

# IMPROBABLE SEX: RATS IN JACKETS, LESBIANS FOR MEN

*Improbable, stimulating investigations*

compiled by Alice Shirrell Kaswell, *Improbable Research staff*

## Fetishes: Rats Wearing Jackets

“Somatosensory Conditioning of Sexual Arousal and Copulatory Behavior in the Male Rat: A Model of Fetish Development,” James G. Pfaus, Kirsten A. Erickson, and Stella Talianakis, *Physiology and Behavior*, vol. 122, 2013, pp. 1-7. (Thanks to Mirela Zaneva for bringing this to our attention.) [NOTE: This study does not cite the Ig Nobel Prize-winning research of Ahmed Zafik, who studied the effects of wearing polyester, cotton, or wool trousers on the sex life of rats, and who conducted similar tests with human males.] The authors, at Concordia University, Canada, explain:

In the first experiment, two groups of sexually naïve male rats had their first copulatory experiences with receptive females in bilevel chambers with or without a rodent jacket. On a final copulatory test, half of the rats in each group were tested with the jacket on or off.



Fig. 1. A male rat wearing the Lomir® rodent tethering jacket.

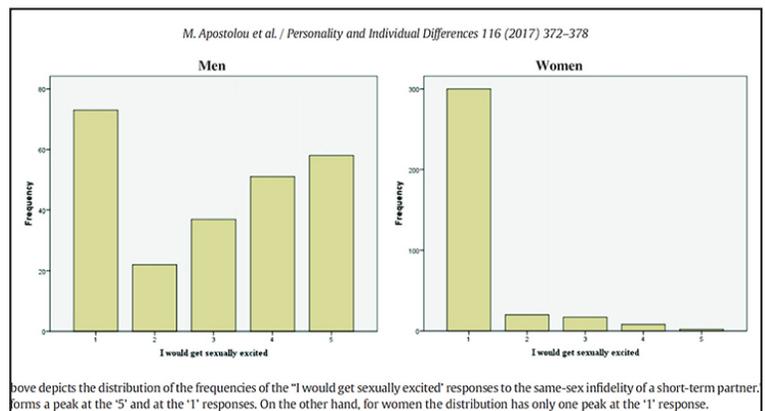
Detail from the study “Somatosensory Conditioning of Sexual Arousal and Copulatory Behavior in the Male Rat: A Model of Fetish Development.”

## The Theory That Lesbians Evolved to Please Men

“The Evolution of Female Same-Sex Attraction: The Male Choice Hypothesis,” Menelaos Apostolou, Marios Shialos, Michalis Khalil, and Vana Paschali, *Personality and Individual Differences*, vol. 116, 2017, pp. 372–378. The authors, at the University of Nicosia, Cyprus, explain:

[T]his paper proposed a theoretical framework where, during the period of human evolution, same-sex attractions in women were under positive selection. The source of positive selection has been male preferences for opposite-sex sex partners who experienced same-sex attractions. This theoretical framework was used to generate four predictions that were tested in two online studies which employed a total of 1509 heterosexual participants.... Evidence from two independent studies indicated that men were more likely than women to desire as mates individuals who were heterosexuals but occasionally experienced same-sex attraction. In addition, it was found that, in response to an incidence of infidelity, men were more sexually excited than women by the same-sex infidelity of their partners, and men desired, more than women, their opposite-sex partners to have sex with same-sex individuals....

These findings were employed in understanding the evolutionary origins of same-sex attraction in women.... Men’s desire for women who are attracted to other women selects for women who are attracted to other women. In turn, male desires, along with factors such as arranged marriage, which weakened the negative fitness costs of same-sex attraction, can explain the relatively high frequency of this trait in the population.



Detail from the study “The Evolution of Female Same-Sex Attraction: The Male Choice Hypothesis.”