

IMPROBABLE SEX

Improbable, stimulating investigations

compiled by Marc Abrahams, Improbable Research staff

Role Played by Female Buttock Fat in the Missionary Position

“Human Copulation and Adipose Tissue,” V. Sarafis, M. Henneberg, L. Mealey, J. Taylor, and G. Brown, paper presented at the 15th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Human Ethology held in Salamanca, Spain, August 9-13, 2000, cited in *Huntan Ethology Bulletin*, vol. 15, no. 2, 2000. (Thanks to Elisabeth Oberzaucher for bringing this to our attention.) The authors, at the University of Adelaide, Australia; the College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Indiana; and Royal Adelaide Hospital, Australia, explain:

The missionary position is probably linked to physical comfort and face-to-face communication. In this context it is the female and male pair bond which suggests this coital position to be preferred as the female is lighter and shorter generally than her pair-bonded male. We interpret the conspicuous adiposity shown by the female pelvic girdle and the buttocks as offering a thrust force absorbing structure during coitus in the missionary position.... MRI scan reveals the degree of adiposity is large compared with the male in the buttocks. It has been suggested that the missionary position is also the most fecund. We thus claim that the depot fat in the female buttocks acts as an evolutionary reminder of its importance in cementing the pair bond and results also in increased fecundity.

How Much Pornography Could Men Watch?

“No Harm in Looking, Right? Men’s Pornography Consumption, Body Image, and Well-Being,” Tracy L. Tylka, *Psychology of Men and Masculinity*, vol. 16, no. 1, 2015, pp. 97–107. (Thanks to Ellen de Bruin for bringing this to our attention.) The author is at The Ohio State University. The paper’s first footnote says:

It was realized after data were collected that it is impossible for men to literally always view pornography. Therefore, always was assigned the same numerical value as usually, given that usually is the highest frequency response that could be possible.

Detail from the study “No Harm in Looking, Right? Men’s Pornography Consumption, Body Image, and Well-Being.”

Spontaneous Female Orgasms Triggered by the Smell of a Newly Found Tropical *Dictyophora* Desv. Species

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On the island of Hawaii in the Central Pacific, there has long been the rumor of a bright orange colored mushroom with peculiar properties. Found growing only on recent lava flows

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Mushroom-Triggered Female Orgasms

“Spontaneous Female Orgasms Triggered by the Smell of a Newly Found Tropical *Dictyophora* Desv. Species,” Noah Soule, *International Journal of Medicinal Mushrooms*, Volume 3, 2001, Issue 2-3. (Thanks to Tom Van Dooren for bringing this to our attention.) The author, at Next Laboratories, Kula, Hawaii, explains:

On the island of Hawaii in the Central Pacific, there has long been the rumor of a bright orange-colored mushroom with peculiar properties. Found growing only on recent lava flows approximately 600 10,000 years old, this variety of mushroom has the reputation of being a potent female aphrodisiac when smelled. In this study the morphology and chemistry of this unnamed *Dictyophora* species is described, along with the results of a smell test conducted on volunteer participants, showing that there are significant sexual arousal characteristics present in the fetid odor of this unique mushroom. Indeed, nearly half of the female test subjects experienced spontaneous orgasms while smelling this mushroom.

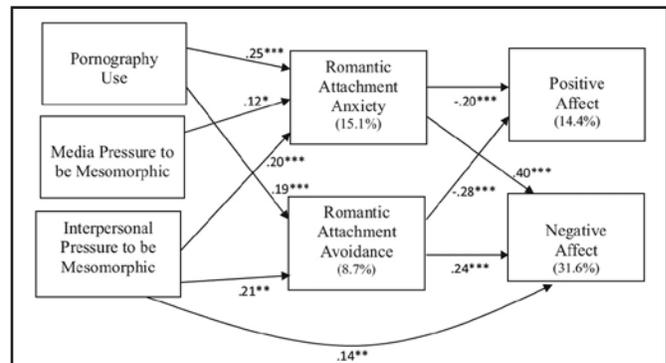


Figure 3. Pornography use integrated within a relational model of men’s positive and negative affect (Model 3). Standardized path coefficients are presented, and the percentage of variance accounted for by the predictors is included below the criterion variable names. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.