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## Personality and Attitudes to Sex in Criminals\*

H. J. EYSENCK

Very little work has been done on the relation between personality, on the one hand, and sexual behaviour and attitudes on the other. In a series of studies the writer has attempted to provide some information in this area, using a specially constructed Sex Inventory containing 98 items (Eysenck, 1970, 1971). Ninety-four of these have some kind of "yes", "?", "no" form of answer, with occasional "agree", "?", "disagree", or "true", "?", "false" forms substituted where more suitable. Item 95 deals with preferred frequency of intercourse, and item 98 with age at first intercourse. Items 96 and 97 deal with impotence and ejaculatio praecox. Factor analyses were done on the intercorrelations between items, and the items and factors correlated with personality dimensions ascertained by means of questionnaire. It was found that there existed quite close relations between these factors and the various personality dimensions, at least as far as the population sampled was concerned; this consisted of male and female University students, with a mean age of about 20. The present study was designed to replicate findings, if possible, with a quite different type of population, namely male criminals; these were tested in prison. It would be unrealistic to expect identical results to emerge from this study, as compared with the previous one; subjects in the present experiment were older, more experienced, came from a different social background, and differed considerably from the students in personality and intelligence (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1970). Nevertheless, if the theories underlying our previous work have any general validity, then one would expect that similar results should be obtained from even quite dissimilar samples of the population; it is this general hypothesis which is being tested.

The Sex Inventory was applied to 241 prisoners, all male; these were all volunteers and presented a random sample of prisoners in Wandsworth Prison, there being almost no refusals. In addition, sev-

I am indebted to the Senior Psychologist and staff of Wandsworth Prison for arranging the testing and making this study possible.

eral other inventories were used. One of these is the PEN, a personality inventory purporting to measure the three personality dimensions of Psychoticism, Extraversion and Neuroticism (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1968). The other is the Wilson-Patterson (1970) Conservatism Inventory, which purports to measure a person's standing on a conservatism-radicalism dimension. In addition to these, scores were available on the Raven Matrices, a nonverbal test of intelligence. All tests were intercorrelated, using product-moment coefficients, and the resulting matrix factor analysed by means of Principal Components. Eighteen factors were extracted and rotated to oblique simple structure by means of Promax; intercorrelations between these factors were again factor analysed to provide higher-order factors. The number of factors extracted were determined in large part by experience with our previous samples; the number extracted is in excess of the likely number of interpretable factors.

### RESULTS

The results will be given in a series of Tables, listing the numbers of the questions in the original questionnaire, the loadings, and the text of the question in full, or suitably abbreviated. The Sex Inventory was given in full in the previous paper (Eysenck, 1970) and exact wordings may be consulted there. Only items loading .40 or above have been listed, except in a few cases where the nature of the factor could be determined more clearly by listing a few more items having lower loadings. Not all the 18 primary factors are given; several seemed impossible to interpret, and have therefore been omitted. Comparisons with our previous study will be reserved for the Discussion.

Factor 1 is labelled *Sexual Nervousness*, and corresponds to Factor 3 in the previous analysis. As before, high scores on this factor go with neuroticism. Extraversion has a high negative loading. Results are given in Table 1.

Factor 2 is labelled *Sexual Curiosity*, and corresponds to Factor 4 in the previous analysis. Intelligence has a small loading, suggesting that intelligent people tend to have rather more sexual curiosity than dull ones. Results are given in Table 2.

Factor 2 in the original analysis, entitled *Sexual Excitement*, seems to break down into two (correlated) factors in the present analysis. One of these, shown in Table 3, contains essentially three questions

TABLE 1  
Sexual Nervousness

54	-.84	I feel at ease with people of the opposite sex
51	.67	I feel nervous with the opposite sex
56	.65	It is hard to talk with people of the opposite sex
31	-.52	I have many friends of the opposite sex
63	.48	Sometimes thinking about sex makes me very nervous
100	-.45	Extraversion
66	.44	I am embarrassed to talk about sex
101	.21	Neuroticism

TABLE 2  
Sexual Curiosity

93	.83	Would accept highly pornographic books if offered
92	.74	Would agree to see a "blue" film
44	-.65	The thought of a sex orgy is disgusting to me
81	.59	I like to look at pictures of nudes
94	.59	Would take part in an orgy
47	.58	I like to look at sexy pictures
83	.50	Would take chance of seeing people making love, without being seen
84	.48	Pornographic writings should be freely allowed to be published
103	-.20	Intelligence (Measured in terms of grades, i.e. Grade 1 = High Intelligence; Grade 5 = Low Intelligence)

which are rather similar to each other, and all of which deal with direct sexual excitement. The other factor, shown in Table 4, deals with rather more specific sources of sexual excitement. Psychoticism has a positive loading on this factor.

Factor 5 in our analysis resembles Factor 1 in the original study, labelled *Sexual Satisfaction*. Results are shown in Table 5. Extraversion has a slight positive correlation with this factor, neuroticism a slight negative one.

Factor 6 resembles the *Premarital Sex* factor in the original analysis; results are given in Table 6. It will be seen that Conservatism has a positive loading on this factor, as one might have expected.

TABLE 3  
Sexual Excitement (General)

33	.82	It doesn't take much to get me excited sexually
43	.74	I get excited sexually very easily
3	-.42	Conditions have to be just right to get me excited sexually

TABLE 4  
Sexual Excitement (Specific)

10	.72	I get pleasant feeling from touching my sexual parts
82	.54	Buttocks excite me
75	.52	Self-relief is not dangerous so long as it is done in a healthy way
47	.42	I like to look at sexy pictures
76	.38	Touching a woman's breasts gets me very excited
81	.35	I like to look at pictures of nudes
68	.33	Sometimes the woman should be sexually aggressive
41	.31	I think about sex nearly every day
63	.30	Sometimes thinking about sex makes me very nervous
99	.24	Psychoticism

TABLE 5  
Sexual Satisfaction

20	-.70	Something is lacking in my sex life
17	+.68	Sex contacts have never been a problem to me
21	+.65	All in all I am satisfied with my sex life
22	-.65	My love life has been disappointing
11	-.51	I have been deprived sexually
100	.15	Extraversion
101	-.18	Neuroticism

TABLE 6  
Premarital Sex

74	.73	I would particularly protect my children from contact with sex
5	.62	Virginity is a girl's most valuable possession
18	.43	It is disturbing to see necking in public
88	-.42	The dual standard of morality is natural, and should be continued
26	-.35	It wouldn't bother me if the person I married were a virgin
72	-.34	Young people should be allowed out at night without being too closely checked
104	+.32	Conservatism
59	-.30	I enjoy petting

Factor 7 in the original analysis was labelled *Prudishness*, and Factor 7 in this analysis bears some resemblance to it. The detailed results are presented in Table 7.

Factor 8 may be called *Sexual Experimentation*; it resembles Factor 8 in the original analysis. Detailed results are given in Table 8. Intelligence has a positive loading on this factor.

Factor 9 in both analyses is labelled *Homosexuality*; details of load-

TABLE 7  
Prudishness

19	.64	Sexual feelings are sometimes unpleasant to me
12	.62	It is disgusting to see animals having sex relations in the street
18	.54	It is disturbing to see necking in public
8	.48	Masturbation is unhealthy

TABLE 8  
Sexual Experimentation

71	.72	A person should learn about sex gradually by experimenting with it
86	.64	Decisions about abortion should be the concern of no-one but the woman concerned
67	.55	Young people should learn about sex through their own experience
103	.24	Intelligence

ings are given in Table 9. Two items, with rather small loadings, do not seem to belong with a homosexuality factor (items 68 and 76), although possibly the first of these links with the passivity of male homosexuals. In any case, the first two items have much the largest loadings, and clearly identify the factor.

Factor 10 in both studies is entitled *Censorship*; its contents will be clear from Table 10. Note the relatively high loadings of Conserva-

TABLE 9  
Homosexuality

36	-.80	People of my own sex frequently attract me
16	-.73	Frankly, I prefer people of my own sex
68	.43	Sometimes the woman should be sexually aggressive
76	.43	Touching a woman's breasts gets me very excited
30	-.32	I have had conflicts about sex feelings towards a person of my own sex

TABLE 10  
Censorship

87	+.65	There are too many immoral plays on T.V.
91	-.63	There should be censorship on sexual grounds of plays and films
38	-.48	Children should be taught about sex
104	+.41	Conservatism
2	+.40	Sex without love ("Impersonal sex") is highly unsatisfactory
100	-.18	Extraversion

TABLE 11  
Promiscuity

13	+.82	I do not need to respect a woman, or love her, in order to enjoy petting or intercourse with her
21	+.45	My sex behaviour has never caused me any trouble
30	-.45	I have had conflicts about my sex feelings towards a person of my own sex
1	+.36	The opposite sex will respect you more if you are not too familiar with them
2	+.36	Sex without love ("Impersonal sex") is highly unsatisfactory
101	-.23	Neuroticism
103	.23	Intelligence

tism on this factor; there is also a slight (negative) one for Extraversion.

Factor 11 in both studies is entitled *Promiscuity*; another suitable name would be *Impersonal*. There is a loading on neuroticism in this factor. Details are given in Table 11.

Factor 12 is one of *Sexual Hostility*, again appearing in both analyses in very much the same form. Note the high loadings on this factor of Psychoticism; there are also loadings of Neuroticism and (negative) on Conservatism. Table 12 shows the details.

Factor 13 in both analyses is concerned with items suggesting moral and other kinds of *inhibition*; in the previous analysis this factor was called *Guilt*, and although this term does not seem entirely applicable to the factor which emerges from our present analysis, it may be wise for the sake of congruence to retain it until some more appropriate word suggests itself. Table 13 shows the loadings.

Factor 14 did not appear in the original experiment, and although it does somewhat resemble the Prudishness factor, the general tenor of the items defining it seems altogether different. This factor would seem more one of *Sexual Inadequacy*, and it is interesting that intelli-

TABLE 12  
Sexual Hostility

99	+.83	Psychoticism
101	+.53	Neuroticism
73	.46	I have felt like humiliating my sex partner
80	.44	I have felt hostile to my sex partner
104	-.40	Conservatism
89	.38	We should do away with marriage entirely



TABLE 13  
Guilt

28	.68	Perverted thoughts have sometimes bothered me
15	.52	I am sexually rather unattractive
29	.41	At times I have been afraid of myself for what I might do sexually
32	.41	I have strong sex feelings but when I get a chance I can't seem to express myself
7	.37	Sometimes it has been a problem to control my sex feelings
23	.33	I never had many dates
27	.38	I had some bad sex experiences when I was young
48	.30	My conscience bothers me too much

gence has such a high (negative) loading on the factor. Possibly one reason for the failure of this factor to appear in our previous analysis lies in the fact that the sample of students studied there would not have contained any intellectually inadequate subjects; such persons would have been eliminated long before entering upon a college course. Table 14 gives the detailed loadings.

These 14 factors exhaust the list of interpretable and meaningful factors; the remaining four typically only have a few loadings of any size, and the pattern of these does not make psychological sense. For this reason they are not here reproduced. It will be remembered that in choosing 18 factors for extraction it was anticipated, on the basis of our previous work, that not all of these would be meaningful; this anticipation has thus been justified.

Seven second-order factors were extracted from the correlations between the primaries; these will not be given in detail. The first was clearly a factor of sexual satisfaction, with neuroticism having a negative loading of .62, this being the second highest loading of all. The second factor was one of promiscuity, with psychoticism having a positive loading. The third factor was one of conscience/inhibition,

TABLE 14  
Sexual Inadequacy

55	.81	I don't like to be kissed
103	-.56	Intelligence
59	-.56	I enjoy petting
23	.53	I have never had many dates
42	.50	One should not experiment with sex before marriage
57	.44	I didn't learn the facts of life until I was quite old
95	.44	Would not prefer to have intercourse frequently

with psychoticism having a negative loading. The fourth factor was one of sexual excitement, with neuroticism having a positive loading. The fifth factor was one suitably labelled after the Conservatism scale, which had the highest loading on this factor (.53). The sixth factor was a Puritan one, with extraversion and intelligence both having negative loadings ( $-.46$  and  $-.41$ ). The seventh factor could not be interpreted. These factors are again themselves intercorrelated, and give rise to two main superfactors; these are very similar to factors which emerged from our original analysis.

These two factors refer respectively to *sexual libido* and *sexual pathology*; they are quite uncorrelated (the correlation between them is only .08). Table 15 shows the loadings for the Libido factor; it will be seen that Conservatism has a negative loading, Intelligence a positive one, and both P and N a slight positive one. Extraversion has a positive loading of .40, which agrees well with our findings from the original study. The Pathology factor has positive loadings for both N (.51) and P (.46); this agrees with our previous findings, and also

TABLE 15  
Libido

77	+.55	I have been involved in more than one sex affair at the same time
84	+.55	Pornographic writing should be freely allowed to be published
95	+.55	Would have intercourse frequently
83	+.53	Would take chance to see people making love without being seen
41	+.52	I think about sex almost every day
94	+.52	Would take part in an orgy
82	+.50	Buttocks excite me
104	-.50	Conservative
39	+.46	I could get sexually excited at any time of the day or night
70	+.46	I believe in taking my pleasures where I find them
92	+.45	I would see a "blue" film
93	+.45	I would read a highly pornographic book
43	+.44	I get sexually excited very easily
44	-.43	The thought of a sex orgy is disgusting to me
24	-.41	I consciously try to keep sex thoughts out of my mind
100	.40	Extraversion
59	+.40	I enjoy petting
69	-.40	Sex jokes disgust me
98	.40	Had first intercourse early
103	.30	Intelligence
99	.26	Psychoticism
101	.17	Psychoticism

TABLE 16  
Pathology

60	.66	I worry a lot about sex
48	.57	My conscience bothers me too much
20	.55	Something is lacking in my sex life
22	.53	My love life has been disappointing
63	.53	Sometimes thinking about sex makes me nervous
50	.52	Sometimes sexual feelings overpower me
52	.52	Sex thoughts drive me almost crazy
101	+ .51	Neuroticism
35	.48	Thoughts about sex disturb me more than they should
56	.47	It is hard to talk with people of the opposite sex
11	.47	I have been deprived sexually
99	+ .46	Psychoticism
29	.45	At times I have been afraid of myself for what I might do sexually
16	.45	Frankly, I prefer people of my own sex
28	.44	Perverted thoughts have sometimes bothered me
51	.43	I feel nervous with the opposite sex
57	.42	I didn't learn the facts of life until I was quite old
32	.42	I have strong sex feelings but when I have a chance I can't seem to express myself
7	.41	Sometimes it has been a problem to control my sex feelings
27	.41	I had some bad sex experiences when I was young
36	.41	People of my own sex frequently attract me
65	.41	Perverted thoughts have sometimes bothered me
53	.40	When I get excited I can think of nothing else but satisfaction

with the pathological terminology used in referring to these personality factors. Loadings are given in detail in Table 16.

These results should be seen in the light of the mean scores of the prisoners on the personality and attitude tests, and the intelligence test, administered to them. These are shown in Table 17. It will be seen that as far as personality is concerned, prisoners are very similar to previous samples (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1970); they are higher on P and N than comparative normal samples. On intelligence the pris-

TABLE 17  
Prisoners

P	6.60 ± 3.23
E	12.43 ± 3.68
N	12.01 ± 4.94
Conservative Matrices	43.71 ± 11.82 37.95 ± 9.84

oners emerge as somewhat dull. On Conservatism, they are typically as conservative as non-prisoner working class groups (Wilson and Patterson, 1970), and much more so than typical student groups. None of these findings come as a surprise.

It may be of some interest to note those items in the Sex Inventory which show the greatest differences in endorsement between the prisoners and our only non-prison group, the students who formed part of the original experiment. Such a comparison suffers of course from three weaknesses; the students were younger, they came from a different social class, and they were not incarcerated. Any differences found might be due to any or all of these causes, or indeed to others, not specified. Nevertheless, a brief survey may be of interest, as long as no far-reaching conclusions are drawn from these data.

First, we may look at questions which embody an essentially conservative outlook; the prisoners, being more conservative, would be expected to react in a similar manner to these. After each question quoted we will print in parentheses the difference between the groups, in percentage points, and the direction of the difference, a + sign signifies that the prisoners have a higher percentage of Yes answers, a — sign the opposite. Relevant questions are the following: The opposite sex will respect you more if you are not too familiar with them (+20); Virginity is a girl's most valuable possession (+36); Masturbation is unhealthy (+15); I would particularly protect my children from contact with sex (+30); The dual standard of morality is natural, and should be continued (+33); Men marry to have intercourse, women have intercourse for the sake of marriage (+19). On all of these questions prisoners are clearly more conservative than are students.

We may next look at what in the original study were identified as "high P" items; these, it will be remembered, were largely items on which men differed from women, as well as correlating with P. Such items are: My parents' influence has inhibited me sexually (—20); I find the thought of a coloured sex partner particularly exciting (+24); When I get excited I can think of nothing else but satisfaction (+20); Women who get raped are often partly responsible themselves (+21); I believe in taking my pleasures where I find them (+21); I have been involved with more than one sex affair at the same time (+34); It is all right to seduce a person who is old enough

to know what they are doing (+11); If you had the chance to see people making love, without being seen, would you take it? (+14); Prostitution should be legally permitted (+20); We should do away with marriage entirely (+15). In addition, prisoners answered questions relating to pornography and orgies consistently in a more positive fashion than did students. They also showed less pathology: All in all I am satisfied with my sex life (+26); Sex contacts have never been a problem to me (+30); Something is lacking in my sex life (-26); I have felt guilty about sex experiences (-10).

These are the main differences observed; they are suggestive, but cannot be interpreted unambiguously by virtue of the many differences which exist between the samples being compared. There are suggested similarities here with the Authoritarian Personality; it will be remembered that prisoners had high scores on the scales making up that inventory, which resembles in many ways a combination of P and Conservatism.

#### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

This study has demonstrated that the patterning of sexual attitudes is very similar in prisoners to what had been found in younger samples of males of higher social class, education and intelligence. Furthermore, the relations observed between the clusters of sex attitudes and the personality factors measured were very similar in size and direction. This seems to justify the conclusion that the results obtained from unrepresentative samples (students, prisoners) may have greater generality than one might have thought; the fact that the results fit in well with the personality theory developed by the writer also supports this view. Differences in the endorsements of individual items between students and prisoners are in line with what one might have predicted on the basis of the higher P and Conservatism scores of the prisoners, although all such comparisons are rendered at least partially invalid by the fact that the two groups differ in several important respects simultaneously (age, education, social class, intelligence, incarceration, etc.) Nevertheless, the data suggest hypotheses which may repay study under better controlled conditions.

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