

**RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:
THE PORNOGRAPHY DEBATE**

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Pornography has been the subject of intense debate both within and outside the feminist community. "Women Against Censorship" have challenged the political agenda of some radical feminist anti-pornography activists (e.g., Andrea Dworkin and Catherine MacKinnon), and, along with nonfeminist civil libertarians, have accused these feminists of aligning themselves with the fundamentalist religious right. This project examines the range of ideological positions on pornography, i.e., the theoretical categories and symbolic systems individuals use to make sense of this issue and which guide the social action they take toward pornography.

Using Q method, respondents are asked to sort a sample of 86 opinion statements which were derived from a wide range of popular and academic writings as well as from informal exploratory interviews. Although the Q sort is not formally structured, it includes statements regarding definitions, personal reactions, causes and effects, and policy recommendations concerning pornography. The perspectives represented by these statements include radical feminism, liberal feminism, civil libertarianism, religious fundamentalism, and pro-pornography sexual libertarianism.

The P set is structured to include the main effects of *sex* (male, female), *occupation* (professional, nonprofessional), and *politico-religious* (left-liberal-radical, old and "new" right).

At the present stage of data collection, the sort has been completed by a number of individuals likely to hold quite different viewpoints regarding pornography. In addition to several university faculty and

students, the current respondents include individuals from the following occupational categories: attorney, secretary, homemaker, auto mechanic, self-defense instructor, librarian, accountant, insurance claims adjustor, bartender, tavern owner, and porn-shop operator.

Selected Bibliography

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Pornography Q Sample (N=86)

Due to the length of this Q sample, only even numbered statements are reported. Persons interested in obtaining a copy of the entire Q sample are invited to contact the principal investigator.

(2) Pornography exists because of the economic interests that profit from the exploitation of women. (4) Pornography has an effect on how we relate sexually to others. During sex, our minds become filled with images which cause us to lose touch with each other. (6) There is no reason why I should have to defend my enjoyment of pornography. After all, sexual arousal is its own best self defense. (8) Pornography makes me feel sexy. It gets me in the mood for sex. (10) I understand some people are concerned about pornography, but it's just not an issue that concerns me very much. (12) Pornography teaches young people that sex is just a physical act, rather than an integral part of a meaningful emotional relationship. (14) Pornography teaches that violence is a normal and necessary part of sexual arousal. (16) Pornography is not harmful. Instead, it plays a healthy role in providing an outlet for sexual urges. In some cases it may even prevent rape because it gives people a way to harmlessly act out their sexual fantasies. (18) We need to make dis-

inctions between various kinds of sexually oriented materials such as violent hard-core pornography, soft-core pornography, erotica, sex-education materials, and so forth. Only in this way can we make intelligent decisions about these materials. (20) Pornography should not be confused with obscenity. The fundamental issue in pornography is the control and exploitation of women by men. Obscenity, on the other hand, concerns questions of what is immoral, tasteless, and just plain dirty.

(22) Pornography doesn't have any negative effect on most men, but it does make men who have angry or hostile feelings toward women more likely to treat women aggressively. (24) Pornography makes me feel sexually inadequate. The sex life of people in magazines, books, and films is more spectacular than mine. (26) We already have ratings for the movie industry. There is no reason why printed materials cannot be rated and hopefully controlled in the same way. (28) Pornography interferes with the healthy moral development of children. (30) Society must take steps to prevent children from being exposed to pornography. (32) Pornography is a sin and an offense against God. (34) Nowadays, we have so much pornography because men feel less powerful than they used to. (36) Pornography is entertainment. It's simply a diversion. It's not much different from the Gong Show or Dynasty, and it harms no one. (38) Most of the people who are against pornography are the kind of hypocrites who will read a book from cover to cover, and then complain afterward that it is obscene--even though they enjoyed each and every word. (40) To fight pornography we should enforce the criminal laws which are often violated in the production of pornography.

(42) Cities should regulate pornography by limiting its availability to specially zoned areas. In this way our civil liberties of speech and press can be protected while those people who don't want to be exposed to pornography don't have to. (44) I like pornography but I know that I shouldn't. It makes me feel guilty. (46) I am in favor of making the production, distribution, and possession of all types of pornography completely legal. (48) I feel much more comfortable with pornography than I used to because now I can watch it in the privacy of my own

home. (50) Freedom of speech and freedom of press are among our most important rights granted by the U.S. Constitution. But the Constitution was never intended to protect the rights of pornographers who encourage the exploitation and dehumanization of women and children. (52) Censorship is different from other ways of regulating pornography. If, for example, women were able to sue the producers and distributors of pornography for violation of their civil rights, that would not be censorship. (54) Pornography and spirituality cannot go hand-in-hand. If people are spiritually aware, they have respect for themselves and others. Pornography feeds off disrespect for self and others. (56) I am against pornography, at least some of it. But I really don't know what we can do about it. (58) Sin has been with us since Adam and Eve. It will probably be with us until the end of time, but we must not wallow in it. Pornography must be stopped. (60) I worry that pornography will make my partner expect me to do things that I really don't want to do.

(62) I feel cheap and dissatisfied with myself when I read or watch pornography. (64) I am opposed to the censorship of pornography or any sexually explicit materials. If we remove hard-core magazines from book store shelves, Playboy and Penthouse will follow. After that, Glamour and Cosmopolitan will be found obscene by some politically influential group. Where does censorship stop? (66) Pornography is beneficial because it helps to reduce sexual inhibitions and increase one's willingness to try new sexual experiences. I think that it would help improve the sex lives of many couples. (68) Far from protecting women against violence, the censorship of pornography will perpetuate those conditions which place women in danger. Censoring pornography will not make it disappear, but will hide its harmful effects from public view. (70) The censorship of pornography will lead to the censorship of works of authors, artists, feminists, or anybody who wants to change society. (72) I oppose the censorship of pornography. Our First Amendment freedoms of free speech and free press must be preserved, even if some publications offend some people. The price of living in a free society is putting up with points of view you don't like. (74) Pornography is like heroin

or cocaine. People who use it keep coming back for more and more--to get new sexual highs. What was shocking and disgusting becomes commonplace. The creation of pain and the degradation of others become trivial matters. (76) Those people who favor banning pornography and sexually explicit materials are too moralistic. In their self-righteous wisdom they have decided what the rest of us should see and read. (8) Although I'm willing to tolerate some types of pornography, I believe we must take action against the "hard-core" variety.

(82) There are different kinds of pornography. Some of it is crude and offensive. Some of it is violent and offensive. And some pornography is not offensive at all. This last type is often erotic and appealing. (84) When I see pornographic images I feel pain and sadness. (86) People who regularly look at pornographic magazines or watch pornographic movies are just plain sick.

NEW COMPUTER PROGRAMS

p.c.q.

Following additional development and testing, based in part on suggestions made during the 1987 Q conference, *p.c.q.* is now ready for field use. Available for \$300 (plus postage) from the Gilbert and Martha Hitchcock Center for Graduate Study and Professional Development of the University of Nebraska College of Journalism, *p.c.q.*'s services include

- study options and parameters
- accommodation of up to 60-item Q samples
- correlations of up to 60 Q sorts
- extraction of as many as 9 centroid factors
- assistance with judgmental rotation
- computation of factor scores
- editing of Q statements
- report of distinguishing and consensus statements
- printable study reports

p.c.q. is written entirely in compiled Basic, and files are written in ASCII to facilitate incorporation into most popular word processing programs. A 60×60 correlation matrix, with 60 item Q sorts, is computed in about 6 minutes. p.c.q. requires 128k memory and will operate on any of the IBM family of personal computers or true compatibles. Two disk drives are recommended.

Tentatively, the p.c.q. user's manual contains the following sections:

Introduction: (1) What the p.c.q. system will do, (2) Acknowledgements.

Getting Started: (1) Before use, (2) Installation.

Methodological Considerations: (1) Centroid, not principle components, (2) Hand rotation.

Using p.c.q.: (1) Options and parameters, (2) Entering scores, (3) Entering Q-items, (4) Correlating, (5) Factoring, (6) Rotating, (7) Factor scores, (8) Consensus, differentiating statements, (9) The study report.

Appendixes: (A) Example p.c.q. study file, (B) Example p.c.q. study report.

Purchase of p.c.q. guarantees receipt of future versions at a modest charge, and income will be used to upgrade the package. For further details, contact Michael Stricklin, Associate Director, The Hitchcock Center, College of Journalism, University of Nebraska, Lincoln NE 68588-0129, phone 402/472-3045.

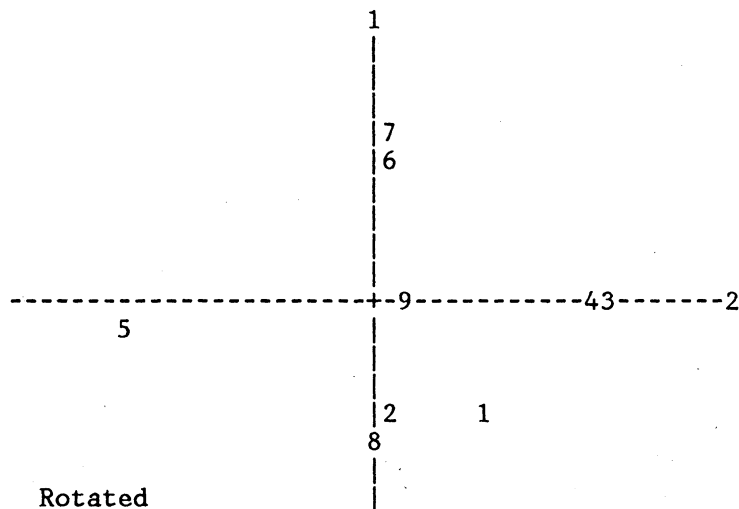
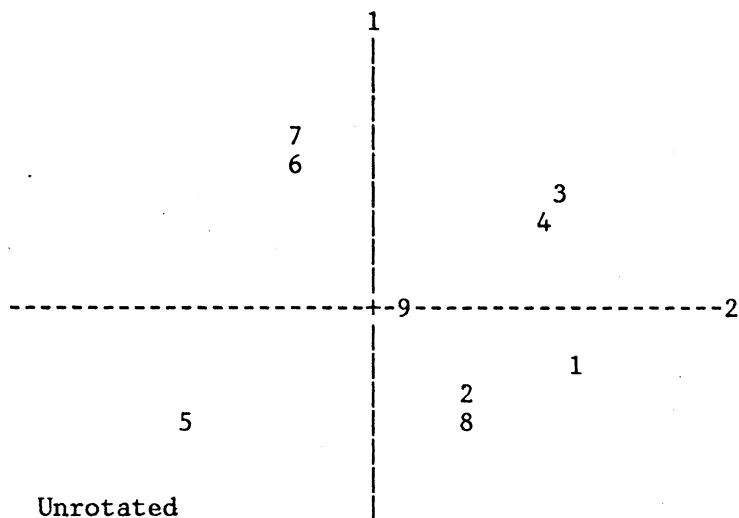
QSORT and QROTATE

QSORT is an editor program which permits the entry of Q-sort data directly from the score sheet without first having to transcribe the scores onto a card-punching form. The program was written for the IBM 3081D (by Christine Shih, Computer Services, Kent State University) and should operate on any of IBM's VM/CMS systems. The program is written in REXX (REstructured eXtended eXecutor), a command-level language, and uses the XEDIT editor environment. The REXX driver routine is initiated by entering QSORT, which interactively requests the

-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4		
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Q-sample size (number of statements), the left-most score of the Q-sort range (e.g., +5, -5, 01, or 11, depending on the width and direction of scoring), the right-most score, and the deepest column in the distribution. (Normally, the latter is the number of statements in the zero column of the distribution, but a larger number may be needed for respondents who depart from the forced distribution.) The accompanying figure is produced on the screen when a Q sample of N=33, a range of -4 to +4, and a distributional depth of 5 is specified. A copy of the first score sheet is then entered directly on the screen, followed by the second, third, etc. For each score sheet, the program registers the mean and sum, and alerts the operator concerning duplicate scores and missing scores so that corrections can be made before the Q sort is entered. The Q sorts are then transformed into a data file ready for entry into a correlation program.

QRotate is a Fortran program which facilitates judgmental rotation on a terminal screen. The program accepts as input an unrotated factor matrix for up to 8 factors and 100 Q sorts. Any two factors are selected and their numbers read in following a prompt. In the first of the accompanying two figures, factors 1 and 2 were chosen based upon inspection of their unrotated loadings; the factor plot is then pictured, as shown, and a protractor can be placed against the screen to determine the desired number of degrees of rotation. In this instance, a



counter-clockwise rotation of 37° was effected (by entering -37), and this resulted in the second figure. Q-sort numbers are screen-displayed for up to 9 Q sorts (asterisks otherwise). Output consists of

the final factor matrix plus a record of the angles of the rotations completed.

Both QSORT and QROTATE can be obtained without charge through the Bitnet network (contact sbrown@kentvm), or by contacting Steven R. Brown, Political Science Department, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242-0001, phone 216/672-2060.

Readers are also reminded that Q-related programs written in Basic for personal computers are still available from Brian D'Agostino, 360 Riverside Drive, Apt. 4D, New York NY 10025, phone 212/663-2751.

Q BIBLIOGRAPHIC UPDATE (CONTINUED)

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