

IMAGE-BASED ABUSE: PREDICTORS OF PROCLIVITY AND MYTH ACCEPTANCE

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Intimate image-based Abuse (IBA) is a collection of criminal behaviours on the continuum of sexual abuse that include the non-consensual creation, distribution or threat of distribution of private sexual images (McGlynn & Rackley, 2017). The law commission is in the process of reforming the law surrounding IBA.



INTRODUCTION

- This is a follow-up to previous research exploring predictors of IBA myth acceptance (IBAMA)
- Sexual consent attitudes, sexual double standards, ambivalent sexism and sexting behaviour independently predicted IBAMA (and RMA).
- Consent is a key component of IBA but attitudes towards consent have not yet been explored in relation to proclivity.
- Perpetration research is still in its infancy.

METHODOLOGY

- Participants (543; 288 male, 229 female and 15 other) were recruited using Reddit.
- Participants were asked to self report **IBA victimisation** and **sexting activity** using dichotomous 'yes' or 'no' questions.
- Predictors examined: **ambivalent sexism** (Glick & Fiske, 1996), **sexual double standards** (Muehlenhard & Quackenbush, 1998), **sexual consent** (Hust et al., 2014) and **IBAMA** (Powell et al., 2019).
- The consent scale (Hust et al., 2014) was adapted to include additional items that pertain to consent surrounding sexual images.
- IBA proclivity** was measured using the RPPS (Pina et al., 2017).

RESULTS

- IBA was experienced by more than 1 in 10**
- More than 1 in 4 had witnessed the victimisation of someone close to them.
- Some degree of **revenge porn proclivity** was reported by **15.3%** of participants.
- 97.2% presented some degree of revenge porn approval.**
- There was a strong positive correlation between IBAMA and proclivity ($r(540)=.41, p<.001$).
- All predictor variables significantly correlated with IBAMA and proclivity with the exception of IBA victimisation and sexting activity.

AIMS

- Investigate predictors of IBAMA using the predictive model from Study 1
- Adapt and test a sexual-consent beliefs scale that includes IBA behaviours.
- Explore the relationship between the predictors/IBAMA and IBA perpetration proclivity.

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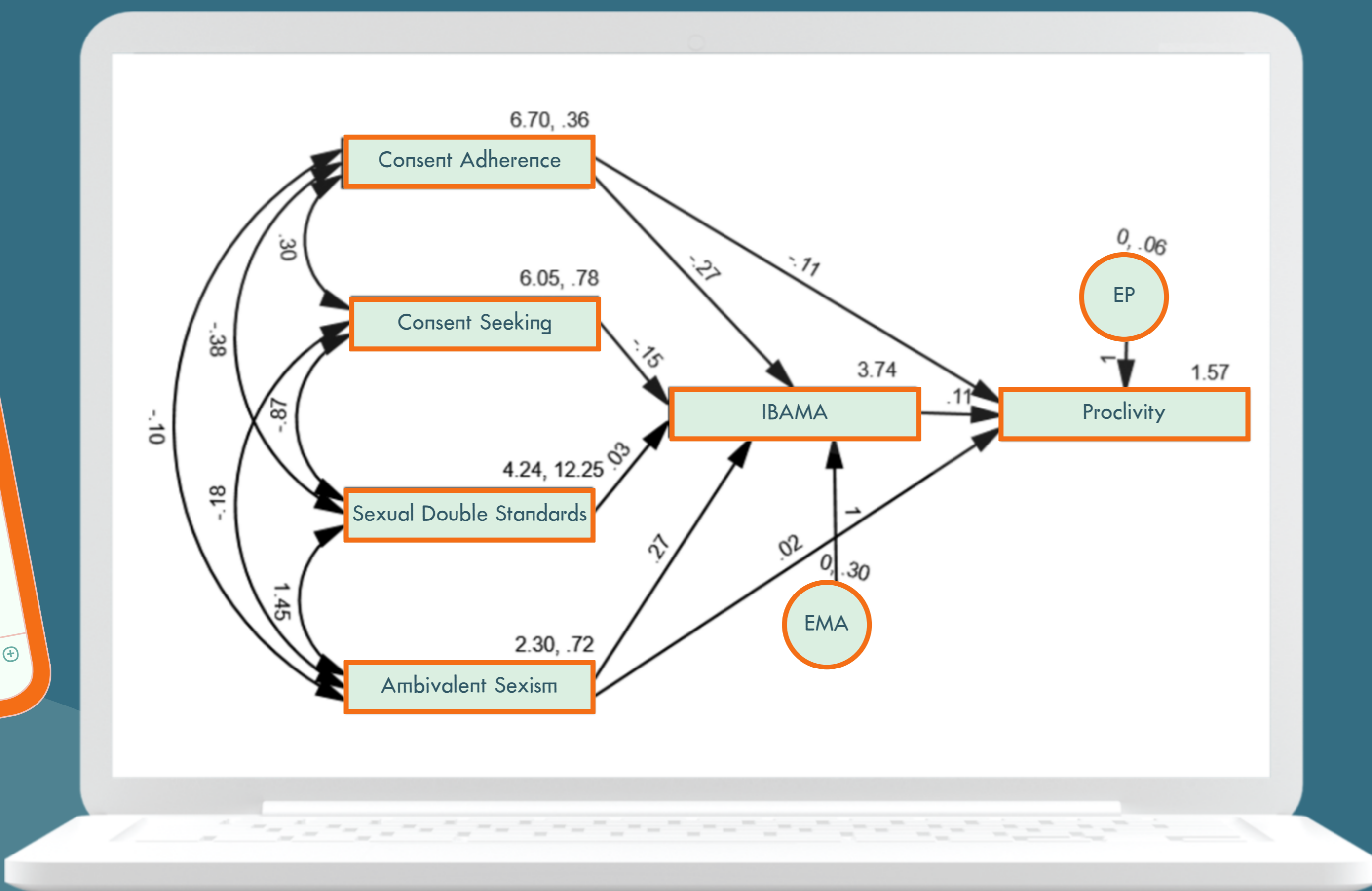
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- Multiple regression model for IBAMA explains 41% of variance
- $F(5,498) = 69.63, p<.001$

Predictors	β
Consent Seeking	-.178***
Consent Refusal	-.043
Consent Adherence	-.240***
ASI	.307***
SDSS	.174***

- Multiple regression model for Proclivity explains 22% of variance:
- $F(6,497) = 23.17, p<.001$

Predictors	β
Consent Seeking	.024
Consent Refusal	.011
Consent Adherence	-.243***
ASI	.056
SDSS	-.008
IBAMA	.300***

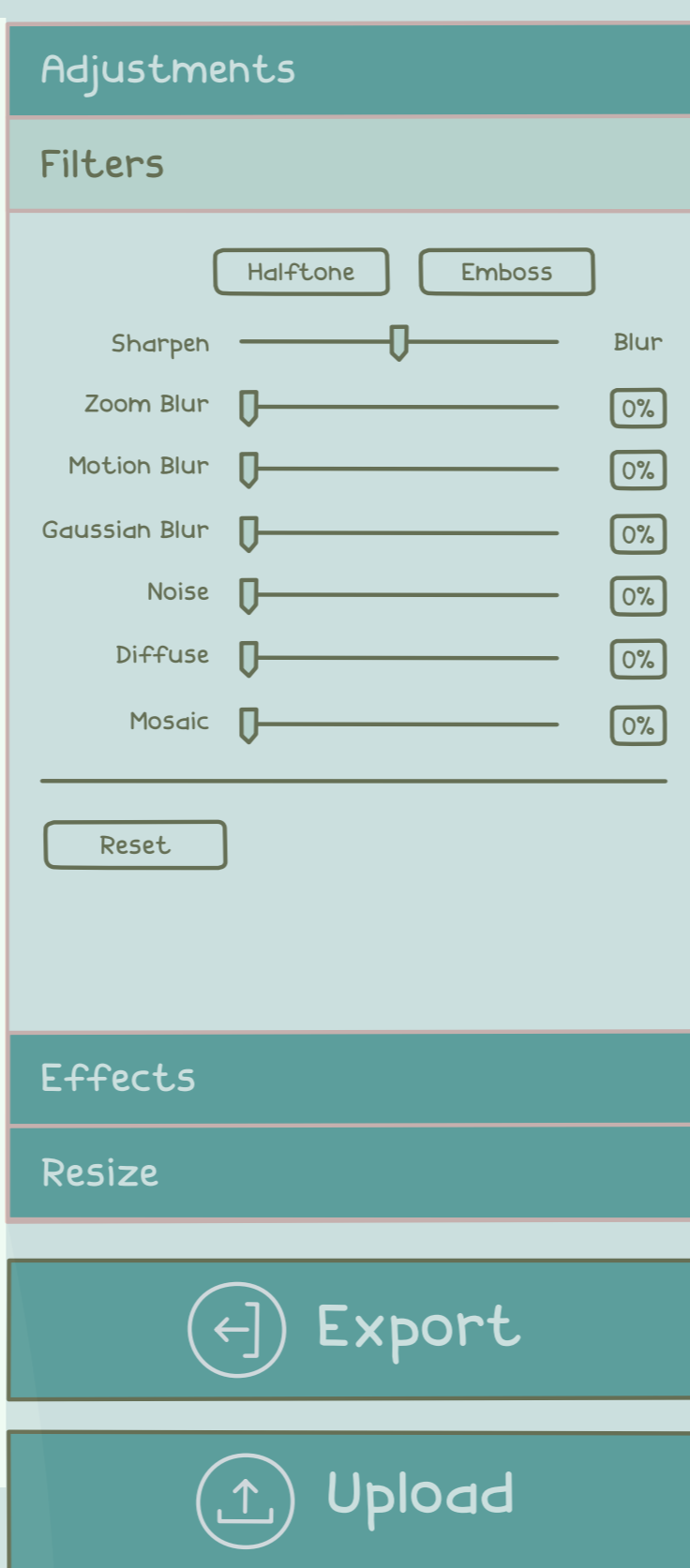


FINDINGS

- Consent adherence and IBAMA are independent predictors of IBA proclivity.
- Consent (but not refusal), SDSS and ASI are independent predictors of IBAMA.
- ASI is an independent predictor of proclivity when entered into a multiple regression without IBAMA. Based on the model IBAMA fully mediates the relationship between sexism and proclivity.
- This SEM model of IBAMA and proclivity is an excellent fit.

DISCUSSION

- This study emphasises the significant role myth acceptance plays in proclivity.
- Additionally, this is the first study exploring consent beliefs and finds the significant impact that 'adhering to consent' beliefs have on proclivity.
- Research has found relationships between sexism and proclivity (e.g. Pina et al., 2017) but this study demonstrates that this relationship is mediated by IBAMA.
- It should be noted that the RPPS does not cover the array of IBA behaviours but only revenge porn scenarios.



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Further explore IBA proclivity by exploring more predictors and more IBA behaviours.
- Test an IBA proclivity scale that expands on the RPPS with other types of IBA behaviours.
- Include personality measures like the Dark Tetrad.
- Following this, research will explore actual perpetration and compare with proclivity.

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