

Examining Predictors of Cross-Sex Distrust and Antipathy



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Background

- Men and women are **increasingly less trusting** of each other in many domains of life including dating, politics, and societal value (Barreto & Doyle, 2022).
- Existing sexism scales examine hatred in only one sex [e.g., The Ambivalent Sexism Inventory (Glick & Fiske, 1996), The Modern and Old-Fashioned Sexism Scale (Swim et al., 1995)]
- No scale captures opposite sex hatred/distrust among both sexes.
- Such distrust might be rooted in **low mating prospects**
- Men and women report **growing pessimism** about finding ideal partners (American Survey Center, 2024).

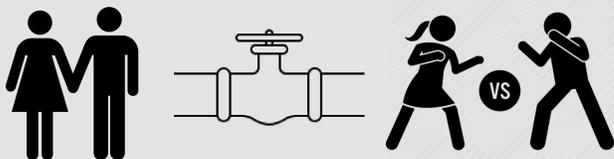


- Incels experience high rates of **online mate rejection** (Sparks et al., 2022).

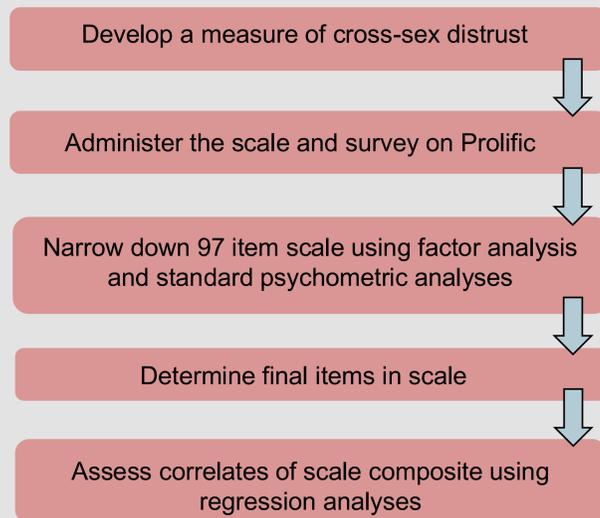


Purpose

- ❖ Develop a scale to measure opposite-sex antipathy
- ❖ Investigate potential correlates of cross-sex hate.
- ❖ Provide insight into growing levels of cross-sex distrust and the pipeline to extreme hatred.



Study 1: Opposite Sex Antipathy Scale Validation



Scale Themes



- Societal value
- Distrust in relationships
- Unrealistic mate preferences
- Empathy for opposite sex
- Manipulation and Intentions of opposite sex
- Capabilities and Stableness

Example Scale Items

- "Women/Men only want to use people."
- "Women/Men discriminate against men in ways society doesn't acknowledge."
- "Women/Men get unfair advantages in the workplace."
- "Women/Men fill valuable roles in society." (R)

Additional Survey Scales

- Hostile Sexism
- Agreeableness
- Misanthropy
- Tendency for Interpersonal Victimhood

Study 2 Hypotheses

Higher opposite sex distrust will be associated with:

- Perceptions of the opposite sex as **low value** to society.
- More previous **harmful experiences** with the opposite sex.
- Growing up with fewer opposite sex **family members**.
- Having lower **mate value**.



Study 2: Predictors of Opposite Sex Antipathy

Predictor Scales

- Misanthropy
- Tendency for Interpersonal Victimhood
- Depression (PHQ-9)
- Loneliness
- Dark Triad
- Mate Value

Additional Survey Measures

- Social relationships (family structure and friends)
- Ideology and political orientation
- Feminist and incel identification
- Time spent online and outside of home
- Past experiences -- romantic relationships, experiences with harm and help from opposite sex
- Perceptions of sex differences in physical strength

Future Directions

- ❖ Do the same predictors of cross-sex distrust among the general population explain the more charged attitudes of **incels and extremist feminists**?
- ❖ Administer Study 2 survey to a population expected to score higher on the Opposite-Sex Antipathy scale.



Implications

- Reveal whether predictors of opposite sex hatred is similar among men and women.
- Identify risk factors associated with extreme attitudes (e.g., low mate value).
- Understand the pipeline to extreme hatred and develop individualized interventions.
- Identify mismatch factors in society associated with changes in attitudes towards opposite sex
 - Ex: Individuals might have few positive opposite sex interactions (e.g., through extended family) in modern society
 - Ex: Modern society might offer fewer opportunities for individuals to display sex-differentiated skills (e.g., strength/courage via hunting)

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