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Presentation title: Perceptions of Victim and Offender Culpability in Revenge Pornography: The effect of source of intimate material and subject's gender

The purpose of the present study was to expand the limited empirical literature related to perceptions of revenge pornography. Revenge pornography is defined as the practice of disclosing nude or sexually explicit images and videos, often along with identifying personal information, of former romantic partners without their consent. Increase in the incidence of these cases have raised public attention, with many countries instituting laws against it. The purpose of the current study was to examine whether the source of the distributed images and participants' gender affect judgments and blame attributions of both victims and offenders. We, therefore, devised a scenario with male offenders and female victims while manipulating the way in which the misappropriated intimate images were taken (self-taken by the victim vs. stealth-taken). The sample was comprised of 116 males and 134 females, assigned to the two research conditions. Results showed that the participants perceived revenge pornography as highly criminal. In both conditions, the offender was perceived as highly blameworthy and deserving to be tried and severely punished. However, victim blaming was evident toward a victim whose photos were self-taken, accompanied by negative feelings. Males significantly blamed the victim more than females. The findings support the notion that revenge pornography is no different than other forms of sexual abuse, where victim blaming is an established fact.