

AN INVESTIGATION OF PREMARITAL SEXUAL PERMISSIVENESS OF
WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY-LA CROSSE STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this descriptive study was to determine the premarital sexual permissiveness of a population sampling of ~~the~~ ^{Upper Class men Student} ~~1970 summer school~~ ^{University of Wisconsin} students at Wisconsin State University-LaCrosse. The subjects used were 109 unmarried, on campus University students. All subjects were administered a questionnaire. Premarital Sexual Permissiveness scales devised by Reiss were used as measures of the respondents permissiveness.

~~An analysis was made of the results using tables of proportions and testing for significance using z scores. Analysis of the means and standard deviations using t tests of significance were also performed.~~

Results of ~~these~~ analyses indicated an overall permissiveness based on coital agreement to the scale statements of 53.3% for the males and 39.0% agreement for the females. Female respondents were less permissive than male respondents when answering statements of the Premarital Sexual Permissiveness scales. Female respondents were not more equalitarian than males when answering statements of the Premarital Sexual Permissiveness scales. Older respondents were not more equalitarian than younger respondents.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The study of human sexual relationship examines situations in which individuals constantly make choices regarding their sexual attitudes and behavior. To some extent, then, the study of sexual relationships are applicable to many sociological and psychological aspects of man's life. However, conventional sexual morality has hampered the empirical study of the sexual relationship, causing a void in knowledge of this subject. Students of human behavior, and especially educators, have a responsibility to their profession to gain more than just impressions and generalizations regarding student attitudes and feelings. The more that is known about students the more effective those students can be educated. The chief concern of this study was to investigate the sexual attitudes of students at Wisconsin State University - La Crosse in order to gain more information about that group of students. This information which in turn might be helpful to other educators.

Statement of the problem

This study was an investigation of the Premarital Sexual Permissiveness (PSP) of a sampling of the 1969-70 summer student body of Wisconsin State University - La Crosse.

Purpose

The purpose of this study was twofold: First, to determine the PSP of a sampling of the 1969-70 summer student body at

Wisconsin State University - La Crosse and to note what differences in permissiveness, if any, occurred in relation to age and sex of the students. Second, to determine the degree of equalitarianism the students manifested.

Need

Until recently, the study of the human sexual relationship has been severely curtailed in the United States. Reasons for this fact are many, but the conventional moral tradition of our country has been the prime cause (Reiss, 1967, p. 2). Research indicates a changing sexual morality developing in the youth today. Kinsey's studies, especially, point up this change not so much in behavior as in attitudes (Reiss, 1967, p. 11).

Since sex is one key motive in human behavior, sexual attitudes relate to the concepts of love and family, and indirectly tie in with many of our social systems (Reiss, 1967, p. 5). The sexual role of an individual can, therefore, affect his self-concept, his attitudes toward school, and his occupational choice.

For educators, then, sex research can help give a better understanding of the types of students with which they are dealing and perhaps indicate how best to help those students adjust to life situations.

Delimitations

Subjects for the study were drawn from a population sampling of the summer students at Wisconsin State University - La Crosse. The study was conducted during the summer semester of the 1969-70

school year at Wisconsin State University - La Crosse. The study included both male and female respondents. Only unmarried students were used in the sample. The study was conducted under the auspices of Wisconsin State University - La Crosse as an educational research project. Subjects were given an anonymous, self administered questionnaire.

Definition of Terms

✓ The most common definitions of terms have been employed.

Norms. Standards of behavior that are held by a group.

Values. That which a group believes ought to be desired.

✓ Attitudes. Tendencies to act that are presumably based on one's norm and values (Davis, 1950, p. 38).

✓ Permissiveness. Allowing freedom of choice. It refers to both an open minded detachment and a passive acceptance of involvement (Websters Unabridged Dictionary).

✓ Equalitarianism. The degree of equality between the sexes.

✓ Petting. Sexually stimulating behavior more intimate than kissing and simple hugging but not including full sexual relations.

✓ Strong Affection. Affection which is stronger than physical attraction or average fondness or "liking", but less strong than the emotional state which you would call love.

✓ Love. The emotional state which is more intense than strong affection and which you would define as love.

Assumptions and Hypotheses

It was assumed that the twelve point Guttman scale devised

by Reiss is a valid measure of PSP (Appendix). Another assumption was that less deception would be attempted concerning questions of attitude rather than behavior. Further, it was assumed that the "contrived" five-item scale devised by Reiss is a valid universal measure of PSP (Appendix).

Four basic hypotheses were proposed.

Hypothesis Number One. Female respondents will be less permissive than males.

Hypothesis Number Two. Female respondents will be more equalitarian.

Hypothesis Number Three. The older respondents will be more permissive and more equalitarian.

Hypothesis Number Four. The overall permissiveness based on coital agreement would be lower than 30% for females and 50% for males.

Limitations

A major concern was the honesty of the respondents to the questionnaire. However, evidence indicates there seems to be a much greater willingness to talk more freely about sex today than in past years (Reiss, 1966).

Another contamination due to prefabrication of answers is possible but rather small in degree. A check on the truthfulness was administered with the last two items on the questionnaire (Appendix).

The issue of causality was not the concern of the study. The difficulty in ascertaining causality requires more data and testing

than the scope of the study permitted. This study dealt with the attitudes of respondents toward PSP and the relationships were analyzed with that in mind.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Awareness of the human sexual relationship has been at a low level for many years in the United States. Feeling sex an unsafe area of study, the researchers have stayed clear of empirical investigations for fear of disturbing the existing moral order.

Prior to World War II, most research in the area was produced primarily by physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, anthropologists, and journalists. The studies of Krofft-Ebing, Ellis and Freud were the most influential during that period of time. However, those studies had moral undertones and were severely censured by the more conservative factions of society (Reiss, 1967, p. 2). Some of the most important post war works were the pioneer studies of Kinsey, Pomeroy, Martin and Gebhard. Even these studies were intensely censured by the public minority (Himmehock and Fava, 1955). It was a combination of Kinsey and a movement in the country toward greater liberalism which recently has seen more sex research being attempted. In fact, in the past few years, investigators doing population research have noted that questions regarding sexual behavior are being answered more easily than questions regarding family income (Freedman, Whelpton and Campbell, 1959) (Freedman, 1965).

Earlier studies showed more about the premarital sexual behavior than about the attitudes of respondents. Studies by Terman (1938), Bergess and Wallin (1953), Kinsey et al., (1948,

1953), Erhmann (1959), Kirkendall (1961), and Christensen and Carpenter (1962), while using non-probability samples indicate certain basic facts that have been assumed to be applicable for Americans. It has been found that premarital coitus is more common for males than for females and for Negroes than for whites (Reiss, 1964, p. 688-98). Another finding is that affection is a more important factor in motivating the female to perform sexually than it is in motivating the male (Erhmann, 1959). Further evidence shows different socio-cultural factors influence different sexual behaviors and attitudes. For example, it has been found that relations, wherein the male has a higher social class than the female, are more likely to involve premarital coitus than the reverse of this (Erhmann, 1959, p. 144-69). Religiousness has been found to be an inhibiting influence on sexual permissiveness (Kinsey et al., 1953, p. 304-07). Evidence also indicates that the consequences of coitus vary according to the standards an individual holds (Christensen and Carpenter, 1962) (Reiss, 1960). Studies have also reported similarities of sexual standards and behavior in certain social groups (Erhmann, 1959) (Kinsey et al., 1948, 1953).

Studies dealing with perceived sexual permissiveness of parents, peers and close friends have indicated relationships forming attitude crystalization (Bell and Buerkle, 1961). The studies of Bossard and Boll (1956) and Elder and Bowerman (1963) have shown that family characteristics have an important impact on attitude formation. Brim in 1958, suggests that birth order may affect sexual permissiveness.

He found that older siblings of the opposite sex affect an individual's sexual permissiveness.

Masters and Johnson in 1966, studied the physiological aspects of the human sexual response cycle. Their work produced a breakthrough in public opinion, similar to the Kinsey study of the 1940's. The study disproved many of the myths previously held in relation to the sexual experience. Another study by Masters and Johnson, ~~scheduled to be published in 1970~~, deals with the psychological aspects of sexuality and should give some insight into some attitudinal feelings of the respondents (Brecker, 1969).

Another significant finding in several studies is that regional patterns of the United States may exist regarding premarital intimacy. Namely, the East and West are more liberal, the South is most conservative, and the Midwest is moderate on permissiveness (Reiss, 1964, 1967) (~~Freeman, 1966~~)(Greene, 1964).

The above studies indicate that relatively little has been found out about the sexual relationship in general and about premarital permissiveness in particular. The climate of the country is changing and while some investigators say there appears to be a "sexual revolution" in the country, others say that the change is just a gradual evolvement of a more equalitarian system (Reiss, 1967, p. 176). In March of 1968, John H. Gagnon, senior research sociologist at the Institute for Sex Research, Indiana, and his colleague William Simon wrote in the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, "At present, there are uneven signs

of a shift in rates of premarital intercourse in our society- a shift toward increasing incidences of premarital intercourse on the part of the female."

Attitudinal Studies

Kinsey showed that little change has occurred in coital behavior since the 1920's, but that attitudes apparently have changed more since then (Reiss, 1960, 1966). Two studies, Bromley and Britten (1938), and Freedman (1965) have found that about 25% females and 50% males indicated they were non-virgins. Studies by Rockwood and Ford (1945), Landis (1958), and Erhmann (1959) attempted to classify sexual attitudes but the schema proved inadequate (Reiss, 1960).

In looking at permissiveness, investigators have devoted the most attention to the incidence of coitus not only because society has viewed it as a major breakpoint in premarital behavior, but also because while definitions of petting vary, definitions of coitus do not (Packard, 1968).

Kinsey (1948) reported that 25% of the 21 years old surveyed had experienced coitus. A study by Landis (1963) found the incidence of premarital coitus for the females at 12%. Ehrmann (1960) reported incidence for males 65%, for females 13%. Ehrmann's survey was limited to one Southern University. A study by Freedman (1958) reported female incidence at Vassar to be 22%. Freeman (1966) found a surprisingly high incidence in the study of 800 college senior women. He reported that 55% of the females had experienced coitus. The report also suggested that women pace their sexual

behavior according to how far away they perceive marriage to be.

Studies dealing with attitudes toward premarital sexual permissiveness are noteworthy. Erhmann (1959) found that 53% of his male respondents favored virginity. Landis (1963) found 53% opposed premarital coitus. A survey of Columbia College seniors (Columbian, 1964) indicated that 83% favored premarital coitus. Freeman (1966) reported in his study that between 40-64% favored premarital coitus depending on the amount of affection.

One of the most comprehensive studies of recent years was done by Reiss (1967). The study had two basic purposes: 1) to develop and test a measure of premarital sexual permissiveness, and 2) to examine socio-cultural correlates of premarital sexual permissiveness and propose a theory of premarital sexuality. That probability sampling of both high school and college students and adults had the following results. In the Iowa College study, 32% of the females and 64% of the males accepted coitus (Reiss, 1967, p. 105). In a similar study at the University of Iowa with a larger sample, 23% of the females and 63% of the males accepted coitus (Hampe, 1967). Reiss also reported that affection played a large part in acceptance of coitus. A range of percents from 21% for no affection to 52% for engaged males and 11% for no affection to 44% for engaged females was noted in the student sample. His findings for the adult sample were about two to three times lower than the student sample. This suggested that the adults studied were generally less permissive than the students.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE

This study was an investigation of the premarital sexual permissiveness of a group of students from Wisconsin State University - La Crosse. The descriptive study was intended to find out the level of permissiveness and the amount of equalitarianism of the respondents. Differences in age, sex and school classification were analyzed.

The sample was obtained from the official summer school listing of on campus residents. The population sample consisted of 80 male residents from Coate Hall and 72 female residents from Drake Hall. The participants ranged in age from 17 years to 24 years. Only unmarried respondents were used for the study.

A | The researcher selected the male and female premarital sexual permissiveness scales of Ira L. Reiss as the tool to measure the level of permissiveness of the respondents. The scales designed by Reiss have been tested for reliability and validity and it is assumed that they are a Guttman scale and that they provide a valid measurement of premarital sexual permissiveness (Reiss, 1967). They are unidimensional and allow all respondents to be compared in terms of being more or less permissive. The dimension to be measured was PSP, for the degree of permissiveness seemed to be most important in a comparison of sexual beliefs. A₁

In the American culture today, permissiveness was felt to include both a matter of physical activity and of the conditions under which individuals would accept such physical activity. Permissiveness depended, therefore, on the intimacy of the physical

act and on the conditions under which it occurs. The most important condition was considered to be the amount of affection present in the relationship. The male and female Guttman scales are based on questions concerning the individuals acceptance of various physical acts under various conditions of affection.

A₂ For the purpose of this study physical acts were divided into three categories; kissing, petting, and coitus. Conditions of affection were divided into four categories; engagement, love, strong affection, and no affection. Each of the three physical conditions were qualified by each of the four conditions of affection making a total of twelve statements which the respondents were asked to agree or disagree with. These twelve statements are the basis of both the male and female PSP scales. The only difference in each being the sex referent which meant that the subject was to respond for a male in the first part and a female in the second part of the questionnaire. A copy of the scales appears in the appendix for reference. A₂

A₃ The tool used by the researcher to determine the scale type of each individual was the "contrived" five-item scale which was also developed by Reiss. ~~The "contrived" five-item scale was found to be a universal scale and it was further assumed that the five-item scale was a valid indicator of the respondents PSP scale type.~~ The scale was developed by using only those items which formed a Guttman scale, that is only those items in which agreement to a higher ranking item involves agreement with all lower ranking items.

The "contrived" five-item scale then consisted of five items or combined items: (5,6), (7), (9,10), (11), and 12. These items, when answered, would place the respondent into one of six permissive scale types, depending on the agreement indicated to each question. The range of the permissive scale was 0 through 5, zero being the type in which there was no agreement to any of the five items and five being the type in which there was complete agreement to all items. For example, an individual answering agree to item 5 or 6 and answering agree to item 7, would be classified as a permissive scale type two. Another example, an individual answering agree to items 5 or 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11 would be a permissive scale type four. A_2 (Reiss 1967)

By tabulating the individuals responses to the male and female permissive scales into the "contrived" five-item scale, the researcher was able to derive a permissive score for each respondent. This permissive score or scale type ranged from 0 through 5 or from low to high permissive. A scale type for both same sex permissiveness and for perceived opposite sex permissiveness was obtained. These scale types were then used to measure the individuals self permissiveness and also to compare self with opposite sex permissiveness as a measure of equalitarianism.

The questionnaire used was based on one used in a study that Reiss did in 1960 at an Iowa college. The researcher wrote for and received permission from Reiss to use that Iowa College Student Sample Questionnaire. The scope of the present research study did

not permit the use of that entire questionnaire, therefore, a modified version was developed that included the premarital sexual permissive scales and also certain personal information. A copy of the questionnaire appears in the Appendix for reference.

The questionnaire was distributed to each member of the two resident halls in their mail boxes. It was requested in the cover letter (Appendix) that the questionnaire be returned to a sealed box placed in the lobby no later than 4 P.M. the next day. A return of 59 males and 60 females was received after two follow up notes were distributed, through the use of their mail boxes. Each follow up process gave the respondents an additional 24 hours to reply. Five of the male returns and five of the female returns were married students and therefore were disregarded for the study. There were three incomplete returns, two male and one female but they were analyzed using "No" answer responses. The questions not answered were items 1 and 2 of Part III of the questionnaire. These were found on the last page and evidently were overlooked. A separate category for no answer responses was included in the results along with the agree and disagree categories. The total number of respondents used by the researcher then was 54 males and 55 females.

The respondents questionnaires were separated by sex. Using the "contrived" five-item scale model the respondents' answers were tabulated and a scale type was derived for both same sex permissiveness and for perceived opposite sex permissiveness.

The scale type ranged from 0 through 5 with types 0 through 2 indicating low permissiveness and scale types 3 through 5 indicating high permissiveness. The data was also key punched and the responses were tabulated giving breakdowns by sex, age, and school classification. An analysis was made of the results using tables of proportions. The z test of significance was performed to test for any significant difference between proportions at the .05 level. When means and standard deviations were computed the t test of significance was performed to test for any significant difference. The .05 level of significance was used.

Further analysis was made to ascertain differences in permissiveness between male and female respondents. Both same sex and opposite sex permissiveness were compared. Equalitarianism was also measured during this comparison. The age of the respondents was compared to note any differences in permissiveness between different age groups.

Finally an analysis of the total responses with regard to agreement with coital items 9, 10, 11, 12, of the scale or items 5, 8, 11, 2, of the questionnaire was made to find out the overall permissiveness level for both men and women.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

Results pertaining to the four major hypothesis are presented in subsequent tables in this Chapter and in the Appendix. Analysis of these results follows their presentation.

Hypothesis Number One

The first hypothesis stated that the female respondent will be less permissive than the male. This general hypothesis was supported by an analysis of the premarital sexual permissiveness scales and the "contrived" five-item scale.

The respondents were separated by sex. Each individual respondent was then placed into a scale type depending on how he responded to the "contrived" five-item permissive scale. This was done for both male and female permissive scales, therefore, giving each respondent a scale type for same sex permissiveness and one for opposite sex permissiveness. The range of the five-item scale was 0-5.

Using the scale types obtained from the PSP scales, the means and standard deviations were computed for both male and female same sex permissiveness and opposite sex permissiveness (Table 1). When males described their perception of other males permissiveness by responding to the "contrived" five-item scale of the male and female permissive scales, their mean agreement was 4.02 with a standard deviation of 1.70. When males described their perception of female permissiveness by responding to the "contrived" five-item

TABLE 1
 MEANS, STANDARD DEVIATIONS, AND t SCORES
 OF MALE AND FEMALE PERMISSIVE SCALE TYPES

PERMISSIVE SCALE TYPES		
Male-Male	Female-Female	t Score
Mean = 4.02	Mean = 2.38	.634
S.D. = 1.70	S.D. = 1.05	
N = 54	N = 55	
Male-Female	Female-Male	t Score
Mean = 3.69	Mean = 2.67	2.55*
S.D. = 2.94	S.D. = 1.31	

P.05 = 1.96

* Significant

scale of the male and female permissiveness scales, their mean agreement was 3.69 with a standard deviation of 2.94. When females described their perception of male permissiveness by responding to the "contrived" five-item scale of the male and female permissiveness scales, their mean agreement was 2.67 with a standard deviation of 1.31. When females described their perception of other females permissiveness by responding to the "contrived" five-item scale of the male and female permissiveness scales, their mean agreement was 2.38 with a standard deviation of 1.05.

When the mean agreement of males describing their perception of other males permissiveness was compared to the mean agreement of females describing their perception of other females permissiveness, the mean difference of $(4.02 - 2.38)$ 1.66 was tested for significance. The t score of .634 was found to be not significant at the .05 level. This suggested that there did not appear to be significant differences between how males perceived themselves and how females perceived themselves.

When the mean agreement of males describing their perception of females was compared to the mean agreement of females describing their perception of males, the mean difference of $(3.69 - 2.67)$ 1.02 was given a t test of significance. The t score of 2.55 was found to be significant at the .05 level. This suggested that males perceive females to be significantly less permissive than females perceive males to be. This supported Hypothesis One. It also was a finding which was expected for the double standard heritage of the culture which permits males to be more permissive than females.

A further breakdown of this data noted in Tables 2 and 3 again suggested that the female was less permissive than the male. An analysis of the total number of permissive scale types for both males and females showed the following results.

The total number of each scale type was computed for both males describing other males and males describing females. A total was also computed for females describing males and for females describing other females. These totals are shown in Table 2. The scale was dichotomously divided into low and high permissiveness with 0 through 2 being low and 3 through 5 being high. Proportions were then computed for both the low and high permissiveness. When looking at the low side of the scale, the males saw 13% of themselves as low and 16.7% of the females as low. Also on the low side of the scale, the females saw 45.5% of the males as low and 52.7% of themselves as low. When looking at the high side of the scale, the males saw 87% of themselves as high and 83.7% of the females as high. Also on the high side of the scale, the females saw 54.5% of the males as high and 47.3% of themselves as high.

When the proportions of males describing themselves as low (13), was compared to the proportion of females describing themselves as low (52.7), the difference in proportions (39.7) was tested with a z test of significance. The z score of 26.64 was found to be significant at the .05 level. This indicated that males saw themselves as significantly more permissive than they saw females. It appeared, also, that females saw themselves as significantly less permissive than they saw males.

TABLE 2
 DISTRIBUTION OF GUTTMAN-SCALE TYPE ON
 UNIVERSAL FIVE-ITEM SCALE BY SEX
 FOR MALE AND FEMALE RESPONSES

	LOW	PERMISSIVE SCALE TYPE					HIGH
	0	1	2	3	4	5	
		Males					
Men	0	0	7	7	13	27	
Women	0	2	7	11	20	14	
		Females					
Men	4	5	16	14	12	4	
Women	5	6	18	16	9	1	

TABLE 3
 PROPORTION OF MALE AND FEMALE SCALE TYPES
 FOR MEN AND WOMEN LOW PERMISSIVES

Male-Male	Female-Female	z Score
13	52.7	26.64*
Male-Female	Female-Male	z Score
16.7	45.5	19.33*

P.05 = 1.96

* Significant

When the proportion of males describing females as low (16.7) was compared to the proportion of females describing males as low (45.5), the difference in proportions (28.8) was tested for significance. The z score of 19.33 was significant at the .05 level. This suggested that males perceived females to be significantly less permissive than themselves. It also appeared that females perceived males to be significantly more permissive than themselves.

The results of the breakdown of male and female permissive scale types suggests that female respondents were less permissive than male respondents. These data, therefore, significantly supported Hypothesis One.

Hypothesis Number Two

The second hypothesis stated that female respondents were more equalitarian than males. This meant that there should be a smaller difference between same sex scale and opposite sex scale for females than for males. In other words, the difference in scale types between females describing themselves and females describing males would be smaller than the difference between males describing themselves and males describing females.

When the proportion of males describing themselves as low permissives (13) was compared to the proportion of males describing females as low permissives (16.7), the difference in proportions (3.7) was given a z test of significance. The z score of 3.46 was found to be significant at the .05 level. When the proportion of females describing males as low permissives (45.5) was compared to

the proportion of females describing themselves as low permissives (52.7), the difference in proportions (7.2) was given a z test of significance. The z score of 4.02 was found to be significant at the .05 level.

When the proportion of males describing themselves as high permissives (87) was compared to the proportion of males describing females as high permissives (83.7), the difference in proportions (3.3) was given a z test of significance. The z score of 3.15 was found to be significant at the .05 level. When the proportion of females describing males as high permissives (54.7) was compared to the proportion of females describing themselves as high permissives (47.3), the difference in proportions, (7.4) was given a z test of significance. The z score of 4.14 was found to be significant at the .05 level.

When low permissives (Table 4) were investigated the difference between females describing themselves and females describing males was 3.5 greater (7.2-3.7) than the difference between males describing themselves and males describing females. When looking at the high permissives the difference is 4.1 greater (7.4-3.3).

It appeared that since the above differences were all significant, that the female in this study was less equalitarian than the male and responded on the male scales in ways indicating that they give men more permissiveness than they give themselves. Therefore, the hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis Number Three

The third hypothesis stated that the older respondents will be

TABLE 4
 PROPORTION OF MALE AND FEMALE SCALE
 TYPES FOR MEN AND WOMEN
 LOW AND HIGH PERMISSIVES

	Male	Female	z Score
	Low		
Men	13	16.7	3.46*
Women	45.5	52.7	4.02*
	High		
Men	87	83.7	3.15*
Women	54.7	47.3	4.14*
N	54	55	

P.05 = 1.96

* Significant

more permissive and more equalitarian. The difference in scale placement for the males of at least one scale type away are shown in Table 5. With a cut off at 21 years of age the differences between those below 21 and those 21 and above are not significant.

The differences in scale types, one type away, were computed by analyzing the data obtained from the PSP scales of the questionnaire and the "contrived" five-item scale. The differences were totaled for males and females below 21 years and for males and females 21 years and above. There were 11 males and 9 females below 21 years. In the 21 and above range there were 8 males and 4 females. Proportions were then computed for both males and females. The results of these computations were shown in Table 5.

Out of 36 male respondents below the age of 21, there were 11 who had a same sex scale type which was at least one scale type away from the opposite sex scale type. Out of 18 male respondents 21 years and above, there were 8 who had a same sex scale type which was at least one scale type away from the opposite sex scale type. Out of 38 female respondents below 21 years, there were 9 who had a same sex scale type which was at least one scale type away from the opposite sex scale type. Out of 17 female respondents 21 years and above, there were 4 who had a same sex scale type which was at least one scale type away from the opposite sex scale type.

When the proportion of males below 21 years was compared to the proportion of males 21 years and above, the difference in proportions (3.8) was given a z test of significance. The z score of 1.39 was

TABLE 5
 PROPORTION OF MALE AND FEMALE SCALE TYPES (ONE TYPE AWAY) WITH
 RESPECT TO SEX AND AGE

	Below 21 years		21 years and above		"z"
	N		N		
Males	11	30.6	8	44.4	1.39
	(N = 36)		(N = 18)		
Females	9	21.1	4	23.5	.93
	(N = 38)		(N = 17)		

P.05 = 1.96

found to be not significant at the .05 level. When the proportion of females below 21 years was compared to the proportion of females 21 years and above, the difference in proportions 2.4 was given a z test of significance. The z score of .93 was found to be not significant at the .05 level.

This suggested that both males and females showed no significant differences with regard to age to the difference in scale types of at least one scale type away. It appeared, then, that older respondents were not more permissive than the younger respondents. The hypothesis was not supported.

Hypothesis Number Four

The fourth hypothesis stated that the overall permissiveness based on coital agreement of both male and female respondents would be lower than 30% for females and 50% for males.

To see if the data supported this hypothesis the researcher tabulated the agree responses for the four coital statements; items 9, 10, 11, 12 of the scales or items 5, 8, 12, 2 of the questionnaire, for both male and female respondents. These items were the engaged, love, strong affection and no affection responses to coital or full sexual relationship statements that compromised the coital responses.

A proportion was then computed using the total responses as a base. The results of total male and female agreement to the coital statements regarding both male and females is shown in Table 6. When men responded to item 5 of the male scale in the questionnaire, 65.1% agreed. When men responded to item 8 of the questionnaire,

TABLE 6
 TOTAL AGREEMENT TO COITAL STATEMENTS
 FOR MALE AND FEMALE SCALES
 BY MEN AND WOMEN

Questionnaire Item Number	% Male Response to Male Scale	% Female Response to Female Scale
5 (Engaged)	65.1	61.4
8 (Love)	62.4	57.8
12 (Strong Affection)	52.3	41.3
2 (No Affection)	33.1	16.5
	Mean = 53.3	Mean = 39.0
	N = 54	N = 55

62.4% agreed. When men responded to item 12 of the questionnaire, 52.3% agreed. When men responded to item 2 of the male scale in the questionnaire, 33.1% agreed. The mean agreement of men responding to the male scales for the four coital statements was 53.3%. When women responded to item 5 of the female scale in the questionnaire, 61.4% agreed. When women responded to item 8 of the scale in the questionnaire, 57.8% agreed. When women responded to item 12 of the questionnaire, 41.3% agreed. When women responded to item 2 of the female scale in the questionnaire, 16.5% agreed. The mean agreement and women responding to the four coital statements of the female scale in the questionnaire was 39.0%.

The relatively high mean agreement to the coital statements by females was not expected. As was reported in the review of literature, previous studies have indicated an agreement to coital statements of about 30% for females and 50% for males. The 39% female response for this study may have been an indication of an increasing trend toward a higher level of permissiveness being reflected in the country. It may also have been due to prefabrication of answers by some respondents.

The mean agreement of males to the coital statements was slightly above expected results. On the whole then the results indicate a moderately high level of permissiveness and therefore do not support hypothesis four.

Another interesting finding noted in Table 6 is the decreasing

level of permissiveness on the affection scale of the coital responses. For both males and females over 50% responding permitted coitus under the conditions of being engaged, being in love, or having strong affection; only one exception, the females responding to item 12, had a 41.3% agreement. Item 2 which is the no affection coital response showed a 33.1% male and 16.5% female agreement response.

A check on truthfulness was made with the last two statements of the questionnaire. When asked if the questionnaire had accurately assessed the essence of their beliefs about sexual behavior, men and women responded with a 44.0% agreement and a 55.1% disagreement. Responding to the same question, males had a 55.8% agree and a 44.2% disagreement. Females responding to the same question had a 34.5% agree and a 65.5% disagreement.

When asked if a serious investigator could rely on the truthfulness of answers that members of the group were giving the questionnaire, men and women responded with a 70.1% agree and a 29.9% disagreement. Male respondents to the same question had a 71.2% agree and a 28.8% disagreement. Females responding to the same question had a 69.1% agree and a 30.9% disagreement.

This suggests that about two-thirds of the respondents felt the questionnaire was obtaining true answers but that less than one-half felt it was getting at their true beliefs.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this descriptive study was to determine the premarital sexual permissiveness of a sampling of the summer school student body at Wisconsin State University-La Crosse to note what differences in permissiveness occur in relation to age and sex of the students. A second purpose was to determine the degree of equalitarianism that the students manifested.

A total of 109 subjects, 54 male and 55 female, all unmarried undergraduates or graduate summer school students comprised the population sample. The subjects ranged from 17 to 24 plus years of age. All subjects were given an anonymous self administered questionnaire containing male and female premarital sexual permissiveness scales.

A "contrived" five-item scale was employed to determine the same sex or individual permissiveness scale type and the opposite sex or equalitarian permissiveness scale type for each respondent. An analysis was made of the scale types, using tables of proportions, to note any differences between age and sex of the respondents in regard to their permissiveness. An overall permissiveness level was obtained using percentages of the coital responses to the questionnaire.

Conclusions based on the analysis of tables and proportions drawn from the premarital sexual permissive scale were:

1. Female respondents were significantly less permissive than male respondents when answering statements of the PSP scales.
2. Female respondents were not more equalitarian than males when answering statements of the PSP scales.
3. Older respondents were not more equalitarian than younger respondents.
4. The overall premarital sexual permissiveness based on coital agreement to statements of the PSP scales showed 53.3% agreement for the males and 39.0% agreement for the females. This finding was moderately high for females and about average for males as compared to findings from previous studies.

As a result of this study the following recommendations are made:

1. That the sample used in further studies of this kind be a larger, random sampling of both on campus and off campus students. This would enable the researcher to make more generalizations concerning the results of the data.
2. That the questionnaire be revised to include more personal data such as family background, religion, and major area of study. Also that the answers to the PSP scales be given a six way choice to permit respondents to more fully describe their beliefs.
3. That the cover letter be revised to explain more fully the

nature of the study and insure a more honest and objective response.

4. That a measure of the respondents sexual standards be examined. Such a measure could be indirectly obtained from analysis of the PSP scales with regard to the existing premarital sexual standards of the country.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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X

APPENDIX

MALE AND FEMALE PREMARITAL SEXUAL PERMISSIVENESS SCALES

Male Standards (Both Men and Women Check This Section)

1. I believe that kissing is acceptable for the male before marriage when he is engaged to be married.
Agree: (1)Strong, (2)Medium, (3)Slight
Disagree: (1)Strong, (2)Medium, (3)Slight
2. I believe that kissing is acceptable for the male before marriage when he is in love.
(The same six-way choice found in statement 1, follows every statement.)
3. I believe that kissing is acceptable for the male before marriage when he feels strong affection for his partner.
4. I believe that kissing is acceptable for the male before marriage even if he does not feel particularly affectionate toward his partner.
5. I believe that petting is acceptable for the male before marriage when he is engaged to be married.
6. I believe that petting is acceptable for the male before marriage when he is in love.
7. I believe that petting is acceptable for the male before marriage when he feels strong affection for his partner.
8. I believe that petting is acceptable for the male before marriage even if he does not feel particularly affectionate toward his partner.
9. I believe that full sexual relations are acceptable for the

male before marriage when he is engaged to be married.

10. I believe that full sexual relations are acceptable for the male before marriage when he is in love.
11. I believe that full sexual relations are acceptable for the male before marriage when he feels strong affection for his partner.
12. I believe that full sexual relations are acceptable for the male before marriage even if he does not feel particularly affectionate toward his partner.

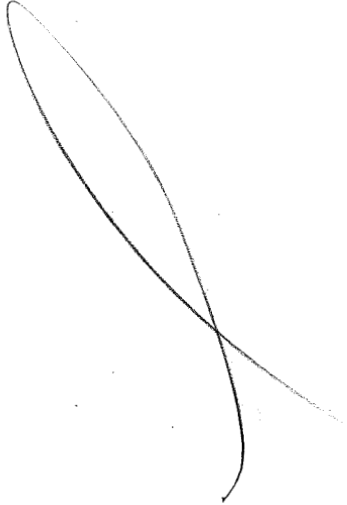
Female Standards (Both Men and Women Check This Section)

(The same twelve items occur here except that the female is the sex referent.)

"CONTRIVED" FIVE-ITEM SCALE

Questionnaire Item #	Scale Item #	Permissive Scale Type*					
		0	1	2	3	4	5
10 or 1	5 or 6 or both	-	/	/	/	/	/
4	7	-	-	/	/	/	/
5 or 8	9 or 10 or both	-	-	-	/	/	/
12	11	-	-	-	-	/	/
2	12	-	-	-	-	-	/

* A plus (/) sign indicates agreement with the item.



June 22, 1970

Dear Student,

You have been chosen from this University's population to participate in a research study. The purpose of the study is to investigate the level of sexual permissiveness on this campus.

The questionnaire is to be completely anonymous, so please do not sign your name. We are concerned about general patterns, not individual responses. The questionnaire will be treated confidentially and your honesty is of utmost importance to the results of the study.

There will be a slotted, sealed box at the main desk of your residence hall for you to return the questionnaire. Please return it not later than 4 P.M. June 23, 1970.

Thank you for your co-operation and your time in answering these questions.

Sincerely,

John C. Reedich
Graduate Student
Student Personnel Services
WSU-La Crosse

Part I

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Personal Data

1. Classification

- (1) _____ Freshman
- (2) _____ Sophomore
- (3) _____ Junior
- (4) _____ Senior

2. Marital Status

- (1) _____ Single male
- (2) _____ Single female
- (3) _____ Married male
- (4) _____ Married female
- (5) _____ Divorced male
- (6) _____ Divorced female

3. Age

- (1) _____ Below 18
- (2) _____ 18-20
- (3) _____ 21
- (4) _____ 22-23
- (5) _____ 24 or older

Part II

MALE SEXUAL STANDARDS (Everyone Should Answer This Section Regardless of Their Sex)

Instructions: In this section we are interested in obtaining your personal beliefs. After each question decide whether you agree or disagree.

Definitions: In order to be sure we are defining terms the same way, we will define petting: sexually stimulating behavior more

intimate than kissing and simple hugging but not including full sexual relations. Strong affection: affection which is stronger than physical attraction or average fondness or "liking", but less strong than the emotional state which you would call love. Love: the emotional state which is more intense than strong affection and which you would define as love.

Remember, we are not interested in what you tolerate in others, we are interested in your personal beliefs. Please answer that way. Please also keep in mind the definitions.

1. I believe that petting is acceptable for the male before marriage when he is in love.
 - (1) _____ Agree
 - (2) _____ Disagree

2. I believe that full sexual relations is acceptable for the male before marriage when he is not particularly affectionate toward his partner.
 - (1) _____ Agree
 - (2) _____ Disagree

3. I believe that kissing is acceptable for the male before marriage when he is engaged to be married.
 - (1) _____ Agree
 - (2) _____ Disagree

4. I believe that petting is acceptable for the male before marriage when he is strongly affectionate toward his partner.
 - (1) _____ Agree
 - (2) _____ Disagree

5. I believe that full sexual relations is acceptable for the male before marriage when he is engaged to be married to his partner.
 - (1) _____ Agree
 - (2) _____ Disagree

6. I believe that kissing is acceptable for the male before marriage when he is in love.
- (1) _____ Agree
- (2) _____ Disagree
7. I believe that petting is acceptable for the male before marriage when he is not particularly affectionate toward his partner.
- (1) _____ Agree
- (2) _____ Disagree
8. I believe that full sexual relations is acceptable for the male before marriage when he is in love.
- (1) _____ Agree
- (2) _____ Disagree
9. I believe that kissing is acceptable for the male before marriage when he is not particularly affectionate toward his partner.
- (1) _____ Agree
- (2) _____ Disagree
10. I believe that petting is acceptable for the male before marriage when he is engaged to be married.
- (1) _____ Agree
- (2) _____ Disagree
11. I believe that kissing is acceptable for the male before marriage when he feels strong affection for his partner.
- (1) _____ Agree
- (2) _____ Disagree

to her partner.

(1) _____ Agree

(2) _____ Disagree

6. I believe that kissing is acceptable for the female before marriage when she is in love.

(1) _____ Agree

(2) _____ Disagree

7. I believe that petting is acceptable for the female before marriage when she is not particularly affectionate toward her partner.

(1) _____ Agree

(2) _____ Disagree

8. I believe that full sexual relations is acceptable for the female before marriage when she is in love.

(1) _____ Agree

(2) _____ Disagree

9. I believe that kissing is acceptable for the female before marriage when she is not particularly affectionate toward her partner.

(1) _____ Agree

(2) _____ Disagree

10. I believe that petting is acceptable for the female before marriage when she is engaged to be married.

(1) _____ Agree

(2) _____ Disagree

11. I believe that kissing is acceptable for the female before

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marriage when she feels strong affection toward her partner.

(1) _____ Agree

(2) _____ Disagree

12. I believe that full sexual relations is acceptable for the female before marriage when she is strongly affectionate toward her partner.

(1) _____ Agree

(2) _____ Disagree

Part III

1. Do you feel that this questionnaire has accurately assessed the essence of your beliefs about sexual behavior?

(1) _____ Yes

(2) _____ No

2. Do you feel that a serious investigator can rely on the truthfulness of answers that members of this class are giving to this questionnaire?

(1) _____ Yes

(2) _____ No

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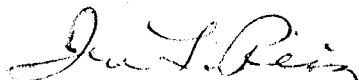
April 28, 1970

John C. Reedich
Graduate Student
926 Winneeshiek Rd.
La Crosse, WI 54601

Dear Mr. Reedich:

You have my permission to use appendix B from my book, The Social Context of Premarital Sexual Permissiveness for your seminar paper. I will be most interested in your results. Please keep me posted.

Sincerely,



Ira L. Reiss
Director and
Professor of Sociology

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