in a relationship may leave the male counterpart feeling emasculated (Hearn & Hall, 2018). In turn, disseminating sexual pictures of the female ex who “embarrassed” them could be seen as a way to put them in their place and turn power and control back to them. Men were also found to be more likely to agree that disseminating sexts after a relationship is over is an acceptable thing to do (Clancy et al., 2019). Alternatively, perpetrators may engage in euphemistic labelling, or in other words claim they engaged in IBSA perpetration to be funny, or as a means to make a joke or a prank. This could potentially be a commonly used mechanism of moral disengagement in the context of IBSA. A recent study found that approximately 31% of the participants who had disseminated a sext without consent did so as a joke, with male

participants being significantly more likely to endorse this excuse (Clancy et al., 2019, 2020).

Using advantageous comparisons could take two forms. First, perpetrators may compare their actions with other forms of sexual abuse or other crimes that they perceive as worse, like rape.

To the best of my knowledge, there is no empirical work that compares the difference in perceived harm and seriousness between online and face-to-face harassment in young adults.

However, some work on the topic has been completed using samples of police officers. In one study, researchers found that 36% of the asked officers did not disagree with the statement that online harassment is less serious than traditional harassment (Holt & Bossler, 2012). Another approach would be comparing their actions with any grievances they had with the victim that they think would justify their actions (Hall & Hearn, 2019; Hearn & Hall, 2018). By implying that whatever the victim did was worse, or at least equal, to the non-consensual dissemination of their private pictures, they are able to take the moral high ground (Hearn & Hall, 2018).

The second set of moral disengagement mechanisms attempts to blur the relationship between the harmful act and its potentially harmful consequences to the victim using displacement or diffusion of responsibility. Regarding displacement of responsibility, in a sample of adults, 13.8% reported they had disseminated a sext without consent because someone else asked them to, and 8.5% because they felt pressure to do so (Clancy et al., 2019). In order to diffuse responsibility, IBSA perpetrators may point out the commonality of this practice or argue that sexts usually end up being seen by more people than those they were sent to (Clancy et al., 2019; Hearn & Hall, 2018). Moral disengagement may also take place when considering the impact of the harmful act on another person. Individuals who perpetrate IBSA, may downplay the seriousness of their actions by claiming that IBSA is not a big deal (Clancy et al., 2019).

Empirical work should investigate if education on IBSA could reduce the employment of these beliefs and if that would have an effect on likelihood of IBSA perpetration.

Finally, the last set of moral disengagement mechanisms focuses on the victim in the form of victim dehumanization and victim blaming. IBSA victims are held responsible for their own victimization, since often, in cases of non-consensual dissemination of sexual pictures, the victim was the one who took the pictures of themselves and then sent them to someone else, usually a romantic partner, who then shared these images with others (Citron & Franks, 2014). As a matter of fact, in a sample of Australian adults, 70% agreed that individuals should be wise enough not to take an intimate image of themselves and 62% agreed that someone who sends an intimate picture to another person is at least partially responsible in case the picture is posted online (Henry et al., 2018). Victim blaming in the context of sexual abuse is generally accepted to be heavily influenced by gender biases (Landström et al., 2016). As a consequence, victim blaming and victim dehumanization often go hand-in-hand when discussing IBSA, especially when referring to female victims. This is mainly because of the sexual double standards that prescribe women being judged more harshly than men for their sexual expressions and behaviors (Gentry, 1998). The manifestation of this sexual double standard is seen in situations where men are rewarded for having multiple sexual partners, whereas women are viewed as promiscuous and sexually deviant. Typically, women who are deemed as promiscuous are “punished” with ridicule and personal attacks (Papp et al., 2015). A similar response is also typical for female victims of IBSA who are deemed as sexually promiscuous despite them never giving permission for their pictures to become public (Hall & Hearn, 2019; Hearn & Hall, 2018; Mckinlay & Lavis, 2020). The potential harassment fueled by victim blaming experienced by IBSA victims may

have far-reaching, negative consequences, including victims not seeking legal action or police assistance based on the fear they will be judged (Bothamley & Tully, 2017).

Factors and Characteristics Predictive of IBSA

Whilst some studies have explored the prevalence, characteristics, and impact of IBSA, there appears to be a gap in the literature investigating the risk factors, motivations, or reasons behind its perpetration. Because of the name “revenge pornography”, one might think people often engage in IBSA perpetration as a response to cheating, or to extort others. In this section I will discuss factors and characteristics that could potentially be associated with IBSA perpetration. Because research studies on the perpetration of IBSA are limited, findings from risk factors of cyberbullying, TFSV or sexual abuse in general will also be included in the discussion.

Gender

In general, males appear to be more likely to be the perpetrators of sexual abuse or sexual assault than females (e.g., Black et al., 2011). In the context of cyberspace, some research suggests that men are more likely to engage in antisocial behaviours online, such as cyberbullying (e.g., Aboujaoude et al., 2015; Kowalski et al., 2014; Li, 2006; Martinez-Pecino & Durán, 2019). This is also true for sexual or romantic interactions online, especially in situations where men perceive women to be resistant to communicating with them online (Guadagno et al., 2012). Similar to other forms of sexual assault, men appear to be the perpetrators of online sexual harassment and gender- and sexuality- based harassment more often than women (Powell & Henry, 2016). Additionally, men are more likely to engage in sextortion than women (Wolak, 2016; Wolak et al., 2018). In contrast, research on cyberstalking suggests that behaviours like partner monitoring behaviours are more common amongst women, and women have been shown to be more likely to view these behaviours as appropriate (Burke et al., 2011). Finally, very

limited research exists on transgendered individuals, but one empirical study suggests that compared to cis-gendered males and females of comparable age, transgendered youth report the highest rates of victimization and perpetration of cyberdating abuse, a type of dating violence that takes place online and includes controlling, harassing, stalking, and other abusive behaviours (Dank et al., 2014).

Few studies have examined the prevalence of perpetration of IBSA specifically, but in one study on revenge porn, the majority of victims reported that the person who shared their intimate pictures without consent was male (Henry et al., 2018). Additionally, in adolescent samples, males were also more likely to perpetrate this behaviour than females (Patrick et al., 2015; Stanley et al., 2018; Strassberg et al., 2014; Wood et al., 2015).

Sexual Orientation

The internet has unique appeal for members of the LGBTQ+ community, as it provides a safe place to interact and form intimate, sexual relationships without the fear of societal scrutiny (Brown et al., 2005). Social-sexual networking of this type, however, is not without risk. Many groups within the heterogeneous population of the LGBTQ+ community may experience online sexual abuse at least as frequently as heterosexual women, the focus of most studies of online sexual victimization. In fact, research findings report that members of the LGBTQ+ community are more likely to experience online peer victimization and unwanted sexual experiences (Aboujaoude et al., 2015; Dank et al., 2014; Ybarra & Mitchell, 2007). Furthermore, gay, lesbian, and bisexual youths have also been found to perpetrate online forms of dating violence at higher rates (Dank et al., 2014). Although research on the effect of sexual orientation on IBSA perpetration and victimization is limited, there is some evidence supporting it could be an important factor to consider. For example, in the context of distribution of sexual pictures

without consent, *Cheaterville* an online cheater reporting website, where members can “expose” their exes as a response to alleged cheating, allows the submission and posting of revenge pornography, with a growing number of LGBTQ+ submissions (Stroud, 2014). A recent study corroborates this, by finding that gay and bisexual men who use geosocial dating applications (e.g., Grindr) were more frequently victims of revenge pornography than the general population (Waldman, 2019).

Dark Tetrad Personality Traits

A different approach to understand the risk factors behind IBSA, and TFSV more generally, is to examine personality traits potentially shared by those who perpetuate them. Given the inherent connection behind sexual abuse and willingness to exploit others (Lee et al., 2003), dark personality traits represent an excellent candidate for further investigation. Originally known as the Dark Triad (e.g., psychopathy, narcissism, Machiavellianism), the recent addition of a fourth trait, referred to as “everyday sadism” has resulted in the Dark Tetrad; a cluster of subclinical personality traits characterized by distinct individual characteristics and united by overlapping themes of callous disposition, social manipulation, and the drive for ruthless self-advancement (Buckels et al., 2013; Paulhus & Williams, 2002). Classically, Machiavellianism is associated with moral flexibility and a dispositional propensity to manipulate, deceive, and take advantage of others (Christie & Geis, 1970; Rauthmann & Will, 2011). Narcissism is a dimension of personality centered on grandiosity, self-absorption and egotism, often represented by a heightened sense of entitlement, uniqueness and sensitivity to criticism (Rhodewalt & Peterson, 2009). Associated with impulsivity, callousness and lack of emotion or remorse, individuals scoring high on psychopathy often exhibit antagonistic interpersonal and antisocial behaviours (Hare, 2003). Finally, sadism, the newest addition to the

Dark Tetrad, is characterized by the enjoyment of cruelty in everyday life and in inflicting psychological and physical pain onto others (Buckels et al., 2013). Unfortunately, to date, little research exists on the Dark Tetrad. For a summary of the Dark Tetrad core characteristics, see Table 2.

Table 2

Dark Tetrad Personality Traits

Dark Tetrad Dimensions	Dark Tetrad Traits
Machiavellianism	Cynical Worldview Manipulative Tactics Amorality Lack of Empathy Agentic Motives Self-Enhancement
Psychopathy	Interpersonal (e.g., superficial charm, grandiose self-worth, pathological deception, manipulation) Affective (e.g., lack of remorse and empathy, shallow affect) Antisocial Conduct (e.g., poor behavioural control, criminal versatility, juvenile delinquency) Lifestyle (e.g., stimulation seeking, impulsivity, irresponsibility)
Narcissism	Grandiosity Self-absorption Egotism Sense of Entitlement Sense of Uniqueness Sensitivity to Criticism
Everyday Sadism	Taking pleasure at another's distress Cruelty in everyday life Willingness to incur pain on innocent people

Generally, dark personality traits have been associated with a greater propensity to sexually harass others (e.g., Blinkhorn et al., 2015; Jonason et al., 2017; Russell & King, 2016; Zeigler-Hill et al., 2016), and a greater enjoyment doing so (e.g., Foulkes, 2019; Mokros et al., 2011; Porter et al., 2003). Additionally, research findings strongly suggest that the dark triad traits (and especially psychopathy), are associated with a tendency to accept rape myths (Boland,

2018; DeLisle et al., 2019; Mouilso & Calhoun, 2013; Willis et al., 2017), adhere to strict gender role norms (e.g., Anglin et al., 2018; Hoffmann & Verona, 2019; Preston et al., 2018), and have negative attitudes towards women (e.g., Berke, 2009; Keiller, 2010; Methot-Jones et al., 2019).

Based on the collective research of the Dark Tetrad traits and sexual abuse, it is suggested that they may also be associated with TFSV perpetration. Additionally, recent research has shown that individuals with dark personality traits are more likely to engage in comparably deviant online behaviours like online trolling, a form of cyber-harassment intended to aggravate, annoy or otherwise disrupt online communications (e.g., Binns, 2012; Buckels et al., 2019; Buckels et al., 2014; Craker & March, 2016; Lopes & Yu, 2017), and high levels of sadism are associated with greater enjoyment associated with such behaviours (Buckels et al., 2014). In a study on technology facilitated infidelity, non-single Tinder users were found to score significantly higher on psychopathic traits than non-single non-users (Timmermans et al., 2018). Preliminary findings support that the Dark Tetrad is a risk factor for other forms of TFSV, like cyber-obsessive pursuit and IBSA. For example, narcissistic traits and its interaction with sexual abuse victimization has been shown to predict engagement in cyberstalking perpetration in men (Ménard & Pincus, 2012). Further, research findings in two separate studies have found positive associations between dark personality traits and intimate partner cyberstalking perpetration (Sanz et al., 2019; Smoker & March, 2017). Narcissism was shown to be indirectly associated with problematic social media use (PSMU) via cyberstalking whereas Machiavellianism was directly associated with cyberstalking (Kircaburun et al., 2018). Finally, sadism was both indirectly associated with cyberstalking via PMSU and directly associated with cyberstalking (Kircaburun et al., 2018).

Despite the core traits of the Dark Tetrad intuitively make those with narcissistic, Machiavellian, psychopathic, or sadistic tendencies excellent candidates for IBSA perpetration, very little empirical research have examined this. However, previous work has found that dark personality traits were predictive of a greater likelihood to exact revenge on a romantic partner following infidelity (Brewer et al., 2015). Further, psychopathic traits have also been shown to be predictive of spreading private pictures of another person online, albeit in the context of cyber-bullying rather than that of IBSA (Kokkinos et al., 2014). To date, the relationship between the Dark Tetrad and the dissemination of private sexts without consent is not well understood. There has only been one study investigating the association between the Dark Triad and non-consensual sext dissemination and found that all dark triad personality traits were positively correlated with higher likelihood of engaging in IBSA perpetration (Clancy et al., 2019). Further, in their study Pina and colleagues found that each of the Dark Tetrad personality traits, except for sadism was correlated with higher rates of revenge porn proclivity (Pina et al., 2017). An explanation offered as to why sadism was not associated with revenge porn proclivity, is that the study sample was mostly female, and sadistic tendencies are generally endorsed more highly by males than females (Pina et al., 2017). Further, they found that both narcissism and Machiavellianism were positively correlated with revenge porn enjoyment, although only the former acted as an independent predictor, suggesting that narcissism is uniquely related with it, perhaps because it fulfills some of the entitlement, grandiosity, and ego reinforcement narcissistic needs (Pina et al., 2017).

In summation, early findings appear to implicate the endorsement of dark personality traits in the perpetration of IBSA. Despite these early encouraging results, however, the lack of empirical research does not allow us to draw any concrete conclusions about the relationship

between the dark tetrad and IBSA. Thus, more research is needed to establish that dark personality traits predict IBSA.

Entitlement: Sexual Entitlement and Aggrieved Entitlement

One of the main offence-related schemas amongst sexual offenders is entitlement (Polaschek & Ward, 2002). Two main forms of entitlement have been identified: sexual entitlement and aggrieved entitlement. Sexual entitlement may lead individuals to believe they deserve sexual favors and to pay little mind to the wants and needs of the other person (Richardson et al., 2017). Sexual entitlement has been consistently associated with sexual abuse, as individuals who believe they are entitled to their own sexual needs may use more sexually coercive or aggressive behaviours to ensure their needs are met (e.g., Beech et al., 2005; Bouffard, 2010; Hill & Fischer, 2001; Jewkes et al., 2011; Parkinson, 2016; Pemberton & Wakeling, 2009; Richardson et al., 2017). Additionally, entitled individuals might perceive rejection as a personal insult and in response, react with anger and anxiety making the use of force more likely (Baumeister et al., 2002). Further, it is unlikely that sexually entitled individuals will view their behaviours as problematic, as they may have ready excuses and justifications for their actions (Bouffard, 2010). Entitlement thoughts that reflect hypermasculinity and male superiority, such as “only I matter”, “it’s my birthright”, “sex is my right”, and “women/children are my property” were identified as significant factors for sexual offending in a sample of incarcerated adult males who had committed sexual or sexually motivated offences (Pemberton & Wakeling, 2009).

Oftentimes, individuals who feel entitled to certain benefits, might feel humiliated when what they perceive as their “birthright” is denied to them (Kimmel, 2013). Michael Kimmel, the sociologist who coined the term aggrieved entitlement, identifies a new breed of angry white

men who feel like victims of the same societal structures of which they reap the most benefits (Kimmel, 2013). This is because in today's climate of increased awareness of gender, sexuality, and race related issues, people who hold privilege might view minorities' striving for equality, as a personal attack. In other words, aggrieved entitlement refers to a guttural response of anger and loathing to those who are perceived to attempt to take away the benefits the individual feels they are entitled to (Kimmel, 2013). Aggrieved entitlement is often linked with patriarchal ideas and existential fear about having masculinity questioned, challenged or deconstructed (Leonard & Kenny, 2015). As a result, the anger generated is often targeted towards feminists and women, as exemplified by the increasing popularity of the “manosphere” (Leonard & Kenny, 2015). The Internet provides an excellent outlet for this rage, or as Kimmel puts it:

“[The internet is] a man cave, a politically incorrect locker room, where you can say whatever you feel like saying without having to back it up with something as inconvenient as evidence and still hide behind a screen of anonymity so that no one knows that you’re the jerk you secretly think you might be. That’s a recipe for rage” (Kimmel, 2013, p. 115).

In the context of TFSV in general, and more specifically IBSA, acts of harassment and abuse can be viewed as a tool of patriarchy to enforce the status quo and punish those who oppose it (Leonard & Kenny, 2015). For example, the act of distributing someone's nude or sexual pictures without their consent, can be viewed as a method of controlling an ex-partner who chose to leave the relationship, especially when legal, economical, or other reasons preclude them from seeing them face-to-face (DeKeseredy & Schwartz, 2016). Alarmingly, such behaviours might be viewed as justifiable by those who perpetuate them. Sexual aggressors often hold beliefs of male dominance, hostility towards women, and rape myths, which skew their

world view and serve as a means of legitimizing sexual aggression (Ryan, 2004). Online spaces, like the “manosphere” where such beliefs are common, might act as a forum where online acts of sexual abuse, like IBSA, are encouraged, justified, and supported, especially in situations where masculinity was perceived to be slighted (DeKeseredy & Schwartz, 2016). For example, in a recent study, after reading a series of TFSV related scenarios, male participants attributed most of the responsibility of IBSA victimization onto the victims, especially when the victim was deemed as “aggressive” in their rejection (Zhong et al., 2020). Regardless of any such perceived slight, feelings of aggrieved entitlement and attitudes towards gender are factors that deserve more focus when investigating IBSA.

Purpose of Study

As the societal dependence on technology increases, so do antisocial behaviours associated with its use. This includes forms of technology-facilitated sexual violence, like image-based sexual abuse. The incidence of IBSA is on the rise and was only exacerbated during the COVID-19 quarantine period, with the Australian eSafety Commissioner reporting a 210% increase on the average weekly number of IBSA reports between March and May 2020 (Powell & Flynn, 2020). However, there is a dearth of empirical literature investigating the factors and motivators behind perpetration of these types of behaviors.

Research Questions and Hypotheses

Question 1. What is the relationship between demographic, attitudinal, and personality traits and the likelihood of engaging IBSA perpetration and/or experiencing IBSA victimization or endorsing feelings of proclivity for revenge pornography?

Hypothesis 1 (H1): I predicted that women would report higher rates of victimization and men higher rates of perpetration and endorsement of IBSA proclivity.

Hypothesis 2 (H2): I predicted that participants endorsing dark personality traits would have higher rates of perpetration. I also hypothesized that participants scoring higher in Machiavellianism would engage in higher rates of IBSA perpetration. I predicted that Narcissism would be associated with greater enjoyment of revenge pornography, psychopathy with greater approval of revenge pornography, and Machiavellianism with greater proclivity for revenge pornography.

Hypothesis 3 (H3): I predicted that participants scoring higher in both sexual as well as aggrieved entitlement, and those endorsing more highly myths relating to sexual images would be more likely to have engaged in some form of IBSA perpetration and/or to endorse feelings of proclivity for revenge pornography.

Hypothesis 4 (H4): I expected that perpetration of either form of IBSA would be predictive of victimization for the same form of IBSA. In other words, I predicted that those with history of revenge pornography perpetration, to have also experienced revenge pornography victimization at some point in their life.

Question 2. What is the relationship between demographic, attitudinal, and personality traits and the likelihood of endorsing feelings of revenge pornography approval or revenge pornography enjoyment?

Hypothesis 5 (H5). I predicted that those accepting sexual image abuse myths would be more likely to approve of revenge pornography.

Hypothesis 6 (H6). I predicted that the Dark Tetrad, and especially sadism and psychopathy, would be associated with higher rates of endorsing revenge pornography enjoyment.

Question 3. What was the relationship between victim and perpetrator?

Hypothesis 7 (H7). I predicted that the victim-perpetrator relationship would vary greatly and would not be restricted to ex-partners as the term revenge pornography seems to imply.

Method

Participants

We recruited 1346 university students using an electronic research bulletin board to participate in this online study. Those who participated received course credit in their psychology courses. Of those participants, 374 were removed from the study for completing less than 50% of the study, and 79 participants did not proceed with the study after reading the consent form. Further, 77 participants responded incorrectly to at least 2 of the 9 attention checks and were subsequently removed from the analyses. The final sample consisted of 816 participants. The majority of the participants were female (Female: 72.0%; Male: 27.3%; Transgender: 0.1%; Non-Binary: 0.5%; Other: 0.1%), heterosexual (Heterosexual: 81.4%; Homosexual: 2.6%; Bisexual: 11.8%; Asexual: 0.6%; Pansexual: 2.5%; Queer: 0.4%; Other: 0.6%) and their ages ranged from 16 – 60 ($M = 20.08$, $SD = 4.29$). Regarding the ethnic background, the majority of the participants were white or Middle Eastern (White/Caucasian: 34.2%; Middle Eastern: 33.5%; Asian: 12.5%; Black/African Canadian: 10.6%; East Indian: 2.6%; Indigenous: 1.7%; Other: 3.4%).

Measures

Attention Checks. Nine attention check items were included in the study. The attention checks were randomly embedded in the survey items and asked participants to select a specific option (e.g. for this question, select strongly agree). Participants who failed more than 2 attention check were excluded from the study.

Demographics Questionnaire. Participants were asked about their age, ethnicity, and preferred gender identity and sexual orientation. The option “Other” was given for the ethnicity, gender identity, and sexual orientation questions to leave participants room for specification (see Appendix A). Participants were also asked if they were aware that IBSA is illegal in Canada.

Short Dark Tetrad (SD4). The Short Dark Tetrad (SD4; Paulhus et al., 2018) is a self-report scale containing 28 items assessing Machiavellianism (e.g., “It’s not wise to let people know your secrets”), Narcissism (e.g., “I’m likely to become a future star in some area”), Psychopathy (e.g., “I’ve been in trouble with the law”), and Sadism (e.g., “Some people deserve to suffer”) (see Appendix B). Each subscale contains eight items and participants are asked to rate their agreement using a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (“*Strongly Disagree*”) to 5 (“*Strongly Agree*”). Participants’ scores are then summed to compute a score for each subscale (7 items per subscale), with higher scores representative of possessing greater levels of that trait. All subscales have been shown to have adequate reliability in a relevant university sample of students (Machiavellianism: $\alpha = .76$; Narcissism: $\alpha = .80$; Psychopathy: $\alpha = .80$; Sadism: $\alpha = .81$; Paulhus et al., 2018). The SD4 has not been published yet and so no further information on its reliability and validity exists. However, previous work on the Short Dark Triad (SD3; Jones & Paulhus, 2014), which uses similar items to assess the endorsement of Machiavellianism, narcissism, and psychopathy, supports its use. In both community and student samples, all three subscales showed acceptable reliability scores (Machiavellianism $\alpha = .76$; Psychopathy $\alpha = .73$; Narcissism $\alpha = .78$; Jones & Paulhus, 2014). The SD3 also shows strong convergent validity with the Mach IV (Christie & Geis, 1970), Self-Report Psychopathy Scale (SRP-III; Paulhus et al., 2016), and the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI; Raskin & Hall, 1979). The

correlations between the SD3 subscales and their standard counterparts ranged from .82 to .92 (Jones & Paulhus, 2014).

Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale (RPPS). The RPPS was created by Pina and colleagues (2017) to assess the propensity to perpetrate an act of revenge porn, revenge porn enjoyment, and revenge porn approval (see Appendix C). Participants read five short scenarios in which they are the central character and all of which conclude with an intimate image of another person being shared online without their consent. After each scenario, participants were asked to respond to a proclivity question (i.e., “In this situation, would you do the same”) using a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (“*definitely would not do the same*”) to 5 (“*definitely would do the same*”). Additionally, the emotional response of the participants to each hypothetical scenario was assessed by asking them to report on a 5-point Likert scale how excited, amused, angry, and regretful they felt in response to the behaviour committed in the scenario (e.g., “In this situation how excited/amused/angry/regretful would you be?”; 1 = “*Not at all*”; 5 = “*Very*”). Finally, participants were asked to complete a question about their view on the victim (i.e., “In this situation, how much would you blame the person who initially sent the photo?”). Again, participant answered this question using a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (“*Not at all*”) to 5 (“*Very*”). Consistently to previous work with proclivity measures, only those who empathetically stated their disagreement by selecting the lowest-rated options were regarded as presenting no endorsement of IBSA. The total RPPS has adequate reliability ($\alpha = .76$) with both revenge porn enjoyment ($\alpha = .87$) and revenge porn approval ($\alpha = .80$) subscales yielded high internal consistency (Pina et al., 2017).

Sexual Image-Based Abuse Myth Acceptance (SIAMA) scale. The SIAMA scale is modelled after the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (Payne et al., 1999) and was created by

Powell and colleagues (2019) to specifically target victim blaming attitudes in instances of IBSA (see Appendix D). Participants were asked to answer 18 questions using a 7-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (“*Strongly Disagree*”) to 7 (“*Strongly Agree*”). The SIAMA has two subscales; the “minimize/excuse” subscale containing 12 items ($\alpha = .94$) and the “blame” subscale containing 6 items ($\alpha = .86$) (Powell et al., 2019). The score for each subscale and the total score was computed by summing the participants’ responses to the relevant questions, with higher scores representative of greater tendencies to minimize/excuse harms and/or blame victims of IBSA.

Image-Based Sexual Abuse Victimization scale (IBSA-V). Participants were asked to self-report whether at any point since they were 16 years old had a nude or sexual image of themselves taken, distributed, and/or threatened to be distributed (Powell et al., 2019) Participants were asked to respond to nine items relating the content of the image for each of two victimization contexts, distributed (range 0-9) and threatened (range 0-9) using a dichotomous (yes/no) format. Since in this study we want to focus on online forms of IBSA and specifically IBSA, the “taken” subscale was not included, as it refers to behaviours that are not relevant to this study (see Appendix E). The score of each subscale and the total score was computed by summing the participants’ responses to the relevant questions. Additionally, for each of the questions participants answer “yes” to, they were asked about the gender of the person who threatened to distribute or distributed that nude/sexual image of them without their consent, and their relationship to that person.

Image-Based Sexual Abuse Perpetration Scale (IBSA-P). Similarly to the Image-Based Sexual Abuse Victimization scale, originally the scale contains 27 items assessing the content of the image for each of three IBSA perpetration contexts (taken, distributed, threatened

to distribute) (Powell et al., 2019). As it was previously discussed, the “taken” subscale was not included in this study. Participants were asked to self-report whether they had ever (since they were 16 years old) distributed and/or threatened to distribute a nude or sexual image of someone else. Participants were asked to respond to 8 items relating to the content of the image they distributed (range 0-8) and/or threatened to distribute (range 0-8), using a dichotomous “yes/no” format (see Appendix F). The score of each subscale and the total score was computed by summing the participants’ responses to the relevant questions. Additionally, for each of the questions participants answer “yes” to, they were asked about the gender of the person they threatened to distribute or distributed that nude/sexual image of, and their relationship to them.

Hanson Sex Attitude Questionnaire (HSAQ). The Hanson Sex Attitude Questionnaire was originally developed to assess the attitudes of incestuous child sex offenders that contribute to their offending (Hanson et al., 1994). Only the Sexual Entitlement Subscale that contains 9-items were administered in this study (see Appendix G). Participants rated these items using a 5-point Likert Scale ranging from 1 (“*Strongly Disagree*”) to 5 (“*Strongly Agree*”). After the relevant items were reversed scored, the total score was computed by averaging the participants’ ratings across the 9 items. In a community sample, the Sexual Entitlement Subscale had a mean of 1.8 ($SD = 0.62$) and adequate reliability with $\alpha = .81$ (Hanson et al., 1994). Validity evidence for this subscale has been reported, as male incest offenders were found to score significantly higher than a control group of men (Hanson et al., 1994). Additionally, the HSAQ has been found to be positively correlated with other measures of entitlement, as well as likelihood of raping and date rape myth acceptance (Hill & Fischer, 2001).

Aggrieved Entitlement Scale. A scale measuring aggrieved entitlement was developed for this study. The scale was modelled after the Sexual Entitlement Subscale from the HSAQ.

The items of the scale were devised based on the definition of aggrieved entitlement by Kimmel (2013), who coined the term in his book “*Angry White Men: American Masculinity at the End of an Era*”. Participants were asked to rate their agreement on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (“Strongly Disagree”) to 5 (“Strongly Agree”) to 9 statements such as: “It is my birthright to achieve greatness”, “Cisgender white men are the ones who are truly persecuted in today’s culture”, and “Race and gender quotas in jobs and universities are taking jobs away from well-deserving white men” (see Appendix H). The total score was computed by averaging the participants’ ratings in all items.

Results

Data Screening

Missing Values

Given the sensitive nature of some of the questions, participants were given the option to skip any question they did not feel comfortable to answer. Participants who did not complete at least 50% of the study were removed from the sample. Table 2 shows the number of missing data points for all variables used in this study. For each variable with missing data, a chi-square test was conducted to determine whether the gender of participants with missing data differed from the gender of participants with completed data. No significant differences were identified based on the gender of participants with missing data across all variables (all p 's $> .05$), suggesting that any missing data were missing at random. In the analysis, missing values were dealt with pairwise deletion.

Normality

Normality was assessed using the skewness and kurtosis standards. Accordingly, when skewness is not greater than 2 and kurtosis is not greater than 3 in absolute value, the variable is

considered to be symmetrical about its mean. The skewness and kurtosis analysis revealed that Aggrieved Entitlement, Sexual Entitlement, SD4, and SIAMA scores were all normal. However, the IBSA – Perpetration, and the total score of Revenge Proclivity were not. To ameliorate this, these variables were dichotomized. In other words, participants were binned into one of two categories: those who had answered “Yes” in at least one of the items relating the content of the image in a perpetration content and those who did not. The same procedure was followed for IBSA – perpetration (total), IBSA – perpetration (threat), and IBSA – perpetration (distribute) as well as the respective IBSA – victimization variables. Giving these variables a binary format was sufficient to reduce the skewness and kurtosis to acceptable levels for all but the IBSA – perpetration (threat) variable, and therefore, caution is encouraged when interpreting the results related to this variable. Consistently with previous work on proclivity (Pina et al., 2017), the proclivity items were also dichotomized with those empathetically disagreeing with all relevant questions deemed as having no revenge porn proclivity, and those who did not, as having at least some proclivity for revenge porn. This was enough to yield acceptable skewness and kurtosis scores for our analysis for most of the variables, with notable exception the revenge porn approval and IBSA perpetration (threat).

Outliers

Using boxplots and histograms, data were examined for any univariate outliers. To confirm the absence of any potential univariate outliers, z-scores were calculated for all key variables (i.e., IBSA-Perpetration, IBSA-victimization, Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale, SIAMA, Aggrieved Entitlement Scale, SD4: Machiavellianism, Narcissism, Psychopathy, Sadism, Sexual Entitlement Subscale). Cases with standardized scores exceeding ± 3.29 are typically considered potential univariate outliers. Sixteen cases had a standardized z-score higher than that cut-off and

were identified as potential outliers. In order to assess whether these outliers were influential and skewed results leverage scores were computed, but no data point had a score higher than 0.2, so no data point was removed from the dataset. The intercorrelations across all independent variables was also examined and all variance inflation factors were found to be less than 10, meaning there was no multicollinearity present.

Descriptive Statistics and Internal Consistency

Internal consistency is routinely measured using Cronbach's α . According to Bland and Altman (1997), a Cronbach's α of .70 to .80 is considered satisfactory for a reliable and consistent questionnaire. The Cronbach's α values for all scales are found in Table 2. All scales apart from the Hanson's Sexual Entitlement subscale were found to have adequate to high internal reliability. As a consequence, some caution is warranted when interpreting results relating to sexual entitlement.

Table 3 also provides descriptive statistics for the Aggrieved Entitlement, Hanson's Sexual Entitlement, SD4, SIAMA, IBSA – Perpetration, IBSA – Victimization, and Revenge Porn Proclivity measures.

Table 3

Descriptive Statistics and Internal Consistencies, and Number of Missing Data Points of Self-Report Measures

Measure	Mean (SD)	Reliability	Skewness	Kurtosis	# Missing Data Points
Aggrieved Entitlement	19.24 (6.65)	.85	0.45	-0.11	15
Hanson's Sexual Entitlement	19.70 (4.69)	.56	0.33	0.14	14
SD4					
Sadism	16.64 (5.93)	.80	0.25	-0.37	18
Machiavellianism	22.53 (5.04)	.79	-0.33	0.65	14
Narcissism	20.03 (5.22)	.80	-0.09	0.29	15
Psychopathy	14.11 (5.18)	.82	0.59	-0.13	18
IBSA – Perpetration					
Distribute	0.03 (1.11)	.84	4.20	19.35	16
Threat	0.09 (0.66)	.89	8.93	88.30	19
Total	0.04 (1.51)	.87	5.55	39.60	20
Distribute (bin)	0.14 (0.35)	-	2.09	2.39	16
Threat (bin)	0.03 (0.18)	-	5.16	24.64	19
Total (bin)	0.15 (0.36)	-	1.97	1.87	20
IBSA – Victimization					
Distribute	0.72 (1.45)	.79	2.56	6.98	0
Threat	0.30 (1.11)	.87	3.87	16.57	0
Total	1.01 (2.20)	.86	3.16	11.88	0
Distribute (bin)	0.28 (0.45)	-	0.96	-1.08	0
Threat (bin)	0.10 (0.30)	-	2.02	2.10	0
Total (bin)	0.31 (0.46)	-	0.79	-1.38	0
SIAMA					
Minimize/excuse	22.01 (9.86)	.87	0.15	2.88	33
Blame	11.57 (9.00)	.88	0.50	-0.61	22
Total	39.56(16.18)	.89	0.87	0.75	39
Revenge Porn Proclivity					
Total	8.41 (4.72)	.89	2.86	8.36	42
Enjoyment	18.97 (7.75)	.89	1.25	1.02	53
Approval ¹	56.94 (8.20)	.57	-0.42	0.12	61
Approval ²	36.58 (7.80)	.74	-0.25	0.67	57
Total (bin)	1.48 (0.50)	-	0.06	-2.00	42
Enjoyment (bin)	1.71 (0.45)	-	-0.95	-1.10	53
Approval (bin) ¹	2.00 (0.00)	-	-	-	61
Approval (bin) ²	2.00 (1.99)	-	-9.61	90.49	57

Note. IBSA – Perpetration = Image-Based Sexual Abuse Perpetration (Powell et al., 2019); IBSA – Victimization = Image-Based Sexual Abuse Victimization (Powell et al., 2019); SD4 = The Short

Dark Tetrad (Paulhus et al., 2018); SIAMA = Sexual Image – Based Abuse Myth Acceptance (Payne et al., 1999); Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale (Pina et al., 2017). ¹Anger items included. ²Anger items excluded.

Table 4 provides the frequencies for the specific contents of the picture(s) that someone threatened the participants with distributing or actually distributed without their consent. The most common form of IBSA victimization reported was that of having someone distribute a picture where they were partially clothed or semi clothed (22.3%). By contrast, the least common form of IBSA victimization reported was having someone threaten to distribute a picture that was up their skirt (e.g. “up-skirting”) (1.2%). Moreover, the frequencies of the context of IBSA victimization are also given for male and female participants. Transgender, non-binary, or participants who selected their gender identity as other, are excluded from this analysis because of the small number of participants who endorsed these gender identities. The most common form of IBSA victimization for both male and female participants was the distribution of a picture without their consent where they were partially clothed or semi clothed (22.5% and 22.4%, respectively). None of the male participants reported having had someone threaten to distribute a picture of themselves which was of a sex act they had not agreed to, or a form of up-skirting or down-blousing. For female participants, the least common form of IBSA victimization was having someone threaten to distribute a picture of themselves which was up their skirt (1.7%).

Table 4

Endorsement Frequencies of Specific Context of IBSA Victimization

IBSA Victimization Items	Total		Male		Female	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Has anyone ever (since you were 16) distributed without your consent a picture of yourself...						
Where you are partially clothed or semi-clothed	182 (22.3%)	634 (77.7%)	50 (22.5%)	172 (77.5%)	131 (22.4%)	454 (77.6%)
Where your breasts, including your nipples are visible	88 (10.8%)	728 (89.2%)	25 (11.3%)	197 (88.7%)	63 (10.8%)	522 (89.2%)
Where you are completely nude	49 (6.0%)	767 (94.0%)	15 (6.8%)	207 (93.2%)	34 (5.8%)	551 (94.2%)
Where your genitals are visible	49 (6.0%)	767 (94.0%)	19 (8.6%)	203 (91.4%)	30 (5.1%)	555 (94.9%)
Where you are engaged in a sexual act	30 (3.7%)	786 (96.3%)	7 (3.2%)	215 (96.8%)	23 (3.9%)	562 (96.1%)
Where you are showering, bathing, or toileting	66 (8.1%)	750 (91.9%)	19 (8.6%)	203 (91.4%)	47 (8.0%)	538 (92.0%)
Which is up your skirt (e.g., "up-skirting")	20 (2.5%)	796 (97.5%)	2 (0.9%)	220 (99.1%)	18 (3.1%)	567 (96.9%)
Which is of your cleavage (e.g., "down-blousing")	85 (10.4%)	731 (89.6%)	3 (1.4%)	219 (98.6%)	82 (14.0%)	503 (86.0%)
Which is of a sex act that you did not agree to	15 (1.8%)	801 (98.2%)	4 (1.8%)	218 (98.2%)	11 (1.9%)	574 (98.1%)
Has anyone ever (since you were 16) threatened to distribute without your consent a picture of yourself...						
Where you are partially clothed or semi-clothed	66 (8.1%)	750 (91.9%)	18 (8.1%)	204 (91.9%)	48 (8.2%)	537 (91.8%)
Where your breasts, including your nipples are visible	35 (4.3%)	781 (95.7%)	7 (3.2%)	215 (96.8%)	28 (4.8%)	557 (96.2%)
Where you are completely nude	27 (3.3%)	789 (96.7%)	7 (3.2%)	215 (96.8%)	20 (3.4%)	565 (96.6%)
Where your genitals are visible	21 (2.6%)	795 (97.4%)	9 (4.1%)	213 (95.9%)	12 (2.1%)	573 (97.9%)
Where you are engaged in a sexual act	21 (2.6%)	795 (97.4%)	6 (2.7%)	216 (97.3%)	15 (2.6%)	570 (97.4%)
Where you are showering, bathing, or toileting	16 (2.0%)	800 (98.0%)	2 (0.9%)	220 (99.1%)	14 (2.4%)	571 (97.6%)
Which is up your skirt (e.g., "up-skirting")	10 (1.2%)	806 (98.8%)	0 (0.0%)	222 (100.0%)	10 (1.7%)	575 (98.3%)
Which is of your cleavage (e.g., "down-blousing")	37 (4.5%)	779 (95.5%)	0 (0.0%)	222 (100.0%)	37 (6.3%)	548 (93.7%)
Which is of a sex act that you did not agree to	11 (1.3%)	805 (98.7%)	0 (0.0%)	222 (100.0%)	11 (1.9%)	574 (98.1%)

Note. IBSA – Victimization = Image Based Sexual Abuse Victimization (Powell et al., 2019).

Table 5 provides the frequencies of participants experiencing IBSA victimization (threat, distribute, either, or both). I found that roughly one in three of the participants recruited in this study had experienced some form of IBSA victimization, at some point in their life, ever since they were 16 ($N = 30.6\%$). Additionally, more participants reported having had someone distribute their nude or sexual images without their consent ($N = 28.3\%$) than having someone threaten them with distributing them ($N = 9.8\%$). Finally, only 7.5% of participants reported having been victimized by both types of IBSA perpetration examined in this study (distribute and threat). The same pattern was present in both female and male participants.

Table 5

IBSA Victimization Frequencies

ISBA Victimization	Total		Males		Females	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Distribute	231 (28.3%)	585 (71.7%)	59 (26.6%)	163 (73.4%)	171 (29.2%)	414 (70.8%)
Threat	80 (9.8%)	736 (90.2%)	18 (8.1%)	204 (91.9%)	62 (10.6%)	523 (89.4%)
Total (Threat and/or Distribute)	250 (30.6%)	566 (69.4%)	65 (29.3%)	157 (70.7%)	184 (31.5%)	401 (68.5%)
Both Threat and Distribute	61 (7.5%)	755 (92.5%)	12 (5.4%)	210 (94.6%)	49 (8.4%)	536 (91.6%)

Note. IBSA – Victimization = Image Based Sexual Abuse Victimization (Powell et al., 2019).

Table 6 provides the frequencies for the specific contents of the pictures that participants threatened someone else with distributing or actually distributed without their consent. The most common form of IBSA perpetration reported was the distribution of someone else's picture where they were partially clothed or semi clothed (10.7%). On the other hand, the least common form of IBSA perpetration reported was threatening to distribute a picture of someone else, which was of their cleavage (e.g. "downblousing") (3.2%). Similarly, for both males and females, the most frequent form of IBSA perpetration was distributing the picture of someone

else where they were partially clothed or semi-clothed (15.1% and 9.2%) respectively. Only a single male participant endorsed having threatened somebody with releasing a picture of them where their breasts or genitals were visible, or which was down their shirt (down-blousing) without their consent (0.5%). Amongst female participants, the least common form of IBSA perpetration was threatening someone else with releasing a picture of them that was up their skirt (up-skirting) (0.7%) or where their breasts including their nipples were visible (0.7%)

Table 6

Frequencies of Specific Context of IBSA Perpetration

IBSA Perpetration Items	Total		Males		Females	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Have you ever (since you were 16) distributed without consent a picture of someone else....						
Where they are partially clothed or semi-clothed	86 (10.7%)	715 (89.3%)	33 (15.1%)	186 (89.4%)	53 (9.2%)	522 (90.8%)
Where their breasts, including their nipples are visible	39 (4.9%)	762 (95.1%)	18 (8.2%)	201 (91.8%)	21 (3.7%)	554 (96.3%)
Where they are completely nude	31 (3.9%)	770 (96.1%)	13 (5.9%)	206 (94.1%)	18 (3.1%)	557 (96.9%)
Where their genitals are visible	40 (5.0%)	760 (95.0%)	11 (5.0%)	207 (95.0%)	29 (5.0%)	546 (95.0%)
Where they are engaged in a sexual act	16 (2.0%)	785 (98.0%)	4 (1.8%)	215 (98.2%)	12 (2.1%)	563 (97.9%)
Where they are showering, bathing, or toileting	23 (2.9%)	778 (97.1%)	7 (3.2%)	212 (96.8%)	16 (2.8%)	559 (97.2%)
Which is up their skirt (e.g., "up-skirting")	10 (1.2%)	791 (98.8%)	3 (1.4%)	216 (98.6%)	7 (1.2%)	568 (98.8%)
Which is of their cleavage (e.g., "down-blousing")	29 (3.6%)	772 (96.4%)	8 (3.7%)	211 (96.3%)	21 (3.7%)	554 (96.3%)
Have you ever (since you were 16) threatened to distribute without consent a picture of someone else...						
Where they are partially clothed or semi-clothed	19 (2.4%)	778 (97.6%)	5 (2.3%)	214 (97.7%)	14 (2.4%)	558 (97.6%)
Where their breasts, including their nipples are visible	5 (0.6%)	792 (99.4%)	1 (0.5%)	218 (99.5%)	4 (0.7%)	568 (0.7%)
Where they are completely nude	12 (1.5%)	785 (98.5%)	2 (0.9%)	217 (99.1%)	10 (1.7%)	562 (98.3%)
Where their genitals are visible	10 (1.3%)	787 (98.7%)	1 (0.5%)	218 (99.5%)	9 (1.6%)	563 (98.4%)
Where they are engaged in a sexual act	8 (1.0%)	789 (99.0%)	2 (0.9%)	217 (99.1%)	6 (1.0%)	566 (99.0%)
Where they are showering, bathing, or toileting	8 (1.0%)	789 (99.0%)	3 (1.4%)	216 (98.6%)	5 (0.9%)	567 (99.1%)
Which is up their skirt (e.g., "up-skirting")	6 (0.8%)	791 (99.2%)	2 (0.9%)	217 (99.1%)	4 (0.7%)	568 (99.3%)
Which is of their cleavage (e.g., "down-blousing")	7 (0.9%)	790 (99.1%)	1 (0.5%)	218 (99.5%)	6 (1.0%)	566 (99.0%)

Note. IBSA – Perpetration = Image Based Sexual Abuse Perpetration (Powell et al., 2019).

Table 7 provides the frequencies of participants reporting having experienced only IBSA victimization, only IBSA perpetration, both, or neither. We found that the majority of the participants did not report having had experiences with either IBSA victimization or IBSA perpetration. Approximately 1 in 5 participants reported only experiencing IBSA victimization, and less than 10% reported engaging in only IBSA perpetration or having had experiences with both IBSA victimization and perpetration.

Table 7

Frequencies of Both IBSA Victimization and Perpetration

	Total	Males	Females
Neither	499 (62.7%)	133 (61.0%)	360 (62.9%)
Both	69 (8.7%)	22 (10.1%)	47 (8.2%)
Only IBSA Perpetration	52 (6.5%)	21 (9.6%)	31 (5.4%)
Only IBSA Victimization	176 (21.6%)	42 (19.3%)	134 (23.4%)

Note. IBSA – Victimization = Image Based Sexual Abuse Victimization (Powell et al., 2019); IBSA – Perpetration = Image Based Sexual Abuse Perpetration (Powell et al., 2019).

Table 8 provides the frequencies of participants who have engaged in some form of IBSA perpetration (threat, distribute, either, or both). We found that approximately 15% of the participants in this study, had at some point in their life, ever since they were 16, distributed or threatened to distribute nude or sexual pictures of someone else without their consent. Additionally, the majority of the participants who had engaged in some form of IBSA perpetration reported actually distributing the nude or sexual images of someone else without their consent (13.9%) and only a small percentage (3.4%) of them ever only threatened someone with distributing their pictures without their consent. A similar pattern was present in both male and female participants. Approximately 20% of males and 14% of females reported having engaged in some form of IBSA perpetration. IBSA-distribute was perpetrated by approximately 17.5% male and 13% female participants, whereas IBSA-threat, was perpetrated by almost 4% of

male participants and about 3% of female participants. Finally, less than 2% of males and about 2.5% of females reported engaging in both the distribution and the threat of distribution of someone else's nude or sexual picture(s) without their consent. A series of chi-squares was employed to attest if the perpetration prevalence was different between males and females.

Table 8

IBSA Perpetration Frequencies

IBSA Perpetration	Total		Males		Females	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Distribute	111 (13.9%)	689 (86.1%)	38 (17.4%)	180 (82.6%)	73 (12.7%)	502 (87.3%)
Threat	27 (3.4%)	770 (96.6%)	8 (3.7%)	211 (96.3%)	19 (3.3%)	553 (96.7%)
Total (Threat and/or Distribute)	121 (15.2%)	675 (84.8%)	43 (19.7%)	175 (80.3%)	78 (13.6%)	494 (86.4%)
Threat and Distribute	17 (2.1%)	799 (97.9%)	3 (1.4%)	18 (98.6%)	14 (2.4%)	571 (97.6%)

Note. IBSA – Perpetration = Image Based Sexual Abuse Perpetration (Powell et al., 2019).

Table 9 shows the frequencies of participants endorsing at least some revenge porn proclivity, revenge porn approval, and revenge porn enjoyment. There was almost an even split for revenge porn proclivity with a little over half of the participants having no endorsement for it (51.6%). The same even split was also observed among both female (47.1%) and male participants (51.2%), with close to 50% of them endorsing at least partially feelings of revenge porn proclivity. On the other hand, almost three quarters of the participants endorsed feelings of revenge porn enjoyment (71.4%), while practically all participants endorsed sentiments of revenge porn approval (98.9%), even after excluding the anger items. Over three-quarters of the male participants (78.4%), and a little under 70% of female participants endorsed feelings of

enjoyment in response to revenge pornography. At the same time, less than 1% of females, and a little over 1% of males disapproved revenge pornography completely.

Table 9

Revenge Porn Scale Frequencies

Revenge Porn Scale	Total		Males		Females	
	No Endorsement	At least Some Endorsement	No Endorsement	At least Some Endorsement	No Endorsement	At least Some Endorsement
Proclivity	399 (51.6%)	375 (48.4%)	104 (48.8%)	109 (51.2%)	293 (52.9%)	261 (47.1%)
Approval	8 (1.1%)	751 (98.9%)	4 (1.9%)	209 (98.1%)	4 (0.7%)	535 (99.3%)
Regret (R)	148 (19.5%)	612 (80.5%)	35 (16.4%)	178 (83.6%)	111 (20.6%)	429 (79.4%)
Blame	67 (8.4%)	734 (91.6%)	24 (11.1%)	193 (88.9%)	43 (7.5%)	534 (92.5%)
Anger	22 (2.9%)	739 (97.1%)	4 (1.9%)	209 (98.1%)	18 (3.3%)	523 (96.7%)
Enjoyment	218 (28.6%)	545 (71.4%)	46 (21.6%)	167 (78.4%)	171 (31.5%)	372 (68.5%)
Excitement	278 (34.1%)	486 (63.6%)	64 (30.0%)	149 (70.0%)	213 (39.2%)	331 (60.8%)
Amusement	265 (34.7%)	498 (65.3%)	56 (26.3%)	157 (73.7%)	207 (38.1%)	336 (61.9%)

Note. Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale (Pina et al., 2017). (R): Those items were reverse-coded.

Correlations

The correlational relationship of IBSA perpetration, IBSA victimization, and proclivity for the dissemination of nude or sexual pictures of a person without their consent, with attitudinal and personality factors was examined next, in accordance to research question 1. We predicted that higher endorsement of dark personality traits, sexual or aggrieved entitlement, and acceptance of sexual image myths would be positively associated with higher likelihood of engaging or endorsing IBSA perpetration. Our analysis of how these personality and attitudinal factors are related with IBSA victimization was more exploratory in nature.

Table 10 reports the correlations between IBSA Victimization and the other self-report measures (SD4, SIAMA, Sexual Entitlement, and Aggrieved Entitlement). First, regarding dark personality traits, all except for Machiavellianism correlated positively with at least one form of IBSA victimization. More specifically, psychopathy and sadism were both positively correlated

with all three forms of IBSA victimization examined (distribute, threat, total i.e. threat and/or distribute). By contrast, Narcissism, was only correlated with the distribute and total type. Moreover, the SIAMA Minimize/Excuse subscale was positively correlated with IBSA threat. The total SIAMA score as well as the score from the Blame subscale were not correlated with any form of IBSA victimization. Finally, Sexual and Aggrieved entitlement were correlated weakly with only the Threat type of IBSA victimization.

Table 10

Bivariate Correlations between IBSA Victimization and SD4, SIAMA, Aggrieved Entitlement and Sexual Entitlement

Measures	IBSA Victimization		
	Total (95% CI)	Distribute (95% CI)	Threat (95% CI)
SD4			
Machiavellianism	.03 (.04 – .10)	.03 (-.05 – .11)	-.02 (-.10 – .06)
Narcissism	.09* (.02 – .16)	.09* (.02 – .16)	.03 (-.05 – .11)
Psychopathy	.17*** (.09 – .24)	.17*** (.09 – .24)	.11** (.03 – .19)
Sadism	.18*** (.11 – .24)	.17*** (.10 – .25)	.08* (.01 – .15)
SIAMA			
Minimize/Excuse	.08* (.001 – .15)	.06 (-.01 – .13)	.10** (.01 – .18)
Blame	.01 (-.06 – .08)	.01 (-.06 – .07)	.02 (-.05 – .09)
Total	.05 (-.03 – .13)	.04 (-.03 – .10)	.07 (-.01 – .15)
Sexual Entitlement	.06 (-.01 – .14)	.05 (-.03 – .12)	.09* (.02 – .016)
Aggrieved Entitlement	.04 (-.03 – .11)	.01 (-.06 – .09)	.09* (.01 – .17)

Note. N = 816. SD4 = The Short Dark Tetrad (Paulhus et al., 2018); SIAMA = Sexual Image – Based Abuse Myth Acceptance (Payne et al., 1999).

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Table 11 shows the correlations between revenge porn proclivity and IBSA perpetration.

We also found that revenge porn proclivity positively correlated with IBSA perpetration total and distribute but was not statistically related with IBSA perpetration threat. Moreover, revenge porn enjoyment was positively correlated with IBSA perpetration total and distribute. However, revenge porn approval was not significantly associated with any form of IBSA perpetration.

Table 11

Bivariate Correlations between IBSA Proclivity, Perpetration, and Knowledge that IBSA is Illegal

Measures	1 (95% CI)	2 (95% CI)	3 (95% CI)	4 (95% CI)	5 (95% CI)
1. Revenge Porn Proclivity	.38*** (.32 – .44)				
2. Revenge Porn Enjoyment		.10** (.07 – .13)	.11** (.02 – .18)		
3. Revenge Porn Approval				.05 (.03 – .06)	
4. IBSA Perpetration (Total)	.23*** (.16 – .30)		.17*** (.12 – .22)		
5. IBSA Perpetration (Distribute)	.23*** (.16 – .30)		.17*** (.12 – .22)	.04 (-.001 – .01)	.95*** (.92 – .98)
6. IBSA Perpetration (Threat)	.07 (.01 – .14)		.08* (.03 – .13)	.02 (.01 – .03)	.43*** (.35 – .52) .26*** (.16 – .36)

Note. IBSA – Perpetration = Image Based Sexual Abuse Perpetration (Powell et al., 2019); CI = 95% Confidence Interval

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Table 12 reports the correlations between IBSA Perpetration and the other self-report measures (SD4, SIAMA, Sexual Entitlement, and Aggrieved Entitlement). First, all of the dark personality traits, aside Machiavellianism, were positively correlated with at least one form of IBSA perpetration (distribute, threat, total). More specifically, narcissism and sadism were both correlated with only IBSA perpetration total and IBSA perpetration distribute, whereas psychopathy was positively correlated with all three forms of IBSA perpetration (total, distribute, threat). The SIAMA Minimize/Excuse subscale and the SIAMA total were also positively with all three forms of IBSA perpetration examined here. Alternatively, the SIAMA Blame subscale

was only, weakly correlated with the IBSA perpetration total. Sexual and Aggrieved entitlement were both correlated positively with IBSA perpetration distribute, threat, and total.

Table 12

Bivariate Correlations between IBSA Perpetration and SD4, SIAMA, Aggrieved Entitlement and Sexual Entitlement

Measures	IBSA Perpetration		
	Total (95% CI)	Distribute (95% CI)	Threat (95% CI)
SD4			
Machiavellianism	.07 (-.01 – .13)	.05 (-.01 – .12)	.02 (-.05 – .09)
Narcissism	.16*** (.10 – .23)	.16** (.09 – .22)	.06 (.001 – .12)
Psychopathy	.21*** (.14 – .27)	.19**** (.12 – .27)	.19*** (.12 – .25)
Sadism	.18*** (.10 – .25)	.18**** (.10 – .25)	.07 (-.10 – .14)
SIAMA			
Minimize/Excuse	.16*** (.08 – .24)	.12** (.05 – .20)	.15*** (.04 – .25)
Blame	.08* (.02 – .14)	.07 (.01 – .13)	.04 (-.03 – .11)
Total	.14*** (.07 – .22)	.11** (.04 – .18)	.11** (.01 – .21)
Sexual Entitlement	.10** (.03 – .17)	.08* (.01 – .14)	.08* (.01 – .15)
Aggrieved Entitlement	.09* (.02 – .16)	.07* (.001 – .14)	.11** (.05 – .18)

Note. N = 816. SD4 = The Short Dark Tetrad (Paulhus et al., 2018); SIAMA = Sexual Image – Based Abuse Myth Acceptance (Payne et al., 1999); CI = 95% Confidence Interval.

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

As Table 13 shows, revenge porn proclivity and revenge porn enjoyment were positively correlated with all other self-report measures in the study. More specifically, both revenge porn proclivity, as well as revenge porn enjoyment were most strongly correlated with the minimize/excuse subscale of the SIAMA. Regarding the dark personality traits, revenge porn proclivity was most strongly correlated with psychopathy while revenge porn enjoyment with sadism. Finally, revenge porn approval did not have a statistically significant relationship with any of the other self-report measures examined in this study.

Table 13

Bivariate Correlations between IBSA Subscales and SD4, SIAMA, Aggrieved Entitlement and Sexual Entitlement

Measures	Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale		
	Proclivity (95% CI)	Enjoyment (95% CI)	Approval (95% CI)
SD4			
Machiavellianism	.19** (.11 – .25)	.22*** (.14 – .29)	.08* (.03 – .18)
Narcissism	.18*** (.11 – .26)	.22*** (.14 – .29)	.02 (-.08 – .12)
Psychopathy	.22*** (.16 – .28)	.22*** (.15 – .29)	.06 (-.04 – .13)
Sadism	.22*** (.15 – .29)	.25*** (.18 – .32)	.05 (-.01 – .10)
SIAMA			
Minimize/Excuse	.33*** (.27 – .39)	.30*** (.25 – .35)	.07 (.04 – .11)
Blame	.15*** (.08 – .23)	.17*** (.10 – .24)	-.03 (-.11 – .05)
Total	.28*** (.23 – .35)	.28*** (.23 – .34)	.03 (-.02 – .08)
Sexual Entitlement	.27*** (.21 – .34)	.22*** (.15 – .28)	.02 (-.03 – .08)
Aggrieved Entitlement	.19*** (.13 – .26)	.21*** (.14 – .28)	.01 (-.05 – .06)

Note. N = 816. SD4 = The Short Dark Tetrad (Paulhus et al., 2018); SIAMA = Sexual Image – Based Abuse Myth Acceptance (Payne et al., 1999); Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale (Pina et al., 2017); CI = 95% Confidence Interval

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Predicting IBSA perpetration, victimization, and proclivity

Next, a series of binomial logistic regressions were performed to ascertain the effects of demographic characteristics (gender, sexual orientation), attitudes (SIAMA, aggrieved/sexual entitlement), and personality (Dark Tetrad) on the likelihood that participants engaging in some form of IBSA victimization (total, distribute, threat), IBSA perpetration (total, distribute, threat), IBSA proclivity, IBSA enjoyment, and IBSA approval. First, regarding demographic characteristics, we predicted that males would have a higher likelihood of engaging in some form of IBSA perpetration whereas females would have a higher likelihood of having been victimized by IBSA. Next, we predicted that higher endorsement of dark personality traits, and especially Machiavellianism, would be associated with a higher proclivity or likelihood of perpetration of IBSA. Finally, we predicted that those with a history of IBSA perpetration would be more likely

to also report experiencing IBSA victimization. Moreover, we also predict that those with a history of IBSA victimization will also be more likely to report engaging in IBSA perpetration.

For each binomial regression, the linearity of the continuous variables with respect to the logit of the dependent variable was assessed via the Box-Tidwell (1962) procedure. Additionally, a Bonferroni correction was applied using all terms in each model resulting in statistical significance being accepted when $p < .00357$. Based on this assessment, all continuous independent variables were found to be linearly related to the logit of each of the dependent variables.

IBSA victimization – total

First, we examined the model predicting the likelihood of the participant having experienced at least some form of IBSA victimization (threat and/or distribute). The model was found to be a good fit according to the Hosmer and Lemeshow Test of goodness of fit ($p = .598$). The logistic regression model was statistically significant, $\chi^2(10) = 73.78, p < .001$. The model explained 13.0% of the variance in IBSA victimization (total) and correctly classified 71.8% of cases. Sensitivity was 25.1%, specificity was 92.9%, positive predictive value was 62%, and negative predictive value was 73%. Of the ten independent variables, only four were statistically significant: gender, sexual orientation, sadism, and history of perpetration (See Table 14). Males had around 35% less chance of experiencing IBSA victimization compared to females. Similarly, heterosexual participants had approximately 40% less chance of being victimized. Increasing the Sadism score was associated with an increased likelihood of experiencing IBSA victimization. Finally, those with no history of perpetration had a 70% lower chance of also experiencing victimization compared to those with a history of perpetration.

Table 14

Binomial Logistic Regression of IBSA Victimization Total and Demographic, Attitudinal, and Personality Factors

Variable	B	SE	Wald	p	OR	95% CI for OR	
						Lower	Upper
Demographics							
Gender	-.45	.21	4.71	.030	.64	.43	.96
Sexual Orientation	-.57	.21	7.12	.008	.57	.37	.86
Personality							
Psychopathy	.25	.14	3.03	.08	1.28	.97	1.69
Sadism	.41	.13	10.83	.001	1.51	1.18	1.93
Narcissism	.08	.14	.31	.579	1.08	.83	1.41
Machiavellianism	-.22	.14	2.33	.127	.81	.61	1.06
Attitudinal							
Sexual Entitlement	.08	.20	.16	.686	1.08	.73	1.60
Aggrieved Entitlement	-.004	.14	.001	.978	1.00	.75	1.32
SIAMA	-.001	.01	.02	.898	1.00	.987	1.01
History of Perpetration	-1.13	.22	26.49	< .001	.32	.21	.49
Constant	-.44	.57	.60	.438	.641	-	-

Note. Gender is for males compared to females. Sexual orientation is for heterosexual compared to LGBTQ+. History of perpetration is for no compared to yes. SIAMA = Sexual Image – Based Abuse Myth Acceptance (Payne et al., 1999); OR = Odds Ratio; 95% CI = 95% Confidence Interval for Odds Ratio.

IBSA victimization – distribute

The model was a good fit as shown by the Hosmer and Lemeshow Test of goodness of fit ($p = .126$). The logistic regression model was statistically significant, $\chi^2(10) = 77.88, p < .001$, and the model explained 14.0% of the variance in IBSA victimization (distribute) while correctly classifying 73% of the cases. Sensitivity was 22.6%, specificity was 93.3%, positive predictive value was 58%, and negative predictive value was 75%. Gender, sexual orientation, psychopathy, and sadism were all statistically significant (See Table 15). Males were approximately 37% less likely to report victimization compared to females, and heterosexual participants were almost 50% less likely to report victimization compared to LGBTQ+

participants. Additionally, scoring higher in psychopathy and sadism was associated with a higher likelihood of reporting victimization. Finally, those with no history of IBSA perpetration (either threat or distribute) were approximately 70% less likely to report IBSA victimization (distribute).

Table 15

Binomial Logistic Regression of IBSA Victimization Distribute and Demographic, Attitudinal, and Personality Factors

Variable	<i>B</i>	SE	Wald	<i>p</i>	OR	95% CI for OR	
						Lower	Upper
Demographics							
Gender	-.46	.21	4.58	.032	.63	.41	.96
Sexual Orientation	-.66	.22	9.20	.002	.52	.34	.79
Personality							
Psychopathy	.29	.15	3.90	.048	1.34	1.00	1.78
Sadism	.41	.13	10.15	.001	1.51	1.17	1.93
Narcissism	.07	.14	.23	.633	1.07	.81	1.41
Machiavellianism	-.20	.15	1.93	.165	.82	.31	1.09
Attitudinal							
Sexual Entitlement	.06	.20	.08	.784	1.06	.71	1.58
Aggrieved Entitlement	-.10	.15	.44	.509	.91	.68	1.21
SIAMA	.00	.01	.01	.941	1.00	.99	1.01
History of Perpetration	-1.18	.22	28.22	<.001	.31	.20	.48
Constant	-.33	.59	.32	.570	.72	-	-

Note. Gender is for males compared to females. Sexual orientation is for heterosexual compared to LGBTQ+. History of perpetration is for no compared to yes. SIAMA = Sexual Image – Based Abuse Myth Acceptance (Payne et al., 1999); OR = Odds Ratio; 95% CI = 95% Confidence Interval for Odds Ratio.

IBSA victimization – threat

The model was also found to be a good fit according to the Hosmer and Lemeshow Test of goodness of fit (*p* = .856). The overall model was found to be significant, $\chi^2 = 35.25$, *p* < .001 and explained 9.4% of the variance, while the total accuracy of the model was 89.7% (See Table 16). The only variables that were found to be statistically significant was Machiavellianism and

history of IBSA perpetration, with higher Machiavellianism scores associated with higher likelihood of victimization and those with no history of perpetration being approximately 65% less likely to report victimization for this type of IBSA. However, caution needs to be taken when interpreting these results as the dependent variable was skewed towards having no experience with being victimized by this type of IBSA, which is reflected in the sensitivity score of 0% and the positive predictive value that could not be defined. Lastly, specificity was 100% and negative predictive value was 90%.

Table 16

Binomial Logistic Regression of IBSA Victimization Threat and Demographic, Attitudinal, and Personality Factors

Variable	<i>B</i>	SE	Wald	<i>p</i>	OR	95% CI for OR	
						Lower	Upper
Demographics							
Gender	-.68	.322	4.50	.034	.51	.27	.95
Sexual Orientation	-.20	.33	.39	.534	.81	.43	1.56
Personality							
Psychopathy	.25	.21	1.35	.245	1.28	.84	1.90
Sadism	.27	.19	2.14	.144	1.32	.91	1.94
Narcissism	.13	.21	.36	.547	.88	.58	1.33
Machiavellianism	-.44	.21	4.33	.037	.64	.43	.98
Attitudinal							
Sexual Entitlement	.43	.30	2.00	.157	1.53	.85	2.75
Aggrieved Entitlement	.27	.21	1.64	.201	1.31	.87	1.97
SIAMA	.001	.01	.01	.936	1.00	.98	1.02
History of Perpetration	-1.01	.29	12.52	<.001	.36	.21	.64
Constant	-2.05	.83	.61	.014	.13	-	-

Note. Gender is for males compared to females. Sexual orientation is for heterosexual compared to LGBTQ+. History of perpetration is for no compared to yes. SIAMA = Sexual Image – Based Abuse Myth Acceptance (Payne et al., 1999); OR = Odds Ratio; 95% CI = 95% Confidence Interval for Odds Ratio.

IBSA perpetration – total

The model was found to be a good fit according to the Hosmer and Lemeshow Test of goodness of fit ($p = .634$). The logistic regression model was statistically significant, $\chi^2(10) = 75.997$, $p < .001$. The model explained 16.7% of the variance in IBSA perpetration and correctly classified 84.5% of cases. Sensitivity was 5.2%, specificity was 98.8%, positive predictive value was 43%, and negative predictive value was 85%. Of the ten independent variables, only three were statistically significant: psychopathy, narcissism, and history of victimization (See Table 17). Increasing the psychopathy or the narcissism score was associated with an increased likelihood of engaging IBSA perpetration. Those with no history of victimization were 70% less likely to engage in IBSA perpetration compared to those with no such history.

Table 17

Binomial Logistic Regression of IBSA Total and Demographic, Attitudinal, and Personality Factors

Variable	<i>B</i>	SE	Wald	<i>p</i>	OR	95% CI for OR	
						Lower	Upper
Demographics							
Gender	.12	.25	0.21	.649	1.12	.68	1.84
Sexual Orientation	.49	.32	2.41	.121	1.64	.88	3.04
Personality							
Psychopathy	.37	.17	4.51	.034	1.44	1.03	2.02
Sadism	.27	.16	3.08	.079	1.31	.97	1.78
Narcissism	.42	.18	5.36	.021	1.52	1.07	2.18
Machiavellianism	-.25	.19	1.77	.183	.78	.54	1.12
Attitudinal							
Sexual Entitlement	-.08	.25	0.10	.752	.93	.57	1.49
Aggrieved Entitlement	-.18	.18	0.94	.332	.84	.59	1.20
SIAMA	.02	.01	3.66	.056	1.02	1.00	1.03
History of Victimization	-1.12	.22	25.87	< .001	.33	.21	.50
Constant	-3.51	.73	23.18	< .001	.00	-	-

Note. Gender is for males compared to females. Sexual orientation is for heterosexual compared to LGBTQ+. History of perpetration is for no compared to yes. SIAMA = Sexual Image – Based Abuse Myth Acceptance (Payne et al., 1999); OR = Odds Ratio; 95% CI = 95% Confidence Interval for Odds Ratio.

IBSA perpetration – distribute

The model was found to be a good fit according to the Hosmer and Lemeshow Test of goodness of fit ($p = .564$). The logistic regression model was statistically significant, $\chi^2(10) = 69.152$, $p < .001$. The model explained 15.7% of the variance in IBSA perpetration and correctly classified 85.6% of cases. Sensitivity was 3.8%, specificity was 98.9%, positive predictive value was 36%, and negative predictive value was 86%. Of the ten independent variables, only three were statistically significant: sadism, narcissism, and history of victimization (See Table 18). Increasing the sadism or the narcissism score was associated with an increased likelihood of engaging IBSA perpetration. Those with no history of victimization were approximately 65% less likely to engage in IBSA perpetration compared to those with no such history.

Table 18

Binomial Logistic Regression of IBSA Perpetration Distribute and Demographic, Attitudinal, and Personality Factors

Variable	<i>B</i>	SE	Wald	<i>p</i>	OR	95% CI for OR	
						Lower	Upper
Demographics							
Gender	-.01	.26	0.001	.980	.99	.59	1.66
Sexual Orientation	.49	.33	2.26	.133	1.63	.86	3.10
Personality							
Psychopathy	.32	.18	3.29	.070	1.38	.97	1.95
Sadism	.35	.16	4.85	.028	1.42	1.04	1.95
Narcissism	.49	.19	6.87	.009	1.63	1.13	2.36
Machiavellianism	-.29	.19	2.33	.127	.75	.51	1.09
Attitudinal							
Sexual Entitlement	-.09	.25	0.13	.714	.91	.56	1.50
Aggrieved Entitlement	-.17	.19	0.85	.355	.84	.58	1.21
SIAMA	.01	.01	1.89	.169	1.01	1.00	1.03
History of Victimization	-1.07	.23	22.36	< .001	.34	.22	.53
Constant	-3.59	.75	22.85	< .001	.00	-	-

Note. Gender is for males compared to females. Sexual orientation is for heterosexual compared to LGBTQ+. History of perpetration is for no compared to yes. SIAMA = Sexual Image – Based Abuse Myth Acceptance (Payne et al., 1999); OR = Odds Ratio; 95% CI = 95% Confidence Interval for Odds Ratio.

IBSA perpetration – threat

The model was a good fit according to the Hosmer and Lemeshow Test of goodness of fit ($p = .811$). The logistic regression model was statistically significant, $\chi^2(10) = 42.164, p < .001$. The model explained 21.5% of the variance in IBSA perpetration and correctly classified 96.8% of cases. Sensitivity was 4%, specificity was 100%, positive predictive value was 100%, and negative predictive value was 97%. Of the ten independent variables, only two were statistically significant: psychopathy and history of victimization (See Table 19). Increasing the psychopathy score was associated with an increased likelihood of engaging IBSA perpetration - threat. Those with no history of victimization were approximately 60% less likely to threaten someone else with dissemination of their nude or sexual pictures compared to those with no such history.

Table 19

Binomial Logistic Regression of IBSA Perpetration Threat and Demographic, Attitudinal, and Personality Factors

Variable	<i>B</i>	SE	Wald	<i>p</i>	OR	95% CI for OR	
						Lower	Upper
Demographics							
Gender	-.03	.49	0.001	.955	.97	.37	2.55
Sexual Orientation	.92	.78	1.39	.238	2.51	.54	11.59
Personality							
Psychopathy	1.29	.35	13.54	<.001	3.65	1.83	7.27
Sadism	-.17	.29	.34	.559	.84	.48	1.50
Narcissism	-.31	.37	.67	.415	.74	.35	1.54
Machiavellianism	-.44	.35	1.53	.216	.65	.32	1.29
Attitudinal							
Sexual Entitlement	.09	.48	.04	.853	1.09	.42	2.82
Aggrieved Entitlement	.22	.34	.42	.518	1.25	.64	2.43
SIAMA	.01	.01	.58	.446	1.01	.98	1.04
History of Victimization	-.99	.44	4.99	.026	.37	.16	.89
Constant	-5.14	1.42	13.05	<.001	.00	-	-

Note. Gender is for males compared to females. Sexual orientation is for heterosexual compared to LGBTQ+. History of perpetration is for no compared to yes. SIAMA = Sexual Image – Based Abuse Myth Acceptance (Payne et al., 1999); OR = Odds Ratio; 95% CI = 95% Confidence Interval for Odds Ratio.

Revenge Porn - Proclivity

The model was a good fit according to the Hosmer and Lemeshow Test of goodness of fit ($p = .414$). The logistic regression model was statistically significant, $\chi^2(10) = 117.608, p < .001$. The model explained 19.7% of the variance in revenge porn proclivity and correctly classified 67.2% of cases. Sensitivity was 60.6%, specificity was 71.6%, positive predictive value was 67%, and negative predictive value was 66%. Five variables were statistically significant: gender, sadism, sexual entitlement, SIAMA, and history of victimization (See Table 20). Males were 35% less likely to endorse revenge porn proclivity compared to females. Increasing the score of sadism, sexual entitlement, or SIAMA, was associated with an increased likelihood of endorsing feelings of revenge porn proclivity. Finally, those with no history of victimization were approximately 40% less likely to endorse revenge porn proclivity compared to those with no such history.

Table 20

Binomial Logistic Regression of Revenge Porn Proclivity and Demographic, Attitudinal, and Personality Factors

Variable	B	SE	Wald	p	OR	95% CI for OR	
						Lower	Upper
Demographics							
Gender	-.43	.20	4.50	.033	.65	.44	.97
Sexual Orientation	.03	.22	.01	.922	1.02	.68	1.56
Personality							
Psychopathy	.11	.14	.61	.381	1.13	.86	1.49
Sadism	.31	.12	6.72	.017	1.34	1.06	1.70
Narcissism	.20	.13	2.44	.164	1.20	.93	1.54
Machiavellianism	.14	.14	1.07	.400	1.12	.86	1.46
Attitudinal							
Sexual Entitlement	.51	.19	7.17	.004	1.73	1.19	2.52
Aggrieved Entitlement	-.03	.14	.05	.928	.99	.76	1.29
SIAMA	.03	.01	19.30	< .001	1.03	1.02	1.04
History of Victimization	-.54	.17	9.33	.002	.58	.41	.82
Constant	-3.65	.55	44.45	< .001	.03	-	-

Note. Gender is for males compared to females. Sexual orientation is for heterosexual compared to LGBTQ+. History of perpetration is for no compared to yes. SIAMA = Sexual Image – Based Abuse Myth Acceptance (Payne et al., 1999); OR = Odds Ratio; 95% CI = 95% Confidence Interval for Odds Ratio.

Revenge Porn - Enjoyment

The model was found to be a good fit according to the Hosmer and Lemeshow Test of goodness of fit ($p = .176$). The logistic regression model was statistically significant, $\chi^2(10) = 118.242$, $p < .001$. The model explained 21.5% of the variance in revenge porn enjoyment and correctly classified 71.9% of cases. Sensitivity was 90.9%, specificity was 24.9%, positive predictive value was 75%, and negative predictive value was 53%. Of the ten independent variables, three were statistically significant: sadism, SIAMA, and history of victimization (See Table 21). Increasing the score of sadism or SIAMA, was associated with an increased likelihood of endorsing enjoying revenge porn. Those with no history of victimization were approximately

40% less likely to endorse revenge porn enjoyment compared to those with no such history.

Finally, narcissism approached significance ($p = .056$) with higher scores associated with a higher chance of endorsing revenge porn enjoyment.

Table 21

Binomial Logistic Regression of Revenge Porn Enjoyment and Demographic, Attitudinal, and Personality Factors

Variable	B	SE	Wald	p	OR	95% CI for OR	
						Lower	Upper
Demographics							
Gender	-.13	.23	.32	.570	.88	.56	1.37
Sexual Orientation	-.10	.24	.16	.694	.91	.57	1.46
Personality							
Psychopathy	.08	.16	.21	.644	1.08	.78	1.49
Sadism	.37	.14	6.97	.008	1.50	1.10	1.91
Narcissism	.27	.14	3.67	.056	1.31	.99	1.72
Machiavellianism	.16	.15	1.11	.293	1.17	.87	1.56
Attitudinal							
Sexual Entitlement	.22	.22	.95	.329	1.24	.80	1.92
Aggrieved Entitlement	.18	.16	1.33	.249	1.20	.88	1.63
SIAMA	.04	.01	21.02	< .001	1.04	1.02	1.05
History of Victimization	-.51	.21	5.78	.016	.60	.40	.91
Constant	-2.99	.59	25.59	< .001	.05	-	-

Note. Gender is for males compared to females. Sexual orientation is for heterosexual compared to LGBTQ+. History of perpetration is for no compared to yes. SIAMA = Sexual Image – Based Abuse Myth Acceptance (Payne et al., 1999); OR = Odds Ratio; 95% CI = 95% Confidence Interval for Odds Ratio.

Revenge Porn - Approval

The model was found to be a good fit according to the Hosmer and Lemeshow Test of goodness of fit ($p = .565$). The logistic regression model was not statistically significant, $\chi^2(10) = 11.676$, $p = .307$. The model explained 14% of the variance in revenge porn approval and correctly classified 98.9% of cases. Sensitivity was 100%, specificity was 0%, positive predictive value was 99%, and negative predictive value could not be defined. Of the ten independent

variables, only gender was statistically significant, with males being 80% less likely to report endorsement of revenge porn approval (See Table 22).

Table 22

Binomial Logistic Regression of Revenge Porn Approval and Demographic, Attitudinal, and Personality Factors

Variable	<i>B</i>	SE	Wald	<i>p</i>	OR	95% CI for OR	
						Lower	Upper
Demographics							
Gender	-1.62	.82	3.88	.049	.20	.04	.99
Sexual Orientation	-.26	1.14	.051	.821	.77	.08	7.17
Personality							
Psychopathy	.67	.72	.85	.357	1.95	.47	8.02
Sadism	.57	.56	1.01	.314	1.76	.59	5.30
Narcissism	-.48	.53	.81	.368	.62	.22	1.76
Machiavellianism	.98	.57	3.01	.083	2.66	.88	8.05
Attitudinal							
Sexual Entitlement	-.20	.88	.05	.822	.82	.15	4.57
Aggrieved Entitlement	-.27	.61	.19	.664	.77	.23	2.56
SIAMA	.02	.03	.30	.587	1.02	.95	1.09
History of Victimization	.061	.78	.62	.430	1.85	.40	8.49
Constant	1.29	2.16	.36	.551	3.62	-	-

Note. Gender is for males compared to females. Sexual orientation is for heterosexual compared to LGBTQ+. History of perpetration is for no compared to yes. SIAMA = Sexual Image – Based Abuse Myth Acceptance (Payne et al., 1999); OR = Odds Ratio; 95% CI = 95% Confidence Interval for Odds Ratio.

Gender and Relationship with Perpetrator/Victim

Participants who reported experiencing IBSA victimization were asked the gender of their perpetrator and their relationship to them for each instance of IBSA victimization, in order to answer research question 3. We predicted that the majority participants would report that the at least one of the persons who released their private nude or sexual picture(s) without their consent would be male. Additionally, we predicted that the relationship between victim and

perpetrator would not be limited to that of romantic partners and that we would see quite a bit of variance in the participants' responses.

Out of the 250 self-reported victims, 237 (94.8%) completed the follow-up questions on the gender of the person who distributed their sexual images without permission, and 214 (85.6%) about their relationship with that person. The majority of those who responded, reported that at least one of the persons who distributed or threatened to distribute their nude or sexual images was male (80.6%) (See Table 23). Regarding the relationship of the victim with their perpetrator, 41.1% of them reported that at least one of the person(s) who distributed their nude or sexual pictures was their friend, and that they knew them face-to-face 36.9% and that it was their ex-partner.

Table 23

Frequencies of Perpetrator's Gender and Relationship between Victim and Perpetrator

IBSA Victimization	N (%)
What was the gender of the person(s) who distributed or threatened to distribute your nude or sexual picture(s) without your consent?	
Female	60 (25.3%)
Male	191 (80.6%)
Non-binary	0 (0.0%)
Don't know	4 (1.7%)
What was your relationship with the person(s) who distributed or threatened to distribute your nude or sexual picture(s) without your consent?	
Romantic Partner	
Intimate Partner	44 (20.6%)
Ex-Partner	77 (36.0%)
Friend or Family	
Family Member	3 (1.4%)
Friend (face-to-face)	86 (40.2%)
Friend (online)	26 (12.1%)
Work colleague	3 (1.4%)
Acquaintance	23 (10.7%)
Stranger or Unknown	
Stranger	15 (7.0%)
Don't know	19 (8.9%)

Note. IBSA – Victimization = Image-Based Sexual Abuse Victimization (Powell et al., 2019)

A chi-square test for association was conducted between the gender of the participant who reported having experienced IBSA victimization (male, female) and the gender of their perpetrator (male, female). For the purpose of this analysis, transgender, non-binary, or other genders were excluded. We also excluded the cases where participants did not know who distributed their pictures and so did not know the gender of their perpetrator. The results show a statistically significant association between the two $\chi^2(1, N = 242) = 66.2, p < .001, \varphi = .52$ (See Table 24).

Table 24

Observed and Expected Frequencies of Gender of Victim and their Perpetrator

Gender of Victim	What was the gender of the person who distributed or threatened to distribute your nude or sexual picture(s) without your consent?	
	Male	Female
Male	24 (46.32)	35 (12.68)
Female	166 (144.68)	17 (39.32)

A chi-square test for association was also conducted between the gender of the participant who reported having experienced IBSA victimization and their relationship with their perpetrator, but no statistically significant relationship was found, $\chi^2(2, N = 243) = 1.45, p = .484, \phi = .08$ (See Table 25).

Table 25

Observed and Expected Frequencies of Gender of Victim and their Perpetrator

Gender	What was your relationship with the person who distributed or threatened to distribute your nude or sexual picture(s) without your consent?		
	Romantic Partner	Friend or Family	Stranger or Unknown
Male	21 (24.8)	28 (26.0)	10 (8.3)
Female	81 (77.2)	79 (81.0)	24 (25.7)

Finally, participants who reported having distributed or threatened to distribute the nude or sexual pictures of another person without their consent were also asked about the gender of their victim and their relationship with them (See Table 26). Out of the 121 participants who had perpetrated at least one form of IBSA, only 54 (44.6%) completed the follow-up questions on the gender of their victim and another 41 (33.9%) on their relationship with them. Almost 60% of those who completed the follow-up questions reported that their victim was male and 36.6% of

them reported that they were friends with the victim and knew each other face-to-face and 22.0% that it was their ex-partner.

Table 26

Frequencies of Victim's Gender and Relationship of Perpetrator with Victim

ISBA Perpetration	<i>N (%)</i>
What was the gender of the person you distributed or threatened to distribute their nude or sexual picture without their consent?	
Female	17 (41.5%)
Male	24 (58.5%)
Non-binary	0 (0.00%)
Don't know	6 (14.6%)
What was your relationship with the person you distributed or threatened to distribute their nude or sexual image without their consent?	
Romantic Partner	
Intimate Partner	7 (17.1%)
Ex-Partner	9 (22.0%)
Friend or Family	
Family Member	2 (4.9%)
Friend (face-to-face)	15 (36.6%)
Friend (online)	7 (17.1%)
Work colleague	0 (0.0%)
Acquaintance	3 (7.3%)
Ex-Work colleague	0 (0.00%)
Stranger or Unknown	
Stranger	4 (9.8%)
Don't know	7 (17.1%)

Note. Note: IBSA – Perpetration = Image-Based Sexual Abuse Perpetration (Powell et al., 2019).

A chi-square test for association was conducted between the gender of the participant who reported engaging in IBSA perpetration (male, female) and the gender of their victim (male, female). For the purpose of this analysis, transgender, non-binary, or other genders were excluded. We also excluded the cases where participants did not know who distributed their pictures and so did not know the gender of their perpetrator. Since in at least one cell, the expected number of cases was less than 5, Fisher's exact test was used. We found no statistically significant relationship between the gender of the perpetrator and the gender of their victim, $\chi^2(2,$

$N = 37) = 2.18, p = .229, \varphi = -.24$ (See Table 27). A test of association was also performed to test the relationship between the gender of the participants who reported having engaged in IBSA perpetration and their relationship with their victim. Fisher's exact test was used again since at least one of the cells had an expected frequency of less than 5. No statistical significance was found $\chi^2(2, N = 39) = .368, p = 1.00, \varphi = .06$ (See Table 28).

Table 27

Observed and Expected Frequencies of Gender of Perpetrator and their Victim's

What was the gender of the person you distributed or threatened to distribute their nude or sexual picture(s) without their consent?		
Gender	Male	Female
Male	4 (5.8)	5 (3.2)
Female	20 (18.2)	8 (9.8)

Table 28

Observed and Expected Frequencies of Gender of Perpetrator and their Victim

What was your relationship with the person you distributed or threatened to distribute their nude or sexual picture(s) without their consent?			
Gender	Romantic Partner	Friend or Family	Stranger or Unknown
Male	2 (1.2)	5 (5.3)	3 (2.5)
Female	5 (3.8)	18 (17.7)	8 (8.5)

IBSA Perpetration, IBSA Proclivity, and the Legality of IBSA

Participants were asked whether they were aware that the act of IBSA is illegal in Canada and punishable by law. There was a pretty even split with 54.4% ($n = 444$) of the participants confirming they were aware of this and 45.6% ($n = 372$) reporting they were not. A series of chi-square tests of independence were conducted to investigate whether awareness of revenge pornography being illegal in Canada were associated with likelihood of engaging in IBSA perpetration, and IBSA proclivity (See Table 27). We had hypothesized that awareness of the

current legal state of revenge porn in Canada would be associated with lower rates of engaging in its perpetration. However, there was no such statistically significant relationship found.

Table 29

Observed and Expected Frequencies of Awareness of IBSA Illegal Status and Proclivity or Perpetration of IBSA

Measure	Were you aware that IBSA is illegal in Canada?		χ^2	P	φ
	Yes	No			
Revenge Porn Proclivity					
No Proclivity	172 (176.82)	171 (166.18)	0.49	.484	.003
Some Proclivity	227 (222.18)	204 (208.82)			
IBSA perpetration – total					
No	311 (303.58)	47 (54.42)	2.17	.141	-.005
Yes	364 (371.42)	74 (66.58)			
IBSA perpetration - distribute					
No	318 (310.05)	42 (49.95)	2.67	.102	-.006
Yes	371 (378.95)	69 (61.05)			
IBSA perpetration – threat					
No	349 (346.84)	10 (12.16)	0.72	.396	-.003
Yes	421 (423.16)	17 (14.84)			

Note: IBSA – Perpetration = Image-Based Sexual Abuse Perpetration (Powell et al., 2019); Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale (Pina et al., 2017).

Discussion

The current study is one of the first to investigate the relationship between personality traits, demographic characteristics, and attitudes with IBSA perpetration, victimization, and proclivity. The goals of the study were threefold: 1) gauge the prevalence of IBSA perpetration and victimization in a sample of young adults, (2) assess the personality, attitudinal, and demographic characteristics that are associated with and are predictive of IBSA perpetration, or proclivity for IBSA, and IBSA victimization, and (3) examine the relationship between perpetrator and victim in cases of IBSA.

Prevalence of IBSA perpetration and victimization

I found that approximately 1 in 3 participants had experienced a form of IBSA since the age of 16. The same prevalence of IBSA victimization was found in a sample of more than six thousand participants from New Zealand, Australia, and the UK (Powell et al., 2020). Ever since the introduction of Bill C-13 that criminalized the non-consensual sharing of intimate pictures or videos, approximately 5,000 cases have been reported to the police, based on data recorded by Statistics Canada (Government of Canada, 2019). Comparing the total number of reported cases to the police with our estimated prevalence could imply that there is under-reporting at play. Reasons behind under-reporting are multifaceted. First, victims may not be aware of who distributed their pictures. For example, in our sample 37.2%, of the participants who reported that someone had disseminated their nude or sexual image without their consent, did not know what their relationship with the perpetrator was, and so in all likelihood did not know who the perpetrator was. Alternatively, similarly to cases of real-life sexual abuse like rape, victims may be wary of the justice system, afraid they will be blamed of their victimization, or hurt and potentially re-traumatized through the investigative or court proceedings (Maier, 2008). For

instance, 84% of participants in a sample of rape survivors reported they had concerns with the criminal justice system (Konradi & Burger, 2000). These concerns may not be ill-founded. As a matter of fact, in Canada, only 851 of the reported cases of non-consensual distribution resulted in criminal charges (Allen, 2019). Thus, despite the limited capacity to extrapolate our results on the general Canadian population and to reach firm conclusions on the topic, there are some early signs of both under-reporting and issues with the investigation reaching a satisfactory conclusion for the victim by convicting the perpetrator and removing the images from online spaces. More work, both in research and policy, should closely examine prevalence rates of IBSA in Canada and ways to better support victims of IBSA.

We also estimated the prevalence of IBSA perpetration and found that approximately 15% of participants had distributed or threatened to distribute the intimate images of another person without consent at least once since they were 16. The same 1 in 6 prevalence was previously reported in an international sample of adults (Powell et al., 2020). Our prevalence is slightly higher than the one found in a study sampling more than 6 thousand Australians, that used the same definition of IBSA perpetration as us, and put the prevalence at 11% (Powell et al., 2019). On the contrary, when asking a sample of adults if they have ever disseminated a sext without consent, Clancy and colleagues (2019) acquired a higher prevalence of 1 in 5. Curiously, we found that in both IBSA victimization and perpetration, the incidence of distribution was quite a bit higher than that of threat of distribution. Meaning that perpetrators reported they distributed without consent someone else's nude or sexual image at higher rates than they threatened to do so, and that victims reported the same thing. These results are in contrast with previous work that found comparable rates of IBSA distribution and threat (Powell et al., 2019). This difference between the incidence of threat of distribution and distribution

could partially be due to the fact that often victims and perpetrators do not know each other or have no relationship with each other. Thus, it is possible that the perpetrator may not know who the victim is and so they will not be able to threaten them. Alternatively, it could be that in order for the images to stay online for a longer period of time and thus spread to a wider audience, the perpetrator will keep the victim in the dark for as long as possible. Nonetheless, more work is needed to clarify the relationship between threats and actual distribution of IBSA.

Finally, this study estimated the magnitude of revenge porn proclivity, enjoyment, and approval. Almost 1 in 2 (48.4%) of the participants reported at least some endorsement to commit an act of revenge pornography. Moreover, the vast majority of participants reported the endorsement of revenge porn approval (98.9%) and enjoyment (71.4%). The magnitude of proclivity for the sharing of intimate images without consent has been examined once before in the empirical literature, with comparable results (Pina et al., 2017). Similarly, to Pina and colleagues, I found that approval and even enjoyment of revenge pornography was much higher than proclivity for it. In other words, people may not endorse that they would ever disseminate an intimate picture without consent themselves, they might excuse or even enjoy such behaviors. This finding has important and far reaching implications. Generally, online sexual harassment often takes place in public spaces like forums or comment sections of social media accounts where multiple people can read them. Bystanders are central to the dynamic of online harassment, whether they choose to side with the perpetrator, the victim, or remain passive viewers of the incident. Given that many victims are unlikely to report sexual harassment, observers of the harassment may play a key role in putting a stop to future incidents and supporting the victim (Moxey & Bussey, 2019). Taking this into consideration, the involvement of bystanders in the perpetuation of harm becomes significant. Based on this, educational

material with the goal of stopping IBSA could potentially target bystanders. As a consequence, this effort could result in meaningful reductions in online victimization and better support for victims, improving the online experience for many.

IBSA and Demographic Characteristics

My predictions on gender were partially supported since female participants reported higher rates of victimization and gender was a significant predictor of IBSA victimization. Previous researchers have also found that women are more likely to have a history of IBSA victimization compared to men (Henry et al., 2018). Further, Henry and colleagues examined the content of platforms that host nude or sexual images of persons that were disseminated without their consent and found that the majority of those websites exclusively published photos of cisgender women (Henry & Flynn, 2019). In fact, on some websites the posting of photos of men was explicitly prohibited via informal rules that were reinforced by users (“no dick pics allowed”) (Henry & Flynn, 2019). Although gender was not a significant predictor for the perpetration of IBSA, when asked about the gender of the person who distributed or threatened to distribute their nude or sexual images, 90% of those who answered identified the perpetrator as male. The effect of gender on the dissemination of intimate images in the empirical literature is mixed. For example, Clancy and colleagues (2019) found that although there were no gender differences in dissemination likelihood, men were significantly more likely to agree that distributing someone else’s sext without consent would enhance their own social status. By contrast, in a sample of 4 thousand Australian adults, men were 78% more likely to self-report IBSA perpetration (Powell et al., 2019). Most users of revenge pornography websites also seem to be men who participate at higher rates both as the audience and contributors (Hall & Hearn, 2019; Henry & Flynn., 2019). As an extension, female profiles receive tens of thousands more

views than those of men (Henry & Flynn, 2019) and Henry and Flynn (2019) argue that this consistent sharing, viewing, and discussing of IBSA content of women by heterosexual men is a method of hypermasculinity consolidation. The conflicting results on the effect of gender and IBSA perpetration rates may be reflective of the methods of sharing intimate images of another person without consent and the motivations behind it. For example, in previous work men most commonly endorsed reasons of sharing pictures of another person without permission to brag or to get attention (Clancy et al., 2020). On the other hand, women endorsed reasons “as a joke, to be funny”, “roasting”, and “gossip” as some of the most common motivations (Clancy et al., 2020). Thus, it could be that male perpetrators who engage in IBSA for the attention may choose public dissemination channels, explaining the over-saturation of women victims on websites that host IBSA-related content. Conversely, female perpetrators may choose private channels, like private social media pages, instant messaging sites, or email. Unfortunately, to date, no work has been completed on private channels of IBSA distribution, who chooses them, why, and how they differ from those who choose of more public modes of dissemination and the effect of gender.

The results of this study found that sexual orientation was predictive of IBSA victimization, but not perpetration. More specifically, I found that heterosexual participants were 35% less likely to report some form of IBSA victimization. Our results are in agreement with previous work that found that sexual minority individuals reported that someone else shared their sexual image without consent at higher rates compared to heterosexual participants (Lenhart et al., 2016; Powell et al., 2020; Priebe & Svedin, 2012). This could be a derivative of LGBTQ+ members being more likely to engage in sexting behaviors. For example, in a sample of more than 5 thousand users of an online dating website (AshleyMadison.com), LGBTQ+ participants, were twice more likely to report sending nude of themselves to a partner, having sex via a text,

or both compared to their heterosexual counterparts (Wysocki & Childers, 2011). In another sample of undergraduate students, homosexual and bisexual participants self-reported receiving sexual pictures more frequently than other participants (Dir et al., 2013). Finally, in a recent study with young adolescents, LGBTQ+ participants reported having sent a sexually explicit picture of themselves and receiving such a picture more frequently than their heterosexual counterparts (Van Ouytsel et al., 2019). Although it is important to highlight that the sharing of nude or sexual images between two consenting adults is not in and of itself problematic, and that most people who engage in sexting do not necessarily also engage in IBSA perpetration or experience IBSA victimization, sharing such images with others could leave the sender vulnerable for IBSA victimization.

IBSA and attitudes

Sexual and aggrieved entitlement were both positively correlated with the likelihood of engaging in IBSA perpetration. However, neither was found to be a significant predictor of IBSA perpetration in the logistic regression. It could be the case that entitlement is perhaps more related with other forms of IBSA, like cyberflashing, instead of the dissemination of intimate images without consent. Higher acceptance rates of IBSA myths was also associated with greater likelihood of engaging in IBSA perpetration. SIAMA scores approached significance for the prediction of IBSA perpetration ($p = .056$) and were significant predictors of revenge porn proclivity. SIAMA scores have only been used once before in research. In a large community sample ($n > 4,000$), a one-point increase in the SIAMA blame score was associated with 15% increase in the likelihood of IBSA perpetration history, when controlling for other participant characteristics (Powell et al., 2019). Previous work has shown that education can play an important role in combatting rape myth acceptance (for a meta-analysis, see Anderson &

Whinston, 2005). Therefore, as an extension, education efforts should also focus on combatting IBSA- and TFSV-related myths. Generally, there is a dearth in the literature investigating attitudes and public views on what constitutes IBSA, appropriate response, and legal recourse to IBSA. Nonetheless, gauging public opinion, as well as the views of those who have been victimized by IBSA, can be a very powerful tool when drafting policy.

IBSA and dark personality traits

This study also examined the relationship between dark personality traits (psychopathy, narcissism, Machiavellianism, and sadism) with IBSA perpetration, victimization, and proclivity. As expected, Narcissism, psychopathy, and sadism were all positively correlated with some form of IBSA perpetration. This association is consistent with previous research that found dark triad traits (i.e., Machiavellianism, narcissism, and psychopathy) were all positively correlated with sext dissemination (Clancy et al., 2019). Moreover, higher self-endorsement of psychopathy and narcissism significantly predicted a higher likelihood of having engaged in IBSA perpetration, while sadism approached significance ($p = .079$). Moreover, since psychopathy and narcissism were the two significant predictors, it is suggested that specific traits like lack of empathy or incessant need for attention could be influential motivators for the perpetration of IBSA. Previous work found that psychopathy was the only predictor of revenge following infidelity in a romantic relationship (Brewer et al., 2015). Taken together, these results suggest that specific characteristics that are associated with psychopathy could be used as starting point to inform research on the motivations associated with IBSA perpetration.

Dark personality traits were also all positively correlated with revenge porn proclivity and enjoyment, but not approval. Further, only sadism remained a significant predictor of revenge porn proclivity and revenge porn enjoyment in the logistic regression. Pina et al. (2017),

found analogous results, with the main difference that they found Machiavellianism and psychopathy as significant predictors of proclivity, rather than sadism. They went on to explain that the sample they used was largely female and that could have potentially decreased the effect of sadism in predicting proclivity, since typically women do not endorse sadistic tendencies as highly as men (Pina et al., 2017). Sadism being a predictor of revenge porn enjoyment is not surprising, as sadistic tendencies are highly associated with relishing harm that falls upon others. Sadistic personalities, who are typically associated with the purposeful infliction of physical, psychological, or sexual harm on others with the purpose to humiliate or demean them, may find the non-consensual dissemination of intimate images as a great opportunity to exert their power over others (O'Meara et al., 2011).

By contrast, surprisingly, higher endorsement of sadistic tendencies was also predictive of higher likelihood of having experienced IBSA victimization. Care should be taken when interpreting these results to avoid victim blaming. Regardless of how “sadistic” an individual is, they do not deserve having their private pictures shared with others without permission and implying that their personality “evoked” somehow this behavior would be morally wrong. Instead, I argue, that this could be explained by a higher tendency of those with sadistic traits to engage in sexting. For instance, sadism positively correlates with cyberflashing – the sending of unsolicited nude or sexual pictures to another person (March & Wagstaff, 2017). Unfortunately, to the best of my knowledge, no other work has yet explored the association between everyday sadism and consensual sexting.

Victimization – perpetration relationship

One of the most noteworthy results, is the relationship between IBSA victimization and history of IBSA perpetration. First, I found that individuals who at some point in their lives had

someone else share their nude or sexual images without permission were more likely to endorse feelings of revenge porn enjoyment and to have a higher proclivity for revenge porn. This could at least partially be explained by the just world hypothesis. The just world hypothesis proposes that everyone ultimately tends to get what they deserve in life (Lerner & Miller, 1978). As an extension, according to the just world hypothesis, bad things will only happen to bad people. Generally, when individuals witness human suffering, their belief that the world is ultimately a just and fair place is challenged (Lerner & Miller, 1978). In turn, in order to rectify the situation and reduce the negative dissonance, the observer may realign their perception and convince themselves that the victim is deserving of their misfortune (Lerner & Miller, 1978). Victims themselves may engage in self-blame to absolve any cognitive dissonance they experience when they cannot explain the circumstances of their victimization (Giddens & Petter, 2020). Self-blame is not uncommon among survivors of sexual assault and rape (Libow & Doty, 1979; Peter-Hagene & Ullman, 2018), and in case of non-consensual dissemination of intimate images, the victim may blame themselves for sending the sext in the first place. Just world beliefs have been found to be associated with higher instances of victim blame in cases of non-consensual dissemination of intimate images (Huerta, 2019), but to the best of my knowledge, there is no research that has looked into self-blame and beliefs in a just world in the context of victimization in IBSA or TFSV in general.

A history of IBSA victimization was a significant predictor of IBSA perpetration and vice versa. Namely, those who engaged in non-consensual dissemination or threat of dissemination of intimate images were more likely to experience some form of IBSA victimization themselves, and those who experienced someone sharing or threatening to share their intimate images were more likely to engage in the same behaviour. The same relationship

between IBSA victimization and perpetration was also previously identified (Powell et al., 2019). This relationship between victims and perpetrators appears to be reminiscent of bully/victims (i.e., individuals who both bully and are bullied.) The victim/bully concept appears to also apply in the context of the cybersphere, as in a sample of more than two thousand middle and high school students, one in four identified their role in cyberbullying as both that of the victim as well as the bully (Mishna et al., 2012). In this study, 28.16% of the IBSA victims also reported a history of IBSA perpetration and 57.02% of the perpetrators also had a history of victimization, with a similar pattern in both males and females. Although, it is tempting to say that these results suggest a bidirectional relationship between victimization and perpetration, it is important to highlight that the study design does not allow for causal inferences and therefore care should be taken when interpreting these results. That being said, the relationship between the two, leave ample room for future research and may give a new understanding to the “revenge” in revenge pornography.

Victim – perpetrator relationship

Based on the term “revenge pornography” the image of a scorned lover who shares the nude or sexual images of their partner to get back at them once the relationship ends, may come to mind. However, as the literature evolves this definition appears to be restrictive, both in the behaviors it describes, as well as the victim-perpetrator relationship. In this study, participants who reported that they had experienced some form of IBSA victimization were asked about their relationship with the perpetrator(s) at the time of the offense. About half of those who completed the follow-up questions, reported that at least one of the perpetrators was their ex-partner or their intimate partner. At the same time, almost 65% said that at least one of the persons who distributed or threatened to distribute their nude or sexual image was a friend or family member,

while a little over 10% said they either didn't know who disseminated their images or that their perpetrator was a stranger. Participants who reported that they had distributed or threatened to distribute the intimate image of another person without consent were also asked about their relationship with the victim. Of those who answered, a little under 10% reported that their victim was their current or ex-intimate partner at the time of the offense, and 58.5% that they were a friend or family member. Finally, 17% of said they did not know who the victim was and almost 10% that the victim was a stranger, highlighting how intimate images leaked online may be re-shared hundreds of times by strangers with the audience consuming this content growing exponentially within a number of days or even hours. Taken together, the study results support the notion that the term "revenge pornography" is a misnomer, as the victim-perpetrator relationship is a lot more varied than the term would suggest. Further, the term "revenge pornography" discounts offending for other motivators like financial gain, coercion, entertainment, notoriety, or misogyny (Franks, 2016). Ultimately, IBSA may be used as a method of harassment in both the context of intimate relationships and outside of them, suggesting that different strategies for responding and preventing IBSA within different relational contexts should be employed (Powell et al., 2019).

Limitations

The current study is not without limitations. Firstly, given the sensitive and personal nature of some of the questions, it is possible that some of the answers were exaggerated, withheld, or skewed due to social desirability bias. Additionally, since we used a student sample, the prevalence of IBSA perpetration history was potentially lower than had we used a clinical or forensic sample. The majority of the sample was also heterosexual, and so in order to be able to

make meaningful comparisons, all other sexual orientations were binned into one category.

Doing so, rich information about different sexual orientations was not investigated.

Next, importantly, we cannot be sure if prior history of IBSA victimization triggers IBSA perpetration, or if engaging in IBSA perpetration leaves the perpetrators vulnerable to future victimization, since participants were not asked to provide dates on when the victimization/perpetration incidents took place. Generally, it is important to note that because of the cross-sectional study design, caution should be implored when inferring causality between significant relationships.

Finally, there are some limitations with the measures used in this study. First, for most of the measures, there is only limited information regarding their psychometric properties since the majority are fairly new. This is especially true for the Aggrieved Entitlement Scale that was developed for this study. Moreover, some concerns are raised over the reliability of the Hanson's Sexual Entitlement subscale in the context of this study, given the low Cronbach's alpha that was obtained ($\alpha = .556$). More specific to the actual items in each measure, there are suggestions that shorter measures comparable to the SD4 (Short Dark Tetrad) used in this study, may not be able to capture the full picture of the dark personality traits. In fact, some have argued that current measures of dark personality traits fail to accurately assess Machiavellianism in particular by putting too much focus on impulsivity, lack of discipline or ambition, and sensation seeking (Miller et al., 2019). However, these traits are in many ways better aligned with psychopathy. As a result, some argue that the dark triad ends up measuring two slightly different versions of psychopathy, instead of assessing the unique empirical profile of Machiavellianism (Miller et al., 2019). Future work delving into dark personality traits and TFSV should take this into

consideration and use measures that specifically target Machiavellianism like Mach-IV (Christie & Geis, 1970).

Future Directions and Implications

Research on TFSV, including IBSA is still relatively limited, and so there are still multiple research avenues that are yet to be explored. A number of potential future lines have already been identified throughout the discussion. Further, although research for the acquisition of knowledge is a noble endeavor, research on the topic should also try to put the experiences of those affected most by IBSA at the forefront. A participatory design method that would actively involve victims of IBSA in the entirety of the research process as equal voices should be considered. Further, more qualitative work is needed to explore the unique insights of perpetrators and victims of IBSA in general and to inform future quantitative work. The specific motivations behind IBSA or TFSV within the context of moral disengagement could also be explored in greater detail. As deepfake technology becomes more accessible it is expected that it will have a huge impact on IBSA. Research and policy alike should move ahead of the curve and prepare for this to better protect potential victims.

Furthermore, given the high victimization rate (1 in 3) that I found, efforts should be concentrated on ways to help victims come forward and get justice. Currently, one of the biggest hurdles facing victims is the extended timescale procedures, including criminal investigation, prosecution, and potential conviction would require. While the eventual potential conviction of the person who disseminated their nude or sexual images may provide moral satisfaction to the victim and their family, it does not guarantee the swift take-down of the images or their complete removal from the internet. This is a well-documented issue, as a 2018 report showed that police in North Yorkshire were unable to provide practical support to victims of revenge pornography,

including ensuring the removal of the images of the victim from the internet (North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, 2018).

Nevertheless, removing an image from the internet does not guarantee that it will stay off the internet forever. An image uploaded on the internet may be downloaded and re-uploaded by multiple users hundreds of times on different websites. In turn, some of these host websites, might not make upholding a legal or moral code their first priority, or alternatively, they could likely operate under different jurisdictions, making any investigation or enforcement of Canadian law more challenging. Such host websites could also be fully operational without being indexed on Google or relying on web searches for traffic. Instead, word of the mouth and discussion on forums dedicated to deepfake pornography or similar unsavoury topics could drive the majority of their traffic. In truth, major content distribution platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, already have numerous legal obligations in place that dictate them to control to a certain degree the content they host. These corporations also invest sizeable amounts of money every year in the development of cutting-edge technology that allows them to detect, flag, and remove illegal or unsavoury content. Pressure from legislation on these corporations that represent host websites to vet the content they allow on their platforms and ensure the safety of their users could not only help victims, but indirectly move technological advances and research forward. However, the onus on researching this topic should not fall solely on the private industry, and an investment in the development of a taskforce within the government that would be dedicated on the use of technology for the perpetration and perpetuation of sexual abuse would also be very helpful. Therefore, the effectiveness of policy implementation for IBSA hinges not only on the appreciation of the serious harm it can inflict upon its victims but on the cooperation across jurisdictions and swift removal of the intimate material as well.

Another way to support IBSA victims is through resources specifically for them. To date, most resources available to victims are generic to sexual abuse and have certain types of IBSA hastily added on. Although these resources may have proven valuable to many, more could be done to support those who need them. Resources that could provide crisis line intervention, legal advice, and information on what IBSA is could have a huge impact on victims, their families, and the general public alike. Such resources could also represent educational hot-spots to dispute myths related to IBSA and provide accurate and up-to-date information to the general public. As a result, they could potentially ameliorate the high rates of approval and even enjoyment of IBSA I found in this study.

Conclusion

In summation, this is one of the first research endeavors to examine how demographic, attitudinal, and personality characteristics relate to IBSA perpetration and victimization. The results suggest that gender, sexual orientation, psychopathy, and sadism are predictive of victimization. On the contrary, only psychopathy and narcissism were predictive of perpetration. Finally, gender, sadism, and beliefs in IBSA-related myths were predictive of proclivity for perpetration. The results also found that victimization is predictive of perpetration and vice versa. The need for more work that explores the extent, nature, and legal ramifications of IBSA is evident. Ultimately, this line of work seems to have generated a greater number of questions than the ones it set out to answer, which only highlights the importance of greater understanding on the topic.

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Appendix A. Demographic Questionnaire

Please provide the following information:

Note: You may skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

1. Age (in years): _____
2. What is your gender identity?
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
 - c. Transgender
 - d. Non-binary
 - e. Other: _____
3. What is your sexual orientation?
 - a. Heterosexual
 - b. Homosexual
 - c. Bisexual
 - d. Asexual
 - e. Pansexual
 - f. Other: _____
4. What is your racial/ethnic background?
 - a. Indigenous Canadian/Native Canadian/ First Nations
 - b. Asian
 - c. Black/African-Canadian
 - d. East Indian
 - e. Hispanic/Latinx
 - f. Middle Eastern
 - g. White/Caucasian
 - h. Other: _____
5. Have you ever used an online dating site or application?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
6. If yes, how often do you use online dating apps or applications to meet people you could potentially date?
 - a. Very Rarely
 - b. Occasionally
 - c. Sometimes
 - d. Often
 - e. Very often
 - f. All the time
7. If yes, how would you describe your general experience in online dating?
 - a. Mostly Very bad
 - b. Mostly Bad
 - c. Mostly Neutral
 - d. Mostly Good
 - e. Mostly Very good

Appendix B. Short Dark Tetrad (SD4)

Citation:

Paulhus, D. L., Buckels, E. E., Trapnell, P.D., & Jones, D. N. (2018). *The Short Dark Tetrad (SD4)*. Introduced at the meeting of the International Conference for Applied Psychology, Montreal, Canada.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

Instructions: Rate your agreement with each statement using a 5-point scale:

1. It's not wise to let people know your secrets.
2. Whatever it takes, you must get the important people on your side.
3. Avoid direct conflict with others because they may be useful in the future.
4. Keep a low profile if you want to get your way.
5. Manipulating the situation takes planning.
6. Flattery is a good way to get people on your side.
7. I love it when a tricky plan succeeds.
8. People see me as a natural leader.
9. I have a unique talent for persuading people.
10. Group activities tend to be dull without me.
11. I know that I am special because people keep telling me so.
12. I have some exceptional qualities
13. I'm likely to become a future star in some area.
14. I like to show off every now and then.
15. People often say I'm out of control.
16. I tend to fight against authorities and their rules.
17. I've been in more fights than most people of my age and gender.
18. I tend to dive in, then ask questions later.
19. I've been in trouble with the law.
20. I sometimes get into dangerous situations.
21. People who mess with me always regret it.
22. Watching a fist-fight excites me.
23. I really enjoy violent films and video games.
24. It's funny when idiots fall flat on their face.
25. I enjoy watching violent sports.
26. Some people deserve to suffer.
27. Just for kicks, I've said mean things on social media.
28. I know how to hurt someone with words alone.

Appendix C. Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale

Citation:

Pina, A., Holland, J., & James, M. (2017). The malevolent side of revenge porn proclivity: Dark personality traits and sexist ideology. *International Journal of Technoethics (IJT)*, 8(1), 30-43.

Instructions:

Please read the following and imagine yourself in the situation presented:

1. You have recently begun dating someone. During this time you have been out for meals, to the cinema and for social occasions, just as many couples do. One evening whilst you are out for a meal, your partner goes to the toilet leaving their phone on the table. Whilst waiting for them to return you notice they have received a message from a name you recognise as their ex-partner. Curious, you check to see what the message says and find that multiple messages have been exchanged. You place the phone back and continue the evening as normal. Over the next few days you begin to think more about how this has made you feel. You then decide to upload onto the internet a photo of your naked partner that they sent to you when you first began dating.

Now, please, answer the following questions, selecting the answer most applicable to yourself:

1. In this situation, would you have done the same?

1	2	3	4	5
Definitely would not have done the same	Probably would not have done the same	Don't know	Probably would have done the same	Definitely would have done the same

2. In this situation, how excited would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

3. In this situation, how much would you blame the person who initially sent the photo?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

4. In this situation, how amused would you be ?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

5. In this situation, how angry would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

6. In this situation, how regretful would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

2. You and your partner have been together for a few years, but recently they have become distant with you. You try to do things to make them happy but they respond with little interest. A few days later, your partner arranges to meet up with you. Here they explain that they no longer want to be in a relationship, saying that they no longer love you. Afterwards you begin to think about all of the lost time and effort you have invested into this ended relationship. Whilst going through photos on your phone, you come across a naked photo that your now ex-partner sent to you during the relationship. You then decide to upload this photo onto the internet.

Now, please, answer the following questions, selecting the answer most applicable to yourself:

1. In this situation, would you have done the same?

1	2	3	4	5
Definitely would not have done the same	Probably would not have done the same	Don't know	Probably would have done the same	Definitely would have done the same

2. In this situation, how excited would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

3. In this situation, how much would you blame the person who initially sent the photo?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

4. In this situation, how in control would you feel?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

5. In this situation, how amused would you be ?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

6. In this situation, how angry would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

7. In this situation, how regretful would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

3. You have been in a happy relationship for some time now. You rarely argue with each other and seem to have a good relationship, often spending time with your partner. One evening whilst socializing with a friend, your friend tells you that they believe your partner is cheating on you. That evening you confront your partner, questioning whether this is true, upon which they confess it is. You consequently abruptly end the relationship. You soon hear that your friends are gossiping that you have been cheated on, causing you to avoid socializing. You react by uploading a naked photo to the internet of your now ex-partner that they previously sent to you.

Now, please, answer the following questions, selecting the answer most applicable to yourself:

1. In this situation, would you have done the same?

1	2	3	4	5
Definitely would not have done the same	Probably would not have done the same	Don't know	Probably would have done the same	Definitely would have done the same

2. In this situation, how excited would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

3. In this situation, how much would you blame the person who initially sent the photo?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

4. In this situation, how amused would you be ?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

5. In this situation, how angry would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

6. In this situation, how regretful would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

4. You and your friends often communicate via social media or through text. Most weeks you will send each other messages, which often include images that you both find amusing. One evening your friend sends you a message which includes a nude photo of one of their previous partners. Although you didn't know this ex-partner, you decided to upload this onto the internet so that your other friends can see it.

Now, please, answer the following questions, selecting the answer most applicable to yourself:

1. In this situation, would you have done the same?

1	2	3	4	5
Definitely would not have done the same	Probably would not have done the same	Don't know	Probably would have done the same	Definitely would have done the same

2. In this situation, how excited would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

3. In this situation, how much would you blame the person who initially sent the photo?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

4. In this situation, how amused would you be ?

1	2	3	4	5

Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very
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5. In this situation, how angry would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

6. In this situation, how regretful would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

5. You are currently in a relationship and have been for a few months. It doesn't always run as smoothly as you would like but you feel a relationship is something that should be worked on. One evening an argument begins over your partner's friend who has recently been flirting with them and sending them text messages. One of these messages included a nude photo of the friend. In reaction to this, you send this photo of their friend to your own phone so that you can then upload it onto the internet for others to see.

Now, please, answer the following questions, selecting the answer most applicable to yourself:

1. In this situation, would you have done the same?

1	2	3	4	5
Definitely would not have done the same	Probably would not have done the same	Don't know	Probably would have done the same	Definitely would have done the same

2. In this situation, how excited would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

3. In this situation, how much would you blame the person who initially sent the photo?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

4. In this situation, how amused would you be ?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

5. In this situation, how angry would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

6. In this situation, how regretful would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

6. You feel proud of the way your partner looks and how attractive they are. One day, while you are out with one of your friends, your partner sends you a nude picture of themselves, and you decide to show it to your friends to brag about how good looking your partner is.

Now, please, answer the following questions, selecting the answer most applicable to yourself:

1. In this situation, would you have done the same?

1	2	3	4	5
Definitely would not have done the same	Probably would not have done the same	Don't know	Probably would have done the same	Definitely would have done the same

2. In this situation, how excited would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

3. In this situation, how much would you blame the person who initially sent the photo?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

4. In this situation, how amused would you be ?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

5. In this situation, how angry would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

6. In this situation, how regretful would you be?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not particularly	Don't know	Fairly	Very

Appendix D. Sexual Image-Based Abuse Myth Acceptance (SIAMA) scale

Citation:

Powell, A., Henry, N., Flynn, A., & Scott, A. J. (2019). Image-based sexual abuse: The extent, nature, and predictors of perpetration in a community sample of Australian residents. *Computers in Human Behaviour*, 92, 393-402.

Instructions: Rate your agreement with each statement using a 7-point scale:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree

Minimize/excuse

1. Women should be flattered if a partner or ex-partner shows nude pics of her to some close friends
2. A woman should share a nude image of herself with her partner, even if she doesn't really want to, for the good of the relationship
3. If a guy shares a nude or sexual pic of his partner with his friends when he's drunk, he can't really be held responsible
4. A man shouldn't get upset if his partner sends nude pics of him to others
5. Although most women wouldn't admit it, they generally find it a turn-on for a guy to share nude pics of her with his mates
6. A woman shouldn't get upset if her partner sends nude pics of her to others
7. If a woman shows her friends a nude or sexual image of her partner, it just shows how proud she is of him
8. It's only natural for a guy to brag to his mates by showing them a nude or sexual image of his partner
9. If a woman is willing to send a nude or sexual image to a man she just met, then it's no big deal if he goes a little further by showing it to his mates
10. Women tend to exaggerate how much it affects them if a nude or sexual image of them gets out online
11. A man's reputation is boosted among his mates if he shares nude pics of a sexual partner
12. Men don't usually mean to pressure a partner into sending nude pics, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away

Blame

1. If a person sends a nude or sexual image to someone else, then they are at least partly responsible if the image ends up online
2. A woman who sends a nude or sexual image to her partner, should not be surprised if the image ends up online
3. If a man sends a nude or sexual image to someone he just met, he should not be surprised if the image ends up online
4. Celebrities and well-known media personalities who take sexy images of themselves should not expect that those images will remain private

5. People should know better than to take nude selfies in the first place, even if they never send them to anyone
6. If a man sends a nude or sexual image to a partner, he can't expect it will remain private

Appendix E. Image-Based Sexual Abuse Victimization

Citation:

Powell, A., Henry, N., Flynn, A., & Scott, A. J. (2019). Image-based sexual abuse: The extent, nature, and predictors of perpetration in a community sample of Australian residents. *Computers in Human Behaviour*, 92, 393-402.

Instruction: Answer with a yes or no the following questions

Has anyone ever (since you were 16) distributed without consent a picture of yourself :

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Where you are partially clothed or semi-nude | Yes | No |
| 2. Where your breasts, including your nipples, are visible | Yes | No |
| 3. Where you are completely nude | Yes | No |
| 4. Where your genitals are visible | Yes | No |
| 5. Where you are engaged in a sexual act | Yes | No |
| 6. Where you are showering, bathing, or toileting | Yes | No |
| 7. Which is of a sex act that you did not agree to | Yes | No |
| 8. Which is up your skirt (e.g., ‘up-skirting’) | Yes | No |
| 9. Which is of your cleavage (e.g., ‘downblousing’) | Yes | No |

Has anyone ever (since you were 16) threatened to distribute without consent a picture of yourself :

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Where you are partially clothed or semi-nude | Yes | No |
| 2. Where your breasts, including your nipples, are visible | Yes | No |
| 3. Where you are completely nude | Yes | No |
| 4. Where your genitals are visible | Yes | No |
| 5. Where you are engaged in a sexual act | Yes | No |
| 6. Where you are showering, bathing, or toileting | Yes | No |
| 7. Which is of a sex act that you did not agree to | Yes | No |
| 8. Which is up your skirt (e.g., ‘up-skirting’) | Yes | No |
| 9. Which is of your cleavage (e.g., ‘downblousing’) | Yes | No |

1. What was the gender of the person who threatened to distribute or distributed your nude or sexual image without your consent?
 - a. Female
 - b. Male
 - c. Female and Male
 - d. Transgender
 - e. Don’t know

2. What was your relationship with the person who threatened to distribute or distributed your nude or sexual image?
 - a. Intimate partner

- b. Ex-partner
- c. Family member
- d. Friend (known face to face)
- e. Friend (known online only)
- f. Work colleague
- g. Ex-work colleague
- h. Acquaintance
- i. Stranger
- j. Don't know
- k. Other: _____

Appendix F. Image Based Sexual Abuse Perpetration

Citation:

Powell, A., Henry, N., Flynn, A., & Scott, A. J. (2019). Image-based sexual abuse: The extent, nature, and predictors of perpetration in a community sample of Australian residents. *Computers in Human Behaviour*, 92, 393-402.

Instruction: Answer with a yes or no the following questions

Have you ever (since you were 16) distributed without consent a picture of someone else :

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Where they are partially clothed or semi-nude | Yes | No |
| 2. Where their breasts, including your nipples, are visible | Yes | No |
| 3. Where they are completely nude | Yes | No |
| 4. Where their genitals are visible | Yes | No |
| 5. Where they are engaged in a sexual act | Yes | No |
| 6. Where they are showering, bathing, or toileting | Yes | No |
| 7. Which is up their skirt (e.g., ‘up-skirting’) | Yes | No |
| 8. Which is of their cleavage (e.g., ‘downblousing’) | Yes | No |

Have you ever (since you were 16) threatened to distribute without consent a picture of someone else :

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Where they are partially clothed or semi-nude | Yes | No |
| 2. Where their breasts, including your nipples, are visible | Yes | No |
| 3. Where they are completely nude | Yes | No |
| 4. Where their genitals are visible | Yes | No |
| 5. Where they are engaged in a sexual act | Yes | No |
| 6. Where they are showering, bathing, or toileting | Yes | No |
| 7. Which is up their skirt (e.g., ‘up-skirting’) | Yes | No |
| 8. Which is of their cleavage (e.g., ‘downblousing’) | Yes | No |

1. What was the gender of the person you threatened to distribute or distributed their nude or sexual image without your consent?
 - a. Female
 - b. Male
 - c. Female and Male
 - d. Transgender
 - e. Don't know
2. What was your relationship with the person/people in the nude or sexual image at the time when you threatened to distribute/ or distributed their image?
 - a. Intimate partner
 - b. Ex-partner
 - c. Family member
 - d. Friend (known face to face)
 - e. Friend (known online only)
 - f. Work colleague
 - g. Ex-work colleague
 - h. Acquaintance
 - i. Stranger
 - j. Don't know

Other: _____

Appendix G. Hanson Sex Attitude Questionnaire – Sexual Entitlement Subscale

Citation : Karl Hanson, R., Gizzarelli, R., & Scott, H. (1994). The attitudes of incest offenders: Sexual entitlement and acceptance of sex with children. *Criminal justice and behaviour, 21*(2), 187-202.

Instructions: Rate your agreement with each statement using a 5-point scale

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

1. A person should have sex whenever it is needed
2. Women should oblige men's sexual needs.
3. Everyone is entitled to sex.
4. Sex must be enjoyed by both parties (R).
5. Men need sex more than women do.
6. I have a higher sex drive than most people.
7. I am often bothered by thoughts of having sex.
8. I have no trouble going without sex if my partner is not interested (R).
9. A man who is denied sex suffers more than a woman who has sex when she does not want it.

Appendix H. Aggrieved Entitlement Scale

Instructions: Rate your agreement with each statement using a 5-point scale

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

1. It is my birthright to achieve greatness
2. Women and minorities actually have more rights
3. White men are the ones who are truly persecuted in today's culture.
4. Reverse sexism and reverse racism are real and valid problems that I or people I know, often have to deal with.
5. Our government should prioritize helping real citizens first, instead of immigrants who offer nothing of value to our country.
6. If our culture wasn't so politically correct, I would have achieved great things.
7. Race and gender quotas in jobs and universities are taking jobs away from well-deserving white men.
8. I believe I have been cheated out of opportunities that have been given to undeserving minorities instead so the employer can appear to be politically correct.
9. I believe that the invasion of immigrants is a threat to our way of life