

Independent Replication of Kenrick, Gutierres, and Goldberg (1989, JESP) Study 2

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Introduction

Kenrick, Gutierres, and Goldberg (1989, Study 2) found that (1) participants rated nude images as more pleasant than the abstract art slides, (2) that males' ratings of their partners' sexual attractiveness was significantly lower if they were exposed to erotica than if they were exposed to abstract art, whereas females' ratings were not influenced by the type of prior stimuli, and (3) males who were exposed to centerfolds reported less love for their partner than those exposed to abstract art, whereas females' ratings were not influenced by the type of prior stimuli.

Methods

Power Analysis

Although all previous findings for this study will be examined, the target finding for this replication is the main finding of Study 2, that males exposed to centerfolds report less love for their partners than those exposed to abstract art, while female love ratings do not differ by condition. This involves a 2X2 ANOVA to examine the main effects and interaction between sex and condition.

A power analyses indicated that a sample size of 210 would be needed to find a statistically significant interaction assuming a medium effect size ($f = .25$) with a power level of .95 (power estimated using G-Power 3.1; Faul, Erdfelder, Buchner, & Lang, 2009). This is consistent with the standard for replication research, which involves obtaining a sample that is at least 2.5 times the size of the original sample. Kenrick et al.'s (1989) sample size was 65 participants, indicating we require at least 163 participants for our replication study.

Planned Sample

The planned sample size was chosen to be 210 participants, as per the power analysis discussed previously. The sample of individuals will be participants who are married or in a similar live-in relationship with an opposite-sex partner, which is consistent with the requirements of the original study. Unlike the original study, which was conducted in the lab, participants will be recruited from Amazon's Mechanical Turk (MTurk) website.

To begin, we will sample 250 individuals. If from this sample we have 210 (or more) complete data points we will stop data collection; if not, we will repost the study and sample additional participants until we achieve 210 complete data points. Critically, we will not conduct any analyses until we achieve at least 210 complete data points.

Materials and Procedure

Procedure

Participants will be told that this study attempts to address a controversy about whether particular works of art, photography, or cinema are artistically valuable or just offensive to “good taste.” We will explain that we are studying which characteristics separate “aesthetically pleasing from boring or unpleasant works” and that subjects will judge “materials which have aroused controversy with regard to their aesthetic significance.” Since the materials might include nude photographs, subjects will be told that they are free to withdraw by exiting the screen at any time. The experimental males will be exposed to 16 female centerfold slides from Playboy and Penthouse, while experimental females will be exposed to 16 male centerfold slides from Playgirl. Control subjects will view 16 abstract art slides. In all conditions, each slide will be shown for 15 seconds and rated on how aesthetically pleasing it is.

After all photos have been shown and the aesthetic judgments have been made, participants will be told that there is some controversy about how relationships influence responses to art. They will be told that some psychologists believe that being in a stable relationship enhances people’s appreciation of art, while others feel that the deep involvement interferes with aesthetic appreciation, and still others believe that it depends on the type of relationship. Participants will then be asked to respond to a questionnaire regarding how they rate their relationship. In addition, they will be asked to complete a questionnaire assessing their love for their partner. Participants will then fill out a suspicion probe and will be fully debriefed regarding the true purpose of the study. Finally, they will be asked to check a box (“Yes” or “No”) to indicate that they agree not to discuss the study with others.

Materials

Demographic Questionnaire (Questions developed by current researchers)

Instructions: Please provide some basic information about yourself. This information will be used for statistical purposes only and will be treated confidentially.

1. What is your age?
____years
2. What is your gender?¹
Male
Female
3. What is your race?
American Indian
Asian
Black or African American
White or Caucasian
Hispanic or Latino

¹ The answers to questions #2, 4, 5, and 6 will be used to determine eligibility for this study.

If you feel that your ethnicity cannot be represented by one of the above check boxes we invite you to write in how you identify your gender in the space provided here: _____

4. Are you fluent in English?

Yes

No

5. What is your relationship status?

Single

Casually dating

Seriously dating

Engaged

Married

Divorced

Widowed

6. Do you currently live with your partner?

Yes, I live with my partner

No, I do not live with my partner

I am not in a relationship

7. How long have you been in a relationship with your current romantic partner?

____years

____months

8. Which describes your current sexual orientation?

Heterosexual

Lesbian/gay

Bisexual

If you feel that your sexual orientation cannot be represented by one of the above check boxes we invite you to write in how you identify your sexual orientation in the space provided here: _____

Aesthetic Judgment (Developed by original researchers, Kenrick, Gutierrez, & Goldberg, 1989)

Instructions: Please rank your judgment of each photo using the scale provided.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Highly artistic						Not at all artistic
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

6. How desirable would you imagine that males (females) find this person as a date?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Not at all								Very much

Love-scale (Developed by Rubin, 1970; consistent with Kenrick, Gutierrez, & Goldberg, 1989)

Instructions: Please answer the following questions concerning your attitudes towards your partner using the scale provided.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Not at all true; disagree completely								Definitely true; agree completely

Items:

1. If ___ were feeling badly, my first duty would be to cheer him (her) up.
2. I feel that I can confide in ___ about virtually everything.
3. I find it easy to ignore ___'s faults.
4. I would do almost anything for ___.
5. I feel very possessive toward ___.
6. If I could never be with ___, I would feel miserable.
7. If I were lonely, my first thought would be to seek ___ out.
8. One of my primary concerns is ___'s welfare.
9. I would forgive ___ for practically anything.
10. I feel responsible for ___'s well-being.
11. When I am with ___, I spend a good deal of time just looking at him (her).
12. I would greatly enjoy being confided in by ___.
13. It would be hard for me to get along without ___.

Suspicion Questionnaire (Questions developed by current researchers consistent with Kenrick, Gutierrez, & Goldberg, 1989)

1. What do you think the purpose of this research is?
2. At what point was this made apparent to you?
3. Do you believe your responses have been affected by your perception of the study purpose?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Disagree completely								Agree completely

Attention Checks (made by current researchers to ensure people pay attention)

1. If you are reading this question, please select option 3. (This item to be included randomly in the Partner Ratings questionnaire)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Not at all true; disagree completely								Definitely true; agree completely

2. Knowing the amount of attention you dedicated to this study, would you recommend to us that we include you data in our analyses?

1	2
Yes	No

Analysis Plan

The series of analyses we will conduct will allow us to determine (1) if the participants rate the nudes as more pleasant than the abstract art slides, (2) whether ratings of attractiveness were influenced by the type of exposure (erotic stimuli vs. control), and (3) whether ratings for love were influenced by the type of prior stimuli (erotic stimuli vs. control). The analyses will follow precisely Kenrick et al.'s analytic strategy. That is, (1) for each participant, the aesthetic judgement ratings (ratings of pleasantness in particular, as the ratings of how artistic and socially valuable the images are were not used for the analyses) for the stimuli will be averaged to create an average judgment score. A 2X2 analysis of variance will then be used to examine if there are any differences between genders and conditions on the ratings of pleasantness of prior stimuli. Next, (2) the attractiveness ratings (items 4-6 in partner ratings) will be aggregated to form a

partner attractiveness score, which will be used as the dependent variable in another 2X2 analysis of variance examining the differences between genders and conditions on ratings of partner attractiveness. Lastly (3), we will aggregate the 13 items from Rubin's Love Scale to create a partner love score which will serve as the dependent variable in a final 2X2 analysis of variance on the differences between genders and conditions on love for their partner.

Differences from Original Study

In the original study, participants came into the lab in same-sex groups. However, in the current study, participants will complete the questionnaires online and alone through MTurk. Given that the original research was conducted in the late 1980's, we are also using updated pictures of abstract art (control condition) and male/female nudes (experimental condition) as suggested by the original researcher.

With regards to measures, no demographics were reported in the original manuscript, but we included a standard demographic questionnaire. The original manuscript also indicated using suspicion questions, though no exact items were reported. Therefore, the 3-item suspicion questionnaire included in our study was compiled by the current researchers, and may not reflect the exact wording used in the original study. Lastly, we added two attention check questions which were not included in the original study, though such checks are typical when using an MTurk sample.