

A decorative graphic consisting of a thin gold circle on the left side, partially overlapping a horizontal bar. The bar has a gold-to-white gradient and is flanked by large, stylized square brackets: a black one on the left and a gold one on the right.

Sexual Perversion

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[*in-class activity*]

1. What sorts of sexual activities do you think are clearly perverse?
2. What do you think might make them *perverse* (as opposed to just different)?

[*the nature of perversion*]

- Some concepts (e.g., red and square) are descriptive:
 - They merely *describe* how things are.
- Other concepts (e.g., good and bad) are evaluative:
 - They do not merely describe how things are; they *appraise* them.
- Perversion is an evaluative concept.
- More precisely, it is a negative evaluative concept:
 - if something is perverse (or perverted), then it falls *short* of some sort of standard.

the nature of perversion

- These observations raise two questions about the nature of sexual perversion. Both concern the kind of standard that the sexually perverted falls short of:

First, is the standard **relative** (dependent upon a given individual or group) or **absolute** (dependent upon objective features of the world)?

Second, is the standard **moral, social, developmental, statistical, teleological**, or what?

- In order to understand the nature of sexual perversion, we must answer these questions. In what follows, we consider each in turn.

[*expressivism*]

- It is tempting to suggest that when one says “x is perverted” one is simply saying “I disapprove of x”.
- Expressivism faces a few problems:
 1. The fact that x is perverted is one’s *grounds* for disapproval. This means that being perverted cannot be identical to being disapproved of.
 2. It seems possible for one to *approve* of something which one believes to be perverted. This means that being perverted cannot be identical to being disapproved of.
 3. Sometimes we *genuinely disagree* about whether x is perverted. But if S1’s claim that x is perverted is just the claim that S1 disapproves of x, and S2’s claim that x is not perverted is just the claim that S2 does not disapprove of x, then there is no genuine disagreement.

[*relativism*]

- According to relativism, what is perverted depends upon the attitudes or practices of a given individual or group.
- There are a variety of different versions of this view.
 - Each holds that the standard that the sexually perverted falls short of is not an objective feature of the world but somehow depends upon the group to which the one judging the perverted to be perverted belongs – it is something that is created, not discovered.
- On one version of the view, the standard depends upon the **culture** of the judger, in which case:
 - A subject S's claim that x is perverted is true iff (say) S's culture judges x to be perverted.

[*relativism*]

- Relativism faces a few problems:
 1. It seems that what is perverted is typically not arbitrary – there is a *good reason* that certain things are perverted and other things are not. Relativism typically implies that the reason that certain things are perverted and other things are not is merely that a given group says they are, making it simply a matter of poll and/or consensus. This is not a good reason.
 2. It seems possible that a given group could be wrong about what is and is not perverted. But if a group's judgment that x is perverted makes x perverted, then the group cannot be wrong about what is perverted.
 3. Sometimes people of different cultures and religions *genuinely disagree* about whether x is perverted or not. But if the claim of a member of group G1 that x is perverted is true iff G1 judges x to be perverted, and the claim of a member of group G2 that x is not perverted is true iff G2 judges x to be perverted, then there is no genuine disagreement.

[*absolutism*]

- According to absolutism, what is perverted depends upon certain objective features of the world.
- There are a variety of different versions of this view.
 - Each holds that the standard that the sexually perverted falls short of is “out there” waiting to be discovered, rather than created.
- On one version of the view, the standard depends upon what is **moral**, in which case:
 - A subject S’s claim that x is perverted is true iff (say) x is immoral.
- On another version of the view, the standard depends upon what is **developmentally normal**, in which case:
 - A subject S’s claim that x is perverted is true iff (say) x is developmentally abnormal.

[*absolutism*]

- Absolutism faces a few objections:
 1. We understand the claim that shape and length are objective features of the world. But it is not clear how to understand the claim that perversion could be an objective feature of the world. Such a feature is spooky or queer.
 2. People disagree about what is perverted. The best explanation of this is that perversion is not absolute.

[*which standard?*]

- Let us now consider three candidates for the standard which the perverted falls short of.

Morality

Normality

Naturalness

[*morality*]

- Is the sexually perverted that which falls short of what is *morally acceptable* sexual activity?
- If so, then x is sexually perverted iff x is an immoral sexual activity.
 - So, to say that voyeurism is perverted is just to say that it is an immoral sexual activity.
- Problems with this view:
 1. Infidelity may be immoral (when it involves deception, for example), though not perverted.
 2. Having a shoe fetish may be perverted, though not immoral.

[*normality*]

- Is the sexually perverted that which falls short of what is *normal* sexual activity?
- If so, then x is sexually perverted iff x is an abnormal sexual activity.
 - So, to say that voyeurism is perverted is just to say that it is an abnormal sexual activity.
- It seems that there are several different types of *normality* (e.g., statistical, developmental, biological, etc.).
 - A sexual activity is *statistically* abnormal iff it is performed only rarely and/or by a minority of people (within a given population).
 - A sexual activity is *developmentally* abnormal iff it is performed significantly earlier or later than the time at which the majority of people (within a given population) perform it.
 - A sexual activity is *biologically* abnormal iff it does not perform the function that it evolved to perform.

[*naturalness*]

- Is the sexually perverted that which falls short of what is *natural* sexual activity?
- If so, then x is sexually perverted iff x is an unnatural sexual activity.
 - So, to say that voyeurism is perverted is just to say that it is an unnatural sexual activity.
- This is Nagel's position. He claims that to say that something is perverted is to say (at the very least) that it is in some sense unnatural.
- What is it for a sexual activity to be unnatural? Nagel suggests the following:
 - ❖ A sexual activity is *unnatural* iff it is caused by a sexual inclination that distorts, blocks, or interferes with normal sexual development.
 - Of course, this leaves unspecified what normal sexual development is...

[*naturalness*]

- Substituting in various theories of normal sexual development generates the following accounts of sexual perversion:
 - A sexual activity is perverse iff it is caused by a sexual inclination that distorts, blocks, or interferes with development that results in sexual activity that reciprocally communicates sexual desire.
 - A sexual activity is perverse iff it is caused by a sexual inclination that distorts, blocks, or interferes with development that results in sexual activity that expresses or maintains love.
 - A sexual activity is perverse iff it is caused by a sexual inclination that distorts, blocks, or interferes with development that fosters intimacy.
 - A sexual activity is perverse iff it is caused by a sexual inclination that distorts, blocks, or interferes with development that leads to procreation.
 - A sexual activity is perverse iff it is caused by a sexual inclination that distorts, blocks, or interferes with development that fulfills the desire for physical contact with another person's body for the pleasure that contact produces.

SEXUAL PERVERSIONS

Sexual perversions are habitual acts to obtain sexual gratification without sexual intercourse.

PARAPHILIA

Paraphilia (Greek *para*: beside, *philos*: loving) “Recurrent, intense sexual urges, fantasies, or behaviors that involve unusual objects, activities, or situations and cause clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational or other important areas of functioning.”

SADISM (ALGOLAGNIA)

The name sadism is derived from the French writer Marquis de Sade (1740-1814), who wrote books in which characters enjoyed being cruel and much of his writing was done while in prison.



SADISM- MULTIPLE INJURIES ARE INFLICTED ON ANY PART OF THE BODY

This type of perversion is more common in males. Person gets sexual gratification by infliction of pain or physical cruelty, like beating, biting, whipping, cigarette burns or ill-treating the partner. Multiple injuries are inflicted on any part of the body, but breast and external genitalia are generally selected. In extreme case, even a murder is committed (Lust murder)

SADISM –LUST MURDER

LUST MURDER:-it is a homicide in which the offender stabs, pierces, slashes, or otherwise mutilates the sexual organs or areas of the victim's body. With torturing the partner, sexual arousal starts and with the death of the partner, full gratification is obtained.

The mutilation of the victim may include evisceration and/or displacement of the genitalia.

SADISM- (NECROPHILIA).

After murder, the sadist may have sexual intercourse with her (necrophilia).

SADISM -NECROPHAGIA

He may tear out the genitalia or other organs may suck or lick the wounds or eat the flesh of the victim to derive sexual pleasure (necrophagia/anthropophagy). It is the consequence of extreme sadist practice.

SADISM- SEXUAL OBSESSION

A lust murder begins with the obsessive compulsions of the offender. These sadists have sexual obsession with their victims, and organized lust murderers may stalk their victims for months or weeks before the actual killing.

MASOCHISM

The term is derived from the 19th century author Leopold Von Sacher Masoch, an Austrian novelist who portrayed characters suffering from this perversion. As a stimulus to write, he liked to be whipped by his wife.

MASOCHISM (PASSIVE ALGOLAGNIA)

Sexual gratification is obtained only when they receive painful stimulus from opposite partner.

It is the reverse of sadism and more common in males.

MASOCHISM

Sadism and Masochism are rarely found in pure state (combined entity is known as sadomasochism). They are usually found together with one type dominant over the other. The combination is known as bondage.

FETICHISM

- Alfred Binet, the French psychologist coined the term i.e. mystical qualities to inanimate objects.
- This is a perversion in which sexual gratification is associated with contact and sight of certain parts of the female body, or even clothing, or other articles known as fetish objects. A fetish object is an object which attracts a person with irrational fascination amounting to magical attraction. Any article like clothing, dress particularly the undergarments—panties, bra, handkerchief, shoes, hair etc. (the list is limitless) of female acts as stimulus. He would like to have these articles for sexual gratification and may masturbate in them. He may develop an irresistible habit to steal these objects. The fetishist who is fascinated by female hair may follow females with long hair and may resort to cutting them.

EXHIBITIONISM

It is a desire and intentional exposure of genitalia in public places while in presence of others (mostly in front of children or females) to obtain sexual pleasure. This act may be accompanied by with/without masturbatory acts. Occasionally female may expose themselves in public. This perversion is more in males and is called “flashers”. Most of them are psychopathic or suffer from compulsive neurosis. Exhibitionism is an obscene act punishable under Section 294 IPC with imprisonment upto 3 months and or fine.

TRANSVESTISM/EONISM

Magnus Hirschfeld coined the term (Latin—Trans:-across, over; vestitus: dressed) to refer to the sexual interest in cross-dressing. The term Eonism is derived from Frenchman, “Chevalier d Eon de Beaumont” , who practiced this perversion.

This is a perversion in which the personality of the individual is dominated by the desire to be identified with the opposite sex. The fantasy indulged in is clearly “being a female” if a male, and “being a male”, if a female. The clothes worn are usually underclothes, brassier, knickers, etc, of an expensive and alluring type. The perversion is also seen in females who dress themselves in male attire.

URANISM

In this type of perversion, the pervert gets sexual gratification by fingering, fondling, or licking. “*Fellatio*” means oral stimulation of the penis by the male/female, and “*Cunnilingus*” means oral stimulation of the female genitalia. This perversion is more common than generally thought of.

UROLAGNIA (UROPHILIA, UNDINISM)

The pervert gets sexual gratification by the sight or odour of urine and /or by urination. The word is derived from Greek (oureon: urine, lagneia: lust) and these types of perverts may enjoy urinating on another person or being urinated upon.

COPROPHILIA

(Greek- kopros: excrement, filia: fondness)

It is a morbid attraction to, and sexual gratification obtained from faeces (liking, smell, taste or feel)

COPROPHILIA

Eating of faeces is known as Coprophagia. A case has been reported by such pervert in whom he would smear his partner's body with faeces before attempting intercourse.

VOYEURISM (SCOPTOPHILIA)

In this the pervert has morbid desire to observe people undress, taking bath, see the genitalia or watch intercourse to get erotic excitement and sexual gratification. Voyeurs (French voir: to see, observer) frequently peep into the bedrooms of others and are therefore called “Peeping Toms”. Some voyeurs prefer to observe their own wives being seduced by other men. This act may be accompanied by exhibitionism or masturbation.

FROTTEURISM

This is a perversion mostly seen in males; in which the pervert has compulsion to rub the genitalia against a female's body, usually in lifts or in crowded bus to get sexual gratification and even orgasm. This is an offence and punishable under Section 290 IPC (fine of Rs. 200) and Section 291 IPC (imprisonment for 6 months and /or fine).

TROILISM

The pervert gets sexual gratification by inducing his wife to have sexual intercourse with another man and by observing the same.

MASTURBATION (ONANISM)

It is defined as deliberate self-stimulation of the genitalia which results in sexual arousal leading to orgasm. Masturbation is seen in both men women. It is an offence when practiced openly, e.g. in telephone booths, bus or toilet.

TELEPHONE SCATOLOGIA

In is a form of sexual pervasion in which the pervert gets sexual excitement/gratification/orgasm by calling on telephone. The pervert makes obscene phone calls, such as describing one's masturbatory activity, threatening to rape the victim, or trying to find out the victim's sexual activities.

AUTONEPIOPHILIA

**Wearing diapers for sexual
pleasure.**

KLISMAPHILIA

Deriving sexual pleasure from the use of enemas.

PARTIALISM

Another variant of Fetishism.

People with Partialism are solely interested in the sexual gratification from a specific body part, examples are feet, neck, underarms, back, etc.

SOMNAPHILIA

Having sex with a sleeping person.

STIGMATOPHILIA

Deriving sexual pleasure from skin piercing or a tattoo.

PYROPHILIA

Pyrophilia is a relatively uncommon paraphilia in which the patient derives gratification from fire and fire-starting activity. It is distinguished from pyromania by the gratification being of a sexual nature

MECHANOPHILIA

Mechanophilia is a fetish where an individual is sexually attracted to mechanical objects. This means that bicycles, cars, helicopters, airplanes, vacuum cleaners, computers, robots, (must we go on?) become the objects of a person's sexual affections

ACROTOMOPHILIA

Acrotomophilia involves a sexually driven fascination with losing a limb.

APOTEMNOPHILIA

Apotemnophilia involves a sexual attraction to those who have already lost a body part (amputees).

FORMICOPHILIA

Formicophilia is a form of Zoophilia (sexual attraction to animals) that involves an interest in small insects. Individuals with this sexual fascination find pleasure in having ants, spiders, etc. crawl on their body and bite them.

HYBRISTOPHILIA

Defined as the sexual attraction to individuals who have committed gruesome crimes, hybristophilia does not pose immediate danger to an individual in the same way the other fetishes on this list do.

HEMATOLAGNIA

Hematolagnia is the sexual fetish, often times connected to vampirism, which involves finding sexual gratification through blood and bleeding.

OMORASHI

Most common in the Japanese culture, omorashi is the sexual fetish in which individuals are aroused from having a full bladder.