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**Cognitive Processes in Acquaintance Rape Judgments:  
An Information Processing Perspective**

**Jennifer McFarlane ©**

**Lakehead University**

**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the  
Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology**



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## Abstract

Acquaintance rape has been considered society's "hidden crime", often being seen as wrong, but not criminal (Bechhofer & Parrot, 1991). In comparison to other violent crimes, rape has the highest rate of acquittal and the lowest rate of conviction (Weiner & Vodanovich, 1986). In many instances victims of rape are held accountable for their victimization (Abbey, 1987). This study investigated the cognitive processes involved in the development of rape judgments and sanctioning decisions. Cognitive structures, namely observer attitudes (rape myth acceptance, sex-role beliefs, hostility towards women), were found to have a mediating role between ambiguous information and the development of inferences (regarding the victim and offender). In turn, the mediational relationship between inferences and consequent rape judgments (perception of rape, victim and offender responsibility and blame) was established. Sanctioning judgments (conviction and punishments) were found to succeed rape judgments. Individuals who had more conventional attitudes (higher rape myth acceptance, traditional sex-role beliefs, more hostility towards women) tended to develop less negative offender inferences (e.g., perceived him as less violent), and more negative victim inferences (e.g., perceived her as more desiring of sex). In turn, they also tended to attribute more responsibility to the victim, and were more reluctant to identify the situation as "rape". Furthermore, these individuals were less willing to convict, and assigned less punishment to the offender. The inverse pattern of inference development, and rape and sanctioning judgments was found for those with more progressive attitudes (less rape myth acceptance, more egalitarian sex-role beliefs, less hostility towards women). Based on hierarchical multiple regression analyses, a model of information processing was proposed.

## Table of Contents

Abstract.....	i
List of Figures.....	iv
List of Tables.....	v
List of Appendices.....	viii
Introduction.....	2
Rape Attribution Theory: A Cognitive Approach.....	5
Cognitive Structures.....	7
Schemas and Scripts.....	8
Attitudes.....	10
Inferences.....	13
Rape judgments.....	16
Sanctioning judgments.....	18
The Present Study.....	19
Hypotheses.....	22
Method.....	24
Participants.....	24
Materials.....	24
Seduction Script Survey.....	24
Personal Rape Script Survey.....	25
Acquaintance Rape Vignette.....	26
Character and Behavior Questionnaire.....	27
Offender and Victim Inference Questionnaire.....	27
Rape Identification and Sanctioning Judgments Questionnaire.....	28
Attribution Questionnaire.....	29
Hostility Towards Women Scale.....	30
Rape Myth Scale.....	31
Sex-Role Egalitarianism Scale.....	31
Post-experimental Questionnaire.....	32
Procedure.....	33
Results.....	35
Overview of Analyses.....	35
Preliminary Data Analyses.....	38
Internal Consistency of Variables.....	39
Correlations within each Set of Variables (Zero-order Correlations).....	42



Set 1- Attitudes and Rape Script.....	43
Set 2 - Offender Inference Variables .....	43
Set 3 - Victim Inference Variables.....	44
Set 4 - Rape Judgment Variables .....	44
Set 5 - Sanctioning Judgment Variables .....	45
Correlations among Different Sets of Variables (Canonical Correlation Analyses).....	45
1. Set 2 (offender inferences) and Set 1 (attitudes).....	47
2. Set 3 (victim inferences) and Set 1 (attitudes).....	49
3. Set 4 (rape judgments) and Set 2 (offender inferences).....	50
4. Set 4 (rape judgments) and Set 3 (victim inferences) .....	51
5. Set 5 (sanctioning judgments) and Set 4 (rape judgments).....	52
6. Set 4 (rape judgments) and Set 1 (attitudes).....	54
7. Set 5 (sanctioning judgments) and Set 1 (attitudes) .....	55
8. Set 5 (sanctioning judgments) and Set 2 (offender inferences).....	56
9. Set 5 (sanctioning judgments) and Set 3 (victim inferences).....	57
10. Set 3 (victim inferences) and Set 2 (offender inferences).....	58
Sequential Ordering of Stages (Hierarchical Multiple Regression Analyses) .....	60
Differences between Groups Based on Rape Identification .....	63
Sex Differences.....	65
Description of Sanctioning Judgments for Study Sample .....	65
Discussion.....	66
Cognitive Structures and the Development of Inferences.....	66
Observer Attitudes and the Development of Inferences.....	67
Observer Rape Script and the Development of Inferences.....	71
Inferences and the Formation of Rape Judgments.....	74
Rape Judgments and the Formation of Sanctioning Judgments .....	77
An Information Processing Model for Rape and Sanctioning Judgments .....	78
Practical implications.....	79
Strengths and Limitations of Study .....	80
Future Directions .....	85
General Conclusions.....	87
References.....	91

## List of Figures

### Figure 1

Hypothesized Cognitive Stages in the Formation of Acquaintance Rape  
Judgments and Sanctioning Judgments..... 102

### Figure 2

Hypothesized Order of Sets in the Processing of Information Concerning  
Acquaintance Rape ..... 103

### Figure 3

Order of Stages in the Processing of Information Concerning Acquaintance  
Rape..... 104

## List of Tables

Table 1	Internal Reliability of Variables.....	105
Table 2	Intercorrelations among Set 1 (Attitudes and Personal Rape Script) .....	106
Table 3	Correlations between Rape Script Type and Set 2 (offender inferences), Set 3 (victim inferences), Set 4 (rape judgments), and Set 5 (sanctioning judgments) .	107
Table 4	Intercorrelations among Set 2 (offender inferences) .....	108
Table 5	Intercorrelations among Set 3 (victim inferences) .....	109
Table 6	Intercorrelations among Set 4 (rape judgments) .....	110
Table 7	Intercorrelations between Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments).....	111
Table 8	Correlations among Variables in Set 1 (attitudes), Set 2 (offender inferences), Set 3 (victim inferences), set 4 (rape judgments), and Set 5 (sanctioning judgments) .	112
Table 9	Correlations among Variables in Set 2 (offender inferences), Set 3 (victim inferences), Set 4 (rape judgments), and Set 5 (sanctioning judgments) .....	113
Table 10	Correlations among Variables in Set 3 (victim inferences), Set 4 (rape judgments), and Set 5 (sanctioning judgments) .....	114
Table 11	Correlations among Variables in Set 4 (rape judgments) and Set 6 (sanctioning judgments) .....	115
Table 12	Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 2 (offender inferences) and Set 1 (attitudes) and their Corresponding Canonical Variates.....	116

<b>Table 13</b>	<b>Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 3 (victim inferences) and Set 1 (attitudes) and their Corresponding Canonical Variates.....</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>Table 14</b>	<b>Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 4 (rape judgments) and Set 2 (offender inferences) and their Corresponding Canonical Variates .....</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>Table 15</b>	<b>Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 4 (rape judgments) and Set 3 (victim inferences) and their Corresponding Canonical Variates .....</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Table 16</b>	<b>Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 5 (sanctioning judgments) and Set 4 (rape judgments) and their Corresponding Canonical Variates.....</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Table 17</b>	<b>Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 4 (rape judgments) and Set 1 (attitudes) and their Corresponding Canonical Variates .....</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>Table 18</b>	<b>Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 5 (sanctioning judgments) and Set 1 (attitudes) and their Corresponding Canonical Variates.....</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Table 19</b>	<b>Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 5 (sanctioning judgments) and Set 2 (offender inferences) and their Corresponding Canonical Variates.....</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Table 20</b>	<b>Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 5 (sanctioning judgment) and Set 3 (victim inferences) and their Corresponding Canonical Variates.....</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>Table 21</b>	<b>Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 2 (offender inferences) and Set 3 (victim inferences) and their Corresponding Canonical Variates.....</b>	<b>125</b>

<b>Table 22</b>	<b>Regression Analyses Examining the Sequential Ordering of the First Three Proposed Stages (Information Selection, Inference Development, Rape Judgments)in the Processing of Information concerning Acquaintance Rape.....</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Table 23</b>	<b>Regression Analyses Examining the Sequential Ordering of the Proposed Stages (Information Selection, Inference Development, Rape Judgments, Sanctioning Judgments) in the Processing of Information concerning Acquaintance Rape.....</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Table 24</b>	<b>Means (and standard deviations) for Participants who Identified the Stiautio as Rape versus those who Identified as Non-Rape on Attitudinal, Inferential, and Judgments Variables.....</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Table 25</b>	<b>Means (and standard deviations) for Male and Female Participants on Attitudinal, Inferential, and Judgments Variables .....</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Table 26</b>	<b>Breakdown of Participant Responses on the Items Measuring Sanctioning Judgments.....</b>	<b>132</b>

## List of Appendices

Appendix 1	
Seduction Script Survey.....	133
Appendix 2	
Personal Rape Script Survey.....	136
Appendix 3	
Acquaintance Rape Vignette.....	139
Appendix 4	
Character and Behavior Questionnaire.....	142
Appendix 5	
Offender and Victim Inference Questionnaire.....	145
Appendix 6	
Rape Identification and Sanctioning Judgments.....	147
Appendix 7	
Attribution Questionnaire.....	149
Appendix 8	
Hostility Toward Women Scale.....	152
Appendix 9	
Rape Myth Scale.....	154
Appendix 10	
Sex-Role Egalitarian Scale.....	156
Appendix 11	
Post-Experimental Questionnaire.....	158
Appendix 12	
Instructions for Study.....	164
Appendix 13	
Informed Consent Form.....	166
Appendix 14	
Instructions for Booklet 1.....	168..
Appendix 15	
Instructions for Booklet 3.....	170..
Appendix 16	
Instructions for Booklet 4.....	172
Appendix 17	
Debriefing Sheet.....	174
Appendix 18	
Rape and Rape Services Information Sheet.....	176

## Introduction

Acquaintance rape may be considered society's hidden crime (Bechhofer & Parrot, 1991), as it is often seen as wrong, but not criminal (Fischer, 1991). Failure to recognize the criminal nature of acquaintance rape is well demonstrated in the Uniform Crime Reports (1981) statistic that shows rape, in comparison to other violent crimes, has the highest rate of acquittal and the lowest rate of conviction (Weiner & Vodanovich, 1986).

Contrary to popular belief, acquaintance rape occurs much more frequently than does rape perpetrated by a stranger (Koss, Dinero, Seibel, & Cox, 1988; Russell, 1984). For instance, Koss et al. (1988) surveyed a large sample of female college students and found that of those who disclosed they had been raped, 85% indicated they were acquainted with their perpetrator. Furthermore, research has determined that the vast majority of rape victims who have been assaulted by an acquaintance never report their victimization to the authorities (Williams, 1984), with reporting rates speculated by some to be as low as 1% (Burkhart, 1983).

This serious under-reporting is most likely due to the rape victim's awareness that she may be held accountable for her assault (Dowd, 1983; Seligman, 1984). Of the few victims who do report the assault to the authorities, most find themselves and their behaviors which preceded the rape under scrutiny (Brownmiller, 1975). Research indicates that victims of rape, as opposed to all other forms of victimization, are required to prove their non-consent in a court of law (Spencer, 1987), and are more likely to be held accountable for their victimization (Abbey, 1987; Acock & Ireland, 1983; Krahe, 1988).

Jurors, judges, lawyers, police officers, medical personnel, mental health professionals, and significant others in a rape victim's life make attributional judgments about rape, especially rape victims (Dye & Roth, 1990; Field, 1978; Holmstrom & Burgess, 1979). Research has demonstrated that these judgments are often inaccurate, and often result in the attribution of responsibility to the victim and the mitigation of blame to the rapist. For example, Holmstrom and Burgess (1979) found that husbands and boyfriends of rape victims tended to assign some responsibility to the victim. Jurors, in assessing a rape trial, must decide whether a rape occurred, and make complex decisions concerning offender guilt and punishment. Pugh (1983) states "surprisingly, one of the greatest barriers to an understanding of what happens in rape trials is the lack of an adequate theoretical model" (p. 239).

Previous research has provided us with a plethora of factors that affect rape judgments. Weiner and Vodanovich (1986) refer to this literature as having identified "a large, if unorganized, catalogue of information cues that shape judgments of culpability" (p. 490). These factors include victim characteristics such as respectability (e.g., Jones & Aronson, 1973), physical attractiveness (e.g., Jacobson & Popovich, 1983), and history of previous sexual activity (e.g., L'Armand & Pepitone, 1982), offender characteristics such as level of force used (e.g., Krulewitz & Payne, 1978), and race (e.g., Field, 1979) and situational variables such as alcohol use (e.g., Norris & Cubbins, 1992). Characteristics of the individual making the judgment, referred to as observer characteristics, have not benefited from significant investigation to date. However, some studies have examined sex



differences (e.g., Gilmartin-Zena, 1983; Kleinke & Meyer, 1990; Luginbuhl & Mullin, 1981), and rape-relevant attitudes (e.g., Burt, 1980; Fischer, 1991; Krahe, 1988; Willis, 1992; ). The copiousness of these research findings lends some understanding to the process of arriving at attributional judgments concerning rape. However, a major shortcoming of previous research is "the lack of an organized model that ties the findings together" (Wiener & Vodanovich, 1986, p. 490). Overall, the plenitude of variables which have been shown to affect rape judgments have been criticized for being too narrowly focused (Weiner & Vodanovich, 1986), disorganized (Langley et al., 1991) and lacking a systematic, cohesive theoretical model (Pugh, 1983). Langley et al., (1991) suggest that the cognitive processes involved in making attributional judgments about rape have not been adequately researched. Interestingly, although jury members must make very important decisions regarding guilt and punishment on the basis of the information that is presented to them, their characteristics (e.g., their attitudes and beliefs) are often not considered.

In an attempt to bring some order to the multitude of variables which have been demonstrated to affect rape judgments, some theoretical models have been developed (i.e., Pugh, 1983; Shotland & Goodstein, 1983; Weiner & Vodanovich, 1986). Common to most of these models is the premise that how the observer processes the cause of a rape situation is influenced by cognitive mediators (Langley et al., 1991).

Shotland and Goodstein (1983) proposed a model of rape judgment which sought to explain the cognitive process of deciding whether a situation was considered rape or not. They examined the effects of the onset of the victim's protest (early, middle, or late), the

force employed by the offender (low or moderate), and the type of protest used by the victim (verbal, or verbal and physical) on rape identification. Results indicated that the identification of a situation as rape was more likely when the victim protested both verbally and physically (as opposed to only verbally), when the victim resisted earlier in the encounter, and when moderate (rather than low) force was used by the offender. Shotland and Goodstein (1983) reasoned that the observer uses a combination of information to make decisions about the woman's level of sexual desire and the man's level of violence. The observer's perception of desire and violence were found to mediate between the presented information and the consequent rape judgment. Shotland and Goodstein's (1983) study demonstrated that the development of inferences (regarding the victim and offender) is an important stage in the process of arriving at judgments concerning rape.

#### Rape Attribution Theory: A Cognitive Approach

Attribution theory is concerned with the type of information an observer selects, and how this information is combined to arrive at judgments and causal explanations for situations (Fiske & Taylor, 1991). To date, no theory has been found to adequately account for the attributional judgments that consistently hold the victim partially, if not completely, responsible for the rape. The theories most typically used for explaining victim-blaming for rape are The Defensive Attribution Hypothesis (Shaver, 1970), and Lerner's (1970) Belief in a Just World Theory. The basis of both theories is that the observers blame victims for "selfish, self-protective reasons" (McCaul et al., 1990, p. 2).

The Defensive Attributional Hypothesis posits that the level of blame assigned to a victim is dependent upon whether one believes that he or she could be in a similar situation to the victim and their perceived similarity to the victim. The theory holds that the observer will assign less blame to the victim if they have personal similarities to them. This is thought to serve to protect the observer from the belief that a similar outcome may befall him or her in the future (Shaver, 1970).

Lerner's Belief in a Just World Theory is based on the premise that people perceive the world to be fair and just. The belief that the world is just provides a sense of control over the outcome of our behavior. This theory posits that blame will be assigned to the rape victim as a result of the belief that people get what they deserve, and this belief, in turn, allows the observer to maintain a sense of control (McCaul et al., 1990). When observing another person's misfortunes or victimization, individuals will tend to blame the person's actions for the event. Moreover, if there is no clear action to blame, the observer will blame the person's character, holding that they are deserving of the misfortune. The basis for belief in a just world are people's defensive need to avoid threats to themselves (Lerner, 1970).

Although able to account for some differences in victim-blaming, the Defensive Attribution Hypothesis (Shaver, 1970) and Lerner's (1970) Belief in a Just World Theory have been found to have serious shortcomings in rape attribution research. McCaul et al. (1990) state "each theory can explain some differences in victim blaming caused by the circumstances surrounding a particular rape...however, neither theory handles the broad

range of variables that apparently influence the blaming of rape victims" (p. 2). It may be that these theories are too limited in their scope, and fail to acknowledge that observers are selective in what they attend to or notice in a given situation. Observers do not attend to all incoming stimuli, and they are unlikely to evaluate presented information in an impartial manner (Markus & Zajonc, 1985).

Originally, social perceivers (observers) were considered naive scientists (Heider, 1944, 1958), who continually engaged in thought in an attempt to explain the cause of their own or others' behavior. Although early attribution theorists believed that the observer gathered all the relevant data from a scene, researchers have now determined that unlike the scientist, the social perceiver does not attend to or collect all the relevant information present in any given situation. On the contrary, social perceivers are selective in what they notice, learn, remember, or infer (Markus & Zajonc, 1985). Selective processing of information may result in errors and biases in attributional judgments, and is believed to result from internal cognitive structures and mechanisms (Markus & Zajonc, 1985).

### Cognitive Structures

Cognitive structures, defined as "organizations of conceptually related representations of objects, situations, events, and of sequences of events and actions" (Markus & Zajonc, 1985, p. 143). Cognitive structures result in non-random information processing, and some researchers believe that they may be essential to perception (Neisser, 1976). For example, Neisser (1976) believed that only information which is congruent with an individual's schema would be processed. Other theorists do not agree that only

information which is congruent with one's schemas is processed (Markus & Zajonc, 1985); however, it is generally accepted that internal cognitive structures serve as a framework to organize and understand all incoming stimuli. By employing a social cognition approach to rape attribution theory, the impact of the observers' cognitive structures (schemas and attitudes) on inferences, attributions, and other judgments may significantly add to our understanding of how observers make decisions about rape.

### Schemas and Scripts

Schemas appear to be important cognitive variables involved in determining what information is attended to, perceived, and used in making judgments (Markus & Zajonc, 1985). A schema is defined as "a cognitive structure that represents knowledge about a concept or type of stimulus, including its attributes and the relations among those attributes" (Fiske & Taylor, 1991, p. 98). A script is a specific form of schema, one concerned specifically with actions and the sequence of events (Ryan, 1988). This conceptual structure includes the roles, objects, conditions and results that occur in a stereotyped sequence (Markus & Zajonc, 1985). Individuals hold scripts for a wide range of events (Bower, Black & Turner, 1979), including sexual behavior (Gagnon, 1977; Gagnon & Simon, 1973; Laws & Schwartz, 1977), and more specifically, rape (Kahn, Mathie, & Torgler, 1994; Ryan, 1988).

Schank and Abelson (1977) proposed that schematic structures, namely scripts, function to help an individual to predict what will happen next in a sequence of events and fill in information which is implicit. Scripts, ostensibly, result in and are necessary for the

development of inferences about a situation (Eysenck & Keane, 1990). Rape attribution research has ignored the possible importance of the observer's rape script in determining attributional judgments.

Despite the fact that the majority of rapes are committed by a person known to the victim (Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewski, 1987; Parrot, 1985; Russell, 1982), a pervasive stereotype of the violent, stranger rape exists (Gilmartin-Zena, 1983). The common perception is "a rape by a stranger who uses a weapon - an assault done at night, outside (in a dark alley), with a lot of violence, resistance by the victim, and hence severe wounds and signs of struggle" (Burt, 1991, p.27).

In contrast to the stranger rape, acquaintance rape often occurs indoors (Parrot & Link, 1983), its offenders more often use verbal or psychological coercion as opposed to a weapon (Rapaport & Burkhart, 1984), and its victims often do not exhibit any signs of physical damage (such as cuts or bruises) (Bechhofer & Parrot, 1991). Because these acquaintance rape details significantly deviate from the pervasive notion of what constitutes rape, individuals may be reluctant to perceive and identify an acquaintance rape as rape. Moreover, many victims of forced sexual intercourse by an acquaintance do not consider their own circumstances rape (Koss & Burkhart, 1989; Wyatt, Notgrass & Newcomb, 1990), for reasons that are unclear. It has been suggested that victims may consider their situation as something other than rape, such as extreme seduction (Kahn et al., 1994). Rape victims who fail to acknowledge their situation as rape (yet meet the legal criteria for rape as defined by Koss, 1985) may have personal rape scripts which do not match their rape

experience (Kahn et al., 1994). Kahn et al. (1994) found that unacknowledged rape victims more often had a stranger rape script (i.e., rape committed by a stranger was described as a "typical" rape), whereas acknowledged victims predominantly held acquaintance rape scripts (i.e., rape committed by an acquaintance was described as a "typical" rape). Therefore, unacknowledged victims' experience of being raped in a less forceful manner by an acquaintance was incongruent with their stranger rape script, leading to their unwillingness to identify their experience as rape. Acknowledged rape victims, on the other hand, were more likely to hold acquaintance rape scripts, resulting in their experiences being congruent with their rape script, and consequently leading to the identification of their experience as rape.

Research has not yet been extended to include the role of the observer's type of rape script in rape judgments. Given the results from the Kahn et al. (1994) study, which identified the importance of a rape victim's rape script in determining whether she will identify a sexual experience as rape or not, it is possible that an observer's rape script will also influence his or her rape judgments about rape.

### Attitudes

An attitudes is defined as a "categorization of a stimulus along an evaluative dimension, based on cognitive, affective, and behavioral information" (Fiske & Taylor, 1991, p. 463). Attitudes may mediate a person's interpretation of incoming stimuli, as well as affect their recall of information when making attributional judgments (Fiske & Taylor, 1991). For example, when required to make an attributional judgment, evidence which is

congruent with the observer's attitudes is often recalled much more readily than inconsistent information (Fiske & Taylor, 1991). According to social cognition theory people more readily attend to information which is consistent with their attitudes, and are more likely to selectively *interpret* information on the basis of their attitudes (Fiske & Taylor, 1991).

Individuals may hold certain attitudes which are part of a pervasive ideology in our society that condones rape, or denies the seriousness of it (Brownmiller, 1975; Weis & Borges, 1973). Burt (1980) proposed that traditional gender role attitudes, acceptance of interpersonal violence, and adversarial sexual beliefs form a "generalized cultural background for attitudes focusing specifically on rape and sexual violence" (p. 218). Burt (1980) determined that these attitudes were strongly related to rape attitudes (or more precisely, rape myth acceptance). Research documents that the acceptance of rape myths is widespread (Field, 1978; Williams & Holmes, 1981), and functions to justify and excuse rape (Burt, 1991; Weis & Borges, 1973). Rape myths have also been linked to low reporting of rape (Russell, 1982), and negative treatment of rape victims who do report (Williams, 1984; Williams & Holmes, 1981).

In many studies, the acceptance of rape myths (sometimes referred to as "rape attitudes") has been found to be associated with traditional sex-role beliefs (Check & Malamuth, 1983; Costin, 1985; Field, 1978). Research has demonstrated that whether one is traditional or egalitarian in their sex-role beliefs significantly influences their rape judgments (Acock & Ireland, 1983; Costin, 1985; Field, 1978; Shotland & Goodstein, 1983). For instance, Field (1978) concluded "...people who view women in traditional



roles are likely to see rape as being a woman's fault" (p. 174). Willis (1992) found that individuals with traditional sex-role stereotypes had a bias against rape victims. Similarly, Acock and Ireland (1983) found that traditional participants blamed the victim more and blamed the rapist less than egalitarian participants. Shotland and Goodstein (1983) produced similar findings, with egalitarian participants being more likely to perceive a situation as rape than individuals with more traditional views of women's social roles. Sex-role beliefs may structure how an individual perceives behavior in a sexual encounter. For instance, individuals who hold traditional sex-role beliefs may perceive a woman saying "no" in a sexual situation as token resistance, thereby leading them to believe that she is meaning "yes". Furthermore, individuals with traditional sex-role beliefs are more likely to assign responsibility to the victim than those who hold more liberal or egalitarian sex-role beliefs (Acock & Ireland, 1983; Krulewitz & Payne, 1978; Shotland & Goodstein, 1983). Check and Malamuth (1983) have considered rape to be "a logical extension of our sex-role socialization processes that legitimize coercive sexuality" (p. 344). Individuals of both sexes are socialized to develop certain sex-appropriate behaviors and expectation of behaviors in accordance with their sex. For instance, men are socialized to be the aggressor in sexual situations, while females are socialized to play a more passive role (Bridges, 1991). Check and Malamuth (1983) contend that instances of forced sexual intercourse between acquaintances or dates may be perceived as "only one (extreme) point on a continuum of in-role forced sexual behaviors rather than a discrete, deviant act committed by only a few mentally ill men" (p. 344).

Most attitudinal research to date has focused on sex-role beliefs, and rape myth acceptance (Burt, 1980). Hostility towards women, although not investigated nearly as extensively, is an attitude which may affect one's judgments concerning rape (Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1995). In an extensive critique of Burt's (1980) research, Lonsway and Fitzgerald (1995) demonstrated that the Burt's Interpersonal Violence Scale and Adversarial Sexual Beliefs Scale (Burt, 1980) may be more accurately assessing hostility towards women than the concepts they purport to measure. They contend that the majority of items in the Adversarial Sexual Beliefs Scale assess negative beliefs about women, rather than a generic, gender-neutral measure of adversarial sexual beliefs. Similarly, Lonsway and Fitzgerald argue that the Interpersonal Violence Scale developed by Burt (1980) more specifically measures acceptance of violence *against women*, rather than of attitudes toward violence in general. The researchers suggest that these scales may be assessing a basic hostility toward women, as opposed to the constructs they purport to measure. Research has yet to explore the effects of hostility towards women in the formulation of rape judgments.

### Inferences

In perceiving a social situation, an observer will develop inferences and consequently make judgments and attributions about the situation and the individuals involved (Fiske & Taylor, 1991). The process of inferring entails evaluating what information should be gathered to reach a judgment, collecting that information, and combining it in some way. The inference itself is the outcome of this reasoning process

(Fiske & Taylor, 1991). Deciding what information is relevant in making judgments is not completely objective as this process is often guided by pre-existing schema and attitudes, especially when perceiving and developing inferences about people (Lingle & Ostrom, 1981; Ostram, Lingle, Pryor, & Geva, 1980). Inferences regarding the offender (e.g., his behavior, character, and degree to which he is perceived as violent) and victim (e.g., her character, behavior, desire, and consent) are believed to significantly affect rape judgments.

Shotland and Goodstein (1983) identified two variables (victim desire and offender violence) as mediators between information concerning the rape (type of victim protest, onset of victim protest, and level of offender force) and the judgment as to whether the situation was considered rape or not. They found that to identify the situation as rape observers appear to need confirmation that (a) the woman did not desire sex, and (b) the man behaved violently. These findings shed light on the importance of inferences (referred to as "perceptions" by Shotland and Goodstein) as mediating variables between information concerning the rape and consequent rape judgments. Shotland and Goodstein (1983) manipulated the information available to the observer by employing several different rape vignettes. Research has yet to examine the role of observer *inferences* concerning victim desire and offender violence when no manipulations of the information are provided. For example, research has not yet examined the cognitive processes of individuals who are exposed to only one type of vignette (no variable manipulation) and who are thereby forced to develop inferences concerning information which is ambiguous or unclear.

Observer inferences regarding the extent to which the victim consented to sexual intercourse may also play a mediating role between attitudes and rape judgments; however this variable has not been adequately investigated to date. Because acquaintance rape occurs in a social context in which consensual sex is possible, decisions as to whether a situation is rape are more difficult to make than in the case of stranger rape. The boundary between "lovemaking" and "acquaintance rape" is often indistinct and obscured, thereby making consent/non-consent distinctions unclear (Bechhofer & Parrot, 1991). Probably nowhere is the issue of consent in rape judgment as consequential as it is in a court of law. It is one of the four legal defenses to a charge of rape (Lafree, 1989), and the defense most likely to succeed in acquaintance rape (Bohmer, 1991). Bohmer (1991) states: "The heart of the legal issue in cases of acquaintance rape is consent and its proof" (p. 319).

Legally and morally, consent is given in a sexual situation when a male or female says "yes" and does not say "no" (Bechhofer & Parrot, 1991). However, the victim's failure to say "no" is not consent in itself, primarily because she may be unable to say no (i.e., if she is passed out due to alcohol consumption, or psychologically intimidated/coerced). A situation can be considered rape only if the non-consenting person "does not want to have sex" (Bechhofer & Parrot, 1991, p. 13). Therefore, rape is precluded in "game playing" situations in which a person is saying "no", but is actually desiring and willing to have sex. Bechhofer and Parrot (1991) warn that individuals must consider the above criteria to reduce ambiguity regarding consent, because to "violate or ignore these conditions is to enter the gray zone and take the risk of committing rape" (p.

13). Research has yet to determine if inferences concerning consent mediate between information about rape and consequent rape judgments.

### Rape Judgments

An understanding of how observers ultimately make decisions regarding victim (and to a lesser extent offender) responsibility, as well as an understanding of how individual decide if a situation is considered rape or not has been the predominant focus of rape research. Initial investigations have demonstrated that situational cues influence rape judgments through cognitive mediators. Research is now needed to "map out cognitive processes involved in making rape attributions" (Langley et al., 1991, p. 52). Cognitive factors such as schemas and attitudes may serve as organizational structures in which to understand and process incoming information regarding an acquaintance rape.

Studies examining rape judgments have relied on the manipulation of variables in different vignettes, and based their conclusions on the emerging differences between groups who received different vignettes. This paradigm, although useful in rape attribution research and necessary for experimental manipulation of variables, may hold limited external validity. In the real world, individuals are often faced with conflicting accounts of the events that transpired between the alleged victim and alleged offender. This is particularly true for jurors, who must consider both (victim and offender) accounts of what took place in an alleged acquaintance rape. Research has yet to investigate how observers *perceive* and *interpret* unclear or ambiguous information regarding rape.

There are two types of rape judgments that are often investigated, attributional judgments of responsibility/blame and rape perception. The most commonly researched rape judgment is the attribution of responsibility to the victim (often referred to as "victim-blaming"). Research investigating attributions of victim responsibility has generally failed to explain why so many disparate factors affect rape judgments (McCaul, Veltum, Boyechko, & Crawford, 1990). From an information processing perspective, the process of attribution commences with the observation of a scene by an observer and information which is gathered from the scene is used to develop inferences, and to ultimately arrive at causal explanations for the event (Fiske & Taylor, 1991). Therefore, it may be that the inference process may be a key step in the formation of rape judgments. This research is important to our understanding of why rape victims, as opposed to all other victims of crime, are often held (at least partially) accountable for their victimization (Abbey, 1987; Krahe, 1988).

Of theoretical concern, the terms responsibility and blameworthiness have often been used interchangeably in rape research. These concepts, however, are theoretically different, and require clear conceptual distinction (Shaver & Drown, 1986). Attribution of responsibility is assigned when an observer decides who or what is responsible for an event, and is preceded by a judgment of causality. Similarly, attribution of blame entails the judgment of causality and responsibility; however, it also presupposes a judgment of intent and goal-directedness on the part of the actor in the situation. For instance, one may perceive a victim as *responsible* for rape because she was hitchhiking and wearing

provocative clothing, but may feel she did not *intend* to be raped, and that she did not partake in hitchhiking or wear provocative clothing with the *purpose* of being raped. In this case, the observer may assign *responsibility* to the victim but not assign *blame* .

Attributions of blame are typically made in instances where the causal agent is deemed deserving of punishment for the negative event they caused (Fiske & Taylor, 1991).

The second type of rape judgments, often referred to as "rape perception" or "rape identification" is concerned with factors affecting an observer's decision as to whether a situation is considered rape or not. This avenue of rape research has not benefited from the same extensive investigation of victim responsibility/blame research. For instance, it has been firmly established that observer attitudes (e.g., rape myth acceptance, sex-role beliefs) affect victim responsibility assignment. The investigation of the effect attitudes have on rape perception has not been as widely investigated. Interestingly, it has been suggested that although the primary focus of rape research is on victim responsibility (e.g., Gilmartin-Zena, 1983; Howard, 1984; Janoff-Bulman et al., 1985; Krahe, 1988; McCaul et al., 1990), it is not a significant factor in considerations of whether or not rape occurred, and other judgments such as punishment and restitution of the offender (Langley et al., 1991).

### Sanctioning Judgments

Sanctioning judgments involve assigning a penalty to an individual who has committed a violation. Despite the fact that acquaintance rape is a significant societal problem (Bridges, 1991), it remains difficult to persuade jurors that acquaintance rape has occurred (Warshaw, 1988). Bridges (1991) suggests that it is important to understand

observers' perceptions of acquaintance rape. Rape research has, for the most part, focused on rape perception/identification, and attributional judgments of responsibility and blame for the rape. No study to date has attempted to incorporate variables such as attitudes, victim and offender inferences, rape perception, and assignments of responsibility and blame into a framework for understanding the process of arriving at sanctioning decisions. What we do know is that often a victim's characteristics or conduct have been found to affect legal decisions regarding rape (Pugh, 1983). Unfortunately, as Pugh states "one of our greatest barriers to an understanding of what happens in rape trials is the lack of an adequate theoretical model" and further points out "we lack basic understandings of the ways in which people perceive and integrate information in making sanctioning judgments" (p. 239).

### The Present Study

The goal of this research is to establish relational patterns and sequential ordering of observer attitudes, inferences, rape judgments, and sanctioning decisions in the processing of information concerning an acquaintance rape. This research proposes that in the initial stage of information processing (the information selection stage), information concerning an acquaintance rape will be filtered through cognitive structures, namely observer attitudes and rape script. Given that observer sex-roles (Bridges, 1991; Check & Malamuth, 1983; Shotland & Goodstein, 1983), hostility toward women (Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1995, p. 708), and rape myth acceptance (Burt, 1980) have been found to affect rape judgments, all three attitudinal variables were assessed in this study. Although the type of rape script



(stranger or acquaintance) held by rape victims has been found to be an important factor in determining whether she will identify her experience as rape or not (Kahn et al., 1994), the importance of observer rape script type on rape judgments has not been investigated to date. Therefore, this study assessed the role of attitudes and observer rape script in the development of inferences and consequent judgments concerning rape.

Once information has been filtered through these cognitive structures, it is then combined and processed, resulting in the formation of inferences (Fiske & Taylor, 1991). Impressions or inferences of the individuals involved in an ambiguous rape situation (e.g., victim and offender character and behavior) will be explored for their role in rape judgments, along with inferences regarding victim desire, victim consent, and offender violence. This research proposes that, based on the information which has been selected in the first stage of information processing, the observer will develop inferences concerning information which was ambiguous or unclear. This stage of processing is referred to as the inference development stage.

Once inferences have been formed, it is reasoned, they will be used in the formation of judgments. Fiske and Taylor (1991) state "inference is the process of collecting and combining often diverse and complex information into a judgment" (p. 404). This study proposes that judgments about offender and victim responsibility and blame, and rape identification will be made on the basis of inferences developed by the observer (this will be referred to as the rape judgment stage).

Finally, it is suggested that sanctioning decisions will follow rape judgments. This final stage in the information processing paradigm will be referred to as the sanctioning judgment stage.

In summary, the overall objective of this study is to investigate the cognitive processes involved in arriving at judgments concerning acquaintance rape. The cognitive process of such judgments is hypothesized to begin with the selective processing of information (Stage 1). The processing of information is considered selective because the information is filtered through one's attitudes and scripts (Variable Set 1: Attitudes and Rape Script). This study examined three rape-relevant observer attitudes, namely hostility toward women, rape myth acceptance, and sex-role beliefs, as well as one's personal rape script. It was reasoned that ambiguous information would be selectively filtered through one's attitudes and personal rape script and then be used in the inference development stage (Stage 2), to develop inferences regarding the offender (Variable Set 2: Offender Inferences) and victim (Variable Set 3: Victim Inferences). Offender inferences that were examined were perceptions of character, behavior, and violence. Victim inferences of particular interest were perceptions of character, behavior, desire, and consent. The next stage (Stage 3) in the information processing involves the judgments one makes about whether the situation is rape or not, and attributional judgments regarding the victim and offender (Variable Set 4: Rape Judgments). It was reasoned that decisions as to whether a given situation is considered rape or not, as well as attributional judgments regarding victim responsibility and offender responsibility and blame would be influenced by the inferences one develops.

Finally, in stage 4, consequent decisions concerning willingness to convict and punish the offender (Variable Set 5: Sanctioning Judgments) will be examined. It was reasoned that these sanctioning decisions would be influenced by one's rape judgments.

### Hypotheses

Because this study seeks to investigate both (a) the relationships among the sets of variables and (b) the sequential ordering of the stages in the model, the hypotheses have been organized into two separate groups. The hypotheses in group 1 investigate the relationships between sets of variables. The hypotheses in group 2 investigate the sequential ordering of the sets of variables.

#### Hypotheses concerning Relational Patterns of Variables

The hypotheses regarding the relational patterns among observer attitudes, inferences, rape judgments, and sanctioning judgments are as follows:

1. Relationship between Set 1 (Attitudes and Rape Script) and Set 2 (Offender Inferences):

Individuals with more traditional sex-role beliefs, greater hostility towards women, higher rape myth acceptance, and a stranger rape script would be less likely to perceive the offender as having undesirable character traits, undesirable behavior, and to infer less offender violence

2. Relationship between Set 1 (Attitudes and Rape Script) and Set 3 (Victim Inferences):

Individuals with more traditional sex-role beliefs, greater hostility towards women, higher rape myth acceptance, and a stranger rape script would be more likely to perceive the victim's character and behavior negatively, and to infer more victim desire, and more

victim consent.

3. Relationship between Set 3 (Victim Inferences) and Set 4 (Rape Judgments): Those who perceived the victim's character and behavior more negatively, and who inferred more victim desire and more consent would attribute more responsibility to the victim, less responsibility to the offender, and would be less likely to perceive the situation as rape.
4. Relationship between Set 2 (Offender Inferences) and Set 4 (Rape Judgments): Those with less negative perceptions of the offender's character and behavior, and who inferred less offender violence would also attribute more responsibility to the victim, less responsibility to the offender, and would be less likely to perceive the situation as rape.
5. Relationship between Set 4 (Rape Judgments) and Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments): Those who attributed more responsibility to the victim, less responsibility to the offender, and were less likely to perceive the situation as rape would be more willing to convict the offender, and assign more severe punishment to him.

#### Hypotheses concerning Sequential Ordering of Stages

It is hypothesized that the stages in the information processing paradigm occur in the following sequential order: stage 1 (information selection), stage 2 (inference development), stage 3 (rape judgments), and stage 4 (sanctioning judgments) (see Figure

2). In other words, it is hypothesized that the following will occur:

1. Inferences (stage 2 in the information processing paradigm) will serve as mediating variables between attitudes (the cognitive structures involved in stage 1) and rape

- judgments (stage 3), and there will be no direct relationship between attitudes (stage 1) and rape judgments (stage 3).
2. Rape judgments will serve as mediators between inferences (stage 2) and sanctioning judgments (stage 4), and there will be no direct relationship between inferences (stage 2) and sanctioning judgments (stage 4).

## Method

### Participants

A total of 71 undergraduates participated in this study. Six participants responded incorrectly to the validity question and were therefore excluded from analyses. Also excluded were four participants with extensive missing data and four participants who indicated suspiciousness as to the purpose of the study. The remaining sample was 57 (35 males and 22 females) introductory psychology students. Mean age in the sample was 20.46 (standard deviation of 3.28). Participants received one bonus point to their final mark for their participation in this study.

### Materials

Seduction Script Survey (SSS, Appendix 1). This questionnaire required participants to provide a brief description of what they thought a typical seduction consisted of. It was included primarily as a decoy as to the purpose of the study. It was presented before the Rape Script Survey, as it was reasoned that if participants were asked only to describe a typical rape, they would immediately become aware of the purpose of the study (investigation about rape), which may have affected their responses (due to expectancy

effects). This bias would have been particularly troublesome for the questionnaire which assessed rape identification (i.e., whether the participants would identify the vignette as rape). Therefore the Seduction Script Survey was included to add some doubt as to the overall purpose of the study. The information collected in this survey was not used for analysis.

Personal Rape Script Survey (PRSS, Appendix 2). This questionnaire, developed for the present study, required participants to provide a brief description of what they thought a typical rape consisted of. Participants were asked to describe events leading up to, during, and following the rape. In order to avoid giving the participants leading questions, no further instructions were given. Following their description of a rape situation, participants were asked specific questions about their description of the rape. These questions serve to clarify or provide additional pertinent information about the participants' rape description, such as the relationship between the victim and offender (i.e. stranger vs. acquaintance), amount of violence used, amount of victim resistance, and the amount of injury experienced by the victim. These variables have been found to distinguish stranger from acquaintance rape scripts in previous works (Kahn et al., 1994). Participants were categorized as having either a "stranger" rape script or an "acquaintance" rape script on the basis of their description of a "typical" rape. In order to clarify the relationship between victim and offender, they were asked "What was the relationship between the victim and the offender?" and asked to check the appropriate category. The relationship categories include relative, steady boyfriend, date, acquaintance and stranger. Responses were categorized

into either stranger rape script (i.e., the relationship between the victim and offender was defined as that between strangers), or acquaintance rape script (i.e., the offender's relationship to the victim was described as that of a relative, steady boyfriend, date, or acquaintance).

Prior to its use in the present study, this survey was tested on 17 undergraduate student volunteers in a pilot study to ensure that a proportionate number of individuals with stranger and acquaintance rape scripts exists in the participant population, as well as to test for the clarity of the survey. Results of the pilot study indicated that there was a proportionate number of stranger and acquaintance scripts were held by the sample. No difficulties with this survey were detected.

Acquaintance Rape Vignette (Appendix 3). The acquaintance rape vignette provided a detailed description of a date rape. The use of the words rape, sexual assault, victim, assailant, and offender were intentionally avoided to allow participants to make a judgment about whether they perceived the situation as rape or otherwise. Conflicting information was presented to allow the influence of participants' attitudes and personal rape script on the development of participant inferences about the victim and offender in the vignette. The information regarding the date was presented in a factual, chronological order until the point of sexual contact. At this point both the victim and offender's divergent interpretations of what took place were given. Hence, the details about the date were given in very different ways. For instance, the victim's version used phrases such as "grabbing my breasts", and "he kissed me very aggressively". In contrast, the offender's account used phrases such as

"I touched her hair, her face, her breasts", and "we made out for awhile". Different interpretations of the same event by both the victim and offender were given to the participants in order to maintain some of the real-life characteristics of a rape trial.

Character and Behavior Questionnaire (Appendix 4). Impressions of victim and offender character and behavior (stimulus persons in the vignette) were measured by this 28-item questionnaire that was developed for the present study. Four main sections, namely Victim Behavior (items 1-6), Offender Behavior (items 7-12), Victim Character (items 13-20), and Offender Character (items 21-28) comprised this questionnaire. Items were scored on a 7-point Likert scale, ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree". Higher scores on these scales reflect more positive judgments about the victim or offender. Items 1 and 7 were reverse scored. Question 29 was included as a validity check to ensure the participants accurately perceived the relationship between victim and offender as described in the rape scenario. The participants were required to check "acquaintance" in response to the question "What was the relationship between Jim and Sarah?" in order for their results to be valid. To prevent biases or leading questions about the characters in the vignette, items on this questionnaire did not refer to the characters as "victim" and "offender", but rather by their first names ("Jim" for the offender, and "Sarah" for the rape victim).

Offender and Victim Inferences Questionnaire (Appendix 5). This questionnaire, which measured inferences regarding the stimulus persons in the vignette, consisted of two sections. The first section was composed of the Victim Desire subscale (items 1-7) and the



Offender Violence subscale (items 8-10). The second section was the Victim Consent subscale (items 11-20) .

The Victim Desire subscale comprised items believed to be important considerations when making judgments about the victim's level of desire for sexual intercourse. Concepts measured included desire, arousal, pleasure, and resistance. Scores were rated on a 7-point Likert scale, ranging from "not at all" to "extremely". Item 4 and 7 were reverse scored. Higher scores indicated a greater perceived level of victim desire.

The Offender Violence subscale is composed of three items believed to be important factors in judgments about offender violence, specifically, force, physical violence, and physical harm. Scores were rated on a 7-point Likert scale, ranging from "not at all" to "extremely". Higher scores indicate a greater perceived level of offender violence.

The Victim Consent subscale consisted of 10 items determined to be important in inferences about consent. Items were rated on a 7-point Likert scale, ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree". Items 11, 13, 19, and 20 are reverse scored. Lower scores indicate a belief that the victim consented to sexual relations.

#### Rape Identification and Sanctioning Judgments Questionnaire (Appendix 6)

This questionnaire comprises three subscales: the Rape Identification scale, the Conviction scale, and the Punishment scale, which assesses decisions concerning the presented vignette. The Rape Identification scale (items 1-14) measure the extent to which the participant perceives the observed scenario as an instance of rape. Items are rated on a 7-point Likert scale, ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree". Items 2, 3, 8,

13, and 14 are reverse scored. A higher score indicates greater certainty that the situation was "rape".

The Conviction subscale measures willingness to convict the offender. It consists of seven items, measured on a 7-point Likert scale. Item 15 is reverse scored. Higher scores indicate more willingness to convict the offender. This scale may be useful for conceptualizing the results in an applied setting, specifically jury decision making.

The Punishment scale consists of one item which assesses the severity of punishment assigned to the offender. Higher scores indicate more severe punishment.

Attribution Questionnaire (Appendix 7). This questionnaire, comprises three subscales: the Victim Responsibility Scale, the Offender Responsibility Scale, and the Offender Blame Scale. The questionnaire items were drawn from attributional research. All items were rated on a 6-point Likert Scale, ranging from "not at all" to "completely". This questionnaire assesses the assignment of responsibility and blame to the stimulus persons in the vignette.

The Victim Responsibility subscale (items 2, 3, 8, and 9), measures different facets of responsibility (using the criteria outlined by Fiske & Taylor, 1991): cause of event (item 2), foreseeability (item 3), free will (item 8), and responsibility (item 9). Higher scores indicate a higher degree of responsibility being assigned to the victim.

The Offender Responsibility subscale (items 1, 4, 5, 6, 7) measures responsibility using the same criteria as mentioned above: cause of event (item 1), foreseeability (item 4), unjustifiable action (item 5), free will (item 6), and responsibility (item 7). Item 5 is

reverse scored. Higher scores indicate a higher degree of responsibility being assigned to the offender.

The Offender Blame scale is comprised of five items, and measures two constructs of blame as outlined by Fiske and Taylor (1991), namely intent and goal-directedness. Higher scores on this scale indicate higher degree of blame being assigned to the offender.

Hostility Toward Women Scale (HTWS, Appendix 8). This 30-item scale was developed by Check, Malamuth, Elias, and Barton (1985). Thirty true or false items are summed to produce a possible score of 0 to 30. Greater scores indicate more hostility toward women. Internal consistency has yet to be established for this measure; however, reliability analysis performed in this study produced a Cronbach's alpha of .72. Lonsway and Fitzgerald (1995) modified the Hostility Towards Women Scale, and their reliability analyses yielded a coefficient alpha of .83 (for the modified 10 item scale). The original form of this scale was chosen for this study to preserve the integrity of the measure, as well as to explore the internal consistency of the entire scale. Interpretation of this scale is tentative, as the test developers caution "it is important to understand that our findings with respect to hostility between the sexes are quite new and will have to be confirmed in studies... we caution you not to overinterpret your score..." (p. 60).

It should be noted that this scale may be measuring "a milder construct than actual hostility" (Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1995, p. 710). Upon examining the individual items, Lonsway and Fitzgerald (1995), propose that items such as "I believe that most women tell the truth" or "I usually find myself agreeing with women" potentially "tap into dislike or

mistrust of women, but are not likely to assess the true essence of hostility". A cursory examination of the items seems to support Lonsway and Fitzgerald's contention that this measure may be tapping a construct other than *true hostility*. Overall, this measure appears to be assessing what may be described as "adversarial feelings towards women" rather than true hostility. In light of the fact that there are apparently no other existing psychometric scales which measure the construct of hostility toward women, research is now needed to investigate the validity of this measure, and to perhaps develop a more theoretically sound scale.

Rape Myth Scale (RMS, Appendix 9). Rape myth acceptance was measured using the Rape Myth Scale (RMS), developed by Lonsway and Fitzgerald (1995). This scale measures the seven aspects (identified by Payne, 1993) of the rape myth construct (Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1995), including: victim precipitation, definition of rape, male intention, victim desire-enjoyment, false charges, trivialization of the crime, and deviance of the act (Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1995). Internal consistency has been determined to be .89, with item-to-total correlations ranging from .38 to .73 (Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1995). Internal reliability analysis conducted on this measure for the present study produced a Cronbach's alpha of .91. Higher scores indicate more rape myth acceptance.

Sex-Role Egalitarianism Scale (SRES, Appendix 10). Sex-role beliefs were measured using the Sex-Role Egalitarianism Scale (SRES) by King and King (1993). The construct measured by this scale is sex-role egalitarianism, defined as "an attitude that causes one to respond to another individual independently of the other individual's sex.

One who possesses this attitude believes that the sex of an individual should not influence the perception of an individual's abilities or the determination of an individual's rights, obligations, and opportunities. Consequently, a sex-role egalitarian does not discriminate against or relate differentially to another on the basis of the other's sex" (Beere, King, Beere & King, 1984, p. 19). This measure assesses beliefs bearing on the domains of marital roles, parental roles, employment roles, social-interpersonal-heterosexual roles, and educational roles.

The SRES short version Form BB was used. It consists of 25 items, scored on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 representing the least egalitarian attitude, and 5 representing the most egalitarian attitude. The total score was computed by summing the 25 item responses, yielding a possible range of scores from 25 to 125. Higher summative scores represent more egalitarian attitudes, while lower scores indicate more traditional sex-role beliefs.

The SRES has been found to be a reliable instrument, with an internal consistency of .94, and a three-week interval test-retest reliability of .88 (King & King, 1993). The short version (BB) and the SRES full form have been found to be have correlations between .75 (after a six-week interval) and .95 (on the same occasion). Reliability studies suggest that finding of the SRES short version are not a result of social desirability (Stith, 1986; Stith, Crossman, & Bischof, 1991). Internal consistency analysis for this study indicated a Cronbach's alpha of .96.

Post-Experimental Questionnaire (PEQ) (Appendix 11). The purpose of the PEQ was twofold. First, it was used to identify participants who were deemed by two

independent judges to be suspicious as to the purpose to the study or who felt their expectations affected their responses. These participants were excluded from the data analyses. The second purpose of the PEQ was to determine whether participants made theoretical distinctions among cause, responsibility, and blame. This assessment has implications for the data analysis and interpretation as the practical significance of these theoretical distinctions has to be established.

### Procedure

Participants were tested in small groups of 3 to 8. Seating arrangements were such that physical distance and privacy for each participant were ensured. Prior to testing, participants were presented with an abbreviated version of the objective of this study (Appendix 12). The examiner verbally explained the confidentiality and the voluntary nature of the study to the participants and instructed them to read the informed consent carefully before signing. Participants then read and signed the informed consent form (Appendix 13), which was immediately collected by the examiner. Participants were next given a questionnaire package containing four booklets, each with its own set of instructions. They were instructed to complete the booklets in order, and to not refer back to any of the previous booklets once they had completed them.

Booklet 1 (see Appendix 14 for instructions for this booklet) contained the Seduction Script Survey (Appendix 1) and the Personal Rape Script Survey (Appendix 2). The Seduction Script Survey preceded the Personal Rape Script Survey in order to disguise the purpose of this study. Participants were aware only that the study involved their

perceptions of sexual encounters, and were not informed that the focus of the study was on perceptions of acquaintance rape. Responses to the Seduction Script Survey were not used for analytic purposes. The Personal Rape Script Survey required participants to give an account of a typical rape, and to answer questions on details of their account. Participants' categorization of the relationship between the victim and offender in this script was the only information used for the present study. Categorization could be either relative, boyfriend, date, acquaintance, or stranger. For purposes of this study, relative, boyfriend, or date were considered to be an acquaintance rape script.

Booklet 2 contained the Rape Vignette (Appendix 3), the Character and Behavior Questionnaire (Appendix 4), the Offender and Victim Inferences Questionnaire (Appendix 5), the Rape Identification and Sanctioning Judgments Questionnaire (Appendix 6), and the Attribution Questionnaire (Appendix 7). The Attribution Questionnaire had two forms (Forms A and B), and participants were required to answer only one of the questionnaires. Those who considered the scenario presented in the vignette to be rape were asked to complete Form A (identified as Questionnaire 6 in Booklet 2). Those who did not perceive the scenario as rape completed Form B (identified as Questionnaire 7 in Booklet 2).

Booklet 3 (Appendix 15) comprised the Hostility Toward Women Scale (Appendix 8), the Rape Myth Scale (Appendix 9), and the Sex-Role Egalitarianism Scale (Appendix 10). These questionnaires assessing observer attitudes were purposely given at the end of the study to prevent suspiciousness as to the purpose of the study. Furthermore, if these questionnaires, particularly the Rape Myth Scale, had preceded the Rape Identification

Questionnaire, it may have contaminated participants' responses (participants may have identified the vignette scenario as rape because of expectancy effects). Finally, Booklet 4 (Appendix 16) contained the Post-Experimental Questionnaire (PEQ) (Appendix 11).

Following the completion of the four booklets, participants were debriefed by the examiner (Appendix 17), and were provided with an information sheet about rape and rape services (Appendix 18). Participants who wished to have a copy of the results of this study sent to them left their name and address on a mailing list.

## Results

### Overview of Analyses

The goal of this research was to (a) investigate the relationships between sets of variables, which represented the various stages in the cognitive process in arriving at judgments concerning an acquaintance rape (Figure 1), and (b) explore the sequential ordering of these variables (Figure 2).

The first stage (stage 1) is hypothesized to be information selection, in which information is filtered through one's personal rape script (RSTYPE), and rape-relevant attitudes, specifically hostility towards women (HTW), rape myth acceptance (RMA), and sex-role beliefs (SRES). These four variables together constitute a set called Set 1 (attitudes and rape script). Inference development is the second stage (stage 2), where inferences regarding the character and behavior of the victim (VCHAR, VBEH), and of the offender (OFCHAR, OFBEH), offender violence (VIOLENCE), victim desire (DESIRE), and victim consent (CONSENT) are developed. OFCHAR, OFBEH, and VIOLENCE



constitute Set 2 (offender inferences). The remaining variables, VCHAR, VBEH, DESIRE, and CONSENT are conceptualized as Set 3 (victim inferences). The next stage (stage 3) is the rape judgments stage where one makes a decisions about whether the situation is rape or not (PERCRAPE), as well as attributional judgments regarding victim responsibility (VRESP), offender responsibility (OFRESP) and offender blame (OFBLAME). Together, these four variables constitute Set 4 (rape judgments). The final stage (stage 4) is the formation of sanctioning judgments. This set of variables (Set 5) includes willingness to convict (CONVICT) and punish (PUNISH) the offender.

Two types of analyses were performed, correlational (zero-order correlations and canonical correlation analyses), and sequential (hierarchical multiple regression). First, correlational and canonical correlation analyses were conducted to investigate the patterns of relationships among variables. Correlational analyses examined the relationships among variables in (1) set 1: attitudes and rape script, (2) set 2: offender inferences, (3) set 3: victim inferences, (4) set 4: rape judgments, and (5) set 5: sanctioning judgments.

Next, to understand the relationship among all possible combinations of different sets of variables, canonical correlation analyses were conducted. In all, 10 analyses were completed, which have been organized into two groups. The canonical correlation analyses in group 1 specifically address the hypotheses set out earlier in this study, while the remaining canonical correlation analyses in group 2 were carried out to provide a fuller picture of the information processes involved. The following relationships among sets of variables were explored:

Group 1

1. set 2 (offender inferences) and set 1 (attitudes)
2. set 3 (victim inferences) and set 1 (attitudes)
3. set 4 (rape judgments) and set 2 (offender inferences)
4. set 4 (rape judgments) and set 3 (victim inferences)
5. set 5 (sanctioning judgments) and set 4 (rape judgments)

Group 2

6. set 4 (rape judgments) and set 1 (attitudes)
7. set 5 (sanctioning judgments) and set 1 (attitudes)
8. set 5 (sanctioning judgments) and set 2 (offender inferences)
9. set 5 (sanctioning judgments) and set 3 (victim inferences)
10. set 3 (victim inferences) and set 2 (offender inferences)

Finally, hierarchical multiple regression analyses were performed to determine the sequential order of the stages of information processing:

1. Set 3 (rape judgments) was the criterion variable. The predictor variables were entered hierarchically, beginning with set 2 (inferences), followed by set 1 (attitudes).
2. Set 4 (sanctioning judgments) was the criterion variable. The predictor variables were entered hierarchically, beginning with set 3 (rape judgments), followed by set 2 (inferences), and finally set 1 (attitudes).

Before the main analyses were undertaken, preliminary data analyses were performed, followed by internal reliability analyses for the variables in this study.

### Preliminary Data Analyses

Prior to the canonical correlation analyses and hierarchical multiple regression analyses, a series of data screening techniques were performed. The manipulation check (participant responses to the question regarding the nature of the relationship, stranger or acquaintance, between the stimulus persons in the transcript) were inspected. Six participants who inaccurately classified the relationship as "stranger" were excluded from the data analyses. Next, the post-experimental questionnaire was examined for suspicious subjects. Four participants indicated that they were suspicious as to the purpose of the study, and therefore were also dropped from the analyses. The data was then screened for missing values. Four participants with extensive missing data (e.g., entire questionnaires not completed) were excluded from analyses. The remaining missing values were replaced with the group mean for the specific item (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1989), based on the sex of participant.

The remaining data was examined for accuracy of data entry, and univariate and multivariate outliers. Four univariate outliers, defined as cases with a standard score of  $\pm 3$  z-score, were found for VCHAR (z-score below  $-3$ ), DESIRE (z-score above  $+3$ ), OFBEH (z-score above  $+3$ ), and OFRESP (z-score below  $-3$ ). The influence of these outliers was reduced by changing their raw scores to correspond to a standard score of  $\pm 3$  while still preserving the deviancy of these cases (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1989). No multivariate outliers as identified through the Mahalanobis distance (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1989) were found.

The assumptions for canonical correlation analyses and multiple regression were investigated. The assumptions include multivariate normality, linearity, homoscedasticity, multicollinearity and singularity. CCA assumptions of linearity and homoscedasticity were examined through bivariate scatterplots of variables within each set. These assumptions were generally satisfied except for mild to moderate skewness in the distributions of some variables, namely OFRESP (negatively skewed), VRESP (positively skewed), OFBEH (negatively skewed), CONSENT (negatively skewed), DESIRE (positively skewed), and PERCRAPE (negatively skewed). This skewed distribution of scores is likely due to the majority of subjects perceiving the scenario as rape, and assigning proportionately more responsibility to the offender, and less to the victim. The multivariate assumptions for multiple regression were determined by plotting residual scores (difference between obtained and predicted DV scores) with the predicted DV score. These assumptions were generally satisfied. The absence of multicollinearity, defined as correlations greater than .90 (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1989), and singularity, defined as correlations greater than .99 (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1989) were established.

Before canonical correlation analyses and multiple regression analyses were performed, an investigation into the internal consistency of the measures and zero-order correlations among variables were employed.

#### Internal Consistency of Variables

Prior to the assessment of the internal consistency of variables, an examination of the participants' responses on the post-experimental questionnaire was conducted. The

purpose of this investigation was to check whether participants in practice made the distinction among the different theoretical constructs underlying the attribution questionnaire. The attribution questionnaire was designed to capture the theoretical constructs which constitute responsibility (cause, free will, foreseeability, and unjustifiable action) and blame (intentionality and goal-directedness). The post-experimental questionnaire revealed that participants did not make a clear distinction between responsibility and blame. In fact, their definitions of these two theoretically distinct constructs was virtually identical. This has direct bearing on the variables measuring offender responsibility (OFRESP) and offender blame (OFBLAME). To investigate the underlying dimensions to the attribution questionnaire as perceived by the participants, a logical course of action would be to employ a data reduction technique such as principal components analysis. However, the sample size ( $n=57$ ) was too small for such an undertaking (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1989). The other strategy, which was employed here, was to combine the items measuring responsibility and blame (which participants did not distinguish) and assess their internal consistency to see whether they were measuring the same construct.

Employing internal consistency analysis, the variable of offender blame (OFBLAME) was initially investigated to determine if its constituent constructs of intentionality and goal-directedness were conceptually related. Items in the OFBLAME variable were item 8 (offender intent to rape), item 15 (offender preplanned rape), item 9 (offender selfish motivation), and item 21 (extent offender is to blame). Cronbach's alpha

for OFBLAME increased from .76 to .84 when item 9 was excluded. Therefore item 9, was deleted from OFBLAME. A low item-to-total correlation of .39 was also found for Item 21 (extent offender is to blame). Consequently, this item was removed from OFBLAME and included in the variable OFRESP to determine if it might be more related to the construct of offender responsibility. Ultimately, the revised variable of OFBLAME consisted of two items: item 8 (offender intent to rape) and item 15 (offender preplanned rape), which had a correlation of .72 with each other.

An internal consistency analysis was also performed on offender responsibility (OFRESP). Items which were initially hypothesized to be conceptually related included ten items 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, and 19. As previously mentioned, item 21 (extent offender is to blame) was removed from OFBLAME and included with this variable OFRESP to determine if it had a higher item-to-total correlation than with OFBLAME. These 11 items produced a Cronbach's alpha of .83. However two items (item 1 and 13) had very low item-to-total correlations (.27 and -.16, respectively), resulting in their removal from OFRESP. With the removal of these two poor items, internal consistency was increased to .89. Item 21 (extent offender is to blame) had a much stronger item-to-total correlation with the items in OFRESP (.67) than OFBLAME (.39). This indicated that the move of item 21 from OFBLAME to OFRESP was a statistically and conceptually sound decision. The revised offender responsibility variable (OFRESP) was ultimately composed of items 2, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 17, 19, and 21, and had a Cronbach's alpha of .89.

Internal reliability analysis of victim responsibility (VRESP), consisting of items 3, 4, 7, 12, 16, 18, and 20, revealed a Cronbach's alpha of .77. Internal consistency was not improved with the deletion of any item. Participants did not appear to differentiate between victim responsibility (item 18) and victim blame (item 20) as these two items had very high item-to-item correlations. Therefore, these items were kept together within the VRESP variable.

The variable offender behavior (OFBEH), composed of items 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 was originally found to have low reliability (Cronbach's alpha of .57). The deletion of one item (item 8), lead to an increase in the internal reliability of this variable to .71. Therefore, the revised OFBEH consisted of items 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Internal consistency values for the variables HTW, RMA, SRES, OFCHAR, OFBEH (revised), VIOLENCE, VCHAR, VBEH, DESIRE, CONSENT, PERCRAPE, OFBLAME (revised), OFRESP (revised), VRESP, CONVICT, and PUNISH are presented in Table 1. These variables were found to have adequate to high internal consistency, with Cronbach's alphas ranging from .71 (OFBEH) to .95 (PERCRAPE). Henceforth, the names OFBEH, OFBLAME, and OFRESP, will be used to refer to the revised versions of these respective variables.

#### Correlations Within Each Set of Variables (Zero-order Correlations)

Once it was determined that the measures had at least adequate internal consistency (minimum of .70 as defined by Kaplan & Saccuzzo, 1982), Pearson Product-Moment Correlations were employed to determine whether variables proposed to comprise a set of

theoretically related variables were, in fact, significantly correlated ( $p < .05$ ) within each set. The five sets of variables included attitudes and rape script (set 1), offender inferences (set 2), victim inferences (set 3), rape judgments (set 4), and sanctioning judgments (set 5).

#### Set 1: Attitudes and Rape Script

Correlations were performed among personal rape script type (RSTYPE), hostility towards women (HTW), rape myth acceptance (RMA), and sex-role beliefs (SRES) to see if these variables were related (Table 2). RSTYPE was not found to be significantly correlated with the other three attitudinal variables. To determine whether RSTYPE functioned independently of attitudes, correlations were performed between RSTYPE and all other variables. RSTYPE was not correlated with any other variables (Table 3); therefore, it was deleted from all further analyses.

HTW and SRES did not significantly correlate with one another; however, RMA was found to correlate with both. A weak positive relationship was found between HTW and RMA, indicating that individuals who had higher levels of hostility towards women also tended to have higher rape myth acceptance. A strong negative correlation was found between RMA and SRES, indicating that individuals with higher rape myth acceptance also had more traditional sex-role beliefs.

#### Set 2: Offender Inference Variables

Correlations were performed in order to determine whether the variables of offender character (OFCHAR), offender behavior (OFBEH), and violence (VIOLENCE) in the offender inference set were related (Table 4). All three variables were found to be



moderately correlated. Individuals who perceived the offender's character more positively also tended to perceive his behavior more positively, and perceive him as less violent.

### Set 3: Victim Inference Variables

Correlational analyses showed moderate correlations among the four variables victim character (VCHAR), victim behavior (VBEH), desire (DESIRE), and consent (CONSENT), in the victim inferences set ( Table 5). Individuals who perceived the victim's character more positively also tended to perceive her behavior more positively, see her as less desiring of sex, and less consenting.

### Set 4: Rape Judgment Variables

Correlations were performed between offender blame (OFBLAME), offender responsibility (OFRESP), victim responsibility (VRESP), and rape perception (PERCRAPE) to determine whether they were conceptually related ( Table 6). All four variables were found to be significantly correlated with one another. The only pair of variables which produced a non-significant correlation was OFBLAME and VRESP. A moderate correlation between VRESP and OFRESP indicated that individuals who assigned more responsibility to the victim tend to assign less responsibility to the offender. Correlations among PERCRAPE, OFRESP, SARRESP, and OFBLAME indicated that individuals who were more certain that the situation was rape tend to assign more responsibility and blame to the offender, and less responsibility to the victim.

### Set 5: Sanctioning Judgment Variables

Correlations were performed between willingness to convict (CONVICT) and severity of punishment (PUNISH) to determine whether they were related ( Table 7). A moderate correlation between these two variables indicated that individuals who were more willing to convict the offender also tended to assign a longer punishment.

### Correlations Among Different Sets of Variables (Canonical Correlation Analyses)

As indicated in tables 8, 9, 10, and 11 there were significant correlations among the different sets of variables, as well as within the sets of variables. Overall, the correlational results indicated that each variable within each set was significantly correlated with every other variable within all other sets. This finding was expected, as all variables were hypothesized to be involved in the processing of information. In this study, variables are organized into functional sets, in which categorization into sets is "for reasons of their substantive content and the function they play in the logic of the research" (Cohen & Cohen, 1983). Therefore, although higher correlations may exist between two variables in different sets, this does not mean the variables belong in the same set, as it does not follow the logic of the research (i.e., based on social cognitive theory, sets in this study are comprised of attitudes, inferences, and judgments). Canonical correlation analyses will facilitate the interpretation of these associations, as it is a statistical technique used to analyze the relationship between two sets of variables (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1989). The two sets of variables may be conceptualized as dependent variables (DV's) and independent variables (IV's), or they may not (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1989). For ease of discussion, the

two sets of variables in a CCA were conceptualized as DV's and IV's respectively. It is not critical which set is labeled as the DV or IV set. The naming is primarily for reference.

CCA is similar to multiple regression in that a linear combination of the IV's is formed. However, with CCA, a linear combination of the DVs is also formed. As Tabachnick and Fidell (1989) state, "sets of variables on each side are combined to produce, for each side, a predicted value that has the highest correlation with the predicted value on the other side". CCA produces *canonical variates*, which are the actual linear combinations of the variables, one for the DV set, and one for the IV set. Taken together, these two canonical variates are referred to as *pairs of canonical variates*. There may be more than one reliable pair of canonical variates.

The significance of the relationship between each pair of canonical variates was assessed by the Pillais' criterion, at the level of .05. Pairs of canonical variates with a canonical correlation in excess of  $\pm .30$  were considered significant and therefore interpreted (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1989, p. 216). Interpretation of a canonical variate was conducted by examining the correlation between the canonical variate and the variables that comprise it. The proportion of variance accounted for by a canonical variate within its own set of variables determined how much variance in the original variables was captured by the canonical variate. The redundancy index, which is the proportion of variance accounted for by a canonical variate in the *other* set of original variables was also noted to assess the relationship between the canonical variate and the original variables in the other set.

In all, 10 canonical correlation analyses were performed to investigate the relationships among all sets of variables. These analyses have been categorized in two groups: the first group of analyses pertains to the hypotheses set out in this research, whereas the second group of analyses serve to provide a more complete picture of the overall patterns of relationships.

### Canonical Correlation Analyses Group 1

#### 1. Set 2 (Offender Inferences) and Set 1 (Attitudes)

A canonical correlation analysis performed between attitudinal set (HTW, RMA, SRES) and offender inferences set (OFCHAR, OFBEH, VIOLENCE) revealed a significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(9, 159) = 3.45, p = .001$ . The first two pairs of canonical variates accounted for the significant relationships between the two sets of variables,  $F(9, 124) = 3.53, p < .01$  (for the first variate) and  $F(4, 104) = 3.31, p < .05$  (for the second variate). The first canonical correlation was .52 (27% of the variance) and the second was .43 (18% of the variance). The third canonical correlation (.19) was not significantly different from zero.

Detailed data on the first two pairs of canonical variates are represented in Table 12 which shows the correlations between the canonical variates and the original variables, standardized canonical variate coefficients, within-set variance accounted for by the canonical variates, redundancies, and canonical correlations. Total proportion of variance for the offender inference set indicated that the first two pairs of variates extracted a considerable proportion of variance (.86) from the offender inference variables. In

contrast, the total proportion of variance for the attitudinal set indicated that the first two pairs of variates extracted a much smaller amount of variance (.15) from the attitudinal variables. The total redundancy indices revealed that the first two canonical variates from the offender inference set extracted a small proportion of variance (.18) from the attitudinal set, while the first two pairs of canonical variates from the attitudinal set extracted a considerable proportion of variance (.69) from the offender inference variables. The canonical correlations indicated that the first pair, as well as the second pair, of canonical variates were moderately related to each other.

Variables in the attitudinal set that had correlations in excess of  $\pm .30$  with the first canonical variate were SRES and HTW. Within the offender inference set, OFBEH correlated with the first canonical variate. The first pair of canonical variates indicated that participants with a more traditional sex role belief (-.75) and greater hostility towards women (.41) tended to view the offender's behavior more positively (.82).

The second canonical variate in the attitudinal set was composed of RMA and SRES. In the offender inference set, the second canonical variate was related to VIOLENCE, OFCHAR and OFBEH. Taken together, these two pairs of canonical variates indicated that participants who had a higher rape myth acceptance (.94) and more traditional sex-role beliefs (-.66) tended to see the situation as involving less violence (-.94), and to rate the offender's character (.82) and behavior (.57) more positively.

## 2. Set 3 (Victim Inferences) and Set 1 (Attitudes)

A second canonical correlation analysis was performed between the attitudinal set (HTW, RMA, SRES) and victim inferences set (VCHAR, VBEH, DESIRE, VIOLENCE), revealing a significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(12,156) = 3.70$ ,  $p < .001$ . The first pair of canonical variates which yielded a canonical correlation of .77 (60% of the variance) accounted for the significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(12, 133) = 4.95$ ,  $p < .001$ . The remaining two canonical variates (canonical correlations of .21 and .14 respectively) were not significant.

Detailed data on the first pair of canonical variates are represented in Table 13. Total proportion of variance for the victim inferences set indicated that the first canonical variate extracted a moderate amount of variance (.60) from the victim inference variables. The total proportion of variance for the attitudinal set indicated that the first canonical variate extracted a smaller amount of variance (.33) from the attitudinal variables. The total redundancy indices revealed that the first canonical variate from the victim inferences set extracted a small proportion of variance (.36) from the attitudinal set, while the first canonical variate from the attitudinal set extracted a moderate proportion of variance (.54) from the victim inference variables.

The variables in the attitudinal set that had a correlation in excess of  $\pm .30$  with the first canonical variate were RMA, SRES, and HTW. Among the victim inference set, VCHAR, CONSENT, VBEH, and DESIRE correlated with the first canonical variate. The first pair of canonical variates indicated that participants with higher rape myth acceptance

(.99), more traditional sex-role beliefs (-.71), and more hostility towards women (.36) tended to view the victim's character (-.91) and behavior (-.81) more negatively, see the victim as more consenting (-.86), and more desiring of sex (.44).

### 3. Set 4 (Rape Judgments) and Set 2 (Offender Inferences)

A third canonical correlation analysis was performed between the rape judgment set (PERCRAPE, VRESP, OFRESP, and OFBLAME) and the offender inference set (OFCHAR, OFBEH, VIOLENCE). This analysis showed a significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(12, 135) = 3.67, p = .001$ . The first pair of canonical variates accounted for the significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(12, 114) = 4.32, p = .001$ . The first canonical correlation was .74 (55% of the variance). The second (.35), and third (.27) canonical correlation were not significantly different from zero.

Detailed data on the first pair of canonical variates are represented in Table 14. Total proportion of variance indicated that the first pair of variates extracted a moderate proportion of variance (.51) from the rape judgment variables and a small amount of variance (.34) from the offender inference variables. The total redundancy indices revealed that the first canonical variate from the rape judgment set extracted a small proportion of variance (.28) from the offender inference set, while the first canonical variate from the offender inference set extracted a moderate proportion of variance (.62) from the rape judgment variables.

The variables in the offender inference set that were correlated with the first canonical variate were OFCHAR, VIOLENCE, and OFBEH. Among the rape judgment set, PERCRAPE, OFRESP, OFBLAME, and VRESP correlated with the first canonical variate. The first pair of canonical variates indicated that participants who perceived the offender's character (.87) and behavior (.66) more positively, saw the situation as involving less violence (-.81), tended to be less certain that the situation was rape (-.94), assigned less responsibility to the offender (-.72), and more responsibility to the victim (.45), and blame the offender less (-.66).

#### 4. Set 4 (Rape Judgments) and Set 3 (Victim Inferences)

A fourth canonical correlation analysis was performed between the rape judgment set (PERCRAPE, VRESP, OFRESP, OFBLAME) and the victim inference set (VCHAR, VBEH, DESIRE, CONSENT). The canonical correlation analyses revealed a significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(16, 180) = 3.18, p < .001$ . The first pair of canonical variates which yielded a canonical correlation of .88 (78% of the variance) accounted for the significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(16, 129) = 5.63, p < .001$ . The remaining three canonical variates with correlations of .26, .15, and .10, respectively, were not significant.

Detailed data on the first pair of canonical variates are represented in Table 15. Total proportion of variance for the rape judgment set indicated that the first canonical variate extracted a moderate proportion of variance (.55) from the rape judgment variables. The total proportion of variance for the victim inferences set indicated that the first



canonical variate extracted a moderate amount of variance (.47) from the victim inference variables. The total redundancy indices revealed that the first canonical variate from the rape judgment set extracted a moderate proportion of variance (.43) from the victim inference set, while the first canonical variate from the victim inference set extracted a moderate proportion of variance (.61) from the rape judgment variables.

Variables in the rape judgment set that were correlated with the first canonical variate were PERCRAPE, VRESP, and OFRESP. Among the victim inference set, CONSENT, VCHAR, VBEH, and DESIRE were correlated with the first canonical variate. The first pair of canonical variates indicated that participants who perceived the victim as more consenting (-.86), viewed her character (-.80) and behavior (-.76) more negatively, and saw her as more desiring of sex (.67) tended to be less certain that the situation was rape (.91), and assigned more responsibility to the victim (.85) and less to the offender (-.75).

#### 5. Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments) and Set 4 (Rape Judgments)

A fifth canonical correlation analysis was performed between the sanctioning judgments set (CONVICT, PUNISH), and rape judgments (PERCRAPE, VRESP, OFRESP, OFBLAME). The canonical correlation analyses revealed a significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(8, 90) = 2.85, p = .007$ . The first pair of canonical variates accounted for the significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(8, 90) = 2.85, p < .05$ . The first canonical correlation was .59 (35% of the variance). The second canonical correlation (.24) was not significantly different from zero.

Detailed data on the first pair of canonical variates are represented in Table 16.

Total proportion of variance for the sanctioning judgments set indicated that the first canonical variate extracted a moderate proportion of variance (.62) from the sanctioning judgment variables. The total proportion of variance for the rape judgment set indicated that the canonical variate extracted only a small amount of variance (.17) from the rape judgment variables. The total redundancy indices revealed that the first canonical variate from the sanctioning judgments set extracted a small proportion of variance (.22) from the rape judgment set, while the first canonical variate from the rape judgment set extracted a moderate proportions of variance (.48) from the sanctioning judgment variables. The canonical correlation indicated that the first pair of canonical variates were moderately related to each other.

Variables in the sanctioning judgments set that were correlated with the first canonical variate were PUNISH and CONVICT. Among the rape judgment set, OFBLAME, PERCRAPE, OFRESP, and VRESP were correlated with the first canonical variate. The first pair of canonical variates indicated that participants who saw the rape as intentional and preplanned (.89), who were more certain that the situation was rape (.74), assigned more responsibility to the offender (.60) and less to the victim (-.45), were more willing to convict the offender (.77), and assigned longer punishment to the offender (.80).

## Canonical Correlation Analyses Group 2

### 6. Set 4 (Rape Judgments) and Set 1 (Attitudes)

A sixth canonical correlation analysis was performed between the attitudinal set (HTW, RMA, SRES), and rape judgments (PERCRAPE, VRESP, OFRESP, OFBLAME). The canonical correlation analyses revealed a significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(12, 135) = 2.97$ ,  $p = .001$ . The first pair of canonical variates accounted for the significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(12, 114) = 3.56$ ,  $p < .001$ . The first canonical correlation was .72 (52% of the variance). The second canonical correlation (.32) was not significantly different from zero.

Detailed data on the first pair of canonical variates are represented in Table 17. Total proportion of variance for the rape judgment set indicated that the first canonical variate extracted a moderate proportion of variance (.57) from the rape judgment variables. The total proportion of variance for the attitudinal set indicated that the canonical variate extracted a small amount of variance (.24) from the attitudinal variables. The total redundancy indices revealed that the first canonical variate from the rape judgments set extracted a small proportion of variance (.29) from the attitudinal set, while the first canonical variate from the attitudinal set extracted a moderate proportions of variance (.48) from the rape judgment variables. The canonical correlation indicated that the first pair of canonical variates were strongly related to each other.

Variables in the rape judgments set that were correlated with the first canonical variate were PERCRAPE, VRESP, OFRESP, and OFBLAME. Among the attitudinal set,

RMA, and SRES were correlated with the first canonical variate. The first pair of canonical variates indicated that participants who accepted more rape myths (.99), and who were more traditional in their sex-role beliefs (-.63), tended to be less certain that the situation was rape (-.91), assigned more responsibility to the victim (.80) and less to the offender (-.73), and were less likely to see the rape as premeditated (-.51).

#### 7. Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments) and Set 1 (Attitudes)

A seventh canonical correlation analysis was performed between the sanctioning judgments set (CONVICT, PUNISH), and the attitudinal set (HTW, RMA, SRES). The canonical correlation analyses revealed a significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(6, 106) = 3.25, p=.006$ . The first pair of canonical variates accounted for the significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(6, 104) = 3.53, p=.003$ . The first canonical correlation was .55 (31% of the variance). The second canonical correlation (.07) was not significantly different from zero.

Detailed data on the first pair of canonical variates are represented in Table 18. Total proportion of variance for the sanctioning judgments set indicated that the first canonical variate extracted only a moderate proportion of variance (.73) from the sanctioning judgment variables. The total proportion of variance for the attitudinal set indicated that the canonical variate extracted only a very small amount of variance (.10) from the attitudinal variables. The total redundancy indices revealed that the first canonical variate from the sanctioning judgments set extracted a small proportion of variance (.22)

from the attitudinal set, while the first canonical variate from the attitudinal set extracted a small proportions of variance (.33) from the sanctioning judgment variables.

Variables in the sanctioning judgments set that were correlated with the first canonical variate were CONVICT, and PUNISH. Among the attitudinal set, RMA, SRES, and HTW were correlated with the first canonical variate. The first pair of canonical variates indicated that participants who accepted less rape myths (-.89), were more egalitarian in their sex-role beliefs (.32), and less hostile towards women (-.30) tended to be more willing to convict (.86) and punish (.85) the offender.

#### 8. Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments) and Set 2 (Offender Inferences)

An eighth canonical correlation analysis was performed between the sanctioning judgments set (CONVICT, PUNISH), and offender inferences (OFCHAR, OFBEH, VIOLENCE). The canonical correlation analyses revealed a significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(6, 106) = 4.87, p < .001$ . The first pair of canonical variates accounted for the significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(6, 104) = 5.19, p < .001$ . The first canonical correlation was .60 (37% of the variance). The second canonical correlation (.26) was not significantly different from zero.

Detailed data on the first pair of canonical variates are represented in Table 19. Total proportion of variance for the sanctioning judgments set indicated that the first canonical variate extracted a sizable proportion of variance (.72) from the sanctioning judgment variables. The total proportion of variance for the offender inferences set indicated that the canonical variate extracted a small amount of variance (.20) from the

offender inferences variables. The total redundancy indices revealed that the first canonical variate from the sanctioning judgments set extracted a small proportion of variance (.26) from the offender inferences set, while the first canonical variate from the offender inferences set extracted a moderate proportions of variance (.56) from the sanctioning judgment variables. The canonical correlation indicated that the first pair of canonical variates were moderately related to each other.

Variables in the sanctioning judgments set that were correlated with the first canonical variate were PUNISH and CONVICT. Among the offender inferences set, VIOLENCE, OFCHAR, and OFBEH were correlated with the first canonical variate. The first pair of canonical variates indicated that participants who saw the offender as violent (.99), and perceived his character (-.73) and behavior (-.42) more negatively, were more willing to convict the offender (.79), and assigned longer punishment to the offender (.91).

#### 9. Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments) and Set 3 (Victim Inferences)

A ninth canonical correlation analysis was performed between the sanctioning judgments set (CONVICT, PUNISH), and victim inferences (VCHAR, VBEH, DESIRE, CONSENT). The canonical correlation analyses revealed a significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(8, 104) = 5.06, p < .001$ . The first pair of canonical variates accounted for the significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(8, 102) = 5.48, p < .001$ . The first canonical correlation was .67 (45% of the variance). The second canonical correlation (.33) was not significantly different from zero.

Detailed data on the first pair of canonical variates are represented in Table 20.

Total proportion of variance for the sanctioning judgments set indicated that the first canonical variate extracted a sizable proportion of variance (.73) from the sanctioning judgment variables. The total proportion of variance for the victim inferences set indicated that the canonical variate extracted a small amount of variance (.23) from the victim inferences variables. The total redundancy indices revealed that the first canonical variate from the sanctioning judgments set extracted a small proportion of variance (.33) from the victim inferences set, while the first canonical variate from the victim inferences set extracted a moderate proportions of variance (.52) from the sanctioning judgment variables. The canonical correlation indicated that the first pair of canonical variates were moderately related to each other.

Variables in the sanctioning judgments set that were correlated with the first canonical variate were PUNISH and CONVICT. Among the victim inferences set, DESIRE, CONSENT, VBEH, and VCHAR were correlated with the first canonical variate. The first pair of canonical variates indicated that participants who saw the victim as less desiring of sex (-.90), less consenting (.82), and perceived her behavior (.57) and character (.52) more positively, were more willing to convict (.86), and punish (.85) the offender.

#### 10. Set 3 (Victim Inferences) and Set 2 (Offender Inferences)

Canonical correlation analysis was performed between the victim inferences set (VCHAR, VBEH, DESIRE, CONSENT) and the offender inference set (OFCHAR,

OFBEH, VIOLENCE). The analysis showed a significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(12, 156) = 3.66, p < .001$ . The first two pairs of canonical variates accounted for the significant relationship between the two sets of variables,  $F(12, 133) = 3.91, p < .001$  (for the first variate) and  $F(6, 102) = 2.40, p < .05$  (for the second variate). The first canonical correlation was .65 (42% of the variance) and the second was .43 (18% of the variance). The third canonical correlation (.25) was not significantly different from zero.

Detailed data on the first two pairs of canonical variates are represented in Table 21. Total proportion of variance for the offender inference set indicated that the first two pairs of variates extracted a considerable proportion of variance (.83) from the offender inference variables. In contrast, the total proportion of variance for the victim inference set indicated that the first two pairs of variates extracted a much smaller amount of variance (.25) from the victim inferences variables. The total redundancy indices revealed that the first two canonical variates from the offender inferences set extracted a small proportion of variance (.28) from the victim inference set, while the first two pairs of canonical variates from the victim inferences set extracted a considerable proportion of variance (.71) from the offender inference variables.

Variables in the victim inference set that were correlated with the first canonical variate were VIOLENCE, OFCHAR, and OFBEH. Among the victim inference set, DESIRE, CONSENT, VCHAR, and VBEH correlated with the first canonical variate. The first pair of canonical variates indicated that participants who viewed the offender as more



violent (.98), saw his character (-.71) and behavior (-.56) more negatively, viewed the victim less desiring of sex (-.94), less consenting (.78), and rated her character (.61) and behavior (.45) more positively.

The second canonical variate in the offender inference set was composed of OFBEH. In the victim inference set, the second canonical variate was related to CONSENT and VBEH. Taken together, this pair of canonical variates indicated that participants who had a more negative perception of the offender's behavior (-.83) also perceived the victim as less consenting (.59), and viewed her behavior more positively (.53).

#### Sequential Ordering of Stages (Hierarchical Multiple Regression Analyses)

In hierarchical regression, the order of variable entry is determined by the researcher and is based on logical or theoretical considerations (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1989). Due to the large number of variables (16), and the small sample size (50) the application of hierarchical multiple regression using all sets of variables was impractical. Cohen and Cohen (1983) discuss the perils of entering sets which consist of many variables, stating "such practice is to be strongly discouraged, because it tends to result in reduced statistical power for the set and an increase in spuriously 'significant' single-IV results" (p. 136). Furthermore, they recommend "it is far better to sharply reduce the size of such a set, and by almost any means" (p. 136). Moreover, rape judgments and sanctioning decisions were conceptualized as sets in this research, and it is impossible to perform hierarchical multiple regression with a set of criterion variables. To address this

limitation, mean scores for each proposed stage of information processing were calculated. Mean scores were achieved by summing the raw scores of variables within a each set and dividing the summated score by the number of variables in the set. This process of data reduction was considered reasonable, as the variables within each set were significantly related to one another.

Resulting from this data reduction technique was the creation of four new variables to represent the original 16 variables (Figure 2). The mean score of the attitudinal variables (HTW, RMA, SRES) resulted in an overall composite score for attitudes (ATTITUDE). The mean score of all offender and victim inferences (OFCHAR, OFBEH, VIOLENCE, VCHAR, VBEH, DESIRE, CONSENT) resulted in a composite score for inferences (INFERS). The mean score of the rape judgment variables (PERCRAPE, VRESP, OFRESP, OFBLAME) resulted in a composite score rape judgments (RAPEJS). Finally, the mean score of the sanctioning judgments variables (COVICT, PUNISH) resulted in a composite score for sanctioning judgments (SANCJS). The four new variables (ATTITUDE, INFERS, RAPEJS, SANCJS) which represent the respective stages in information processing (stage 1: Information Selection, stage 2: Inference Development, stage 3: Rape Judgments, stage 4: Sanctioning Judgments), were then statistically analyzed to investigate the sequential ordering of these variables. A series of hierarchical multiple regressions were performed to determine the direct and indirect relationships between the variables ATTITUDE, INFERS, RAPEJS, and SANCJS, which represent the hypothesized stages in information processing.

Prior to the hierarchical regression analyses, multiple regression analysis was performed between the following variables: (a) INFERS (criterion) and ATTITUDE (predictor) (b) RAPEJS (criterion), and ATTITUDE (predictor), (c) SANCJS (criterion) and INFERS (predictor), and (d) SANCJS (criterion) and ATTITUDES (predictor) to determine whether they were statistically related. Results indicated that ATTITUDE was a significant predictor of INFERS (Beta = .64,  $p < .001$ ), ATTITUDE was a significant predictor of RAPEJS (Beta = .62,  $p < .001$ ), INFERS was a significant predictor of SANCJS (Beta = .51,  $p < .001$ ), and ATTITUDE was a significant predictor of SANCJS (Beta = .35,  $p < .01$ ).

To determine whether these were relationships direct (not mediated by another variable) or indirect (mediated by another variable) two hierarchical multiple regressions were performed. The first multiple regression considered rape judgments (RAPEJS) as the criterion variable. The predictor variables were entered hierarchically, beginning with the proposed mediating variable of inferences (INFERS), followed by attitudes (ATTITUDE). INFERS was found to be a significant predictor of RAPEJS (Beta = .72,  $p < .001$ ), whereas ATTITUDE did not add significantly to the prediction (see Table 22). This finding indicates that the relationship between attitudes (ATTITUDE) and rape judgments (RAPEJS) is not a direct one, rather it is mediated by inferences (INFERS). In summary, the hypothesis that inferences regarding the victim and offender are mediating variables between observer attitudes, and consequent rape judgments was supported. This finding demonstrates that stage 1 (information selection, directed by attitudes), stage 2 (inference

development) and stage 3 (rape judgments) occur in the outlined sequential order (Figure 3).

To determine whether the relationship between inferences (INFERS) and sanctioning judgments (SANCJS) was direct, or mediated by rape judgments (RAPEJS), a second hierarchical multiple regression was conducted. Sanctioning judgments (SANCJS) was the criterion variable. The predictor variables were entered hierarchically, beginning with the proposed mediating variable of rape judgments (RAPEJS), followed by inferences (INFERS), and concluding with attitudes (ATTITUDE). Rape judgments were found to be a significant predictor of SANCJS (Beta =  $-.58$ ,  $p < .02$ ), whereas INFERS and ATTITUDE did not significantly add to the prediction (see Table 23). This finding indicates that the relationship between INFERS and SANCJS is not a direct one, rather it is mediated by RAPEJS. In summary, the hypothesis that rape judgments are mediating variables between inferences and consequent sanctioning judgments was supported. It demonstrates that stage 4 (sanctioning judgments) in the proposed information processing paradigm follows stage 3 (rape judgments). When taken together, the findings of both hierarchical multiple regressions demonstrate that information is processed through the following sequential stages: stage 1: information selection, stage 2: inference development, stage 3: rape judgments, and stage 4: sanctioning judgments (see Figure 3).

#### Differences Between Groups Based on Rape Identification

The overwhelming majority of participants (88%) indicated that the situation was rape (50 of 57), compared to 12% who did not defined the situation as rape (7 of 57).  $t$ -

tests were conducted to determine if there were any differences between the two groups. These results should be interpreted with caution due to the unequal group size (50 and 7), and the small sample of participants (7) who comprised the non-rape group.

Despite the unequal and small sample size, these two groups showed significant differences on a number of attitudinal, inferential, and judgment variables. It was found that those perceiving the situation as non-rape appeared to have higher levels of rape myth acceptance, perceived the offender as less violent, perceived the victim to be more desiring of sex and more consenting, and perceived the victim's character and behavior more negatively (see Table 22 for means and standard deviations). Sanctioning decisions were also different for these individuals, with those perceiving it as non-rape less willing to convict the offender, and assigning less punishment. None of the individuals in this group believed the offender should spend any time in jail for his actions. Four participants believed he should receive no punishment, and the other three participants believed the offender should be given up to 6 months probation. Attributions of responsibility and blame for rape could not be compared between these two groups, as one group did not perceive it as rape.

Five of the seven individuals (71%) who identified the scenario as non-rape were male (whereas males only constituted 34% (17 of 50) of the sample who identified the situation as rape) . Also, six of the seven participants (85%) in the non-rape group had a stranger rape script (whereas a stranger rape script was described by 52% (26 of 50) of the participants who identified the situation as rape). Caution must be taken when interpreting

these results (sex differences and differences regarding personal rape script), as they have not been statistically analyzed and are for descriptive purposes only. The results do however, suggest a possible relationship between observer sex, personal rape script, and rape perception.

### Sex Differences

t-tests were conducted to determine if there were any differences between males and females in attitudes, inferences, rape judgments or sanctioning judgments. Males and females did differ on a number of variables (see Table 22). It was found that males were more accepting of rape myths, and were more traditional in their sex-role beliefs. As compared with females, males perceived the offenders behavior less negatively, the victim's behavior more negatively, and inferred more desire and consent on the part of the victim. Furthermore, males were less likely to perceive the situation as rape and assigned less responsibility to the offender than did females. Sanctioning decisions were also different for males and females, with males less willing to convict the offender, and assigning less punishment.

### Description of Sanctioning Decisions for Study Sample

A closer analysis of the participants responses regarding offender conviction yielded some interesting findings. Although 88% (50 of 57) of the participants in the study identified the situation as rape, only 68% (39 of 57) indicated they would convict the offender of rape. Over half of the respondents (61%) stated they lacked enough evidence

to convict. A specific breakdown of the types of evidence, or other information they would like to have before making a decision regarding conviction can be found on Table 23.

### Discussion

This study sought to investigate potential cognitive processes of an observer when faced with limited, ambiguous information about an acquaintance rape. It was developed in response to a need for research to "map out cognitive processes involved in making rape attributions" (Langley et al., 1991, p.52). The results of this study should be considered as representing an attempt to integrate and understand the relationships among several variables postulated to be involved in the processing of information regarding rape. Furthermore, it may be considered an initial stage in the development of a comprehensive information processing model of rape judgments. Findings from the present study are discussed below.

#### Cognitive Structures and the Development of Inferences

The first hypotheses stated that individuals who were more traditional in their sex-role beliefs, more hostile towards women, more accepting of rape myths, and who held a stranger rape script would be less likely to perceive the offender's character and behavior as negative, and would infer less offender violence. Similarly, the second hypothesis stated that individuals with the aforementioned attitudes and personal rape script would be more likely to perceive the victim as having undesirable character traits, undesirable behavior, and infer more victim desire and consent. The findings of this study partially support both hypotheses. Attitudes were found to be significantly related to offender and victim

inferences, whereas personal rape script was not related to either type of inference. For ease of interpretation, the relationship between attitudes and offender and victim inferences will be considered first, followed by a discussion of the relationship (or lack thereof) between personal rape script and inferences.

### Observer Attitudes and the Development of Inferences

Overall, rape myth acceptance, sex-role beliefs, and hostility towards women were significantly related to one another. The following pattern of attitudes emerged: individuals who accepted more rape myths, also tended to view men and women as differing in their societal roles (traditional sex-role beliefs), and were somewhat more hostile or adversarial in their relationships with women. The reciprocal of this pattern also emerged: individuals who accepted fewer rape myths, also tended to have more egalitarian sex-role beliefs, and reported less hostility towards women).

Two distinct relationships emerged between rape-relevant attitudes and offender inferences. First, egalitarian participants who were less hostile towards women viewed the offender's behavior as less acceptable (e.g., felt he should not have tried to coerce his date into having sex, or he should have taken her home as soon as she indicated she didn't want to go any further). Second, individuals who felt men and women should have different roles in society (traditional sex-role beliefs), and who were more accepting of rape myths, perceived the sexual encounter as involving less violence, were less negative in their perception of offender's character (e.g., less likely to perceive him as type who uses



women, "takes what he wants", only thinks of himself, lacks self-control), and were less likely to see his behavior as undesirable.

The relationship between observer attitudes and victim inferences showed an opposite pattern. Individuals who were more traditional, more accepting of rape myths, and somewhat more hostile towards women were more likely to view the victim's character as being in some way undesirable (e.g., lacking assertiveness, naive, or too trusting), and felt that she should have, in some way, behaved differently (e.g., should not have gone to her date's apartment, or should have insisted he take her home as soon as she realized he wanted to be intimate). They tended to perceive the victim as in some way consenting, or as her non-consent not being made clear (e.g., indicating that by returning to his apartment, or letting him touch her the victim implied consent). Individuals who had more traditional sex-role attitudes, reported more rape myth acceptance, and were somewhat more hostile toward women, were also more likely to infer some degree (although slight) of desire, sexual arousal, enjoyment, and willingness on the part of the victim.

Overall, it seems that observers with higher rape myth acceptance, traditional sex-role beliefs, and greater hostility towards women seem to view the offender's character and behavior less negatively, and infer less offender violence. Conversely, they were also more likely to view the victim's character and behavior in a less positive manner and infer more consent and more desire on her part.

In an attempt to explain the relationship between rape-relevant attitudes and victim and offender inferences, one must consider the meaning of rape myths, sex-role beliefs,

and hostility towards women. Rape myths are "prejudicial, stereotyped, or false beliefs about rape, rape victims, and rapists", and have the effect of "denying that many instances involving coercive sex are actually rape" (Burt, 1991, p.26). Rape myths often include the idea that females "invite rape" by their actions, they "want it to happen", or they liked it (Burt, 1991). Sex-role beliefs may be either egalitarian or traditional, with traditional individuals often holding the belief that women should not indicate their interest in sex, and that men are supposed to be the "sexual aggressor", both initiating and persisting in their attempts to obtain sex (even when a woman has indicated she does not want to have sex) (Proite, Dannells, & Benton, 1993). Individuals who adhere to traditional sex-role socialization believe that women should be submissive, while men should take initiative and be the dominant partner in sexuality (Check & Malamuth, 1983). Hostility towards women refers to an adversarial view of one's relationships with women. It may include believing that women are manipulative, deceitful, or untrustworthy (Check, Malamuth, Elias, & Barton, 1985).

Taken together, and considered from an information processing perspective, the observer who possesses this constellation of attitudes may perceive and select information which is congruent with one or more of these attitudes. For instance, when the observer is faced with information concerning the victim's attire, the words "low-cut " (as used in the vignette to refer to the dress worn by the victim) may be a salient piece of information which is attended to and filtered through his or her constellation of rape-relevant attitudes. This piece of information may then be used in the development of inferences regarding the

victim. For example, they may reason that since she wore a low-cut dress, she "invited rape", or that she must have wanted sex.

Muehlenhard and Hollabaugh (1988) found that respondents believed that women sometimes offer token resistance to sex (saying "no" when they mean "yes") to avoid appearing promiscuous. The findings suggest that individuals with the aforementioned constellation of attitudes may be more ready to perceive women as offering token resistance when confronted with sexual advances by a man. They may also perceive signals given by the woman to be indicators of sexual willingness (such as returning to the home of a man on the first date) (Burt, 1980). Research (Lundberg-Love & Geffner, 1989; Muehlenhard, Friedmand, & Thomas, 1985) has demonstrated that men often interpret information cues (such as who initiates the date, and who pays the expenses) as indicators of how much women want sex (Proite, Dannells, & Benton, 1993). Thus, the man may be seen as being faced with the responsibility of interpreting or deciphering a woman's non-verbal signals (which may be seen as vague, ambiguous, or misleading, and as differing from her verbal cues), having the onerous task of distinguishing between "token resistance" and genuine resistance. This combination of attitudes (especially sex-role beliefs and hostility towards women) may result in the perception of the alleged offender as an "average" man, who has not acted inappropriately in his role as the sexual initiator, who must interpret the non-verbal cues of the (manipulating) woman, persist in attempts at sex, and overcome token resistance offered by women. Furthermore, even if the situation is perceived as rape, the

acceptance of rape myths (such as the myth "no harm done") may function to deny the seriousness of the rape, thereby mitigating the responsibility to the offender.

#### Observer Rape Script and the Development of Inferences

Similar to rape-relevant attitudes, the observers' personal rape script (how they define a "typical" rape) was expected to serve as a filter for incoming information such that the observer would be more readily attending to, and subsequently processing information which is congruent with their personal rape script. As with rape-relevant attitudes, it was reasoned that once congruent information was attended to, this "selected" information would consequently be used in the development of inferences regarding information which was unclear or ambiguous (i.e., inferences regarding the victim and offender involved). The expectation (as expressed in the first and second hypothesis) that individuals with a "stranger" rape script, as opposed to individuals with an acquaintance rape script, would develop more negative victim inferences, and less negative offender inferences was not supported. In fact, personal rape script was not found to be related to rape-relevant attitudes, victim or offender inferences, rape judgments, or sanctioning decisions.

Despite the lack of a significant relationship between personal rape script and attitudinal, inferential, and rape judgments, when the descriptive characteristics of the seven participants who did *not* perceive the situation as rape were analyzed, 85% (six of seven), of these participants held *stranger* rape scripts. Although not statistically verifiable, this finding seems to suggest that a relationship between personal rape script and rape judgments may in fact exist. It must be noted that reliable conclusions based on this

finding are impossible to draw, as the finding may be due to chance. Future research is needed to statistically confirm this pattern. Furthermore, when the attitudinal trends of these six participants were examined they endorsed more rape myths, and appeared to be more traditional in their sex-role beliefs (although this second finding was not statistically significant). This finding, coupled with the fact that six of the seven participants had stranger rape scripts may indicate the presence of an interaction between attitudes and stranger rape script, which result in differing rape judgments. For instance, rape script type may only function as a mediator between information and rape judgments when accompanied by a certain attitude or constellation of attitudes. Or it may be that individuals with fairly conventional attitudes (e.g., traditional sex-role beliefs, more acceptance of rape myths) have only one rape script, as opposed to more progressive individuals who may hold more than one rape script . Unfortunately, this study did not allow participants to indicate whether they had more than one type of rape script, a forced choice response was required. Therefore, individuals who appreciated that rape could be committed by both strangers and acquaintances were forced into providing only one description (stranger or acquaintance), and could have been misclassified as a result. The possibility of this sample of participants (university students) holding more than one rape script is likely given their exposure to rape awareness education which emphasized that acquaintance/date rape is *rape*. For instance, Lakehead University has a rape awareness campaign at the beginning of each academic year. Resulting from this rape awareness education may be the development of more than one type of rape script. In contrast, it is possible that

participants do not have a rape script at all. As one participant stated " I do not believe there is a typical rape...". The possibility that individuals may have no rape script or more than one rape script has implications for research in this area. Alternate ways of assessing and classifying personal rape script may be required. At the very least, a re-examination of the current dichotomous classification of personal rape scripts (stranger versus acquaintance) may be warranted.

Another possibility is that rape script is not a cognitive mediator between incoming information and consequent inferences or rape judgments, and is therefore an ineffectual variable in the information processing paradigm. As previously mentioned, personal rape script was conceptualized as what the observer believed a "typical" rape to be. However, one's idea of a typical rape is not necessarily equivalent to how they define rape. Rather, an observer's *definition of rape* may be distinctly different from their *personal rape script* and a theoretical distinction may therefore be necessary. An observer's *personal rape script* is what they believe a "typical" rape to be (e.g., a stranger forcing a woman to have sex at knifepoint). In contrast, an observers' *rape definition* is what they consider rape to be, and the specific acts included (Burt, 1991). One can use the example of the definition of a dog to demonstrate the difference. If asked "what is a typical dog" one might respond "a poodle". This response does not mean that the individual defines all dogs as poodles. Therefore, when one cites a stranger rape as a typical rape, it may not necessarily follow that he or she discounts sexual assaults by acquaintances as a form of rape. By delineating personal rape script from rape definition, it can be seen that although they may often be

similar, it is also possible that they may be different in important respects. Hence, an observer may hold a "stranger rape script" but define rape as any forced sexual behavior between two people which involves force, and which causes harm. Research is needed to investigate the commonalities between rape script type and rape definition, and to understand the role of each in the processing of rape information.

Overall, the findings of this study indicate a need for future research to further investigate the construct of personal rape script and examine its utility in determining an observer's inferences and rape judgments. One pragmatic way of achieving this may be to more carefully examine the profiles of individuals who do not perceive an acquaintance rape as "rape" (e.g., assess whether they predominantly hold stranger rape scripts), and then to further investigate sex differences, attitudinal patterns, and differences in inferences, rape judgments, and sanctioning decisions.

#### Inferences and the Formation of Rape Judgments

Once inferences were developed, it was hypothesized that they would be used to arrive at rape judgments. The third hypothesis stated that individuals who perceived the victim more negatively (e.g., less accepting of her behavior and character, inferred more desire and consent), would assign more responsibility to the victim, less to the offender, and be less likely to perceive the situation as rape. The fourth hypothesis stated that a similar pattern would emerge for offender inferences such that those who perceived the offender less negatively (more accepting of his behavior and character, inferred less offender violence) would be more likely to assign more responsibility to the victim, less to

the offender, and be less likely to perceive the situation as rape. Both of these hypotheses were fully supported; inferences were strongly related to rape judgments. Overall, more negative victim inferences and less negative offender inferences were found to be related to a greater reluctance to perceive the situation as rape, a tendency to assign less responsibility to the offender and a greater likelihood of assigning some responsibility to the victim.

Individuals who saw the victim's character as undesirable in some way (e.g., as too trusting, lacking assertiveness), who believed she should have, in some way, behaved differently (e.g., should not have returned to her date's apartment, should not have let him kiss her), who inferred a minimal degree of desire, and who inferred some degree of consent, tended to assign more responsibility to the victim, less responsibility to the offender, and were less likely to identify the situation as rape. A similar pattern emerged between offender inferences and rape judgments. Individuals who saw the offender's character and behavior less negatively, and who were less likely to perceive him as being violent, tended to assign less responsibility to the offender, slightly more to the victim, were less likely to perceive the situation as rape, and were less likely to see the rape as a premeditated and intentional act on the part of the offender.

The present findings are consistent with Shotland and Goodstein's (1983) research which suggested that inferences of desire and violence are "key definitional components to rape attribution, (which) act as intervening variables between manipulations (of offender force, type of victim protest, onset of protest) and participants' attributions of rape" (p.



227). According to Shotland and Goodstein (1983), identifying *both* lack of desire for the woman and violence on the part of the man is important for two reasons. First, there is the possibility that the situation involves violence and desire/willingness on the part of the woman. This is referred to sado-masochism, and is not rape. Second, there is the possibility that indications of the woman's desire are not sufficient to identify a situation as rape, for these indications (such as verbal resistance) may be seen as part of sexual game playing (Shotland & Goodstein, 1983), or token resistance (Muehlenhard & Hollabaugh, 1988). Therefore, it is likely that before identifying a situation as rape, an observer will need to infer both (a) the woman did not desire sex, and (b) the situation involved violence.

In the present investigation, inferences regarding victim consent was an important variable in determining rape judgments, especially the perception of a situation as rape or not. Individuals who perceived the victim as consenting in some way, or as her non-consent not being clear, were less likely to identify the situation as rape. The role of inferences regarding victim consent has not been adequately explored in rape research. This study has demonstrated that it is an important variable in predicting rape judgments, however this concept would benefit from future research. Bohmer (1991) stated that lack of consent has been defined (in the law) by phrases such as "by force", and "against her will", both of which seem to be closely linked to offender violence and victim desire. It may be possible that inferences regarding offender violence and victim desire are indirectly assessing victim consent, and precede judgments of consent in the information processing paradigm. Furthermore, it is not clear whether other inferences, such as evaluations of the

victim's character and behavior precede inferences regarding victim consent. Given the importance of consent in convicting offenders of acquaintance rape (Bohmer, 1991), the role of consent in sanctioning decisions should be examined more closely in future studies.

The assignment of responsibility to victims of rape has been found to be affected by many different variables (see Pollard, 1992). Current research lacks a model which is able to tie these findings together (Weiner & Vodanovich, 1986), however, by examining the inferential processes of the observer, one can begin to link certain types of inferences (e.g., inferences regarding the victim's character and behavior) to consequent attributions of responsibility to the victim. The findings of this study shed light on why observers assign some degree of responsibility to the victim.

#### Rape Judgments and the Formation of Sanctioning Judgments

The final hypothesis in this study concerned the relationship between rape judgments and sanctioning judgments, which jurors are often required to make in a court of law. This hypothesis stated that individuals who attributed more responsibility to the victim, less responsibility to the offender, and were less likely to perceive the situation as rape would be more willing to convict the offender, and would assign more severe punishment to him. This hypothesis was fully corroborated. Individuals who were more certain that the situation was rape, and who assigned more responsibility and blame to the offender and less responsibility to the victim tended to more readily convict, and assign more punishment to the offender. The most significant variable related to conviction and

punishment is rape perception. Individuals who were more likely to perceive the situation as rape were more willing to convict and punish the offender.

In examining respondents' decisions regarding conviction in this study, 50 of 57 participants identified the situation as rape, whereas only 39 of 57 participants indicated that they would convict the offender. Reasons for this discrepancy are likely due to issues regarding evidence. Examination of individual items suggests the desire or need for evidence. Of the 57 participants, over half wanted to see evidence of a struggle, such as scratches on the offender's body (30 of 57), or of violence, such as bruises on the victim's body (33 of 57). Furthermore, a significant portion of participants wanted to know about the victim's past sexual behavior (24 of 57), and whether this was the offender's first offense (39 of 57). Half of the respondents (28 of 57) felt they would convict the offender on the basis of the victim's word alone.

These findings have practical implications for the conviction of offenders who commit acquaintance rape, as often they use verbal or psychological coercion to overpower their victims (Rapaport & Burkhart, 1984), and often victims of acquaintance rape do not exhibit external cuts or bruises (Bechhofer & Parrot, 1991).

#### An Information Processing Model for Rape and Sanctioning Judgments

Overall, the findings of this study suggest that information is processed in a sequential manner, commencing with information selection, followed by the development of inferences, followed by rape judgments, and concluding with sanctioning decisions. Obviously there are times when individuals make judgments about an acquaintance rape

which do not involve sanctioning judgments (for instance, police officers, medical professionals, mental health providers, and even significant others in a rape victim's life may make judgments which do not extend to sanctioning decisions). In such instances, the rape judgment stage of the model is the final stage. It was of interest to see if this model could account for sanctioning judgments as well. The findings suggest that the process of arriving at sanctioning decisions involves the same information processing as in the formation of rape judgments, and that sanctioning judgments do follow rape judgments in the sequential processing of information. It is interesting that only 21% of the total variance in sanctioning decisions could be accounted for by preceding stages in the information processing paradigm. This suggests that there are other factors than what has been outlined in this study which affect or determine sanctioning judgments. Future research needs to closely examine the process of arriving at sanctioning judgments, as this has practical implications for the conviction and punishment of rapists who commit acquaintance rape. The model proposed by this study would be a useful point of departure for investigating the process of developing sanctioning judgments.

### Practical Implications

There are several practical implications for research on the cognitive processes involved in rape judgments. Rape victims may come into contact with a number of individuals (such as police officers, medical personnel, lawyers, judges, jurors, and mental health professionals), who make judgments and causal attributions concerning the rape. These individuals have been found to make inaccurate or faulty judgments about rape

victims and to attribute some degree of responsibility to them (Field, 1978). Mental health professionals may hold stereotypical beliefs about rape victims, leading in some cases to negative judgments and attribution of responsibility to the victim, which may seriously undermine the victim's recovery (Dye & Roth, 1990). Similarly, boyfriends or husbands of a rape victim may develop negative and inaccurate judgments about the rape, possibly even rejecting the victim after a rape (Holstrom & Burgess, 1979). Reactions and level of support offered by family members and friends, (including how they evaluate rape, perceive the victim and perpetrator, and attribute responsibility) are also important determinants in the victim's psychological recovery from rape (Holstrom & Burgess, 1979). Therefore, how individuals interpret the rape situation, assign responsibility for what happened, and consequently treat the victim, has important implications for the victim's psychological recovery (Burgess & Holstrom, 1979; Dye & Roth, 1990).

The importance of understanding how jurors process information and develop rape judgments is obvious, as they must make decisions about convicting suspected offenders. Jurors are often average citizens who likely believe some rape myths, may have traditional sex-role beliefs, or may harbor some feelings of hostility towards women. Understanding the cognitive processes of arriving at rape judgments, and how these judgments in turn affect sanctioning decisions is important.

#### Strengths and Limitations of Study

The strengths of this study include the development of an information processing model regarding acquaintance rape judgments, the development and validation of several

questionnaires measuring the various constructs in the information processing paradigm, and the inclusion of a post-experimental questionnaire to increase validity of the results. The study's limitations include a potentially biased sample, a limited sample size, the forced-choice format of the Rape Script Survey, and the applicability of the Hostility Towards Women Scale for female respondents. The strengths and limitations of the study are discussed in further detail below.

This study presents an attempt to offer an integrative perspective for understanding the cognitive processes involved in acquaintance rape judgments and sanctioning judgments. Many studies in this area have examined different variables which impact on rape judgments or sanctioning judgments, but no efforts have been made to bring numerous variables together in an information processing model. This study may provide an initial foundation for rape research which focuses on observers' cognitive processes. The cognitive processing model offered here requires further testing using path analysis, to further refine the stages in the model, and the possibility of some sequential ordering of variable within sets.

This research resulted in the development and validation of questionnaires which measure various constructs in the information processing paradigm. Internal consistency, a measure of the homogeneity of test items (Anastasi, 1988), is important to establish as it evaluates the degree to which different test items measure the same construct (Kaplan & Saccuzzo, 1993). When the items do not measure the same construct, internal reliability scores will be low. Internal consistency was established for all the questionnaires

employed in this study. Future work is needed to investigate further the psychometric properties of these measures.

The inclusion of a post-experimental questionnaire (PEQ) strengthened the results of this study. The PEQ was used primarily to reduce the effects of suspiciousness (as to the purpose of the study) and expectancy effects (the feeling that one's answers had been affected because of how the participant thought the researcher wanted them to respond), and to investigate the practical significance of three of the theoretical constructs used (cause, responsibility and blame). First, the identification of suspicious participants and those believed to be affected by experimenter expectation, and the consequent deletion of these responses from data analyses is important to ensure the validity of the data. The attainment of genuine participant responses is essential to the validity of the study. In reference to the second purpose of the PEQ, determining whether the constructs of cause, responsibility, and blame were differentiated by participants in a practical sense was important as it enhances the validity of the interpretation of the data. Despite the theoretical distinctions (e.g., Fiske & Taylor, 1991; Shaver & Drown, 1986) made between cause, responsibility, and blame, it appears that individuals do not differentiate between the three constructs. Furthermore, these results suggest the necessity of determining the meaningfulness of constructs to the respondents before interpreting data based on their responses. The information provided by the PEQ regarding cause, responsibility, and blame was also useful in conceptualizing the items which would be included in the specific subscales of the attribution questionnaire.

As with much of psychological research, an inherent shortcoming is the employment of university students as its sample. University students are often a "biased sample" because of their unique group characteristics. This study was no exception, as the university student sample likely had prior knowledge concerning date/acquaintance rape. As mentioned previously, acquaintance rape is the primary focus of rape awareness campaigns, which are conducted at the beginning of each academic year. Therefore applying the findings of the present study to the general population (especially those individuals without higher education) is a problem, as it may have limited ecological validity. Future studies should investigate a sample from the general population to determine if the same pattern of information processing emerges. It would also be interesting to examine the cognitive processes of offenders who are serving time for the offense of rape to assess whether their attitudes, inferences, and rape judgments differ from individuals in the general population.

A second limitation of this study is the modest sample size of 57 participants. Although sufficient for the analyses which were undertaken, more robust analyses such as path analysis/causal modeling require significantly larger sample sizes. Future research seeking to improve on this proposed model should employ a larger sample size, thereby allowing for more sophisticated statistical analyses.

A third limitation stems from with the Rape Script Survey, as it was used in this study. As addressed in the section "rape-relevant attitudes and victim and offender inferences", this study only allowed participants to describe one typical rape. Therefore,



participants who appreciated that rape could be committed by either a stranger or an acquaintance were required to choose only one type of description. This forced choice scenario may have adversely affected the results, as the classification system used (on the basis of a forced choice answer) may have been inadequate. This study also conceptualized the observer's rape script to be somewhat synonymous to their rape definition. Again, this is a limitation as the two (rape script and rape definition) are theoretically distinct. Future research should examine the possibilities of observers holding more than one rape script, as well as clearly delineate the theoretical distinctions between rape script and rape definition.

One final limitation stems from the measure used to assess hostility towards women in this study. This scale was specifically designed to measure "male" hostility towards women. Therefore, the items may not be particularly suitable for female respondents. For example, items may read "I do very few things to women that make me feel remorseful afterward", or "I rarely become suspicious with women who are friendlier than I expected". Clearly these items appear more suitable for males respondents. In fact, several female participants questioned whether they were given the "correct version" of the questionnaire, obviously identifying it as one designed for males (they were instructed to complete the questionnaire, referring to their "platonic" relationships with women). Furthermore, the wording of some items may be more oriented to males, and therefore be less appropriate for female respondents. Despite the gender specific wording of items, it is suggested that because women can also be hostile or adversarial in their relationships with other women, this scale is not extremely limiting. Future research is needed to develop

either a gender-neutral measure of hostility towards women, or two separate (male/female) versions of the measure.

### Future Directions

Overall, the findings of this study suggest that the processing of information concerning acquaintance rape occurs in a sequential order beginning with the selection of information, followed by the development of inferences and resulting in rape judgments, and consequent sanctioning judgments. The sequential ordering of variables within each hypothesized stage of information processing was not examined in this study. For example, perceptions of the victim's behavior may have preceded inferences concerning her level of desire, or vice versa. Likewise, some judgments may have preceded other judgments (e.g., whether perception of rape preceded judgments of victim responsibility or vice versa). Future research could be directed toward determining the specific "paths" which information travels along. Through the application of path analysis a more refined understanding of the organization of the cognitive variables within each set could be obtained.

Sex differences were found to be a factor in rape judgments and sanctioning decisions in this study. This is consistent with previous rape research which has reported different patterns of judgments for males and females (e.g., Gilmartin-Zena, 1983; Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1995; Proite, Dannells, & Benton, 1993; Pugh, 1983). As Pugh (1983) points out, there may be a "like-sex bias" with males being more sympathetic of the offender, and therefore more lenient in their sanctioning decisions. Conversely, as

Calhoun, Selby, and Warring (1976) have observed, women more often adopt the perspective of the victim (than do men). Sex differences are likely the result of differing attitudes held by men and women. For instance, this study found that males had a higher degree of rape myth acceptance than females. Other research has found similar sex differences in rape myth acceptance (Check & Malamuth, 1983; Muehlenhard & Linton, 1987), and traditional sex-role beliefs (Larsen & Long, 1988; Lottes, 1991). In fact, when rape-relevant attitudes have been controlled for in some studies, results indicate no sex differences in rape judgments (Check & Malamuth, 1983; Krahe, 1988). These possibilities should be examined in future studies, with particular focus on the determining what causes the differences in male and female rape judgments (e.g., determining whether it is specific attitudes that lead to apparent sex differences). Understanding sex differences in the process of formulating rape judgments may be extended to, and facilitate our understanding of how males and females perceive and integrate information in the sexual situations they encounter. This avenue of research may shed light on why date rape is so prevalent in our society.

Another useful direction for rape judgment research is to determine the cognitive processes of individuals who do not perceive acquaintance rape as "rape". As previously mentioned, this study had only seven participants who did not see the situation as rape, and therefore statistical analyses on their responses was impossible. Had a much larger sample been obtained, it is likely that the proportion of participants who saw the acquaintance rape situation as "not rape" would have increased and afforded a comparison with the other

group. As mentioned previously, obtaining a sample from the general population (as opposed to university students) may result in more participants perceiving the situation as non-rape. Examination of differences between those perceiving the situation as rape and those perceiving it as non-rape in their rape-relevant attitudes, rape script, inferences, and rape and sanctioning judgments would provide useful information, especially for our understanding of the acquittal of such a large number of acquaintance rape offenders. Because the resistance of the woman in the vignette was early in the sexual encounter, it may have reduced the ambiguity of the situation. Early resistance by the female is an indicator of rape (Shotland & Goodstein, 1983). Future research should investigate later onset of victim resistance, as this may substantially increase the ambiguity (especially in the development of inferences regarding victim desire and consent) of the situation.

Another useful future direction would be the use of qualitative analyses to provide more details about the thought processes of observers. Instead of having participants solely rate pre-assigned items, they may be given the opportunity to describe their inferences and give reasons for their decisions and judgments. When combined with the quantitative approach, qualitative analyses might provide a much richer picture to help us understand how, why, and what influences an individual to reach a rape decision in an ambiguous sexual encounter.

### General Conclusions

This study brought together a large number of variables in an attempt to begin to map out the cognitive process in arriving at rape judgments and sanctioning decisions.

This research supports the view that it is the manner in which information is processed by the observer (through the various stages in the information processing paradigm), as opposed to the specific information which is available to the observer, which may be most influential in the formation of rape judgments. This study suggests that observers are selective in what information they attend to, where information congruent with one's attitudes is more readily attended to and selected for information processing. Furthermore, once this information is selected, it is used to develop inferences about ambiguous or unclear information, and these inferences are, in turn, used to form judgments concerning the rape. In short, this study offers a conceptual model to aid in our understanding of the cognitive processes involved in formulating rape judgments and sanctioning decisions.

The manipulation of variables was not undertaken in this study, the entire sample received the identical vignette (containing both victim and offender accounts of the events which transpired on their date). Therefore, the differences in rape judgments and sanctioning judgments which emerged cannot be attributed to *experimental manipulations* of variables, but rather are related to *inferences* which were developed by the observer. This supports the contention that it is the inferences which are developed by the observer, in response to unclear or ambiguous information regarding a rape, which affect their rape judgments.

Two important points need to be kept in mind when interpreting the findings of the study above. First, judgments concerning rape perception and victim and offender responsibility are not necessarily made simultaneously, although they were considered

together in one set in this study. It may be possible that attributions of responsibility may precede judgments of rape perception or vice versa. For purposes of this study, we are conceptualizing them as occurring simultaneously. Future research is needed to determine if there is a sequential order to these judgments.

Second, when discussing rape perceptions, it is important to remember that the participants had varying degrees of agreement (ranging from "strongly agree" to "neutral") that the situation they read was rape. This also holds true for participants' judgments concerning victim and offender responsibility. When the responsibility scores assigned to the offender and victim were considered within the context of the maximum range of scores for the respective scales, it could be seen that the offender was predominantly held responsible for the rape, whereas the victim was only held minimally or slightly accountable. Thus, participants who were referred to as assigning *more* responsibility to the victim or offender were assigning only a small amount of responsibility to the victim and proportionately more to the offender.

This study has provided an information processing, integrative framework for understanding the process of making rape judgments. Future research can now focus on mapping out the specific paths in which information progresses, and the possibility of sequential ordering of variables within sets of the paradigm. Future work is also needed to investigate the decision making process of jurors when faced with ambiguous and limited information concerning acquaintance rape.



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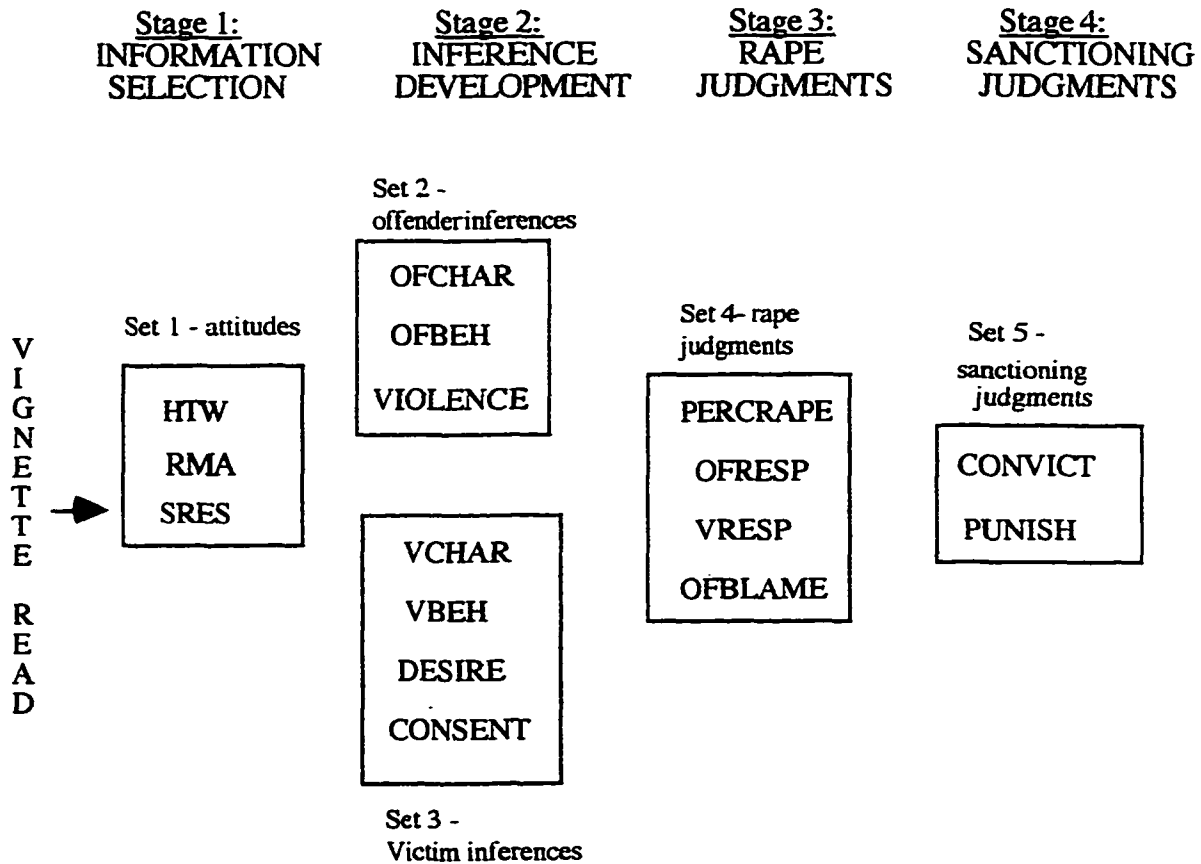
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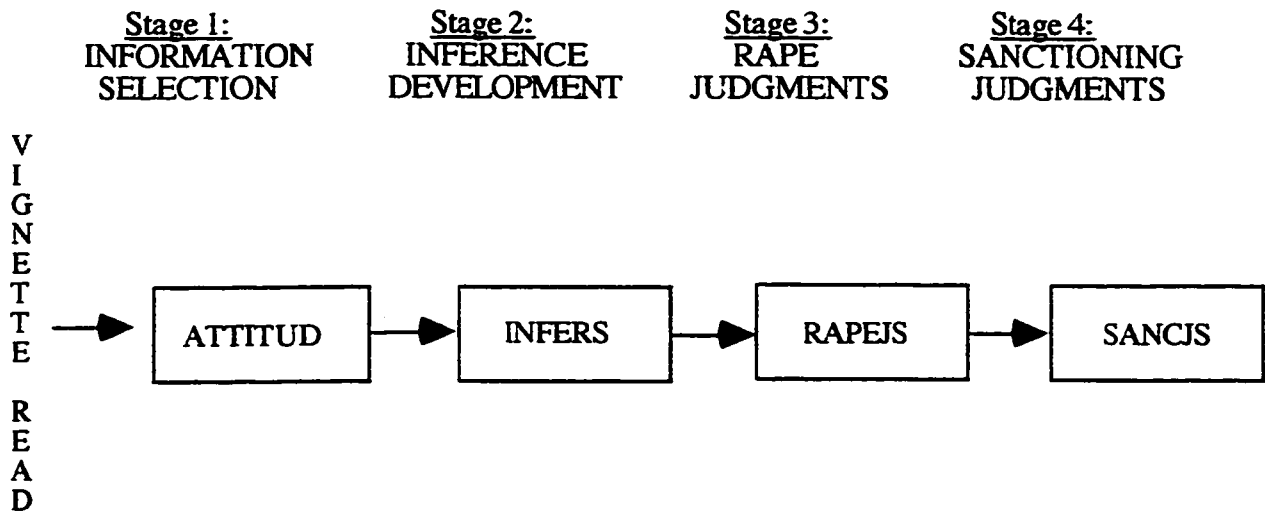
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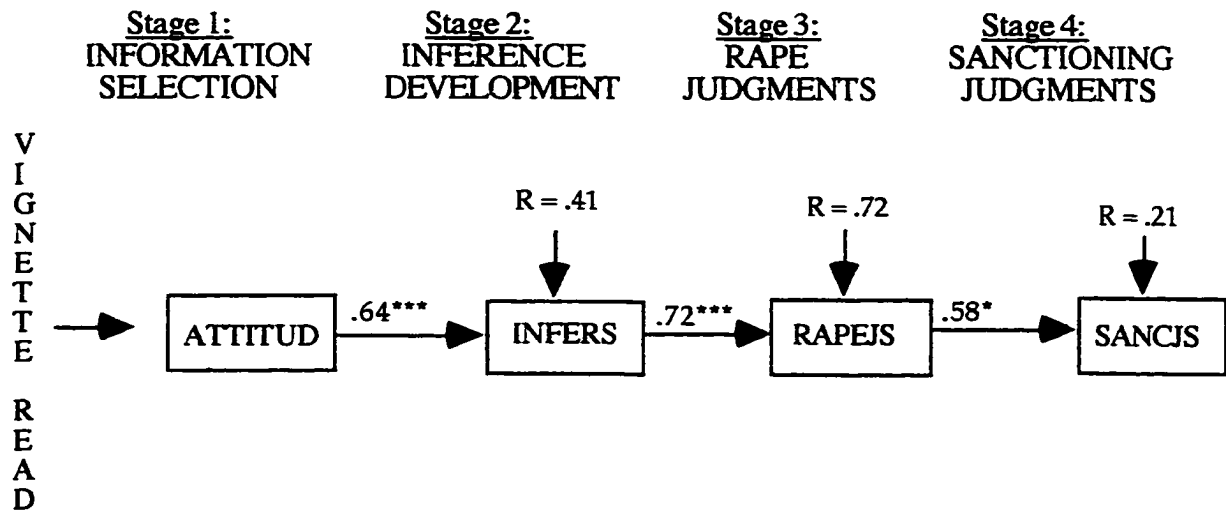
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**Figure 1.** Hypothesized Cognitive Stages in the Formation of Acquaintance Rape Judgments and Sanctioning Judgments. HTW = hostility towards women. RMA = rape myth acceptance. SRES = sex-role beliefs. OFCHAR = offender character. OFBEH = offender behavior. VIOLENCE = offender violence. VCHAR = victim character. VBEH = victim behavior. DESIRE = victim desire. CONSENT = victim consent. PERCRAPE = perception of situation as rape. OFRESP = offender responsibility. VRESP = victim responsibility. OFBLAME = offender blame. CONVICT = willingness to convict. PUNISH = severity of punishment. RSTYPE was removed from all analyses as it did not correlate with any other variable. Analyses on Set 4 (rape judgments) included only the 50 participants who perceived the situation as rape. Excluded due to the small sample size were the 7 participants who did not see the Jim-Sarah scenario as rape.



**Figure 2.** Hypothesized Order of Sets in the Processing of Information Concerning Acquaintance Rape. **ATTITUDE** represents a composite score for attitudes (HTW, RMA, SRES), and is the first stage (information selection) in the information processing model. **INFERS** represents a composite score for offender and victim inferences (OFCHAR, OFBEH, VIOLENCE), and is the second stage (inference development) in the processing of information. **RAPEJS** represents a composite score for rape judgments (PERCRAPE, VRESP, OFRESP, OFBLAME) and comprises the third stage (rape judgments) in information processing. Finally, **SANCJS** represents a composite score for sanctioning judgments (CONVICT, PUNISH), and is considered the fourth stage in this model.



**Figure 3.** Order of Stages in the Processing of Information Concerning Acquaintance Rape. ATTITUDE represents the first stage (information selection) in the information processing model. INFERS is the second stage (inference development) in the processing of information. RAPEJS comprises the third stage (rape judgments) in information processing. Finally, SANCJS is considered the fourth stage in this model.

Table 1  
Internal Reliability of Variables

Variable	Cronbach's alpha
Set 1 (Attitudes)	
HTW	.72
RMA	.91
SRES	.96
Set 2 (Offender Inferences)	
OFCHAR	.91
OFBEH	.71
VIOLENCE	.81
Set 3 (Victim Inferences)	
VCHAR	.88
VBEH	.78
DESIRE	.81
CONSENT	.87
Set 4 (Rape Judgments)	
PERCRAPE	.95
OFBLAME	.84
OFRESP	.90
VRESP	.77
Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments)	
CONVICT	.75

Note. The Cronbach's alpha for all variables, except OFBLAME, OFRESP, and VRESP were based on the entire sample ( $n=57$ ). The internal reliability scores for the variables OFBLAME, OFRESP, and VRESP were based on the 50 participants who completed Form A of the Attribution Questionnaire (because they perceived the situation as rape). Excluded were seven participants who did not see the situation as rape. No analyses was performed on this group because of its small sample size. The variable PUNISH in Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments) was not subjected to internal consistency examination because it had only one item.

Table 2

Intercorrelations Among Set 1 (Attitudes and Personal Rape Script)

Variable	1	2	3	4
1. RSTYPE	--	-.18	-.09	.15
2. HTW		--	.28*	-.21
3. RMA			--	-.71**
4. SRES				--

Note.  $n = 57$ . \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ .

Table 3  
Correlations Between Rape Script type and Set 2 (Offender Inferences), Set 3 (Victim Inferences), Set 4 (Rape Judgments), and Set 5 (Sanctioning Decisions)

Variable	RSTYPE
Set 2 (Offender Inferences)	
OFCHAR	-.25
OFBEH	-.25
VIOLENCE	.17
Set 3 (Victim Inferences)	
VCHAR	.08
VBEH	.24
DESIRE	-.14
CONSENT	.20
Set 4 (Rape judgments)	
PERCRAPE	.23
VRESP	.06
OFRESP	.11
OFBLAME	-.13
Set 5 (Sanctioning judgments)	
CONVICT	.13
PUNISH	.06

Note.  $n = 57$  for all variables except VRESP, OFRESP, and OFBLAME. The correlations involving the variables OFBLAME, OFRESP, and VRESP were based on the 50 participants who completed Form A of the Attribution Questionnaire (because they perceived the situation as rape). Seven participants who did not see the situation as rape were excluded from correlational analyses because they completed Form B. No analyses was performed on this group because of its small sample size. All correlations were non-significant,  $p > .05$ .



Table 4

Intercorrelations Among Set 2 (Offender Inferences)

Variable	1	2	3
1. OFCHAR	--	.39**	-.63**
2. OFBEH		--	-.44**
3. VIOLENCE			--

Note.  $n = 57$ . \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ .

Table 5

Intercorrelations Among Set 3 (Victim Inferences)

Variable	1	2	3	4
1. VCHAR	—	.57**	-.49**	.67**
2. VBEH		—	-.34**	.62**
3. DESIRE			—	-.55**
4. CONSENT				—

Note.  $n = 57$ . \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ .

Table 6

Intercorrelations Among Set 4 (Rape Judgments)

Variable	1	2	3	4
1. OFBLAME	--	.30*	-.14	.37**
2. OFRESP		--	-.46**	.77***
3. VRESP			--	-.56***
4. PERCRAPE				--

**Note.** The correlations involving the variables in this set were based on the 50 participants who completed Form A of the Attribution Questionnaire (because they perceived the situation as rape). Seven participants who did not see the situation as rape were excluded from correlational analyses because they completed Form B. No analyses was performed on this group because of its small sample size. \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .0001$

Table 7

Intercorrelations Between Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments)

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Variable	1	2
1. CONVICT	—	.46***
2. PUNISH		—

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Note. n = 57. \*\*\*p<.0001

Table 8

Correlations among Variables in Set 1 (Attitudes), Set 2 (Offender Inferences), Set 3 (Victim Inferences), Set 4 (Rape Judgments), and Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments)

	Set 1 (Attitudes)		
	HTW	RMA	SRES
<u>Set 2 (Offender Inferences)</u>			
OFCHAR	-.15	.28*	-.17
OFBEH	.13	.28*	-.45***
VIOLENCE	.00	-.38**	.20
<u>Set 3 (Victim Inferences)</u>			
VCHAR	-.26*	-.70***	.47***
VBEH	-.27*	-.62***	.44**
DESIRE	.10	.35**	-.14
CONSENT	-.17	-.67***	.49***
<u>Set 4 (Rape Judgments)</u>			
PERCRAPE	-.14	-.68***	-.68***
VRESP	.16	.57***	-.34*
OFRESP	-.16	-.57***	.48***
OFBLAME	.07	-.36*	.15
<u>Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments)</u>			
CONVICT	-.14	-.44**	.18
PUNISH	-.14	-.40**	.11

Note.  $n = 57$  for all variables except VRESP, OFRESP, and OFBLAME. The correlations involving the variables OFBLAME, OFRESP, and VRESP were based on the 50 participants who completed Form A of the Attribution Questionnaire (because they perceived the situation as rape). Seven participants who did not see the situation as rape were excluded from correlational analyses because they completed Form B. No analyses was performed on this group because of its small sample size. \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .0001$ .

Table 9

Correlations among Variables in Set 2 (Offender Inferences), Set 3 (Victim Inferences), Set 4 (Rape Judgments), and Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments)

	Set 2 (Offender Inferences)		
	OFCHAR	OFBEH	VIOLENCE
<u>Set 3 (Victim Inferences)</u>			
VCHAR	-.32*	-.28*	.36**
VBEH	-.30*	-.31*	.22
DESIRE	.46***	.24	-.62***
CONSENT	-.31*	-.49***	.45***
<u>Set 4 (Rape Judgments)</u>			
PERCRAPE	-.56***	-.46***	.64***
VRESP	.16	.38**	-.30*
OFRESP	-.47**	-.39**	.39**
OFBLAME	-.46**	-.18	.48***
<u>Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments)</u>			
CONVICT	-.34**	-.35**	.47***
PUNISH	-.40**	-.15	.55***

Note.  $n = 57$  for all variables except VRESP, OFRESP, and OFBLAME. The correlations involving the variables OFBLAME, OFRESP, and VRESP were based on the 50 participants who completed Form A of the Attribution Questionnaire (because they perceived the situation as rape). Seven participants who did not see the situation as rape were excluded from correlational analyses because they completed Form B. No analyses was performed on this group because of its small sample size. \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .0001$ .

Table 10

Correlations among Variables in Set 3 (Victim Inferences), Set 4 (Rape Judgments), and Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments)

	Set 3 (Victim Inferences)			
	VCHAR	VBEH	DESIRE	CONSENT
<u>Set 4 (Rape Judgments)</u>				
PERCRAPE	.58***	.62***	-.65***	.80***
VRESP	-.66***	-.51***	.51***	-.66***
OFRESP	.47**	.49***	-.46**	.57***
OFBLAME	.21	.14	-.27	.16
<u>Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments)</u>				
CONVICT	.22	.40**	-.47***	.48***
PUNISH	.38**	.25	-.57***	.46***

Note.  $n = 57$  for all variables except VRESP, OFRESP, and OFBLAME. The correlations involving the variables OFBLAME, OFRESP, and VRESP are based on the 50 participants who completed Form A of the Attribution Questionnaire (because they perceived the situation as rape). Seven participants who did not see the situation as rape were excluded from correlational analyses because they completed Form B. No analyses was performed on this group because of its small sample size. \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .0001$ .

Table 11

Correlations among Variables in Set 4 (Rape Judgments), and Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments)

	Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments)	
	CONVICT	PUNISH
<u>Set 4 (Rape Judgments)</u>		
PERCRAPE	.57***	.57***
VRESP	-.26	-.16
OFRESP	.27	.29*
OFBLAME	.35*	.47**

Note.  $n = 57$  for all variables except VRESP, OFRESP, and OFBLAME. The correlations involving the variables OFBLAME, OFRESP, and VRESP are based on the 50 participants who completed Form A of the Attribution Questionnaire (because they perceived the situation as rape). Seven participants who did not see the situation as rape were excluded from correlational analyses because they completed Form B. No analyses was performed on this group because of its small sample size. \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .0001$ .



Table 12

Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies Between Set 2 (Offender Inferences) and Set 1 (Attitudes) and their Corresponding Canonical Variates

	First Canonical variate		Second canonical variate	
	Correlation	Coefficient	Correlation	Coefficient
<b>Set 2 (Offender Inferences)</b>				
OFCHAR	.16	-.27	.82	.35
OFBEH	-.82	1.08	.57	.20
VIOLENCE	-.16	.42	-.94	-.65
Proportion of variance	.24		.62	
Redundancy	.07		.11	
<b>Set 1 (Attitudes)</b>				
HTW	-.41	.39	-.06	-.35
SRES	.75	-1.29	-.66	.01
RMA	-.14	-.87	.94	1.05
Proportion of variance	.07		.08	
Redundancy	.25		.44	
Canonical correlation	.52		.43	

**Note.**  $n = 57$ . Total proportion of variance for Set 2 (offender Inferences) is .86, with a total redundancy of .18. Set 1 (attitudes) has a total variance of .15, with a total redundancy of .69.

Table 13

Correlations, Standardized Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 3 (Victim Inferences) and Set 1 (Attitudes) and their Corresponding Canonical Variates

	Canonical variate	
	Correlation	Coefficient
Set 3 (Victim Inferences)		
VCHAR	-.91	-.53
VBEH	-.81	-.33
DESIRE	.44	-.12
CONSENT	-.86	-.35
Proportion of variance	.60	
Redundancy	.36	
Set 1 (Attitudes)		
HTW	.36	.09
SRES	-.71	-.02
RMA	.99	.96
Proportion of variance	.33	
Redundancy	.54	
Canonical correlation	.77	

Note.  $n = 57$ .

Table 14

Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 4 (Rape Judgments) and Set 2 (Offender Inferences) and their Corresponding Canonical Variates

	Canonical variate	
	Correlation	Coefficient
Set 4 (Rape Judgments)		
PERCRAPE	-.94	-.87
OFRESP	-.72	.02
VRESP	.45	-.08
OFBLAME	-.66	-.36
Proportion of variance	.51	
Redundancy	.28	
Set 2 (Offender Inferences)		
OFBEH	.66	.36
OFCHAR	.87	.53
VIOLENCE	-.81	-.37
Proportion of variance	.34	
Redundancy	.62	
Canonical correlation	.74	

Note.  $n = 50$ .

Table 15

Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 4 (Rape Judgments) and Set 3 (Victim Inferences) and their Corresponding Canonical Variate

	Canonical variate	
	Correlation	Coefficient
<b>Set 3 (Rape Judgments)</b>		
PERCRAPE	-.91	-.60
OFRESP	-.75	-.07
VRESP	.85	.48
OFBLAME	-.28	.04
Proportion of variance	.55	
Redundancy	.43	
<b>Set 4 (Victim Inferences)</b>		
VBEH	-.76	-.32
VCHAR	-.80	-.22
DESIRE	.67	.34
CONSENT	-.86	-.41
Proportion of variance	.47	
Redundancy	.61	
Canonical correlation	.88	

Note.  $n = 50$ .

Table 16

Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments) and Set 4 (Rape Judgments) and their Corresponding Canonical Variate

	Canonical variate	
	Correlation	Coefficient
<b>Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments)</b>		
PUNISH	.80	.65
CONVICT	.77	.61
Proportion of variance	.62	
Redundancy	.22	
<b>Set 4 (Rape Judgments)</b>		
PERCRAPE	.74	.40
OFRESP	.60	.02
OFBLAME	.89	.72
VRESP	-.45	-.12
Proportion of variance	.17	
Redundancy	.48	
Canonical correlation	.59	

Note.  $n = 57$ .

Table 17

Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 4 (Rape Judgments) and Set 1 (Attitudes) and their Corresponding Canonical Variate

	Canonical variate	
	Correlation	Coefficient
Set 4 (Rape Judgments)		
VRESP	.80	.44
OFRESP	-.73	-.03
OFBLAME	-.51	-.24
PERCRAPE	-.91	-.56
Proportion of variance	.57	
Redundancy	.29	
Set 1 (Attitudes)		
HTW	.20	-.02
RMA	.99	1.08
SRES	-.63	.12
Proportion of variance	.25	
Redundancy	.48	
Canonical correlation	.72	

Note.  $n = 50$ .

Table 18  
Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments) and Set 1 (Attitudes) and their Corresponding Canonical Variate

	Canonical variate	
	Correlation	Coefficient
Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments)		
PUNISH	.85	.57
CONVICT	.86	.60
Proportion of variance	.73	
Redundancy	.22	
Set 1 (Attitudes)		
HTW	-.30	-.06
RMA	-.89	-1.32
SRES	.32	-.63
Proportion of variance	.10	
Redundancy	.33	
Canonical correlation	.55	

Note.  $n = 57$ .

Table 19

Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments) and Set 2 (Offender Inferences) and their Corresponding Canonical Variate

	Canonical variate	
	Correlation	Coefficient
<b>Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments)</b>		
PUNISH	.91	.70
CONVICT	.79	.46
Proportion of variance	.72	
Redundancy	.26	
<b>Set 2 (Offender Inferences)</b>		
VIOLENCE	.99	.87
OFBEH	-.42	-.02
OFCHAR	-.73	-.17
Proportion of variance	.21	
Redundancy	.56	
Canonical correlation	.60	

Note.  $n = 57$ .



Table 20

Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments) and Set 3 (Victim Inferences) and their Corresponding Canonical Variate

	Canonical variate	
	Correlation	Coefficient
<b>Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments)</b>		
PUNISH	.85	.58
CONVICT	.86	.59
Proportion of variance	.73	
Redundancy	.32	
<b>Set 3 (Victim Inferences)</b>		
VBEH	.57	.16
VCHAR	.52	-.26
CONSENT	.82	.52
DESIRE	-.90	-.69
Proportion of variance	.23	
Redundancy	.52	
Canonical correlation	.67	

Note.  $n = 57$ .

Table 21

Correlations, Standardized Canonical Coefficients, Canonical Correlations, Proportions of Variance, and Redundancies between Set 2 (Offender Inferences) and Set 3 (Victim Inferences) and their Corresponding Canonical Variates

	First Canonical variate		Second Canonical variate	
	Correlation	Coefficient	Correlation	Coefficient
<b>Set 2 (Offender Inferences)</b>				
OFCHAR	-.71	-.12	.13	.19
OFBEH	-.56	-.20	-.83	-1.08
VIOLENCE	.98	.82	-.18	-.48
Proportion of variance	.59		.24	
Redundancy	.24		.04	
<b>Set 3 (Victim Inferences)</b>				
VCHAR	.61	-.01	.18	-.36
VBEH	.45	-.07	.53	.35
DESIRE	-.94	-.74	.30	.82
CONSENT	.78	.43	.59	1.07
Proportion of variance	.22		.03	
Redundancy	.52		.19	
Canonical correlation	.65		.43	

Note.  $n = 57$ . Total proportion of variance for Set 2 (offender Inferences) is .83, with a total redundancy of .28. Set 3 (victim inferences) has a total variance of .25, with a total redundancy of .71.

Table 22

Regression Analyses Examining the Sequential Ordering of the First Three Proposed Stages (Information Selection, Inference Development, Rape Judgments) in the Processing of Information concerning Acquaintance Rape.

	Stage 3 (Rape Judgments) RAPEJS		
	R <sup>2</sup> CH	F	p
Stage 2 (Inference Development)			
INFERS	.70	112.40	.001
Stage 1 (Information Selection)			
ATTITUDE	.02	3.82	n.s.

Note. ATTITUDE represents a composite score for attitudes (HTW, RMA, SRES). INFERS represents a composite score for offender and victim inferences (OFCHAR, OFBEH, VIOLENCE). RAPEJS represents a composite score for rape judgments (PERCRAPE, VRESP, OFRESP, OFBLAME).

Table 23

Regression Analyses Examining the Sequential Ordering of Proposed Stages (Information Selection, Inference Development, Rape Judgments, Sanctioning Judgments) in the Processing of Information concerning Acquaintance Rape.

	Stage 4 (Sanctioning Judgments) SANCJS		
	R <sup>2</sup> CH	F	p
Stage 3 (Rape Judgments)			
RAPEJS	.20	11.89	.001
Stage 2 (Inferences)			
INFERS	.01	.01	n.s.
Stage 1 (Attitudes)			
ATTITUDE	.00	.02	n.s.

Note. ATTITUDE represents a composite score for attitudes (HTW, RMA, SRES). INFERS represents a composite score for offender and victim inferences (OFCHAR, OFBEH, VIOLENCE). RAPEJS represents a composite score for rape judgments (PERCRAPE, VRESP, OFRESP, OFBLAME). SANCJS represents a composite score for sanctioning judgments (CONVICT, PUNISH).

Table 24

Means (and standard deviations) for Participants who Identified the Situation as Rape versus Those who Identified as Non-Rape on Attitudinal, Inferential, and Judgment Variables

Variable	Perceived as Rape ( $n = 50$ )	Perceived as not rape ( $n = 7$ )	t-value
<b>Set 1 (Attitudes)</b>			
HTW	6.88 (4.34)	8.00 (4.12)	.64
RMA	33.26 (9.92)	47.86 (9.12)	-3.68***
SRES	111.96 (13.73)	103.29 (7.34)	1.63
<b>Set 2 (Offender Inferences)</b>			
OFCHAR	18.74 (8.14)	24.86 (8.93)	.07
OFBEH	9.40 (4.37)	10.71 (3.95)	-.75
VIOLENCE	18.56 (3.14)	14.29 (3.50)	3.33**
<b>Set 3 (Victim Inferences)</b>			
VCHAR	42.76 (8.15)	33.71(11.41)	2.62*
VBEH	30.10 (6.12)	23.57 (6.19)	2.64*
DESIRE	9.86 (3.34)	15.57 (4.43)	-4.07***
CONSENT	51.62 (5.66)	37.43 (5.74)	6.20***
<b>Set 4 (Rape Judgments)<sup>a</sup></b>			
PERCRAPE	92.92 (12.68)	61.43 (9.64)	6.30***
OFRESP	47.88 (6.83)	--	--
VRESP	8.66 (3.39)	--	--
OFBLAME	5.90 (2.71)	--	--
<b>Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments)</b>			
CONVICT	33.72 (8.05)	21.71 (6.63)	3.76***
PUNISH	4.56 (1.33)	1.43 (.54)	6.13***

Note. \*  $p < .05$ . \*\*  $p < .01$ . \*\*\*  $p < .001$ . Higher scores on attitudinal variables indicate more hostility toward women (HTW), more rape myth acceptance (RMA), more egalitarian

sex-role beliefs (SRES). Higher scores on offender inference variables indicate less negative perceptions of the offender, character (OFCHAR), behavior (OFBEH), and perception of less degree of violence (VIOLENCE). Higher scores on victim inference variables indicate more positive perceptions of the victim, character (VCHAR), behavior (VBEH), desire for sex (DESIRE), and consent (CONSENT). Higher scores on conviction variable (CONVICT) indicated more willingness to convict. Higher scores on the punishment variable (PUNISH) indicate more severe punishment. Descriptive statistics for Set 4 (Rape Judgments) variables were available only for the group of respondents who saw the scenario as rape.

<sup>a</sup>The variables within Set 4 were not applicable to the other group because they did not see the scenario as rape and therefore did not perceive either character in the vignette as offender or victim.

Table 25  
Means (and standard deviations) for Male and Female Participants on Attitudinal, Inferential, and Judgment Variables

Variable	Males ( $n = 22$ )	Females ( $n = 35$ )	t-value
<b>Set 1 (Attitudes)</b>			
HTW	7.14 (0.68)	6.94 (4.91)	.87
RMA	39.68 (11.45)	32.14 (9.56)	2.68*
SRES	104.05 (16.01)	115.20 (9.33)	-3.33**
<b>Set 2 (Offender Inferences)</b>			
OFCHAR	20.14 (8.64)	19.09 (8.35)	.46
OFBEH	11.23 (5.55)	8.51 (2.93)	2.41*
VIOLENCE	17.41 (3.31)	18.43 (3.54)	-1.09
<b>Set 3 (Victim Inferences)</b>			
VCHAR	39.91 (9.84)	42.74 (8.39)	-1.16
VBEH	26.91 (6.14)	30.80 (6.25)	-2.30*
DESIRE	12.00 (4.96)	9.66 (2.84)	2.27*
CONSENT	46.27 (8.35)	52.14 (5.63)	-3.18**
<b>Set 4 (Rape Judgments)<sup>a</sup></b>			
PERCRAPE	81.32 (16.43)	93.91 (14.06)	-3.08**
OFRESP	44.24 (9.09)	49.76 (4.41)	-2.91**
VRESP	14.71 (5.23)	12.33 (4.01)	1.79
OFBLAME	5.29 (2.44)	6.21 (2.83)	-1.14
<b>Set 5 (Sanctioning Judgments)</b>			
CONVICT	30.55 (8.92)	33.31 (8.66)	3.76***
PUNISH	3.59 (1.89)	4.54 (1.34)	-2.22*

**Note.** \*  $p < .05$ . \*\*  $p < .01$ . \*\*\*  $p < .001$ . Higher scores on attitudinal variables indicate more hostility toward women (HTW), more rape myth acceptance (RMA), more egalitarian sex-role beliefs (SRES). Higher scores on offender inference variables indicate less negative perceptions of the offender, character (OFCHAR), behavior (OFBEH), and

perception of less degree of violence (VIOLENCE). Higher scores on victim inference variables indicate more positive perceptions of the victim, character (VCHAR), behavior (VBEH), desire for sex (DESIRE), and consent (CONSENT). Higher scores on conviction variable (CONVICT) indicated more willingness to convict. Higher scores on the punishment variable (PUNISH) indicate more severe punishment. Descriptive statistics for Set 4 (Rape Judgments) variables were available only for the group of respondents who saw the scenario as rape.

<sup>a</sup>The variables within Set 4 were not applicable to the other group because they did not see the scenario as rape and therefore did not perceive either character in the vignette as offender or victim.



Table 26

**Breakdown of Participant Responses on the Items Measuring Sanctioning Judgments**

Items	Participant Responses		
	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
would convict offender of rape	39 (68%)	10 (18%)	8 (14%)
lack enough evidence to convict	35 (61%)	9 (16%)	13 (23%)
want to know more about victim's past sexual behavior	24 (42%)	4 (7%)	29 (51%)
want to know if this is offender's first offense	39 (68%)	3 (5%)	15 (27%)
want to see evidence of struggle (e.g., scratches on offender's body)	30 (52%)	5 (9%)	22 (39%)
want to see evidence of violence (e.g., bruises on victim's body)	33 (58%)	3 (5%)	21 (37%)
victim's word alone is not enough to convict	28 (49%)	13 (23%)	16 (28%)
would recommend prison for offender	32 (56%)	15 (26%)	10 (18%)
would recommend psychological treatment for offender	44 (77%)	6 (11%)	7 (12%)

**Note.**  $n = 57$ .

**Appendix 1**

**Seduction Script Survey**

## QUESTIONNAIRE 1

**INSTRUCTIONS:** IN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WE ARE INTERESTED IN HOW YOU PERSONALLY THINK A TYPICAL SEDUCTION OF A WOMAN BY A MAN OCCURS. ON THE PAGE PROVIDED WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO DESCRIBE WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS A TYPICAL SCENARIO OF A WOMAN BEING SEDUCED BY A MAN. INCLUDE IN YOUR DESCRIPTION WHAT LED UP TO IT, WHAT HAPPENED DURING, AND WHAT FOLLOWED THE SEDUCTION. REMEMBER, YOUR RESPONSES WILL BE KEPT ANONYMOUS AND CONFIDENTIAL. TO HELP YOU WITH THIS TASK, WE HAVE PROVIDED AN EXAMPLE OF A DESCRIPTION OF A PERSON BUYING GROCERIES:

*A woman enters a grocery store and gets a shopping cart. She proceeds up and down each aisle, stopping to put groceries in her cart. When she is finished getting all her items, she proceeds to the checkouts, and places her groceries on the counter. The cashier scans the items and puts them in a bag. The woman writes a cheque for the total amount of her order. The cashier gives the woman her receipt and says "Have a nice day". The woman pushes the cart out of the store, loads the groceries in her car, and then drives away.*

BELOW PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS A TYPICAL SEDUCTION OF A WOMAN BY A MAN. REMEMBER TO INCLUDE WHAT LED UP TO IT, WHAT HAPPENED DURING, AND WHAT FOLLOWED THE EVENT. WORK AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN AND TRY TO KEEP YOUR DESCRIPTION TO THE SPACE PROVIDED:

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**INSTRUCTIONS:** NOW WE ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING YOUR THOUGHTS IN GREATER DETAIL ON THE SEDUCTION SCENE YOU HAVE JUST WRITTEN. THESE DETAILS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN OUT IN YOUR SCENARIO, BUT YOU PROBABLY HAVE SOME IDEA OF THEM IN YOUR MIND. PLEASE ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

1. What was the relationship between the man and the woman? (Check one)     relative     boyfriend     date     acquaintance     stranger

	<i>not at all</i>	<i>very slightly</i>	<i>a little</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>quite a bit</i>	<i>extreme (extremely)</i>
2. To what extent was the man sexually aroused during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. To what extent was the woman sexually aroused during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. To what extent did the man experience fear during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. To what extent did the woman experience fear during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. To what extent did the man experience anger during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. To what extent did the woman experience anger during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
8. To what extent did the man use manipulation in this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
9. To what extent was the man aggressive during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
10. To what extent did the man use verbal coaxing during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
11. To what extent did the man use a verbal threat of violence during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
12. To what extent did the man use physical restraint during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
13. To what extent was the man physically violent during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
14. To what extent did the woman resist?	1	2	3	4	5	6
15. To what extent do you think this incident was motivated by power?	1	2	3	4	5	6
16. To what extent do you think this incident was motivated by sex?	1	2	3	4	5	6
17. To what extent do you think this incident was motivated by violence?	1	2	3	4	5	6
18. To what extent did the woman suffer physical harm?	1	2	3	4	5	6
19. To what extent did the woman suffer psychological harm?	1	2	3	4	5	6

	<i>low</i>					<i>high</i>
20. What was the man's social status?	1	2	3	4	5	6
21. What was the woman's social status?	1	2	3	4	5	6

	<i>very early</i>					<i>very late</i>
22. When during this incident did the woman begin to resist?	1	2	3	4	5	6

23. Was alcohol present? (Check one)     used by man     used by woman     absent

24. Where did the event take place? (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

25. What did the woman do immediately after this incident? (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

26. What did the man do immediately after this incident? (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix 2**

**Personal Rape Script Survey**



**INSTRUCTIONS:** NOW WE ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING YOUR THOUGHTS AND PERCEPTIONS IN GREATER DETAIL ON THE RAPE SCENE YOU HAVE JUST WRITTEN. THESE DETAILS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN OUT IN YOUR SCENARIO, BUT YOU PROBABLY HAVE SOME IDEA OF THEM IN YOUR MIND. PLEASE ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

1. What was the relationship between the victim and the offender? (Check one)  relative  boyfriend  date  acquaintance  stranger

	<i>not at all</i>	<i>very slightly</i>	<i>a little</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>quite a bit</i>	<i>extreme (extremely)</i>
2. To what extent was the offender sexually aroused during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. To what extent was the victim sexually aroused during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. To what extent did the offender experience fear during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. To what extent did the victim experience fear during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. To what extent did the offender experience anger during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. To what extent did the victim experience anger during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
8. To what extent did the offender use manipulation in this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
9. To what extent was the offender aggressive during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
10. To what extent did the offender use verbal coaxing during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
11. To what extent did the offender use a verbal threat of violence during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
12. To what extent did the offender use physical restraint during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
13. To what extent was the offender physically violent during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
14. To what extent did the victim resist during this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
15. To what extent do you think the offender was motivated by power?	1	2	3	4	5	6
16. To what extent do you think the offender was motivated by sex?	1	2	3	4	5	6
17. To what extent do you think the offender was motivated by violence?	1	2	3	4	5	6
18. To what extent did the victim suffer physical harm?	1	2	3	4	5	6
19. To what extent did the victim suffer psychological harm?	1	2	3	4	5	6

	<i>low</i>					<i>high</i>
20. What was the offender's social status?	1	2	3	4	5	6
21. What was the victim's social status?	1	2	3	4	5	6

	<i>very early</i>					<i>very late</i>
22. When during this incident did the victim begin to resist?	1	2	3	4	5	6

23. Was alcohol present? (Check one)  used by offender  used by victim  absent

24. Where did the event take place? (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

25. What did the victim do immediately after this incident? (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

26. What did the offender do immediately after this incident? (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix 3**

**Acquaintance Rape Vignette**



**BELOW IS AN ACCOUNT OF THE EVENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE ON A DATE BETWEEN JIM AND SARAH.**

Jim arrived at Sarah's residence at exactly 7:00. He buzzed her and the door opened, so Jim proceeded up the stairs to her apartment. Sarah greeted Jim enthusiastically, and told him she would be a few more minutes. Jim sat down on the couch and recalled the party he had attended just two weeks earlier in this very apartment. Jim remembered watching Sarah dancing that night, and how turned on he had been. Jim couldn't remember exactly how the party ended, but he did get Sarah's phone number and had called her three days after the party.

Since that time they had been out twice. The first date they had lunch in a downtown bistro, and on the second date they went to the show. Jim was anticipating this date much more than the first two, as tonight they were going to dinner at an expensive restaurant and then going out dancing afterward. Sarah came out from her room. She was dressed in a low-cut black evening gown. The dress hugged every curve of her body. Jim thought she looked great.

When they arrived at the restaurant Jim told Sarah to order anything she wanted. The atmosphere of the restaurant was very romantic, with dim lighting and soft music. The two enjoyed casual conversation over dinner. When they finished, Jim and Sarah left the restaurant and went to one of Jim's favorite clubs. They danced together for quite some time, only leaving the floor periodically to get drinks. Sarah was laughing, enjoying Jim's attention, and having a great time. Once last call was announced, Jim invited Sarah back to his place. Sarah accepted Jim's invitation. Later that evening Jim and Sarah had sexual intercourse.

**TWO DAYS LATER, SARAH REPORTED THIS INCIDENT TO THE POLICE, CLAIMING SHE WAS RAPED BY JIM. WHEN QUESTIONED, JIM STATED THAT ALTHOUGH HE AND SARAH HAD SEX THAT EVENING, IT WAS CONSENSUAL AND DEFINITELY NOT RAPE.**

**BOTH JIM AND SARAH WERE REQUIRED TO GIVE STATEMENTS ABOUT WHAT TOOK PLACE IN JIM'S APARTMENT THAT EVENING. THEIR STATEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

### **SARAH'S STATEMENT:**

"I accepted Jim's invitation back to his apartment because I was having a good time and wanted to get to know Jim better. When we got to his place Jim put on some music and poured us each a glass of wine. We talked for a few minutes and then Jim kissed me. I responded to his kiss. He touched my hair and my face while he kissed me, it felt nice. After about a minute of kissing, Jim started grabbing my breasts. His kisses became harder and more forceful. He pulled me down to a lying position. I felt things were happening "too fast". He pulled up my dress and fondled me. It didn't feel good, I became uncomfortable. I told him I had to go. He responded "no, you don't want to leave yet" and kissed me very aggressively. I don't remember how many times, but several times I repeated that I had to go. The next thing I knew he had my hands pinned down on the couch over my head and was pulling down his pants with his other hand. I tried to get my hands free, but he was too strong. "Don't please, I don't want to" I told him. He put his mouth over mine and kissed me hard. Then he entered me and had sex with me, he raped me. When he was finished, he told me to get dressed. In silence, he drove me home. As I got out of the car he thanked me for the date. I ran into my house crying.

### **JIM'S STATEMENT:**

"Sarah and I were having a great time at the club. We were flirting with each other all night, I guess you could say we had a "mutual attraction". So, I invited her back to my apartment. When we arrived, we talked for a bit. I remember thinking how beautiful she was as she talked, and then I kissed her. She kissed me back, and we made out for awhile. I touched her hair, her face, her breasts. She seemed to be enjoying herself. I laid her down on the couch and we kissed some more. After some heavy petting she said she should go, but it sounded like she didn't really want to stop. I kissed her while holding her hands together above her head. She seemed to like it. We were both getting pretty turned on at this point. Then we had sex. It was consensual, I definitely did not rape Sarah. When we were done I gave her a ride home. I thanked her for our evening together and told her I would call her later".

**Appendix 4**

**Character and Behavior Questionnaire**

## INSTRUCTIONS

**NOW THAT YOU HAVE READ SARAH'S AND JIM'S RESPECTIVE ACCOUNTS, PLEASE COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRES THAT FOLLOW.**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY THE INSTRUCTIONS THAT ACCOMPANY EACH QUESTIONNAIRE BEFORE YOU START.**

### QUESTIONNAIRE 3

BELOW ARE STATEMENTS ABOUT THE SCENARIO YOU JUST READ. RATE EACH STATEMENT ON HOW MUCH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE. PLEASE REMEMBER, WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR PERSONAL OPINIONS, THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS.

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Agree Somewhat</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree Somewhat</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
1. Sarah did nothing wrong	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. Sarah should not have gone to Jim's apartment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. Sarah should have insisted that Jim take her home as soon as she realized he wanted to be "intimate"	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. Sarah should not have let Jim kiss her	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. Sarah should not have flirted with Jim if she didn't want to have sex with him	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. Sarah should have behaved differently	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. Jim did nothing wrong	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. Jim shouldn't have invited Sarah to his apartment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9. Jim should have taken Sarah home as soon as she indicated she didn't want to go any further	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10. Jim should not have tried to coerce Sarah into sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11. Jim should have picked up on Sarah's signals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12. Jim should have behaved differently	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13. Sarah is not assertive enough	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14. Sarah doesn't seem to be able to say "no"	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15. Sarah is not self-confident enough to act on her own feelings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16. Sarah is a bad judge of social situations	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17. Sarah is a bad judge of character	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18. Sarah is the type of person who gives in easily to men	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19. Sarah is naive and doesn't seem able to take care of herself	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20. Sarah trusts people much too easily	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21. Jim is too aggressive	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22. Jim doesn't seem to be able to take "no" for an answer	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23. Jim does not take other people's feelings into account	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24. Jim is a bad judge of social cues	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25. Jim only thinks of himself	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26. Jim is the type of person who uses women	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
27. Jim is the type of person who takes what he wants without considering the consequences	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28. Jim has no self-control	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29. What was the relationship between Jim and Sarah? (Check one)	<input type="checkbox"/> acquaintance <input type="checkbox"/> stranger						

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**Appendix 5**

**Offender and Victim Inferences Questionnaire**

## QUESTIONNAIRE 4

BELOW ARE QUESTIONS WHICH REQUIRE YOU TO DRAW INFERENCES ABOUT THE SITUATION YOU HAVE JUST READ. PLEASE RATE THEM USING THE SCALE PROVIDED. PLEASE REMEMBER, WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR OPINION, NOT WHAT YOU THINK THE BEST ANSWER IS.

	<i>not at all</i>	<i>very slightly</i>	<i>a little</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>quite a bit</i>	<i>extreme (extremely)</i>
1. To what extent did Sarah truly desire having sexual intercourse with Jim?	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. To what extent was Sarah sexually aroused during the sexual intercourse?	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. To what extent was the intercourse pleasurable for Sarah?	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. To what extent did Sarah resist having sex with Jim?	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. To what extent did Sarah enjoy the intercourse?	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. To what extent was Sarah willing to have sex with Jim?	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. To what extent did Sarah suffer psychological pain?	1	2	3	4	5	6
8. To what extent did Jim use force to have intercourse with Sarah?	1	2	3	4	5	6
9. To what extent was Jim physically violent towards Sarah?	1	2	3	4	5	6
10. To what extent did Sarah suffer from physical harm?	1	2	3	4	5	6

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Agree Somewhat</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree Somewhat</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
11. This incident was a violation of Sarah's rights	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12. Sarah explicitly said "yes" to having sexual intercourse with Jim	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13. Sarah explicitly said "no" to having sexual intercourse with Jim	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14. Even if Sarah said "no", she wanted to have sex with Jim	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15. Sarah consented to sex with Jim	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16. By returning to Jim's apartment Sarah consented to sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17. By kissing Jim Sarah consented to sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18. By letting Jim touch her Sarah consented to sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19. Sarah did not consent to sex with Jim	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20. Sarah made her non-consent very clear	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**Appendix 6**

**Rape Identification and Sanctioning Judgments Questionnaire**



## QUESTIONNAIRE 5

BELOW ARE STATEMENTS ABOUT THE SCENARIO YOU JUST READ. RATE EACH STATEMENT ON HOW MUCH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE. PLEASE REMEMBER, WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR PERSONAL OPINIONS, THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS.

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Agree Somewhat</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree Somewhat</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
1. This was seduction, not rape	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. This was rape, not seduction	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. Seduction was involved, but in the end this was rape	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. Jim cannot be considered a rapist	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. This was simply two people having sex, nothing more	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. Jim may have crossed the line, but he did not rape Sarah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. This was a case of miscommunication, not rape	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. Jim forced Sarah to have sex, therefore this was clearly rape	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9. Jim was wrong, but he did not rape Sarah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10. Sarah wanted to be intimate with Jim, therefore I do not consider this rape	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11. This was only aggressive sex, not rape	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12. Sarah hardly resisted, so of course this was not rape	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13. Jim ignored Sarah's wishes to stop, I consider that rape	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14. Sarah enjoyed herself, therefore this cannot be considered rape	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15. Jim raped Sarah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Please answer the following questions as though you were a **JUROR** in this case:

16. I would convict Jim of rape	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17. I would lack enough evidence to convict Jim of rape	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18. I would want to know more about Sarah's past sexual behavior before making a decision about convicting Jim	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19. I would want to know if this was Jim's first offense before making a decision about convicting him	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20. I would want to see physical evidence of a struggle (such as scratches on Jim's body) before making a decision about convicting Jim	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21. I would want to see evidence of violence (such as bruises on Sarah's body) before making a decision about convicting Jim	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22. Sarah's word alone would not be enough for me to convict Jim of rape	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23. I would recommend a prison sentence for Jim	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24. I would recommend psychological treatment for Jim	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

25. Jim should receive the following punishment:	<i>no punishment</i>	<i>probation</i>	<i>up to 6 mo's in jail</i>	<i>6 mo's to 2 yrs jail</i>	<i>2-5 yrs jail</i>	<i>5-10 yrs jail</i>	<i>more than 10 yrs jail</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**Appendix 7**

**Attribution Questionnaire**

## QUESTIONNAIRE 6

SARAH CLAIMS THAT SHE HAS BEEN RAPED BY JIM. JIM HOLDS THAT THEY HAD CONSENSUAL SEX, AND THAT HE DID NOT RAPE SARAH.

**IF YOU BELIEVE JIM RAPED SARAH, PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONNAIRE BELOW.  
IF YOU BELIEVE THAT JIM DID NOT RAPE SARAH, GO TO QUESTIONNAIRE 7, ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.**

THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW REQUIRE YOU TO MAKE JUDGMENTS ABOUT THE SCENARIO YOU JUST READ. PLEASE REMEMBER, WE ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT YOU PERSONALLY THINK, NOT WHAT THE BEST ANSWER IS. THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS.

	<i>not at all</i>	<i>very slightly</i>	<i>a little</i>	<i>moder- ately</i>	<i>quite a bit</i>	<i>completely</i>
1. Was Jim <b>justified</b> in his actions throughout this entire incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Did Jim act on his own <b>free will</b> throughout this entire incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Did Sarah act on her own <b>free will</b> throughout this entire incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. To what degree do you think it was Sarah's <b>intent</b> to have sexual intercourse with Jim?	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. To what degree do you think it was Jim's <b>intent</b> to have sexual intercourse with Sarah?	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. To what extent did Jim <b>pre-plan</b> having sexual intercourse with Sarah?	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. To what extent did Sarah <b>pre-plan</b> having sexual intercourse with Jim?	1	2	3	4	5	6
8. To what degree do you think it was Jim's <b>intent</b> to force Sarah to engage in sexual activity (against her will)?	1	2	3	4	5	6
9. To what extent do you think <b>negative, selfish motivation</b> was involved on Jim's part in forcing Sarah to have sex?	1	2	3	4	5	6
10. To what extent did Jim have <b>free choice</b> to do otherwise (not force Sarah to have sex)?	1	2	3	4	5	6
11. To what extent should Jim have been able to <b>foresee</b> the consequences of forcing Sarah to have sex?	1	2	3	4	5	6
12. To what extent should Sarah have been able to <b>foresee</b> being forced to have sex?	1	2	3	4	5	6
13. To what extent did Jim <b>appreciate the wrongfulness</b> of forcing Sarah to have sex?	1	2	3	4	5	6
14. To what extent did Jim have the <b>capacity to have done otherwise</b> (the ability to not force Sarah to have sex under the circumstances)?	1	2	3	4	5	6
15. To what extent did Jim <b>pre-plan</b> forcing Sarah to have sex?	1	2	3	4	5	6
16. To what extent do you think Sarah was the <b>cause</b> of this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
17. To what extent do you think Jim was the <b>cause</b> of this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
18. To what extent do you think Sarah is <b>responsible</b> for this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
19. To what extent do you think Jim is <b>responsible</b> for this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
20. To what extent do you think Sarah is <b>to blame</b> for this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
21. To what extent do you think Jim is <b>to blame</b> for this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6

IF YOU ANSWERED THIS QUESTIONNAIRE DO NOT DO QUESTIONNAIRE 7 ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.  
GO DIRECTLY TO BOOKLET 3

## QUESTIONNAIRE 7

SARAH CLAIMS THAT SHE HAS BEEN RAPED BY JIM. JIM HOLDS THAT THEY HAD CONSENSUAL SEX, AND THAT HE DID NOT RAPE SARAH.

**IF YOU BELIEVE JIM DID NOT RAPE SARAH, PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONNAIRE BELOW.**

*(IF YOU BELIEVE THAT JIM DID RAPE SARAH, PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONNAIRE 6, ON THE PRECEDING PAGE.)*

THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW REQUIRE YOU TO MAKE JUDGMENTS ABOUT THE SCENARIO YOU JUST READ. PLEASE REMEMBER, WE ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT YOU PERSONALLY THINK, NOT WHAT THE BEST ANSWER IS. THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS.

	<i>not at all</i>	<i>very slightly</i>	<i>a little</i>	<i>moder- ately</i>	<i>quite a bit</i>	<i>completely</i>
1. Was Jim <b>justified</b> in his actions throughout this entire incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Was Sarah <b>justified</b> in her actions throughout this entire incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Did Jim act on his own <b>free will</b> throughout this entire incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. Did Sarah act on her own <b>free will</b> throughout this entire incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. To what degree do you think it was Sarah's <b>intent</b> to have sexual intercourse with Jim?	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. To what degree do you think it was Jim's <b>intent</b> to have sexual intercourse with Sarah?	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. To what extent did Jim <b>pre-plan</b> having sexual intercourse with Sarah?	1	2	3	4	5	6
8. To what extent did Sarah <b>pre-plan</b> having sexual intercourse with Jim?	1	2	3	4	5	6
9. To what extent do you think <b>negative, selfish motivation</b> was involved on Jim's part in having sexual intercourse with Sarah?	1	2	3	4	5	6
10. To what extent did Jim have <b>free choice</b> to do otherwise in this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
11. To what extent should Jim have been able to <b>foresee</b> the consequences of having sexual intercourse with Sarah?	1	2	3	4	5	6
12. To what extent should Sarah have been able to <b>foresee</b> the consequences of having sexual intercourse with Jim?	1	2	3	4	5	6
13. To what extent did Jim have the <b>capacity</b> to have done otherwise (the ability to not have engaged in sexual activity with Sarah)?	1	2	3	4	5	6
14. To what extent do you think Sarah was the <b>cause</b> of this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
15. To what extent do you think Jim was the <b>cause</b> of this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
16. To what extent do you think Sarah is <b>responsible</b> for this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
17. To what extent do you think Jim is <b>responsible</b> for this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
18. To what extent do you think Sarah is <b>to blame</b> for this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6
19. To what extent do you think Jim is <b>to blame</b> for this incident?	1	2	3	4	5	6

**Appendix 8**

**Hostility Towards Women Scale**

## QUESTIONNAIRE 8

BELOW ARE STATEMENTS ABOUT WOMEN. READ EACH STATEMENT AND DECIDE WHETHER IT IS TRUE OR FALSE. CIRCLE "T" FOR RESPONSES WHICH ARE TRUE, AND "F" FOR RESPONSES WHICH ARE FALSE IN YOUR OPINION. REMEMBER TO CIRCLE ONLY ONE OF THE TWO CHOICES FOR EACH STATEMENT. THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS. WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU PERSONALLY THINK.

1. I feel that many times women flirt with men just to tease them or hurt them T F
2. I feel upset even by slight criticism by a woman. T F
3. It doesn't really bother me when women tease me about my faults T F
4. I used to think that most women told the truth but now I know otherwise T F
5. I do not believe that women will walk all over you if you aren't willing to fight T F
6. I do not often find myself disagreeing with women T F
7. I do very few things to women that make me feel remorseful afterward T F
8. I rarely become suspicious with women who are friendlier than I expected T F
9. There are a number of women who seem to dislike me very much T F
10. I don't agree that women always seem to get the breaks T F
11. I don't seem to get what's coming to me in my relationships with women T F
12. I generally don't get really angry when a woman makes fun of me T F
13. Women irritate me a great deal more than they are aware of T F

14. If I let women see the way I feel, they would probably consider me a hard person to get along with T F
15. Lately, I've been kind of grouchy with women T F
16. I think that most women would not lie to get ahead T F
17. It is safer not to trust women. T F
18. When it really comes down to it, a lot of women are deceitful. T F
19. I am not easily angered by a woman T F
20. I often feel that women probably think I have not lived the right kind of life. T F
21. I never have hostile feelings that make me feel ashamed of myself later. T F
22. Many times a woman appears to care but just wants to use you. T F
23. I am sure I get a raw deal from the women in my life T F
24. I don't usually wonder what hidden reason a woman may have for doing something nice for me T F
25. If women had not had it in for me, I would have been more successful in my personal relations with them T F
26. I never have the feeling that women laugh about me T F
27. Very few women talk about me behind my back T F
28. When I look back at what's happened to me, I don't feel at all resentful toward the women in my life T F
29. I never sulk when a woman makes me angry T F
30. I have been rejected by too many women in my life T F

**Appendix 9**

**Rape Myth Scale**

## QUESTIONNAIRE 9

BELOW ARE STATEMENTS ABOUT RAPE. READ EACH STATEMENT AND DECIDE HOW MUCH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE. FOR EACH STATEMENT, CIRCLE THE LETTER(S) THAT DESCRIBE(S) YOUR OPINION. REMEMBER TO CIRCLE ONLY ONE OF THE FIVE CHOICES FOR EACH STATEMENT. THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS. WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU PERSONALLY THINK.

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
1. When women talk and act sexy, they are inviting rape	SA	A	N	D	SD
2. When a woman is raped, she usually did something careless to put herself in that situation	SA	A	N	D	SD
3. Any woman who teases a man sexually and doesn't finish what she started realistically deserves anything she gets	SA	A	N	D	SD
4. Many rapes happen because women lead men on	SA	A	N	D	SD
5. Men don't usually intend to force sex on a woman, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away	SA	A	N	D	SD
6. In some rape cases, the woman actually wanted it to happen	SA	A	N	D	SD
7. Even though the woman may call it rape, she probably enjoyed it	SA	A	N	D	SD
8. If a woman doesn't physically fight back, you can't really say that it was a rape	SA	A	N	D	SD
9. A rape probably didn't happen if the woman has no bruises or marks	SA	A	N	D	SD
10. When a woman allows petting to get to a certain point, she is implicitly agreeing to have sex	SA	A	N	D	SD
11. If a woman is raped, often it's because she didn't say "no" clearly enough	SA	A	N	D	SD
12. Women tend to exaggerate how much rape affects them	SA	A	N	D	SD
13. When men rape, it is because of their strong desire for sex	SA	A	N	D	SD
14. It is just part of human nature for men to take sex from women who let their guard down	SA	A	N	D	SD
15. A rapist is more likely to be Black or Hispanic than White	SA	A	N	D	SD
16. In any rape case, one would have to question whether the victim is promiscuous or has a bad reputation	SA	A	N	D	SD
17. Rape mainly occurs on the "bad" side of town	SA	A	N	D	SD
18. Many so-called rape victims are actually women who had sex and "changed their minds" afterwards	SA	A	N	D	SD
19. If a husband pays all the bills, he has the right to sex with his wife whenever he wants	SA	A	N	D	SD



**Appendix 10**

**Sex-Role Egalitarianism Scale**

## QUESTIONNAIRE 10

BELOW ARE STATEMENTS ABOUT MEN AND WOMEN. READ EACH STATEMENT AND DECIDE HOW MUCH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE. FOR EACH STATEMENT, CIRCLE THE LETTER(S) THAT DESCRIBE(S) YOUR OPINION. REMEMBER TO CIRCLE ONLY ONE OF THE FIVE CHOICES FOR EACH STATEMENT. THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS. WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU PERSONALLY THINK.

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral/ Undecided</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
1. Home economics courses should be as acceptable for male students as for female students	SA	A	N	D	SD
2. Women have as much ability as men to make major business decisions	SA	A	N	D	SD
3. High school counselors should encourage qualified women to enter technical fields like engineering	SA	A	N	D	SD
4. Cleaning up the dishes should be the shared responsibility of husbands and wives	SA	A	N	D	SD
5. A husband should leave the care of young babies to his wife	SA	A	N	D	SD
6. The family home will run better if the father, rather than the mother, sets the rules for the children	SA	A	N	D	SD
7. It should be the mother's responsibility, not the father's, to plan the young child's birthday party	SA	A	N	D	SD
8. When a child awakens at night, the mother should take care of the child's needs	SA	A	N	D	SD
9. Men and women should be given an equal chance for professional training	SA	A	N	D	SD
10. It is worse for a woman to get drunk than for a man	SA	A	N	D	SD
11. When it comes to planning a party, women are better judges of which people to invite	SA	A	N	D	SD
12. The entry of women into traditionally male jobs should be discouraged	SA	A	N	D	SD
13. Expensive job training should be given mostly to men	SA	A	N	D	SD
14. The husband should be the head of the family	SA	A	N	D	SD
15. It is wrong for a man to enter a traditionally female career	SA	A	N	D	SD
16. Important career-related decisions should be left to the husband	SA	A	N	D	SD
17. A woman should be careful not to appear smarter than the man she is dating	SA	A	N	D	SD
18. Women are more likely than men to gossip about people they know	SA	A	N	D	SD
19. A husband should not meddle in the domestic affairs of the household	SA	A	N	D	SD
20. It is more appropriate for a mother, rather than a father, to change their baby's diapers	SA	A	N	D	SD
21. When two people are dating, it is best if they base their social life around the man's friends	SA	A	N	D	SD
22. Women are just as capable as men to run a business	SA	A	N	D	SD
23. When a couple is invited to a party, the wife, not the husband, should accept or decline the invitation	SA	A	N	D	SD
24. Men and women should be treated the same when applying for student loans	SA	A	N	D	SD
25. Equal opportunity for all jobs regardless of sex is an ideal we should all support	SA	A	N	D	SD

**Appendix 11**

**Post-Experimental Questionnaire**

## QUESTIONNAIRE 12

**INSTRUCTIONS: WE ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING YOUR THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT THIS STUDY.  
PLEASE ANSWER BRIEFLY THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. WORK AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN.**

1. What do you think is the **purpose** of this study?

---

2a. Why do you think we asked you to describe a **typical seduction scenario**?

b. At what point in the study did this occur to you?

---

3a. Why do you think you were asked for **details** about your description of a typical seduction scenario?

b. At what point in the study did this occur to you?

4a. Why do you think we asked you to describe a **typical rape scene**?

b. At what point in the study did this occur to you?

---

5a. Why do you think you were asked for **details** about your description of a typical rape scene?

b. At what point in the study did this occur to you?

6a. Why do you think you were asked to read the **Jim-Sarah scenario**?

b. At what point in the study did this occur to you?

7a. Do you think that we wanted you to see the Jim-Sarah scenario in a **particular way** (i.e., either as a rape or a non-rape)?

yes \_\_\_\_ (go to #7 b. below)  
no \_\_\_\_ (go to #8 on next page)

b. If yes, did you think we meant for you to see it as **rape or non-rape**?

rape \_\_\_\_  
non-rape \_\_\_\_

c. If yes, **how sure are you** that we meant for you to see the scenario in a particular way?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
not sure at all extremely sure

d. If yes, at what point in the study did this occur to you?

e. If yes, to what extent did your belief that we wanted you to see the scenario in a particular way **affect your answers**?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
not at all very much

8a. Questionnaire 6 asked you questions about cause, responsibility and blame.

(e.g. To what extent do you think Sarah was the cause of this incident?

1 2 3 4 5 6)

We are interested in how you personally defined these terms when you answered the questions. Please define below:

I defined cause as:

I defined responsibility as:

I defined blame as:

9a. Did it ever occur to you that you were not given a true and accurate description of this study?

yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

b. If yes, what do you think was untrue or inaccurate?

c. If yes, when during the study did these suspicions occur to you?

d. If yes, how sure are you of your suspicions?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
not at very  
all much

10a. Have you ever heard or read of a study of this sort?

yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

b. If yes, what exactly have you heard or read?

---

11. If you have any **comments or concerns** regarding this study, please write them below.

**PLEASE TURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE OVER FACE DOWN WHEN YOU ARE THROUGH.**

**REMAIN SEATED FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.**



**Appendix 12**

**Instructions for Study**

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDY**

**Researcher: Jennifer McFarlane (M.A. Psychology Student)**

**Supervisor: Dr. Josephine Tan**

This study will investigate opinions regarding sexual encounters. You will be asked to describe some typical sexual encounters between men and women. You will then be requested to read a vignette of a sexual encounter between a man and a woman, and answer some questions about your thoughts and perceptions about what happened. You will also be asked to answer questions about sexual encounters unrelated to the vignette and about your beliefs. This study will require approximately 1 hour to complete.

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary, meaning that you can leave the study any time you want. If you do choose to withdraw, just return the form. No questions will be asked and there will be no penalty. Your responses will be kept confidential and anonymous. There is no way that the responses can be traced back to you. We will be pleased to provide you with your own copy of the summary of the results from this study upon its completion if you so wish. Let me know if you are interested at the end of the session.

If you are an Introductory Psychology student you will receive one bonus point for your participation in this experiment.

**Appendix 13**

**Informed Consent Form**



**CONSENT FORM**

1. Title of research: Opinions Towards A Sexual Encounter
2. I, \_\_\_\_\_ consent to participate in this study on opinions regarding sexual encounters which investigates how people, on the basis of limited information, react to, and develop opinions about sexual encounters.
3. The procedures in this project have been explained to me as follows. I will be asked to describe some typical sexual encounters between men and women. I will then be asked to read a short story involving a sexual encounter between a man and woman. I will answer questions about my thoughts and perceptions about what happened. I will also be asked to fill out several questionnaires on my feelings, thoughts, and attitudes.
4. All of my responses will be kept anonymous and confidential.
5. I also understand that my participation in this research is voluntary. If for some reason I wish to discontinue my participation in the study once the session has begun, I am free to do so without explanation or penalty even after I have signed this form.
6. I understand that if I am an Introductory Psychology student, I will receive one bonus point towards my Introductory Psychology course grade for my participation.
7. If the results of this study gets presented or published, I will not be identified in any way.
8. If I so wish, I may request for a summary of the results from this research project upon its completion.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Print)  
(participant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Print)  
(witness)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PLEASE TURN FORM OVER FACE DOWN WHEN DONE.**

A C H I E V E M E N T   T H R O U G H   E F F O R T

**Appendix 14**

**Instructions for Booklet 1**

## BOOKLET 1

PLEASE START WITH BOOKLET 1. WHEN DONE, GO TO BOOKLET 2, AND THEN 3.  
PLEASE PROCEED IN THIS ORDER: BOOKLET 1, 2, AND 3.

**DO NOT REFER BACK TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONNAIRES IN A BOOKLET OR TO A PREVIOUS  
BOOKLET AFTER COMPLETING ANY ONE QUESTIONNAIRE.**

**Appendix 15**

**Instructions for Booklet 3**

## BOOKLET 3

**IMPORTANT! THE REST OF THE QUESTIONNAIRES THAT FOLLOW DO NOT RELATE TO THE JIM-SARAH SCENARIO THAT YOU READ BEFORE.**

**PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH RESPECTIVE QUESTIONNAIRE THAT FOLLOWS BEFORE RESPONDING.**



**Appendix 16**

**Instructions for Booklet 4**

## BOOKLET 4

**NOW THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE STUDY, PLEASE COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE THAT FOLLOWS. PLEASE READ EACH QUESTION CAREFULLY AND RESPOND AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE.**

**Appendix 17**

**Debriefing Sheet**

## DEBRIEFING

Psychologists have long been interested in how people make judgments about other people's behavior, and how they make decisions about situations on the basis of limited information. For example, how do people decide who is to blame for a situation? Similarly, how do people decide whether a forceful dating situation is an instance of rape or not? Generally, research has determined that characteristics of the victim, offender, situation, and observer affect judgments about rape situations.

This study examines observer characteristics which are believed to affect judgments and decisions about rape. Firstly, it examines whether an individual's idea of a "typical" rape will affect whether they will identify an ambiguous dating situation as rape or not. We expect to find that individuals who believe a typical rape is one which occurs between two strangers will be less likely to identify a forced sexual encounter in a dating situation as a "rape". Secondly, the study seeks to determine whether a person's sex-role beliefs will affect their judgments about a rape situation. People with traditional sex-role beliefs believe that women should have more restricted rights and opportunities than men, while those with egalitarian sex-role beliefs hold that rights and opportunities should be equal for the sexes. We expect that traditional subjects will be less likely to see a forceful sexual encounter as "rape". Thirdly, this study investigates whether feelings of hostility towards women will affect one's decisions about a rape situation. We expect that individuals who have high levels of hostility towards women will be less likely to identify a forced sexual encounter as "rape".

Overall, our study tries to understand how people take in ambiguous information about a sexual encounter and use this information to form opinions and judgments about whether rape occurred and about the individuals involved. This will help us to understand the decision-making process of jurors in rape trials.

Before you leave, I would like to ask you to please not say anything at all about this study to anyone. This is to protect the study. If people who will be participating in this study hear about it, they may start forming some expectations about it and this may influence their answers to the questionnaires. Then we won't be getting their honest answer. Should that occur, the entire study may be ruined and we will have to start all over again. So, no matter the temptation, could you please promise not to discuss this study with anyone to ensure its success? Do you have any questions?

Are you interested in receiving a copy of the study's results? If you are, please write your name and address on a mailing label and I'll send a copy to you. Thank you very much for your participation. It has been invaluable.

**Appendix 18**

**Rape and Rape Services Information Sheet**

## TAKE HOME SHEET

**Rape is defined as: "penetration, however slight, of any bodily orifice, obtained against the victim's will by using force, or threat of force, of any part of the assailant's body or any object used by the assailant in the course of the assault" (Burt, 1991).**

### Some important facts concerning rape include:

1. Every act of coerced sex involving penetration is rape (Burt, 1980).
2. There are many different types of rape. **Stranger rape** involves a victim and offender who "have no relationship before the assault and do not even recognize each other". **Date rape** occurs when "sexual contact occurs within a relationship superficially appropriate for intimacy when obtained through the use of inappropriate coercion or violence" (Koss & Harvey, 1991).
3. Victim resistance does not need to be present in order for a situation to be considered rape. The critical elements of rape are that "the sexual acts have occurred *against the victim's will*, by the assailant's *use of force or the threat of force*" (Burt, 1991).
4. Acquaintance rape deviates from the stereotypical view of rape being committed by a stranger who uses a weapon, at night, outside (in a dark alley), with a lot of assailant violence, and victim resistance, resulting in severe wounds on the victim as evidence of her struggle (Burt, 1991).
5. Very few rapes fit the stereotypical description outlined above, *most rapes are committed by someone known to the victim* (Parrot & Bechhofer, 1991).
6. In acquaintance rape, assailants are more likely to use verbal or psychological coercion to overpower their victims than weapons (Bechhofer & Parrot, 1991).

### References:

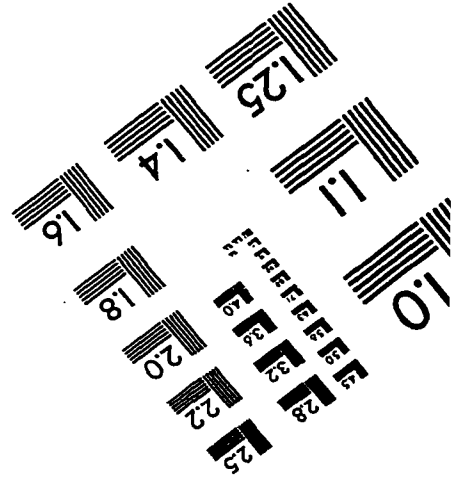
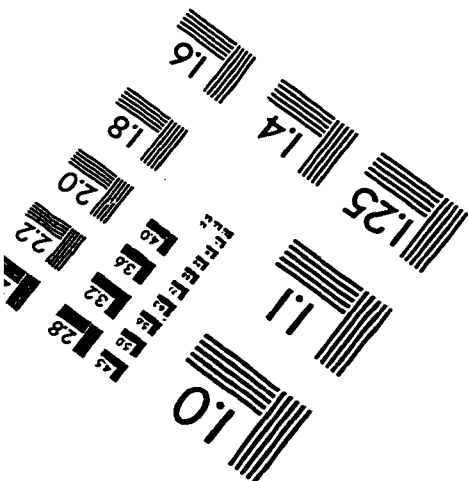
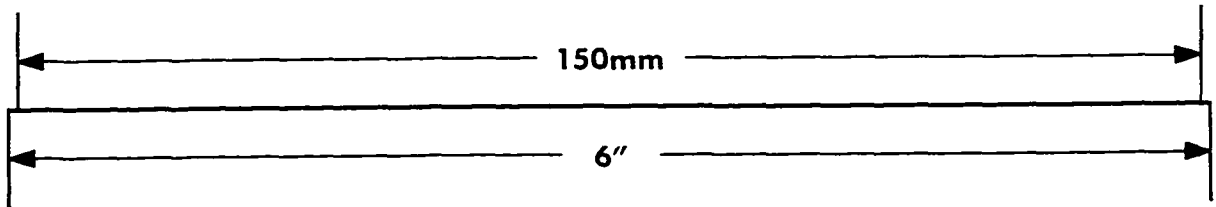
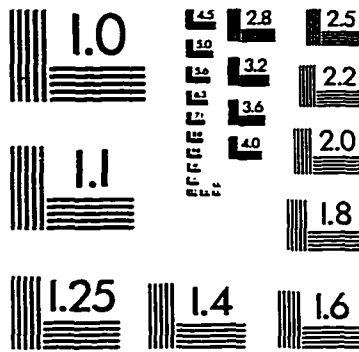
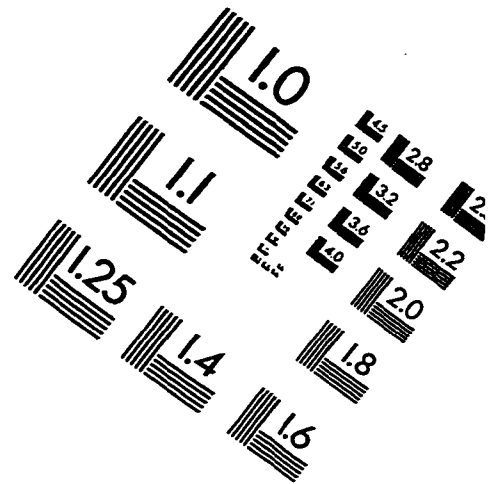
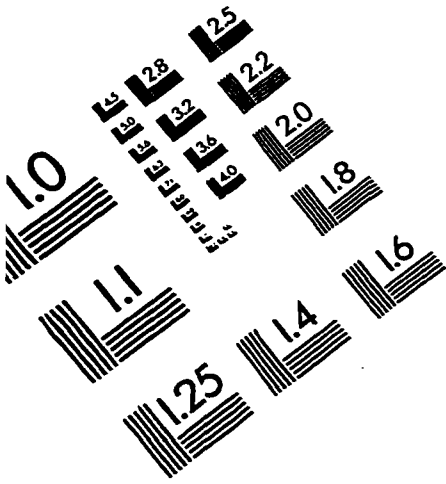
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- Parrot, A., & Bechhofer, L. (1991). What is acquaintance rape? In A. Parrot & L. Bechhofer (eds.) Acquaintance Rape: The Hidden Crime. United States of America: John Wiley & Sons
- Koss, & Harvey, (1991). The rape victim: Clinical and community intervention, second edition. California: Sage Publications

There are several local community agencies which will provide information and/or assistance to victims of rape. The agencies in Thunder Bay include:

<b>Catholic Family Development Centre, 36 Banning St.....</b>	<b>345-7323</b>
<b>Cumberland Counselling Centre, RR 13, 815 Lakeshore Drive.....</b>	<b>683-3535</b>
<b>Thunder Bay Family &amp; Credit Counselling Agency, 411 E. Donald St.....</b>	<b>623-9596</b>
<b>Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital, 580 N. Algoma St.....</b>	<b>343-4300</b>
<b>Crisis &amp; Admitting</b>	<b>343-4392</b>
<b>Gender Issues Centre, Student Centre 0019, Lakehead University.....</b>	<b>343-8110</b>
<b>Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</b>	
<b>St. Joseph's General Hospital, 35 N. Algoma St.....</b>	<b>343-2431</b>
<b>Psychology Department</b>	<b>343-2420</b>
<b>Thunder Bay Physical &amp; Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, 385 Mooney St.....</b>	<b>344-4502</b>
<b>Crisis lines open 24 Hours</b>	<b>345-0062</b>

Thank you for your participation. Your participation in this study will help us understand the way in which information about a date rape is processed and used to arrive at decisions and judgments regarding the rape. If you have any questions regarding this study, please contact Jennifer McFarlane at 343-8476 or Dr. Josephine Tan at 346-7751.

# IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (QA-3)



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