Who’s Cheating Who? Perceptions of Infidelity Across Gender and Sexual Orientation
Holly M. Albers and Madeline G. Dugolenski
University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

INTRODUCTION

How do you define infidelity?
• Infidelity is a complex issue for which the lines may not be as clear as we like to think.
• Previous research found that men rated infidelity significantly more acceptable in both marriage and dating relationships (Sheppard, Nelson and Andreou-Mathie 1995).
• Wiederman and LaMar (1998) found that men were significantly less upset in same sex infidelity whereas women were significantly more upset with same sex infidelity.

Hypotheses:
• We predict a main effect of scenario given in that the mixed group will be much more acceptable than the other two.
• We predict a main effect of gender in that males will be less severe in their ratings toward infidelity.
• We also predict an interaction between gender and scenario, specifically in that males given the mixed group will be the most accepting.

METHODS

PARTICIPANTS:
• We surveyed 281 volunteers
  • 188 male
  • 93 female
• Age ranged from 17-29 years old

DESIGN
• The study was a 2x3 between-subjects design
• The independent variables were participant gender (male vs. female) and the type of infidelity (heterosexual, homosexual, and mixed).
• The dependent variables were perception of different levels of infidelity (flirting, holding hands, kissing cheeks, kissing lips, fondling, and intercourse)

MATERIALS AND PROCEDURE:
• A Qualtrics survey was conducted for six consecutive days
• It contained four sections including:
  • Demographics
  • Scenarios
  • Personal thoughts
  • General survey questions

RESULTS

Type of Infidelity
There is a main effect of Type of Infidelity on Level of Acceptability.

Type of infidelity in regard to holding hands in scenario 2 proved to be significant F(1,281) = 3.39, p=.035, with a partial $\eta^2 = .024$, indicating a small effect size.

Type of infidelity in regard to kissing on the lips in scenario 2 proved to be significant F(1,281) = 5.26, p=.006 with a partial $\eta^2 = .04$, again indicating a small effect size.

Type of infidelity in regard to intercourse in scenario 2 proved to be significant F(1, 281) = 12.86, p <.001 (Figure 3f) with a partial $\eta^2 = .086$, again indicating a small effect size.

There is not a main effect of gender on level of acceptability. Error bars indicate that women tend to agree more than men on acceptability of various acts of infidelity.

DISCUSSION

• The hypothesis that there would be a main effect for gender was not confirmed by the findings of this study.
• The hypothesis that there would be an interaction between gender of participant and type of infidelity was also refuted by this study.
• There was a main effect of type of infidelity
• Suggests that people have different perceptions of infidelity dependent on the situation, more specifically it is less acceptable when people engage in potential intimate actions with a person opposite of the typical gender they are attracted to.

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