

Getting out of the shadow

A paper on the difference in perception when identifying with either the victim or perpetrator in a sexual intimate partner violence scenario

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Abstract

Background: Sexual violence (SV) and sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) has become more. Different organizations have brought more attention to the issue. SV and sexual IPV as well as victim blaming can have serious health implications for people. The current paper explores the effect of perspective taking, either perpetrator or victim, on the evaluation of a sexual IPV scenario as coerced. And how gender and previous experience with SV influence this.

Method: participants of the study (N= 789,) had to rate two of the same vignettes about sexual IPV on how coerced they perceived it. In one of the vignettes, they had to take the victim perspective and in the other the perpetrator. The study has a 2 (perspective taking, within subjects) by 2 (gender, between subjects) by 2 (previous SV, between subjects) multifactorial design. Perspective taking is measured within subjects, a repeated-measures analysis of variance was conducted

Results: A significant effect was found for perspective taking. Respondents rated the vignette as more coerced in the perpetrator perspective than the victim perspective. There was not an interaction effect between perspective, gender, and experience. There was a main effect for gender. Women rated the scenario as more coerced than men. No significance was found for the main effect of experience.

Discussion/conclusion: Hypercorrection because of socially desirable answers could have influenced the evaluation of the scenario as more coerced by the perpetrator perspective. More research needs to be done on perspective taking, as well as the effect on victim blaming, and experience. The effect of gender on perspective taking does strengthen the scientific knowledge on the difference of evaluation between men and women.

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Introduction

Among Dutch adolescents, three percent of boys and fourteen percent of girls have experienced unwanted sexual acts (Sex Under 25, De Graaf et al., 2017). Sexual harassment and sexual coercion have increasingly garnered interest in recent years and in the wake of the #MeToo movement, seeing Amnesty International, Rutgers, and student associations launch campaigns to raise more awareness on the topic (Amnesty International, 2020; Rutgers, 2020; RTV Utrecht, 2021). Most recently in the Netherlands, Dutch YouTube series *BOOS* exposed sexual violence and harassment in television series *The Voice of Holland*. Three of the four men accused denied ever engaging in such behaviour. However, each of them had between 15 and 20 complaints against them. Such situations exemplify the gap between perpetrators and victims' perception of a situation of sexual violence or harassment. This example is of a more informal relationship between perpetrator and victim, yet sexual harassment and violence also occurs within relationships. This is called sexual intimate partner violence (hereafter referred to as sexual IPV). The nature of sexual IPV differs across societies and people, and it changes over time, bringing differing implications for victims and perpetrators. For example, before 1991 rape or non-consensual sex within a marriage was not in the Dutch penal code. The perception of who is to blame for sexual IPV or whether it is even seen as non-consensual, can be affected by the perspective of the observer. However, it is still unclear whether and how this perspective taking affects the interpretation of a sexual IPV situation. The current study aims to shed light on this.

So what is sexual IPV, and sexual violence in general? According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), sexual violence (SV) includes “*acts that range from verbal harassment to forced penetration, and an array of types of coercion, from social pressure and intimidation to physical force*” (WHO, z.d.). Sexual violence can have negative consequences for adolescents. It has been related to depression, anxiety and alcohol abuse (Boyle & McKinzie, 2021; Fosson et al., 2011; Wolff et al., 2017). However, intimate partner violence (IPV) is a form of SV that is often overlooked. “Intimate partner violence refers to behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours” (WHO, z.d.). Sexual IPV can cause numerous serious health-related issues for both men and women. This includes, amongst others, poor general health, substance use, more risks for chronic disease and mental health issues (Breiding, Black & Ryan, 2008). The

societal burden of sexual IPV is immense, yet research in the field often focuses on more blatant or obvious forms of SV. Therefore, the present paper focusses on sexual IPV.

Besides negative mental and physical consequences for victim and perpetrators, victims of sexual violence often deal with victim blaming, which brings added negative consequences. Victim blaming is sometimes described as secondary victimization or re-traumatization (e.g., Campbell & Raja, 1999), because victims are not believed. Victims who are perceived as more responsible, are more likely to be victim blamed (Niemi & Young, 2016). Victim blaming puts the responsibility of a sexual harassment case on the victim, which means they will be less likely to report it and the people surrounding them will be less likely to give them aid (Gracia, 2014). Positive and negative (i.e., victim blaming) social reactions are influenced by emotional, relational, and individual factors. Individual factors such as a greater acceptance of violence has more variance with negative social reactions like victim blaming (Edwards & Dardis, 2020). Victim blaming is not only done by recipients. In a study on posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), researchers found that self-victim blaming after IPV experience is a strong independent predictor of PTSD symptom profile membership (Hebenstreit, Maguen, Koo, & DePrince, 2015). It hence might also be the case that people who have been victimized, interpret a sexual IPV scenario as if the victim called it onto themselves. In order to understand victim blaming and its predictors, it is important to include the role of the 'observers' and who they identify with, as well as previous experiences with SV. Furthermore, the identification with the victim or the perpetrator can be affected by the gender of the observers, since women are more prone to having experienced SV than men (De Graaf et al., 2017). Therefore, this study explores the difference between taking a victim or perpetrator perspective in a vignette about sexual IPV in the evaluation of this scenario, and the contributing role of gender and previous SV experiences.

The results of this study could contribute to greater knowledge on the topic of sexual IPV and perspective taking. The aforementioned gap between how a perpetrator perceives the situation and how a victim sees this could have implications for the judiciary where it can be difficult to find evidence for either perspective. This is especially relevant since in 2024, an act of sexual violence will no longer need to include physical coercion or threat, to be penalized (Miniserie van Algemene Zaken, 2021). The current study uses an interdisciplinary approach as SV and sexual IPV need to be understood on an individual level as well as in the larger context of the society. On an individual level there are personal characteristics that have influence on perception, including gender and experience. At the same time SV and sexual IPV occur in a society where laws and politics have influence on discourse such as

what is socially acceptable. As mentioned, not long-ago SV within a marriage was not in the Dutch penal code whereas there is currently a law in the making including that sex needs to be mutually agreed on: consensual sex. An interdisciplinary approach highlights the different levels and combines them.

Theoretical framework

Evaluation of a sexual IPV & perspective taking

In a situation where there is a perpetrator and a victim the possibility occurs that bystanders pick either side to believe. This part of the research will explore how perspective taking influences peoples opinion. The perspective people take in a situation could influence the way they perceive a situation. In a study done on sympathy towards the victim of sexual IPV it was found that sympathy towards the victim is mediated by how much the participants identified with them. More sympathy mediated by how much a person identified with a victim resulted in more prosocial behaviour (Carlyle, Orr, Savage, Babin, 2014). In another study aligned with this finding, men and women who had to rate a vignette of (non-sexual) IPV on normality, were found to rate it differently when the victim was the same sex as themselves. Little research has been done on perspective taking and how a description of sexual IPV is perceived. Social psychology tells us that people who identify more with a person or a situation occurs closer to their own believes they are more likely to be persuaded to perform a certain behaviour (Cialdini, 2004). In line with this, it can be expected that when having to take the perspective of either the victim or perpetrator, the individual will identify more with the party they have to take the perspective of. This can result in perceiving the sexual IPV situation as more voluntary when identifying with the perpetrator and more forced when identifying the victim. The limited existing research hence suggests that when having to take a perspective of either victim or perpetrator, people will rate vignettes more in favour of themselves.

What is the effect of gender?

Previous research done on sexual IPV shows that women experience more sexual violence and that men are more likely to be the perpetrator (Movisie, 2005). In this light, gender is an interesting factor to look at and therefore this section will look at previous research.

According to the sexual script theory (Simon & Gagnon, 1986) social interactions actions and

learning to a large extent influence sexual behaviour. This theory has two dimensions, the interpersonal and the intrapsychic. Sexual behaviours are scripted, according to this theory. The traditional sexual script is useful to explain sexual coercion between cisgender, heterosexual dating partners (Byers, 1996). Traditional sexual script is based on traditional gender roles and the corresponding cultural attitudes that come with them. Part of the script is that female sexual interests are subordinate to the interests of men and the norms about women's sexual passivity influences communication between partners, which can result in unwanted sex for women. It is discussed that when women are in a relationship, they feel a responsibility to please their man (Bay-Cheng & Eliseo-Arras, 2008). Therefore, for women the gender norms of passivity and having to please a man could lead to viewing a scenario where a man persuades his partner to have sex, as more normal. On the contrary, in a large meta-analysis done on gender difference between men and women on perceiving sexual harassment it was found that there is a difference between men and women. This difference is greater when looking at the different kinds of behaviour, more profound/subtle sexual harassment like dating pressure, derogatory attitudes toward women (Rotundo, Nguyen & Sackett, 2001).

The research mentioned in this chapter demonstrates that there could be a difference on how men and women view sexual IPV. When using the sexual script theory women are less likely to view sexual IPV as wrong, because being subordinate to their partner is part of the script. The other research demonstrates that women are more likely to report more subtle sexual harassment as such. Sexual IPV is subtle and therefore women would label this vignette as more coerced than men in both conditions.

What is the effect of previous experiences?

Having a previous experience with a form of SV or sexual IPV can influence people when they perceive a new experience with sexual IPV or SV. In a study by Yeater and colleagues (2010), women had to rate the risk of vignettes describing different kinds of SV with different kinds of perpetrators (boyfriend, acquaintance, friend, one night stand). Respondents with a more severe history with sexual victimisation had a higher bar to evaluate vignettes as riskier and needed more risk information to evaluate the situation as riskier. Researchers of this study hence found previous experiences to not affect reporting of sexual harassment (Yeater, Treat, Viken, & McFall, 2010). In line with this study researchers found that previous experiences are a risk factor that have influence on the way women react to a sexual IPV situation with their partner. Women who have previous experience with SV who are exposed to positive

verbal sexual coercion¹, have a higher bar to value the situation as risky. Therefore they will be less likely to leave the relationship (Garrido-Macías, Valor-Segura & Expósito ,2022) Considering research on previous experience and the evaluation of a sexual IPV scenario, it seems that people who have had an experience with SV have a higher bar for perceiving the situation as riskier. In context of the previous study this would mean that having a previous experience means less likely to rate the scenario as forced.

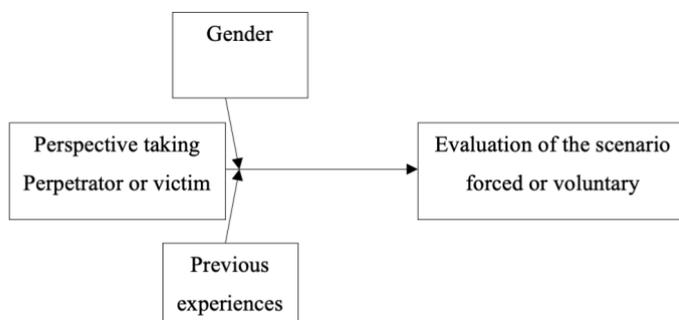
Research question and hypothesis

Extensive research has been done on SV and sexual IPV. Studies on sexual IPV tend to focus on participants who have experienced sexual IPV, and to my knowledge, a study on perspective taking has not been done before. The inability to research this in an experimental setting warrants the use of vignettes. The present study will try to fill the knowledge gap on perspective taking with the use of vignettes. This study will attempt to answer the following research question: *Does taking victim or perpetrator perspective in a sexual IPV scenario impact the evaluation of the event as coercive (or voluntary), and what is the impact of gender or previously experience with sexual violence on this relationship?*

Hypothesis 1 - Perspective taking: In the vignette aimed at perpetrator perspective taking, people will perceive the scenario as less coerced than people who take that of the victim.

Hypothesis 2 - Gender: Women are more likely to view the scenarios as more forced than men.

Hypothesis 3 - Previous experience: People who have had a previous experience with SV will rate the scenario of sexual IPV as less forced than people who have not had any experience with SV.



¹ Positive verbal sexual coercion: Verbal coercion by a partner that focusses on positive sides of the relationship (i.e. intimacy, love for each other) to coerce their partner to have sex

Method

Data

The current study is conducted using data from the longitudinal study for the report: “Laat Je Nu Horen” (2009). It was done by researchers from the University of Utrecht and Rutgers (Kuyper, de Wit, Adam, Woertman, van Berlo, 2009) and funded by ZonMw. The aim of the study was to gain insight into the diversity of behaviours and experiences of sexual violence, to identify risk and protective factors and the consequences that arise.

Respondents & sampling strategy

The researchers sought out a diverse sample. This was to ensure that all kinds of adolescents were equally represented, to report reliable findings. They actively looked for a good division between men and women as well as a range of sexual orientations, cultural backgrounds, religions, and educational attainments. They did this by targeting adolescents through various media targeting different youth groups (i.e., Girlz, Radio538, COC) and through vocational schools (ROC's). These organisations posted or broadcasted an invitation to the study's website, where the questionnaires were found. In the original study, 4689 sexually active adolescents, aged 15-25 with an average of 18.7, participated in the first wave questionnaire. A substantial part of the respondents dropped out after this first wave. This meant that wave two included 1627 adolescents and the third wave 928. In this wave more women (n=686) than men (n=242) participated. There were 130 respondents missing on the variable 'previous experience' therefore the sample size in this study is 798, women (n=593) and men (n=205).

Procedure

This research was conducted online via the website www.laatjenuhoren.nl. The questionnaires as well as background information on the research were available on the site. The program Netquestionnaires was used to conduct the online research. The data was stored on a secured server and only accessible for the researchers. The third wave questionnaire was created with input from the second questionnaire about sexual harassment. The researchers created vignettes based on frequent occurring scenarios in wave two. This questionnaire consists of ten vignettes. In five of them the respondent is asked to take the perspective of the victim and in the other five they are asked to take the perspective of the perpetrator. Each vignette consists of two questions: one about how the respondent would feel (i.e., angry, sad, aroused) and the other about how they perceive the vignette (i.e., voluntary, forced). In the current study the vignette used is the one about sexual IPV (see Appendix 1). The question that is

used to examine the research question is the question about how respondents perceive the vignette (coerced or voluntary).

Ethical considerations

The research method was approved in 2009 by the advice committee WMO (Wet Mensgebonden Onderzoek). The researchers provided debriefing information on organisations the participants could contact if they needed to talk to someone about the topic of sexual violence. The current study is reviewed and approved by Ethical Review Board of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences of Utrecht University.

Design

The current study has a 2 (perspective taking, within subjects) by 2 (gender, between subjects) by 2 (previous SV, between subjects) multifactorial design. Since perspective taking is measured within subjects, a repeated-measures analysis of variance will be conducted.

Measures

Perspective taking (independent variable, manipulation): The perpetrator or victim perspective was induced by using vignettes. Vignettes were created based on the wave 2 questionnaire, where respondents were asked about sexual violence experiences. There is a variety of different scenarios. The vignettes researched in the current study are the first and sixth vignette. These vignettes describe a scenario where an intimate partner wants sex, the other person does not, and after insistence by the partner they ultimately have sex. In the first vignette the respondent takes the perspective of the perpetrator, and in the sixth the perspective of the victim. In the questionnaire the respondent is asked to really identify as the person who can be seen as the perpetrator (if you see the situation as sexually coercive), in the first vignette. In the sixth vignette, the respondent is asked to take the perspective of the person who can be seen as the victim. The detailed scenarios and the questions are found in Appendix 1.

Perception of coercion (outcome variable): After each vignette, the respondents had to answer a couple of questions about how they perceived the sex. In this study, the sub questions ‘the sex was voluntary’ and ‘the sex was coerced’ are used. Respondents could answer these on a 5-point scale ranging from ‘fully disagree’ to ‘fully agree’. The question ‘the sex was voluntary’ was recoded so it was in line with the question ‘the sex was forced’.

Scores on both items were averaged (1-5) so that a higher score indicated perception of a more coercive situation. Creating two new variables (Rd2b,Rd12b). These new voluntary variables were each computed into a new variable together with the question “how do you would you feel – the sex was forced”. This creates two new variables ‘*DaderpVG*’ and ‘*slachtofferpVG*’. A reliability analysis was done to see if they could be added together; perpetrator perspective Cronbachs alpha (0,798), victim perspective Cronbachs alapha (0,793).

Gender (moderator): In the first questionnaire the respondents were asked about their demographics, including gender. Participants could choose between man and woman. In the questionnaire there was no option to answer anything else.

Experiences sexual IPV (moderator): In the second questionnaire, participants were asked about different kinds of experience with forms of sexual violence. All these questions were computed to one variable (v_total). This question was used to research the effect of previous experience, with any form of sexual violence, on the difference taking a perspective either victim or perpetrator.

Analysis

The data was analysed using the statistical program SPSS. The type of analysis that was used is a General Linear Model analysis of variance (anova), repeated measures, since the independent variable is a within-subjects one. To assess whether gender and previous experiences have influence on this effect, they are added as between subject factors. Gender and previous experience were also looked at as a main effect.

The existing dataset contained answers of three questionnaires. Cases that do not have data for the third questionnaire were excluded.

Before analysing the assumptions were tested. The data was not normally distributed, both new variables ‘*DaderpVG*’ en ‘*SlachtofferpVG*’ are significantly different from normality ($p < 0.05$). The plots were skewed to one side. It was expected that respondents would more extremely given the fact that SV is a sensitive subject. therefore, the discission was made to continue with the data. Sphericity did not have to be tested because the data analysed with the repeated-measures ANOVA only has two levels, which means sphericity is always met.

Results

Descriptive analyses:

The respondents were mostly female and aged between 16 and 21. See Table 1 for an overview of the descriptives and Table 3 for the means (M) and standard deviations (SD).

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of the total sample (N-928)*

Characteristics	N	Valid %
Gender		
Male	242	26.1
Female	686	73.9
Education level		
MBO**	337	40.5
VMBO	47	5.6
HAVO	95	11.4
VWO/atheneum/ gymnasium	108	13.0
HBO	119	14.3
Universiteit	125	15.0
Anders	2	0.2
Experience with SV		
Yes	637	68.6
No	161	17.3
	M	SD
Age (M (SD))	18.7	0.83.5

*130 participants who filled out the vignettes of the victim perspective did not fill out the question about previous experience. The N of the whole sample is used in this table, but the analysis uses 798 participants.

**Practical education

Table 2. Means and standard deviations of Perception of coercion scores, for the perpetrator and victim perspective, split by gender and previous experiences.

	Gender	Previous experience	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Perpetrator perspective	Male	No	3.6129	1.13231	62
		Yes	3.5734	1.06803	143
		Total	3.5854	1.08523	205
	Female	No	4.0758	1.02610	99
		Yes	3.9140	1.03105	494
		Total	3.9410	1.03113	593
	Total	No	3.8975	1.08846	161
		Yes	3.8375	1.04831	637
		Total	3.8496	1.05611	798
Victim perspective	Male	No	3.1371	1.06805	62
		Yes	3.2797	1.01853	143
		Total	3.2366	1.03321	205
	Female	No	3.8636	.98410	99
		Yes	3.6579	1.03507	494
		Total	3.6922	1.02880	593
	Total	No	3.5839	1.07418	161
		Yes	3.5730	1.04261	637
		Total	3.5752	1.04838	798

Within subjects results

Main effect of Perspective taking: The results show that there is a significant difference between the perpetrator perspective (M=3.85, SD=1.06) and the victim perspective (M= 3.58, SD=1.05) in how coerced they rate a situation, $F(1,927)= 41.86$; $p < 0.05$. When taking the perpetrator perspective, the participants evaluate the scenario as more coerced compared to the victim condition.

Interaction with Gender: The results show that there is not a significant interaction effect with gender in the model perspective, gender and experience., $F(1,927)= 2.481$; $p = 0.12$.

Interaction with Experience: The results show that there is not a significant interaction effect with previous experience in the model. $F(1,927)= 0.522$; $p > 0,05$ (0.470). See Table 3 for the model.

Tabel 3: Effects model evaluation vignette based on perspective, gender, experience

Source		Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
<i>perspectief</i>	<i>Sphericity Assumed</i>	21.731	1	21.731	41.865	< .001
perspectief * v1	Sphericity Assumed	1.288	1	1.288	2.481	.116
perspectief * v_totaal	Sphericity Assumed	.271	1	.271	.522	.470
perspectief * v1 * v_totaal	Sphericity Assumed	.725	1	.725	1.396	.238
Error(perspectief)	Sphericity Assumed	412.140	794	.519		

Between subjects' results

Main effect Gender: There was a statistically significant effect of gender on the perception of a sexual IPV vignette. Perpetrator perspective: men (M=3.59, SD= 1.09) women: (M=3.94, SD=1.03). Victim perspective men (M=3.24, SD=1.03) Women (3.69, SD= 1.02) $F(1, 789) = 31.66, p < .001$. In both conditions this means women score higher, more coercive, than men.

Main effect experience: There was not a statistically significant effect of previous experience on the perception of a sexual IPV vignette. $F(1, 794) = .608, p < .001$.

Tabel 4: Main effects gender and experience

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Intercept	12024.290	1	12024.290	7370.639	.000
Gender	51.648	1	51.648	31.659	<.001
Experience	.992	1	.992	.608	.436

Gender vs Experience	3.143	1	3.143	1.926	.166
Error	1295.313	794	1.631		

Discussion

The results show interesting outcomes, that will be discussed in the next section. The first hypothesis was: In the vignette aimed at perpetrator perspective taking, people will perceive the scenario as less coerced than people who take that of the victim. This hypothesis is refuted. Contrary to the hypothesis, the opposite was found in the perpetrator scenario, where the situation was interpreted as significantly more coercive compared to the victim scenario. The studies used in the theoretical framework on evaluation and perspective taking are not explanatory enough to understand this finding. Previous research suggests that when identifying with a victim, sympathy would increase, and more prosocial behaviour would occur (Carlyle et. Al., 2014). The current study refutes this, seeing people rate the victim perspective less coercive than the perpetrator perspective. An alternative explanation for this finding is hyper correction. In studies on topics as sexual activities, illegal behaviour, or unsocial attitudes there is a higher chance of socially desirable answers (Krumpal, 2013). The current study research sexual IPV and is hence sensitive to socially desirable answers. Therefore, confrontation with a question about participants being a perpetrator could lead to a evaluating the IPV scenario as more coerced, because they did not want to be viewed as a perpetrator.

The second hypothesis is accepted: There a significant gender difference found. Women evaluate the scenario as more coerced than men in both perpetrator and victim perspective. This is in line with a large meta meta-analysis study which found that subtle SV, like sexual IPV, is more recognised by women than by men (Rotundo, et. Al, 2001).

The third hypothesis, that people who have had a previous experience with SV will rate the scenario of sexual IPV as less forced than people who have not had any experience with SV, is refuted. There is no significant difference between the group who has experience with SV and the group who has not had experience with SV. Studies conducted on experience with SV imply that previous experience with SV raises the bar to evaluate a situation as more forced (Garrido-Macías et. Al, 2022; Yeater et. Al, 2010). The current study does not support these conclusions. Therefore, alternative explanations need to be explored in future research.

Strengths and limitations & future implications

Strengths as well as limitations are part of this study, these will be explored, and future implications are mentioned. The strength of the current study is that it researches a topic which is not studied as much before. The main outcome is an interesting finding that can contribute to either future research on social desirability or to more knowledge about how perspective taking influences an evaluation of a scenario. The finding that gender influences the evaluation of a scenario contributes to the strengthening of this finding in scientific research. Besides strengths are limitations that need to be addressed and solutions to the limitations will be proposed.

First, the data used was part of a large study with three questionnaires. Numerous participants quit answering the questions during the third questionnaire, which led to missing values in the second part of the questionnaire, which means there were less participants in the victim perspective than the perpetrator perspective. The three questionnaires being conducted at a different time posed a problem for the sample size. In each questionnaire the sample shrunk, which compromises the study's external validity.

Second, the data used for this study is dated from 2014. This means that the data is 8 years old, and a lot has changed in the meantime. The #MeToo movement started in 2017 and has increased awareness of sexual harassment and sexual IPV. Several countries have passed legislation about consent, which means that voluntary sex is only met when all parties involved give consent. The ecological validity, the possibility to generalise the outcomes to real life situations, is therefore not met. Future research on this same topic could compare the data from 2014 with new data, to see if there is a difference in evaluation.

Third, it is possible that hypercorrection, because of social desirability, caused the significant result between the perpetrator and victim perspective. Improving a study to counter socially desirable answers is difficult, but there are some possibilities. These may include a greater focus on anonymity, focus on a well organised survey design, or framing the 'undesirable' social behaviour in a different way (Krumpal, 2013). In future research, such possibilities should be explored to minimise socially desirable answers to increase the internal- and ecological validity.

The fourth, in the introduction victim blaming was mentioned. During the process of the study, it became clear that researching victim blaming with the current study was not possible. In a future study this effect can be explored by adding the question 'who is to blame for the situation'.

The final limitation is more an improvement. The third questionnaire consisted of eight other vignettes, each consisting of extra questions about emotions the participant felt when taking either perspective. The current paper explores one scenario about sexual IPV. Future research with the complete dataset is therefore recommended. A comparison can be made between the different scenarios of an SV description and the influence of perspective taking on the evaluation of these different scenarios. Although the current findings are interesting it leaves room for questions, which can be solved with this proposed model.

Practical implications for this study are that when studying an SV scenario, gender is a factor that influences the evaluation of the scenario. This needs to be taken into account when studying a similar topic.

Conclusion

There is a significant effect of perspective taking on evaluation of a sexual IPV scenario, but not the way it was hypothesised. People in the perpetrator perspective evaluated the scenario as more coercive than people in the victim perspective. An explanation for this effect can be hypercorrection because of socially desirable answers. More research needs to be done on this effect. Gender has a significant effect as well and therefore contributes to stronger scientific evidence that women evaluate SV scenario's as more coerced than men. Previous experience did not have a significant effect on evaluation. There are quite a few limitations in this study, but the results do contribute to more knowledge on the topic and explore the possibilities for future research and implications. Even though this study has interesting outcomes, more research needs to be done, before more practical implications can be formed. For now, the future practical implications are more research on the effect of perspective taking, the effect of previous experience on evaluation, and exploring if perspective taking influences victim blaming.

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Appendix

Appendix 1: Questionnaire wave 3

Perpetrator perspective:

We leggen je 10 situaties voor. Probeer je zo goed mogelijk in te leven in de situatie.

Je hoeft de situaties niet zelf te hebben meegemaakt. We willen alleen weten hoe jij je zou voelen als zo iets zou gebeuren.

Soms lijken de situaties op elkaar. Lees de beschrijving dus goed.

Leef je in in de volgende situatie.

Je bent samen met je vaste partner (relatie/verkering). Je wilt graag seks, maar je partner wil dat niet. Je blijft aandringen, erom vragen en zeuren. Jouw partner geeft dan maar toe en jullie hebben seks.

Hoe zou je je voelen?

Wat vind je van wat er is gebeurd?

	helemaal niet mee eens	niet mee eens	niet eens / niet oneens	mee eens	helemaal mee eens
De seks was vervelend	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
De seks was vrijwillig	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
De seks was gewenst	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
De seks was gedwongen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Victim perspective:

De laatste vijf situaties lijken op de eerste. Het verschil is dat jij nu degene bent die geen seks wil.

Lees de situaties goed, en geef je mening!

Leef je in in de volgende situatie.

Je bent samen met je vaste partner (relatie/verkering). Je partner wil graag seks met jou, maar jij wilt dat niet. Je partner blijft aandringen, erom vragen en zeuren. Jij geeft uiteindelijk maar toe en jullie hebben seks.

Hoe zou je je voelen?

Wat vind je van wat er is gebeurd?

	helemaal niet mee eens	niet mee eens	niet eens / niet oneens	mee eens	helemaal mee eens
De seks was vervelend	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
De seks was vrijwillig	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
De seks was gewenst	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
De seks was gedwongen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Appendix 2: syntax

Handed in separately via Blackboard.