

## Politico-Sexual Pathologies: An Investigative Toolset

Summary: An investigation into the psychosexual dynamics underlying an individual's preferences with respect to political philosophy.

II. Background: Repeated studies have shown that an individual's self-reported political preference(s) can be predicted with a relatively high (~75%) degree of accuracy based on the answers given to a subset of the Kinsey Comprehensive Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Behaviors. 'Extremist' political views, in particular, correlate with reported Kinsey scores outside of one standard deviation, and this holds true regardless of the axis (left/right or statist/libertarian) of occurrence. Unfortunately, the Kinsey Institute strongly discourages the survey's use outside of its specified domain, regardless of its predictive powers and correlative value in the secondary field. This leaves researchers with two equally unpleasant options: violating the terms of the license governing use of the Kinsey survey; or using another, less highly correlated tool.

III. Objective: This experiment is intended to test the validity of a newly developed pool of question items. It is hoped that these items, when properly presented, will yield a dataset with predictive power equal to or greater than that of the Kinsey survey.

IV. Subjects: A representative cross-section of the general American population, with special care taken to ensure a balanced sample of self-identified homosexuals, cross-genders, and other individuals exhibiting deviant behavior.

V. Methodology: The experiment includes two components:

A) A written battery consisting of short answer (scenario), true/false, multiple-choice, and essay questions presented in an untimed (deceptive) setting. Representative items:

a. Short answer (Scenario)

You are nineteen and recently completed your first year of enrollment at a prestigious private college located in a New England state. Rather than pursue an internship like many of your peers, you opt to spend summer break at your family's cottage on the Cape. The days pass in a lazy blur of sailboats and picnics, and evenings are spent participating in the alcohol-fueled festivities typical of life among the idle rich. Summer is now nearing an end, and you will soon return to school. Q: do you regret not pursuing an internship?

You have been secretly observing an individual all summer. [He/she] has attended many of the same social functions, but the two of you have not spoken. On your final evening prior to returning to school, the end of the season gathering will take place at the Oyster Haven tavern. You are certain [he/she] will be in attendance. Q: outline the manner in which you will approach [him/her].

On the day of the gathering, while helping your mother clean the attic, you come across a box filled with old photo albums, one of which contains sev-

eral pictures from your childhood. In one of the images you see a young [man/woman] whom you recognize as the object of your desire. Hiding your surprise, you ask your mother about [him/her]. She tells you that [he/she] is a cousin related through a long estranged branch of the family. Q1: does this information cause you to alter your plan in any way? Q2: how would your response change if your mother informed you that [he/she] was the offspring of an illicit relationship between your father and his sister (your aunt), this relationship being the source of the estrangement referred to earlier?

b. True/False

True or False: You frequently think about deceased relatives.

True or False: You keep a Bible in your nightstand drawer.

c. Multiple choice

Setting: A too-long evening spent sipping absinthe and awaiting events to come. The party ends, and you and your partner walk the few short blocks back to your apartment. Once inside, [his/her] voice changes in tone. Gone is the pleasant companion whose hand you were holding just a moment ago; in [his/her] place is a cruel authority figure. [He/she] orders you to kneel and lick [his/her] boots. Do they taste:

1. Salty
2. Like boot polish
3. They have no taste

Your partner indicates that tonight [he/she] wants to try “something different,” and asks for your consent. You agree without knowing what it is you are agreeing to. [He/she] leads you to the bedroom and orders you to strip. You do as [he/she] says. [He/she] produces a pair of handcuffs and a set of leather restraints, and proceeds to bind you to the bed. [He/she] then disappears from the room, and returns a few moments later with a gun. What kind of gun is it?

1. Handgun
2. Rifle
3. ‘Assault’ rifle
4. Shiny
5. Czech made

d. Essay

Background: You are twelve years old. One year ago, both your parents died in a fiery car wreck on a lonely stretch of highway near Tucson. Shortly thereafter you moved to your Uncle Dave’s farm, where you live with Dave and his wife, Marcia. Dave was your mother’s brother, and he and your aunt treat you like their own child. The two are kind and loving, but they do not spoil you; they have high expectations with respect to your academic performance, and you are required to perform basic chores on the farm, as well. Among these tasks—which total approximately an hour a day in labor—it is your responsibility to groom the three horses and keep their stable clean.

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Though you were raised in a city, you love the work, and you develop a particular fondness for the stallion, Zane.

Please write an essay of approximately 1000 words describing your thoughts and feelings about Zane. You should describe the sensation of running a brush through Zane's matted mane, and the many hours you spend removing the dirt from Zane's hooves. Recall Zane's musky scent after a hard day of riding, and his stance when you hose him down afterwards. Be sure to discuss the pride you feel when you ride Zane along the horse trail beside the creek that passes through the nearby bedroom community: you, in your cowboy hat and boots, sitting atop the meticulously groomed and well-behaved Zane. And describe the jealousy you feel each Saturday morning when mares are brought to the farm to be impregnated by Zane. Explain why you spend these mornings alone in your bedroom, crying.

B) The interview component consists of scenario exploration and free association elements. These elements are administered in a single or multiple session format. Representative items:

a. Scenario Exploration

You and your spouse divorced a year and a half ago, but your sexual fantasies still revolve around [him|her]. You learn that your favorite movie, "National Velvet," is playing this evening at a theater near your place of residence. None of your friends are able to join you, so you attend the movie alone. You arrive at the theater early and take a seat near the back row. As the show time nears, it becomes obvious that only a few—less than a dozen—persons will be in attendance. None of them are sitting near you. Shortly after the lights dim, a couple enters the theater and sits two rows directly in front of you. You identify the [male|female] member of the couple as your former spouse. After a few more seconds, you realize that the person accompanying [him/her] is of a different race than yourself; in fact, this person is RACE. [Note to experiment administrator: use the following table to determine the value of RACE]

Race of interview subject	Partner's race
White/European	Black/African
Black/African	White/European
Asian	Brown/Hispanic
Brown/Hispanic	Asian
Indian (subcontinent)	Native American
Native American	Indian (subcontinent)

Q: Are you surprised that your former spouse is spending time with a person of a different race?

[CONTINUE] From their giggling, whispered exchanges, and familiar manner it becomes clear that the two of them are lovers.

Q: Does this irritate you? If so, why? If not, do you find it titillating?

[CONTINUE] The movie begins and the two of them fall quiet. After approximately ten minutes, they begin kissing. You watch their amorous play in silhouette; behind them a young Elizabeth Taylor, magnified to three stories tall, acts out a timeless coming of age tale.

Q: Do you leave the theater? [Note to experiment administrator: if the subject answers in the affirmative, this portion of the experiment is completed.] If not, is your attention focused on the two of them, or are you able to maintain an interest in the film?

[CONTINUE] A half hour has passed, and their behavior has grown more brazen. In your distracted state, you have inadvertently consumed the 64-ounce soft drink you purchased before entering the theater, an amount which you are normally unable to finish during the course of a two hour movie. Because of this, you now have a pressing need to urinate.

Q: Do you visit the restroom? [Note to experiment administrator: if the subject answers in the negative, this portion of the experiment is completed.]

[CONTINUE] You return to your seat and find that your former spouse and [his/her] partner have disappeared. After a few minutes pass, however, the sound of lovemaking informs you of their continued presence.

Q: Upon your return, were you disappointed to find that the two of them were missing from the theater?

[CONTINUE] If the volume and expressiveness of vocal outbursts are assumed to be indicators of sexual satisfaction, it is clear that your former spouse derives much more pleasure from [his/her] new partner than [he/she] did from coupling with you.

Q: Do you believe the new partner's race is a factor in your former spouse's increased sexual satisfaction?

b. Free association

Imagine you awake one day with the thought, "I want to change my sex." One year and several operations, it is done: you have undergone gender reassignment. Discuss the effects this procedure might have upon your life. Questions to consider: How might it affect your relationship with your spouse or partner? Which sex/gender form would you assume in your dreams—your previous form, or the surgically created one? Would you feel guilt or shame if, on occasion, you exhibited stereotypical behavior associated with your previous (pre-op) sex/gender form?

Imagine you live on a military base. Picture the harsh glare of the latrine, the row of toilets along one wall and showerheads along the other. It is impossible to use the toilet or take a shower without touching another person. Questions to consider: How might such close proximity affect the frequency

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of your bowel movements? How might this close proximity affect the frequency with which you shower? Would other aspects of your personal hygiene suffer because of these conditions?

VI. Expected difficulties: Because of the issues surrounding self-reporting in the domains being investigated (political affiliation and sexual behavior), it is clear that additional methods of confirming a participant's responses must be employed. This additional validation will be obtained by the use of devices which measure involuntary physiological response. Depending on the sex/gender of the participant, physiological factors which may be monitored include: vaginal moisture; degree of penis engorgement; pulse rate; blood pressure; and electric potential across the skin surface. In addition, a small number of participants will be equipped with physiological response monitoring devices not appropriate to their sex/gender, in order to provide the necessary control sample. In these instances, human experimentation related ethical concerns will be addressed by first obtaining permission to pursue this testing modality from the subject's next of kin.