

SLUT SHAMING IN EARLY ADOLESCENCE: EMBEDDING IN SOCIAL WORLD AND REPERCUSSIONS ON PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING

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THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Adolescents evolve in a wired universe. However, Internet is not gender-neutral and sexist, sexual and homophobic violence tends to reproduce online (Doring, 2000; Pascoe, 2011). Slut shaming is defined as an act of defaming someone, especially women and girls, for alleged sexual behavior, sexualized appearance or presumed sexual orientation (Armstrong, Hamilton, Armstrong & Seeley, 2014). The « slut » label is likely to have an impact on young people's well-being, identity and gender development, as a form of sexual oppression and social stigma (Papp & al., 2015; Ringrose & Renold, 2015). The current study aims to grasp this phenomenon as embedded in young adolescents' social contexts, namely relationships to peers and parents, and to explore relationships with traumatic experiences.

HYPOTHESES

1. Slut shaming victimization (V): girls > boys
2. Slut shaming perpetration (P): girls = boys
3. Impact on well-being:
 - Traumatic life events are associated with P and V
 - Parental confidence as protective factor (P and V)
 - Relationships to peers and perceived popularity as protective factors (V) and risk factors (P)

METHODOLOGY

503 adolescents aged under 15 (55,9% girls; $\mu=13,36$; $\sigma=0,83$).

Paper-pencil questionnaire, collective administration.

- ✓ Slut shaming P and V (lifetime)
- ✓ Sexual victimization and exposure to domestic violence
- ✓ General Health Questionnaire (Goldberg & Hillier, 1979)
- ✓ Parental Monitoring Scale (Stattin & Kerr, 2000)
- ✓ Popularity among peers (Vanden Abeele, Van Cleemput & Vandebosch, 2017)

RESULTS

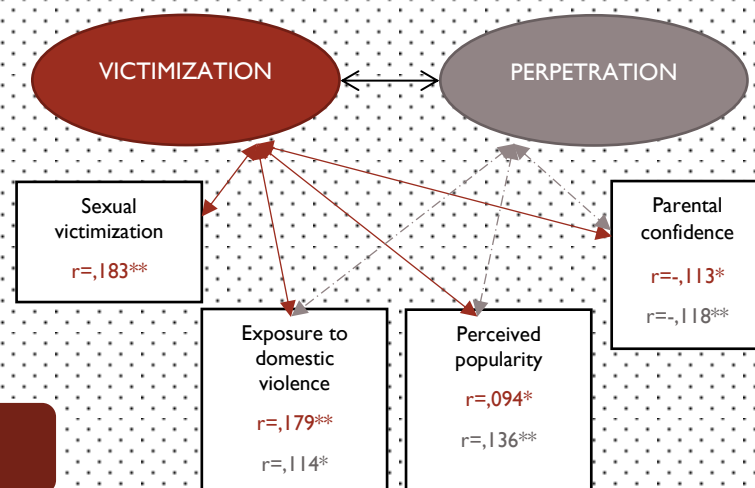
1. Victimization: girls > boys (Welsch approx.: $t=2,529$ $p<,05$).
2. Perpetration: girls = boys (no significant difference).

	V. (%)			P. (%)		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
Derogatory messages online ("slut", "fag")	6,5	1,4	4,3	1,1	3,3	2
Rumors of sexual nature online	7,6	4,7	6,3	0,7	1,9	1,2
TOTAL	10,5	5,6	8,3	1,5	4,7	2,8

3. Impact on physical and psychological well-being:
Experiencing slut shaming is associated with somatic symptoms (V: $r=,282$ $p<0,01$ and P: $r=,091$ $p<0,05$) and depressive affects ($r=,246$ $p<0,01$ and P: $r=,143$ $p<0,05$).

4. Embedding in adolescents' social contexts and life path (traumatic events)

Data suggest that parental confidence may be a protective factor regarding slut shaming (P and V). Perceived popularity among peers tends to be a risk factor and traumatic experiences may make young adolescents more vulnerable to the slut label. Need for popularity and parental control are not associated with experiences of slut shaming. Victimization and perpetration of slut shaming are significantly correlated ($r=,258$ $p<0,01$).



CONCLUSION

Slut shaming exists as early as at the entry in adolescence and significantly impact young people's well-being. If data confirm that it primarily affects girls, perpetrators belong to both sex groups, traducing the inclusion of "slut" labelling in teen culture and gender norms. Association with perceived popularity supports this hypothesis. Relationship to parents, especially confidence, should be mobilized as a protective factor.