Consent Synopses

Article 1: Sexual Compliance: Examiningx•÷ˆ' r†�x`†�r †pþQ	ajÄàÀUPÖpgˆ`ìÍI want to start this summary with noting I am not as confident in the relevance for our
conversation of consent, however it is still a really interesting read and I wanted to
share. The authors of this article begin by providing an over view of what the following
terms mean; sexual decision making (sexual consent and sexual want), sexual
compliance, sexual ambivalence, and sexual assertiveness. These terms are some
that I had never heard of or are concepts that I had heard of but had never had fully
defined and laid out for me. Sexual decision making is broken into two elements,
sexual consent ("considered to be the behavioural expression of that desire or
willingness, may include both verbal and nonverbal acts indicating one's desire and/or
agreement to engage in sexual activity") and sexual want ('internal desire or
willingness to engage in sexual activity"). Sexual compliance is "the act of consenting
to unwanted sexual activity", sexual ambivalence is defined as the "level of desire and
willingness for sexual activity being undecided" unfortunately sexual ambivalence is
associated with increased risk for sexual assault, coercion into sexual activity as well
as increased sexual compliance. Sexual assertiveness is defined as "external
behaviour that communicates what one wants in a sexual context, including what one
sexually wants, refusing what one does not want, and advocating for safe
sex/prevention practices". Authors identify that individuals that have strong sexual
assertiveness may be better equipped to express consent as well as express refusal
of consent. These terms were helpful for me to get a better understanding of sexual
violence, consent, and sexual activity as a whole as they provide definitions and
connections to each other. The researchers used a survey method where participants
(308 undergraduate females) were asked to respond to questions in relation to their
most recent sexual experience. Through research is was concluded that "women who
display more sexual assertive behaviours exhibit higher levels of refusal behaviour
when confronted with unwanted sexual advances", further it was noted that women in
relationships reported higher rates of sexual compliance, "sexual activity may actually
demonstrate commitment to the relationship and/or promote intimacy within the
relationship". Low sexual assertiveness was reported to relate to sexual compliance,

and unwanted/ coerced consent behaviours. One quote to note is "a woman may just
have to respond to a man's initiation of sexual activity, as absence of verbal consent
(no response) is often interpreted as sexual consent", this was discussed in relation to
sexual assertiveness but shows a large connection to our discussion of affirmative
consent versus the old patriarchal view of consent (no means no versus yes means
yes). Researchers concluded that "enhancing sexual assertiveness may be an
important factor in efforts to enhance clarity of sexual communication" and that
"discussion of sexual boundaries prior to sexual activity resulted in men and women
demonstrating shorter response times when asked to identify at what point a woman
wanted a man to stop making sexual advances".

Article 2: The alcohol contexts of consent, wanted sex, sexual pleasure, and sexual
assault: Results from a probability survey of undergraduate students

In the context of this article they described sexual assault as follows "active sexual
assault (involving physical force) and incapacitated sexual assault (involving an
inability to provide consent, such as due to being asleep, unconscious, or
intoxicated), noting that alcohol use is associated with both. Researchers state that
when alcohol is discussed in relation to sexual assault it is viewed through three
lenses, "1) sexual assault can include sex when a person is unable to consent due to
alcohol or drug use, 2) a victim’s alcohol consumption does not make the assault
their "fault" and/or 3) that alcohol is associated with reported assaults" however the
complexities behind alcohol and assault are rarely examined despite the large
overlap. Previous research has stated that 1 in 6 US adults report alcohol being used
in relation to their most recent sexual encounter, "this underscores a broader cultural

or non intoxicated is contradicting to how college aged individuals view and engage in
sexual activity. It was concluded that "conflating alcohol and sexual assault allows
campus policies to avoid discussions of the complexities of sexual consent that reflect
desire, sexual development and communication". Closer working relationships
between scientists that study alcohol use and scientist that study sexual development
may help improve the understanding of the issue and their connection to each other.

Article 3: Unblurring the lines of sexual consent with a college student-driven sexual
consent education campaign

In this research study the authors are evaluating how a campaign focused on sexual
consent effected college aged individual’s views on sexual consent and sexual

higher reporting rates than campuses without a visible female presence. Additionally,

having a female president was particularly influential on the reporting of sexual

assaults". This was interesting to me when looking at UFV, as I believe we have a

female president. The information provided in the article is based off of US schools

however I do believe these aspects are things that still apply in the context of UFV. It

was concluded that "inconsistency in the definitions of what constitutes sexual

violence or sexual harassment, the unintended consequences of mandatory

reporting, the lack of inclusiveness in the development of policies, procedures and

programs, and the impact of the campus climate on policy and practices are key for

future research. Authors finished by stressing the importance that "victims of these

acts need to receive assistance and services which they are not only legally entitled,

but are also ones that effectively and completely address their present needs to

prepare
 them for their future".

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