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### Marital Rape Perception and Impact of Force

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# **Marital Rape Perception and Impact of Force**

A Thesis Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
For the Masters in Forensic Psychology  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
City University of New York

Janelle N. Robinson

Date: May 2017

## Table of Contents

Abstract .....	3
Introduction.....	4
Historical Context of Marital Rape.....	5
Rape Myths.....	7
Factors Impacting Rape Perceptions.....	8
Rape and Level of Force .....	9
Impact of Marital Rape.....	11
Current Study .....	12
Method .....	13
Research Design .....	13
Participants .....	13
Procedure .....	14
Measures .....	15
Results .....	17
Level of Force .....	17
Rape Myth Acceptance and Attitude towards Women's Role.....	18
Discussion .....	19
Limitations .....	23
Conclusion and Recommendations for Future Studies .....	23
References .....	27
Tables .....	31
Appendices .....	34

### Abstract

The majority of sexual abuse is committed by someone known to the victim. In fact, almost 75%-90% of rape victims know their perpetrator. While there has been a strong movement to identify and prosecute rape, one area that has still received relatively little attention in research and the media is marital rape. Research has found that marital rape is classified as less severe, less violating of women's rights, and less psychologically damaging than rape taking place outside the marriage. To date, research has suggested that the perception of rape is influenced by a myriad of factors including the degree of force and belief systems about the roles of women and men in society. Currently, there is sparse literature on the impact of degree of force on sexual assault with the available literature focusing only upon stranger rape scenarios. As such, the present study examined the impact of the level of physical force used on perception of marital rape. Undergraduate students ( $N=289$ ) were surveyed using an online survey. Students completed the Illinois Rape Myth Scale, Attitude towards Women Scale, and demographic questions. Students were randomly assigned to one of three marital rape vignettes describing events that led to a heterosexual married couple having non consensual sex. In each of the scenarios the wife is portrayed as protesting her husband's sexual advances, in which he ignores and proceeds to have sexual intercourse. Each scenario differed by level of force used. The study found that participants were more likely to perceive marital rape when extreme force was used than in the scenarios that subtle force was used. It was also found that difference in the attitudes towards women's role in society had an effect on perception of marital rape across the three conditions. These findings will be discussed in relation to the identification, prosecution and prevention of marital rape.

*Keywords:* marital rape, physical force, myth, gender role

## Introduction

Rape has been, and still is, a challenging crime to study as it is the most underreported form of assault (Adinkrah, 2011; Mahoney & Williams, 1998; Randall & Haskall, 1995; Ullman & Siegel, 1993; Yamasaki & Tschanz, 2005). Rape is defined as a type of assault involving sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration against the will of the victim, with use or threatened use of force or attempting such act (Planty, Langton, Krebs, Berzofsky & Smiley-McDonald, 2013). Findings show that one in five women and one in seventy-one men will be raped at some point in their lives, with one in ten women being raped by an intimate partner [Center for Disease Control and Prevention (2010, 2012)]. Between 2005 and 2010, 78% of sexual violence involved an offender who was a family member, intimate partner, friend or acquaintance.

Though rape is challenging to study, the phenomenon of marital rape is even more difficult to study and has continued to be the least studied type of sexual assault (Martin, Taft & Resick, 2007). Factors that have contributed to the challenge of studying this phenomenon include low reporting rates (Basile, 2002; Russell, 1998) and low conviction rates (Ferro, Cermele & Saltzman, 2008). Basile (2002) argues that this low reporting of such acts and ultimate convictions are reflected by gender stereotypes and patriarchal views of sex, which is based on controlling aspects of the female body.

A number of studies examining rape by intimate partners as a percentage of the total number of rapes reported per year consistently found that rape by intimate partners account for one quarter of all rapes (Mahoney & Williams, 1998; Randall & Haskall, 1995; Ullman & Siegel, 1993). Similarly, within a random sample of 420 women in Toronto, Canada, it was found that 30% of adult rape cases were committed by husbands, common law partners or

boyfriends while 12% were committed by strangers (Randall & Haskall, 1995). Other studies found that between 28% (Ullman & Siegel, 1993) and 29% (George, Winfield & Blazer, 1992) of sexual assaults of adult women were perpetrated by a husband or lover.

### **Historical Context of Marital Rape**

The criminalization of marital rape within the United States started in the late 1970's and by 1993 became a crime in all 50 states (Martin, Taft & Resick, 2007), as multiple feminist advocates lobbied for changes in the legal system. Though marital rape is now illegal in all 50 states within the United States of America, there still exist provisions within some States that detail when it is legally acceptable for a man to rape his wife without any subsequent consequences. Such provisions are termed "partial exemptions or allowances"; which speak to factors such as the degree of physical force, along with the inability of the wife to give consent in cases of mental impairment (Martin, Taft & Resick, 2007; National Clearing House for Marital Rape and Date Rape, 2005). Under these conditions, marital rape is only sanctioned if the couple is living apart, legally separated or divorced (Martin, Taft & Resick, 2007; National Clearing House for Marital Rape and Date Rape, 2005).

Globally, at least 119 countries have passed laws on domestic violence, 125 have laws on sexual harassment but only 52 have laws on marital rape (Planty, Langton, Krebs, Berzofsky & Smiley-McDonald, 2013). Nonetheless even when laws exist, this does not mean they are always compliant with international standards and recommendations, which views marital rape as a violation of individual human rights of spouses (Heise & Gottmoeller, 2002).

There exist four main arguments that provide a historical framework of the continuation and prevalence of rape within the marital context: 1) Unities Theory; 2) Social Constructionism Theory; 3) Feminist Theory; and 4) Sex Role Socialization Theory. The Unities Theory was

articulated by Blackstone (1765) who explained in his writings that the legal existence of a wife as an independent person was suspended during marriage; as the man and the wife are seen as one entity or one being (Martin et al., 2007). Further, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century rape against a woman was classified as a property crime committed against another man, it further purported that marital rape could not exist because a husband could not steal his own property or commit a crime against himself.

According to the Sex Role Socialization argument (Birns, Cascardi, & Meyer, 1994) men are taught to be dominant, powerful and sexually aggressive while women are taught to be passive, submissive and the sexual gate-keepers. Within this context, marital rape is considered to be an extreme version of sex-role socialization due to the concept of ‘wifely duty’- the belief that the wife’s duty is to sexually please her husband on his time and demand (Martin, et al., 2007). Many researchers have suggested that Sex Role Socialization fosters and encourages rape supportive beliefs in both men and women alike (Basile, 2002; Martin, Taft & Resick, 2007; Monson, Langhinrichsen-Rohling & Binderup, 2000). Social Constructionism is a general term applied to theories that purports that the world and its tenets are socially created by society rather than merely given or existing. Meuhlenhard and Kimes (1999) uses this argument to shed light on the justification of marital rape-- asserting that men traditionally have a desire to retain power in society- for example political power and to protect themselves and “property.” Throughout history, men have dominated the lawmaking process that has led to laws reflecting their interests in areas such as property protection. Consequently, married women are viewed as property, thereby justifying the exemption of married men from being held criminally responsible for raping their wives.

Lastly, the feminist movement has also theorized that the perpetuation of marital rape is a means of social control and dominance over women through the use of patriarchal families. The movement has went on to coin terms such as “patriarchal terrorism” and “license to rape” (Martin, et al., p.332) to refer to the social control of women by men. Martin et al. (2007) refers to patriarchal terrorism as a methodic use of violence by men to control women. The term “license to rape” is used in the context where men control and dominate wives through forced sex without fear of repercussions of such acts.

### **Rape Myths**

Rape myths have been argued to encourage the perpetuation of rape and marital rape specifically, in that these myths often times serve as a justification to commit rape (Edwards, Turchik, Dardis, Reynolds, & Gidycz, 2011; Vayeghan, 2016). Rape myths may be defined as prejudicial, stereotyped or false beliefs about rape, the rape victims, and rapists—ultimately creating a hostile climate for the victims (Burt, 1980). Rape myths have been viewed by some as the root of many sexually motivated crimes as these crimes combine elements of power and anger as well as gender role sexuality; which speaks to societal norms that dictate the types of behaviors that are widely accepted and appropriate based on actual or perceived sex and sexuality (Ben-David & Schneider, 2005). These myths are also reflected in the attribution of blame towards victims in several themes. Ben-David and Schneider (2005) add that these themes include victim masochism, for example “any healthy woman can resist a rapist if she wants to,” (Burt, 1980, p. 217), victim precipitation, for example women enjoy being raped (Edwards, et al. 2011) and victim fabrication for example “women cry rape only when they’ve been jilted or have something to cover up,” (Burt, 1980, p. 217). Another rape myth that has persevered through the years is husbands can’t rape their wives (Burt, 1980; Edwards et al., 2011; Martin, et al., 2007).



Another myth upheld is that sexual assault in marriage is exclusively the problem of women who are only physically abused. Statistics reveal that in 54% of marriages in which wives are abused, physical violence was the major or only problem (Weingourt, 1985). Whereas in 23% of marriages sexual abuse was the major or only problem, while within 22% of marriages sexual abuse and physical abuse were problems of equal significance (Weingourt, 1985). This shows that sexual abuse in marriage does occur in the absence of physical abuse. As this research is over three decades old, it is unclear how often women are subject to sexual violence in marriage in the absence of physical violence, and this lack of knowledge serves as a barrier to not only identification but to treatment.

### **Factors Impacting Rape Perceptions**

Additionally, there have been other factors studied that affect people's perceptions of rape including how situational, perpetrator and observer factors impact blame towards sexual assault victims within dating and married relationships across different jurisdictions. Duran, Moya, Megias and Viki (2010) conducted two hypothetical studies in Spain (sample of high school students) and England (sample of college students) examining how situational, perpetrator and observer factors affect blame towards rape victims. They found no significant difference in perception based on age and the nation. Nonetheless, the study found that participants' benevolent sexism and hostile sexism scores predicted more victim blame when the rapist was described as a husband. Another study examined the differences in attitudes toward women, rape victims and belief in rape myths across race between Asian American and Caucasian college students within California (Mori, Bernat, Glenn, Selle & Zarate, 1995) and found that Asian Americans were more likely to report negative attitudes towards rape victims and to endorse more rape myths than their Caucasian counterpart. Mori and colleagues (1995) found that highly

acculturated Asians endorsed responses similar to the other Caucasian participants, suggesting that the adoption of other cultural norms or even mere awareness of cultural differences may trump previously held beliefs. This study highlights issues of acculturation and how those customs and beliefs are similar to their native country may also hold role expectations of those cultures and countries. Contrary to this finding, Vandiver and Dupalo (2013) in examining the factors that affect college students' perception of rape found that the majority of students in fact did not endorse rape myths, but among those who did male students were more likely than their fellow female students to support such myths. Kim and colleagues (2016) used a narrative analysis method to explore how 9 Mexican immigrants living in the United States describe their experience with intimate partner violence. The study found that the participants' cultural background greatly influenced their views as women and their responses to sexual abuse within their relationships. The participants shared that within their culture, if you were raped or sexually abused as a child or by your intimate partner you were seen as a whore by your husband and often shunned by your family and community (Kim et al., 2016).

### **Rape and Level of Force**

Rape, but more specifically, marital rape involves the use of some form of coercion. Coercion may be defined as the intimidation of a victim to compel them to do some act against their will by the use of psychological pressure, physical force or threat (www.thefreedictionary.com, 2017). Furthermore, the touchstone of coercion/type of force used is that women ultimately lack choice and face severe physical or social consequences if she resists sexual advances from her perpetrator (Heise & Gottmoeller, 2002).

Basile (2002) highlighted the type of coercion/force involved in intimate partner violence, but more specifically marital rape. These include non-physical sexual coercion,

threatened or forced sex, battering rape, force only rape and obsessive rape. He added that non-physical sexual coercion includes social or normative coercion that refers to the duty of the wife to sexually submit to their husbands (Martin et al., 2007; Basile, 2002) and interpersonal coercion that speaks to women feeling pressured to have sex through the use of non-violent threats. Basile's (2002) study collected data from the National Poll in 1997 through a random telephone survey aimed at providing a national estimate of victims of marital rape along with estimates of sexually coercive behavior by spouse or intimate partner. The study found that 61 % of married women experienced social coercion and 30% of the sample complied with demands for money ranging from buying them gifts to taking them out for dinner, while another 13% felt bullied and humiliated by their partner into participating in unwanted sex.

Despite these statistics, researchers have found that individuals often minimize not only the seriousness of marital rape, but also the potential harm it poses for victims in comparison to other forms of rape (Martin, et al., 2007). Studies have shown that as the acquaintance level increases between victim and perpetrator, the more individuals minimize the severity of rape, the perceptions of the victim and punishment (Ben-David & Schneider, 2005; Simonson, & Subich, 1999; Vandiver & Dupalo, 2013; Ferro, Cernele & Saltzman, 2008). However, the researchers did not examine the level of force as acquaintance level increased on perception of rape.

Vandiver and Dupalo (2013) in examining the factors that affect college students' perception of rape found that the most likely perceived rape situation involved stranger rape, a clear lack of consent, female victim and use of physical force. Again, though physical force was a clear factor, the different levels of physical force were not studied.

Nonetheless, despite the perception that cases of marital rape are less severe, research has consistently found that victims of marital rape have reported symptoms of depression, post-

traumatic stress disorder, physical pain, with some being victims of homicide or even taking their lives (Kim, Draucker, Bradway, Grisso & Sommers, 2016; Martin, Taft & Resick, 2007).

### **Impact of Marital Rape**

Contrary to the mythical perception that marital rape is less traumatic than other types of rape (i.e. stranger rape), Weingourt (1985) found that the most upsetting and long-term ill effects on the victim result from rape by a husband or relative. Weingourt (1985) found that women raped by their husbands compared to those raped by strangers reported a consistently longstanding sense of betrayal and disillusionment. Like other forms of sexual assault, marital rape poses serious emotional, psychological and physical impact on its victims (Weingourt, 1985; Martin et al., 2007).

The psychological impact of rape in general has been well studied with victims of rape reporting depression (Martin, et al., 2007), PTSD (The Center for Disease Control, 2010), self blame (CDC, 2010; Martin et al. 2007), lower self-esteem, poor body image, greater negative feelings towards men and sex in general (Finkelhor & Yllo, 1983). The Center for Disease Control (2010) reports that 81% of women and 35% of men who have been victim of sexual assault report significant short term or long term impacts of PTSD. In examining the long term psychological distress associated with marital rape, Riggs and colleagues (1992) compared female victims of a completed rape to women who had not been a victim of any crime. The female victims were divided into four groups; those who experienced marital rape, those who experienced stranger rape, marital assault and other assault. Similar to the findings of other studies (Burt, 1980; Finkelhor & Yllo, 1983 Martin, et al, 2007) Riggs and colleagues found that violence toward women that is perpetrated by a husband is equally traumatizing to the violence at the hands of others. Though the authors did not find a significant difference in psychological

distress amongst the groups—it was found that women assaulted by their husbands were more likely to report that the assault was one of a series of similar attacks. Additionally, all groups reported higher levels of psychological distress than did the non-victimized women.

Along with the psychological impact, victims of marital rape face severe physical impact. Campbell and Alford (1989) in examining the physical effects of marital rape on women in wife abuse shelters in Michigan found that 72% of participants reported painful intercourse and 63% reported vaginal pain during intercourse. Of the 115 women sampled; 50.9% reported bladder infections, 37% reported vaginal hemorrhaging, 25% reported delay in menstrual cycle, 20.4% reported miscarriages or still births and 6.5% reported contracting a sexually transmitted infection.

While women raped by strangers go through a long period of being afraid, especially about their physical safety, and are subsequently cautious about being alone, where they go and who they go with, women who are raped by their partners have been found to lose confidence in forming relationships and trusting intimate partners (Burt, 1980; Campbell & Alford, 1989, Finkelhor & Yllo, 1983). Ultimately, a married woman lives with her rapist and not just the frightening memory of being raped.

### **Current Study**

The above mentioned studies have highlighted the roles of rape myth endorsement, gender role stereotypes and the use of physical force in perceiving rape in general. However, researchers who examined the impact of physical force on rape perception did so by looking at the presence or absence of physical force, which was based on level of acquaintance. Even with the extensive contribution research has made to the rape literature, marital rape is still an understudied phenomenon. To date, there is no research examining the levels of physical force

used in sexual assault within marriages and its impact on marital rape perception. As such, the aims of the study were threefold, 1) to examine individual's perceptions of rape within a marital context and the influence of level of force, 2) to examine the impact of one's rape myth acceptance on perceiving sexual assault as rape within the marital context and 3) to examine the influence of one's gender role attitudes on the perception of marital rape.

It is hypothesized that perception of marital rape will differ by the level of force used such that when there is physical and more extreme force used, individuals will be more likely to perceive a sexual encounter between married individuals as rape compared to conditions where the degree of force used is subtle. The study further hypothesizes that the impact of the degree of force on marital rape perception will be influenced by participants' attitude towards women's role and their endorsement of rape myths. This study ultimately hopes to shed light on what influences perception of marital rape.

## **Method**

### **Research Design**

The study was an on-line experimental design that examined the impact of the level of force used in a rape scenario on perceived marital rape. The independent variable, level of force, had three levels: subtle force, moderate force and extreme force. The participants were randomly assigned to one of the three levels of force. The dependent variable was the participant's rating on the marital rape survey which allowed for the examination of the extent to which each scenario is perceived as rape.

### **Participants**

A total of 289 John Jay Undergraduate students (28% male and 72% female) participated in the study. The students were recruited via the student research pool accessed on the research

experience program through SONA. Undergraduate students ages 18 and older were eligible to participate in this study. The demographic survey revealed the age range to be between 18 and over 25, with the most frequently occurring age group being 17-19 (50.5%), and the remainder being 20-22 (26.8%), 23-25 (9%) and >25 (10.4%). The majority of the participants were 1<sup>st</sup> year students (41.1%) followed by 3<sup>rd</sup> year (22.4%), 2<sup>nd</sup> year (20.4%) and 4<sup>th</sup> year students (12.7%). The racial distribution of the sample was as follows; Hispanic (47.40%), White (20.07%), Black (14.19%), and Asian (12.11%), other races made up 6.23%. Students listed a total of 23 majors in addition to those who had undeclared majors ( $n=9$ ). The most frequently listed majors were Criminal Justice ( $n=100$ ) and Forensic Psychology ( $n=104$ ).

### **Procedure**

Undergraduate students enrolled at John Jay College were recruited from the school's Research Experience Program through the online platform, SONA, to participate in an online survey. The Research Experience Program aims to involve Introductory Psychology students in the application of psychology and research methodology in general. A description of the study was advertised on SONA via a recruitment flyer along with the survey link. All participants were required to give informed consent before the beginning of the study and then directed to the Attitude towards Women Scale (Spence, Helmreich & Stapp, 1973) and Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (McMahon & Framer, 2011). After completion of the scales, each participant was randomly assigned to one of three marital rape vignettes which were developed by the researcher. Each vignette used fictitious names and was loosely based on what is considered rape under the New York Penal Code. The vignettes were reviewed by experts within the field at the PhD. level having experience working with either sexual assault victims or offenders. The vignettes were further piloted to assess the level of force used. The three vignettes were identical

and only differed by the degree of force used. After reading the vignettes the participants were asked a series of questions relating to the vignettes followed by a series of demographic questions. Once the survey was complete, participants were given a debriefing form outlining the results expected to be found. The form also contained the contact information of John Jay Counseling services, if such service was needed, as well as the contact information for the Investigators.

### **Measures**

#### **Attitudes towards Women Scale Short Form (Spence, Helmreich & Stapp, 1973).**

The Attitudes toward Women Scale Short Form-AWS-SF (Appendix A) was used in this study to assess the attitude towards the roles of women in society that different people have. The scale consists of 25 items that utilizes a 4-point Likert type response scale ranging from “0”- strongly disagree to “4”- strongly agree (Spence et al., 1973). The scales contain statement about the myths and roles of women in areas such as vocational, educational, intellectual activities, dating behavior and etiquette, sexual behavior and marital relationships (Spence, Helmreich & Stapp, 1973). Low scores indicate an endorsement of feminine sex-role stereotypes (e.g., sensitive, affectionate), whereas high scores indicate an endorsement of masculine sex-role stereotypes (e.g., assertive, rational). AWS-SF is considered one of the most commonly used measure of gender role attitudes. In assessing the internal consistency of this measure, the current study found a high Cronbach’s alpha of .81.

**Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale: Short Form, (McMahon & Framer, 2011).** The Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale SF (Appendix B) comprises of 22 items comprised of four subscales all related to the covert, subtle rape myths that blame the victim for her assault and excuse the perpetrator. The four subscales include “She asked for it”; which consists of items



suggesting the victim invited sexual assault, “He didn’t mean to”; reflects belief that the perpetrator did not intend to rape, “She lied”; which consist of items that indicate the belief that the victim fabricated the rape and “It Wasn’t Really Rape”; consists of items that deny that an assault occurred due to either blaming the victim or excusing the perpetrator. Higher scores indicated a greater rejection of rape myth, while lower scores indicate a greater acceptance of rape myths. Additionally, the IRMA is the most reliable and psychometrically demonstrated rape myth scale to date, with version IRMA-SF holding similar psychometric properties (McMahon & Farmer, 2011). In investigating the psychometric properties of the measure among 950 undergraduate students, the overall scale reliability was found to be .93. The current study found that the scale did have a high level of internal consistency, similar to that previously reported—it found a Cronbach’s alpha of .93.

**Marital Rape Vignette** (Appendix C) **and Post-Vignette Survey** (Appendix D). The post-vignette survey used was similar to that used within the Simonson and Subich (1999) and Yamasaki and Tschanz, (2005) studies. The scenarios described events that led to a heterosexual married couple having non consensual sex. In each of the scenarios the wife is portrayed as protesting her husband’s sexual advances, in which he ignores and proceeds to have sexual intercourse. Each scenario differs by degree of force used. The post-vignette survey was based upon the Simonson and Subich (1999) study utilizing 4-6 points Likert scale. To reduce potential bias that may occur, the study did not utilize the labels “victims” and “perpetrators” but instead each question referred to the individual’s name in vignette (John and Barbara). The survey measured participant’s reactions to the victim, perpetrator and rape. The questions evaluated rape supportive beliefs and sex role expectations. Additional questions assessed the extent to which participants would characterize the incident as violent and as rape. Minimization of marital rape

was indicated if Barbara was not perceived as psychologically damaged or that it was not a violation of her rights.

**Demographic Questions.** Demographic questions (Appendix E) were asked to conduct exploratory analysis. The demographic questions asked participants to select their gender (male, female, gender queer/non confirming, other), race; and age. These questions aimed to identify any group differences. Lastly, participants were asked to indicate their marital status and if they have ever been a victim of rape.

### Results

The demographic results revealed that the majority of participants reported being single ( $n=275$ ) and the remainder reported being married ( $n=7$ ), divorced ( $n=2$ ), separated ( $n=1$ ) or living common law ( $n=4$ ). One way ANOVA revealed there was not a statistical significant difference between the varying marital statuses groups,  $F(4,284)=1.796$ ,  $p=.130$ , in their perception of marital rape. A total of 24 participants reported being victims of rape- though the participants who reported being victim of rape on average scored higher for perception of marital rape ( $M = 3.71$ ,  $SD = 1.65$ ) than participants who did not report being victims ( $M = 3.60$ ,  $SD = 1.43$ ), the difference was not found to be statistically significant,  $t(287) = -.362$ ,  $p=.717$ .

#### *Level of force*

A cumulative odds ordinal logistic regression with proportional odds was run to determine the effect of rape myth endorsement, attitude towards women's role in society and the level of force used on participants perceiving marital rape. The dependent variable, rape myth perception was determined by a single ordinal item on a six point Likert scale. The attitude toward women variable was a continuous variable in which higher scores indicated a profeminist/egalitarian attitude and lower scores indicated a more traditional/conservative

attitude. Similarly, the rape myth acceptance variable was continuous, where high scores indicated a rejection of rape myths and lower scores indicated an acceptance.

In conducting the hypothesis, the three independent variables (level of force, rape myth rejection and gender role attitudes) were entered in the analysis model, there were proportional odds, as assessed by a full likelihood ratio test comparing the fitted model to a model with varying location parameters,  $\chi^2(16) = 16.515, p = .418$ . The deviance goodness-of-fit test indicated that the model was a good fit to the observed data,  $\chi^2(1386) = 793.338, p = 1.00$ . The Pearson goodness-of-fit test also indicated the model was a good fit  $\chi^2(1386) = 1294.21, p = .962$ . Overall, the final model predicted the dependent variable over and above the intercept-only model,  $\chi^2(4) = 85.751, p < .001$ . The level of force had a statistically significant effect on the prediction of perception of marital rape  $\chi^2(2) = 17.870, p < .01$  (Table 1). The odds of participants within the extreme force conditions perceiving rape within the vignettes was 3.195 times, 95% CI [1.862, 5.484] that of those within the subtle force,  $\chi^2(1) = 17.77, p < .01$ . The odds of participants within the extreme force conditions perceiving marital rape was .496 times, 95% CI [.288, .853] higher than those within the moderate force conditions,  $\chi^2(1) = 6.407, p = .011$  (Table 2).

#### *Rape Myth Acceptance and Attitude towards Women's Role*

The cumulative odds ordinal logistic regression model revealed that an increase in rape myth rejection was associated with an increase in the odds of considering marital rape in the vignettes, with an odds ratio of 1.060, 95% CI [1.041, 1.079],  $\chi^2(1) = 40.372, p < .001$ . Though the analysis found that with every increase in egalitarian attitude that was an increase in the odd of considering marital rape, with an odds ratio of 1.024, 95% CI [.995, 1.054] it was not significant,  $\chi^2(1) = 2.544, p = .111$ . To test for interaction effects on perception of marital rape the

following variables were added to the ordinal logistic regression model: ‘level of force \* rape myth acceptance’ and ‘level of force \*gender role attitudes.’ Overall the final model in comparison to a constant model was found to be statistically significant  $\chi^2(4) = 85.751, p < .001$ . Nonetheless the effects of the interactions between level of force and rape myth rejection were not significant,  $\chi^2(2) = .773, p = .679$ . Additionally, the interactions between level of force and attitude towards women were not significant,  $\chi^2(1) = 2.159, p = .142$  (Table 3).

Exploratory analysis examining the difference in perceiving marital rape between males ( $n=81$ ) and females ( $n=208$ ) was conducted using an independent sample t-test. On average, female participants ( $M=3.74, SD=1.435$ ) were more likely to perceive marital rape than male participants ( $M=3.26, SD=1.435$ ). The difference was also found to be statistically significant  $t(287) = -2.559, p = .011$ ; females averaged .481, 95% CI [-.851, -.111] higher than their male counterparts. An independent samples t-test also found that males and females differed on their rejection of rape myths. On average, rejection of rape myths was greater for female participants ( $M=65.18, SD=14.672$ ) than males ( $M=56.68, SD=14.672$ ). The difference was statistically significant  $t(287) = 4.517, p < .001$ ; in that females averaged 8.504, 95% CI [4.79, 12.209] higher than males.

### Discussion

This study examined the influence of level of force on individual’s perception of sexual assault within the marital context, along with how perceptions of marital rape influence attitudes towards women’s role in society and endorsement of rape myths. Our findings suggest that level of force has a significant effect on the perception of marital rape. More specifically, the study found that participants who were assigned to the extreme force conditions were significantly more likely to perceive the vignettes as rape than participants who were assigned to

the subtle and moderate force conditions. There was not a significant difference in perception of marital rape between those assigned to the moderate and subtle conditions. The study did not find a significant interaction effect between level of force and rape myth rejection on perceiving sexual assault within marriage and the findings for the interaction effect between level of force and gender role attitudes on marital rape perception were also non significant. Nonetheless, the study examined the main effects of rape myth acceptance and gender role attitudes, and found that as rape myth rejection increased so did the likelihood of perceiving marital rape across all conditions. However, though the study found that as profeminist/egalitarian attitudes increased so did the likelihood of perceiving marital rape, the results were non-significant. Explorative analysis revealed that there did exist a gender difference in perception of marital rape and endorsement of rape myths among the sample-- males were less likely to perceive marital rape in the scenarios than females and more likely to endorse rape myths.

As hypothesized, we found that those who were randomly assigned to the extreme force condition were more likely to rate the situation as rape as compared to those who used moderate or subtle force. There are no known studies delineating the levels of physical force and assessing its impact on marital rape. However, somewhat similar to the present study, Vandiver and Dupalo (2013) in examining the factors that influence college students' perception of rape found that the most likely situation to be perceived as rape was one that involved physical force than those that did not involve physical force. Important to note, the present study controlled for wife's resistance; the wife was depicted as verbally resisting by saying "no,"—this was important in order to reduce the impact of resistance on participants' perceptions. The study revealed that only 39.1% of the sample rated the vignettes as "definitely rape" and though not significant, there was a difference found on the rape perception variable in the scenarios where subtle or

moderate force was used; only 45.2% of participants in the subtle force perceived the scenarios as very probably or definitely rape in comparison to a total of 62.9% participants in the moderate conditions. This finding then prompts the question of how effective is “no means no” within the marital context? Legally when not in the context of marriage, a verbal indication of “no” is sufficient to provide non-consent and thus the situation would be considered rape.

With that said, some states have found the “no means no” campaign ineffective (Little, 2005). In states such as California there is now a law outlining the use of affirmative consent-- this speaks to the conscious and voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity with the aim of removing any ambiguity between the parties (Little, 2005). The state of California enacted legislation to make “yes means yes” the gold standard for consent on college campuses (Diehl, 2015). This law protects both partners by ensuring mutual understanding. Application of affirmative consent within the context of marriage may also diminish the ambiguity between the spouses and impact of degree of force in perpetrators and law enforcement in perceiving rape between married couples.

Though the majority of the sample did not endorse rape myths (82.6%), the study’s findings suggest that rape myths are still, in some capacity, being endorsed. As rape myth rejection increased so did the likelihood of perception of marital rape despite the level of force. Vandiver and Dupalo (2013) shared similar findings in examining the factors that affect college student’s perception of rape, they also found that the majority of students did not endorse rape myth, though such endorsement impacted perception of rape. This suggests that with additional awareness, the level of physical force may not significantly impact our perception of rape within the marital context. The findings also add to the existing body of research that rape myths endorsement, specifically those relating to sexual assault within marriage, are still prevalent

within the 21<sup>st</sup> century despite significant strides in gender rights and equality. Ben-David and Schneider (2005) suggest that rape myths are viewed as the root of sexually motivated crime. One such myth being husbands can't rape their wives (Burt, 1980; Edwards et al., 2011; Martin, et al., 2007). The findings for this study provide additional argument that as one's rejection of rape myths increases, the likelihood of rape within marriages to be perceived despite level of force decreases. Future studies can examine the hypothesis that with a continued decrease in rape myth endorsement sexually motivated crimes within marriages will also decrease.

The study also found that with an increase in egalitarian/profeminist attitude, there was an increase in the likelihood of perceiving marital rape, though the results were not significant. Though not significant, the findings of the study were consistent with other research. Simonson and Subich (1999) in studying perceptions of stranger rape, acquaintance rape and marital rape and their relations to observers' gender role traditionality found that people who held less gender role stereotypes were less likely to blame victims and rated the rape scenarios with a high degree of seriousness. Nonetheless, our non-significant results may have been influenced by the location of the study, New York City, home to a very liberal subset of the population.

The study also found a gender difference in participants' perception to marital rape and their endorsement of rape myths. Female respondents were more likely to perceive rape within marriage and more likely to reject rape myths. The study's findings support other research in that males were in fact less likely to rate sexual assault scenarios as rape (Vandiver & Dupalo, 2013) and males held a greater belief in rape myths than their female counterparts (Mori, Bernat, Glenn, Selle & Zarate, 1995). However there are other studies that did not support this gender difference in rape perception (Simonson & Subich, 1999).

### **Limitations**

Accompanied with the significant findings of the study were several limitations. A main limitation of this study was the lack of validity tests to facilitate the identification of careless responses, if the study is to be replicated it is suggested that a manipulation check be conducted. Also, the participants were first given the IRMA Scale and ATW-SF Scale before receiving the marital rape vignette. This may have created a priming effect and resulted in socially desirable responses.

Additionally, most of the studies examining perception of rape in general have been criticized for the use of college students because of its homogeneity and as such this study may face the same critique. While the findings of undergraduate students may not generalize to society as a whole, there is value in using those in undergraduate settings as they can be used as a benchmark to see what perceptions these educated young adults are bringing into their marriages or current marriage or more broadly, intimate relationship. Studies that have compared perceptions of undergraduate population and college alumnae who graduated at least 3 decades earlier found that undergraduates in fact were significantly more likely to endorse rape myths than were the alumnae (Ferro, Cermele & Saltzman, 2008). Ferno et al. (2008) also found that there were no differences in perceptions of rape by victim-offender relationship between both populations. This study therefore highlights that the undergraduate population, though frequently used, do provide information that may not greatly differ from the general population.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation for Future Studies**

The current study, though not without limitations, revealed significant differences in the perception of marital rape as the level of physical force increased. It also showed, similar to previous studies, that rape myth endorsement and or attitude towards women do influence our



perception of sexual assault, but more specifically sexual assault within marriages. These findings have serious implications on both the Justice System and victims of marital rape. Similar to this sample, potential jury members could be equally influenced by the level of force presented in marital rape cases, which may sway the outcome of the case in favor of the perpetrator, in this case one's husband. With the absence of extreme force in such cases, wives who have experienced such assault may be discouraged to identify themselves as victims. This phenomenon is not only a social concern but also a public health issue as because of the lack of trust in the justice system, the victims of marital rape may continue to endure the psychological, emotional and physical effects of marital rape.

Important to note, New York City is also considered liberal and as such the views reflected by the sample may not translate to other states. It is therefore recommended that this study be replicated in more conservative states to assess if the findings are similar.. Future studies should also assess the reliability and validity of the questionnaire that followed each scenario along with a manipulation check on the vignettes. Additionally, the wife's resistance in the study was only verbal and as such may have impacted participant's perceptions. The study does have strength within its experimental design but future studies should also look at level of resistance independent and dependent of degree of force used in such scenarios. This will allow us to examine the role of victim resistance within the context of marital rape.

Importantly, as early as the 1980s, researchers have begun to document that rape myths appear in the belief systems of lay people and of professionals who interact with rape victims and assailants (Burt, 1980). As such, prosecutors' personal biases may affect the decision to prosecute and may dissuade them from prosecuting cases because of difficult convictions, thus justifying and perpetuating the unwillingness of victims to come forward.

This drive for increase in awareness and education should also extend to law enforcement officials. Law enforcement is usually the first point of contact when seeking justice; having them more informed as to what constitutes marital rape and how our biases as it relates to the role of level of force used in such scenarios, will aid in dispelling any misconception the role force plays in marital rape. Failing to address this issue will hamper the victim's recovery process in fear of possible repercussions or the continuation of providing unwanted sex to their husbands.

In addition, people from various nationalities holding contrasting views on marital rape makes the situation more problematic. As previously mentioned in the introduction; New York is a unique state as it embodies a wide variety of nationalities all governed under one law. However, it is important to be mindful that these laws that are built on values and beliefs which may not be same for everyone from different backgrounds. This difference in belief system may have played a role in the study's findings. The researcher suggests that future studies examine the role of culture on the perceiving marital rape. It will also be interesting to see what the results would look like if replicated in other countries where marital rape is not criminalized. It is also important that at the first point of entry in the country, individuals are provided with a succinct version of important laws that are not shared internationally-such as the criminalization of rape within marriages. We may argue that ignorance is no excuse, but for the sake of potential victims, being proactive is less taxing financial and emotionally than going through the channels of the justice system.

Adding to this argument; research has found that one of the strongest predictors of intimate partner violence was foreign country of birth (Frye, Galea, Tracy, Bucciarelli, Putnam & Wilt, 2008; Taylor, Guterman, Lee & Rathouz, 2009). This may be as a result of the unique barriers faced by immigrant women in seeking help, this hesitancy in reporting may be as a result

of fear of police involvement or jeopardizing immigrant status. The barriers may also include fear of being doubted, not only by society but by the family and community to which they belong who view marital rape as nonexistent. Notwithstanding, it is important to validate the beliefs of others but, in doing so, we should highlight the consequences of their actions as a product of such beliefs. Continuous targeted educational campaigns tailored to the immigrant communities on platforms such as the immigration websites both locally and abroad, and social media should be considered in bringing awareness to the laws that govern this country and the consequences of not adhering to them.

Additionally, though 30 years have passed since the abolition of the marital rape immunity exemption from American laws, married women continue to be regarded as less worthy of protection by our courts (Vayeghan, 2016). Future studies should examine the study's hypotheses within the justice setting. The findings of such study will determine if expanding the realm of education on marital rape to the justice system is necessary.

With an increased awareness of the factors, more specifically the level of force; influencing marital rape and more realistic perceptions of this phenomenon, higher reporting rates may lead to more effective law enforcement, more help seeking among victims and improved support services ultimately influencing myth breaking.

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## Tables and Figures

Table 1.

*Parameter Estimates of the Main Effects of Level of Force, Acceptance of Rape Myth and Attitudes towards Women on Marital Rape Perception*

Parameter		Parameter Estimates					95% Wald Confidence Interval for Exp(B)		
		B	Std. Error	Wald Chi-Square	df	Sig.	Exp (B)	Lower	Upper
Threshold (Rape Perception)	[Marital Rape=0]	.373	.8504	.193	1	.661	1.453	.274	7.693
	[Marital Rape =1]	1.854	.8083	5.258	1	.022	6.383	1.309	31.123
	[Marital Rape =2]	3.168	.8160	15.072	1	.000	23.755	4.800	117.572
	[Marital Rape =3]	4.052	.8295	23.864	1	.000	57.517	11.317	292.314
	[Marital Rape =4]	5.084	.8479	35.954	1	.000	161.467	30.643	850.827
	[Extreme Force]	1.162	.2756	17.770	1	.000	3.195	1.862	5.484
	[Moderate Force]	.460	.2659	2.989	1	.084	1.584	.940	2.667
	[Subtle Force]	0 <sup>a</sup>	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
	Acceptance of Rape Myth	.058	.0092	40.372	1	.000	1.060	1.041	1.079
	Attitude Towards Women (Scale)	.024	.0148	2.544	1	.111	1.024	.995	1.054
		1 <sup>b</sup>							

a. Set to zero because this parameter is redundant.

b. Fixed at the displayed value.



Table 2.

*Parameter Estimates of the Effects of Moderate Force Conditions and Extreme Force Conditions*

Parameter	B	Std. Error	Hypothesis Test			Exp (B)	95% Wald Confidence Interval for Exp(B)	
			Wald Chi-Square	df	Sig.		Lower	Upper
Threshold (Rape Perception)								
[Marital Rape=0]	.373	.8504	.193	1	.661	1.453	.274	7.693
[Marital Rape=1]	1.854	.8083	5.258	1	.022	6.383	1.309	31.123
[Marital Rape=2]	3.168	.8160	15.072	1	.000	23.755	4.800	117.572
[Marital Rape=3]	4.052	.8295	23.864	1	.000	57.517	11.317	292.314
[Marital Rape=4]	5.084	.8479	35.954	1	.000	161.467	30.643	850.827
[Subtle Force]	-1.162	.2756	17.770	1	.000	.313	.182	.537
[Moderate Force]	-.702	.2773	6.407	1	.011	.496	.288	.853
[Extreme Force]	0 <sup>a</sup>	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Acceptance of Rape Myth	.058	.0092	40.372	1	.000	1.060	1.041	1.079
Attitude Towards Women (Scale)	.024	.0148	2.544	1	.111	1.024	.995	1.054
	1 <sup>b</sup>							

a. Set to zero because this parameter is redundant.

b. Fixed at the displayed value.

Table 3.

*Parameter Estimate Table Displaying the Interaction Effects on Perception of Marital Rape.*

Parameter		B	Std. Error	Hypothesis Test		
				Wald Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Threshold	[Marital Rape=0]	-.653	1.5280	.182	1	.669
	[Marital Rape =1]	.832	1.4973	.309	1	.578
	[Marital Rape =2]	2.145	1.4924	2.065	1	.151
	[Marital Rape =3]	3.028	1.4957	4.097	1	.043
	[Marital Rape =4]	4.064	1.5050	7.293	1	.007
[Subtle Force=1]		-1.637	1.9416	.711	1	.399
[Moderate Force=2]		-3.092	2.0797	2.211	1	.137
[Extreme Force=3]		0 <sup>a</sup>	.	.	.	.
Acceptance of Rape Myth		.070	.0170	17.124	1	.000
AttitudeTowards Women's Role		-.005	.0293	.031	1	.861
[Subtle] * AcceptanceRapeMyth		-.016	.0221	.524	1	.469
[Moderate] * AcceptanceRapeMyth		-.018	.0226	.672	1	.412
[Extreme] * AcceptanceRapeMyth		0 <sup>a</sup>	.	.	.	.
[Subtle] * AttitudeTowardsWomen		.024	.0367	.425	1	.514
[Moderate] * AttitudeTowardsWomen		.059	.0399	2.154	1	.142
[Extreme] * AttitudeTowardsWomen		0 <sup>a</sup>	.	.	.	.
(Scale)		1 <sup>b</sup>				

a. Set to zero because this parameter is redundant.

b. Fixed at the displayed value.

## Appendix A

Attitudes towards Women Scale (Spence, Helmrich & Stapp, 1978) – Short version Instructions:

The statements listed below describe attitudes toward the roles of women in society which different people have. There is no right or wrong answers, only opinions. You are asked to express your feeling about each statement by indicating whether you (A) agree strongly, (B) agree mildly, (C) disagree mildly, or (D) disagree strongly

1. Swearing and obscenity are more repulsive in the speech of a woman than of a man.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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2\* Women should take increasing responsibility for leadership in solving the intellectual and social problems of the day.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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3.\* Both husband and wife should be allowed the same grounds for divorce.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
-------------------	-----------------	--------------------	----------------------

4. Telling dirty jokes should be mostly a masculine prerogative.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
-------------------	-----------------	--------------------	----------------------

5. Intoxication among women is worse than intoxication among men.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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6.\* Under modern economic conditions with women being active outside the home, men should share in household tasks such as washing dishes and doing the laundry.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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7.\* It is insulting to women to have the "obey" clause remain in the marriage service.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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8.\* There should be a strict merit system in job appointment and promotion without regard to sex.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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9.\* A woman should be free as a man to propose marriage.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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10. Women should worry less about their rights and more about becoming good wives and mothers.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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11.\* Women earning as much as their dates should bear equally the expense when they go out together

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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12.\* Women should assume their rightful place in business and all the professions along with men.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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13. A woman should not expect to go to exactly the same places or to have quite the same freedom of action as a man.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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14. Sons in a family should be given more encouragement to go to college than daughters.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
-------------------	-----------------	--------------------	----------------------

15. It is ridiculous for a woman to run a locomotive and for a man to darn socks.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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16. In general, the father should have greater authority than the mother in the bringing up of children.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
-------------------	-----------------	--------------------	----------------------

17. Women should be encouraged not to become sexually intimate with anyone before marriage, even their fiancés.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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18.\* The husband should not be favored by law over the wife in the disposal of family property or income.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
-------------------	-----------------	--------------------	----------------------

19. Women should be concerned with their duties of childbearing and house tending rather than with desires for professional or business careers.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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20. The intellectual leadership of a community should be largely in the hands of men.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
-------------------	-----------------	--------------------	----------------------

21.\* Economic and social freedom is worth far more to women than acceptance of the ideal of femininity which has been set up by men.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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22. On the average, women should be regarded as less capable of contributing to economic production than are men.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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23. There are many jobs in which men should be given preference over women in being hired or promoted.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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24.\* Women should be given equal opportunity with men for apprenticeship in the various trades.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
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25.\* The modern girl is entitled to the same freedom from regulation and control that is given to the modern boy.

A. Strongly agree	B. Mildly agree	C. Mildly disagree	D. Strongly disagree
-------------------	-----------------	--------------------	----------------------

In scoring the items, A=0, B=1, C=2, and D=3 except for the items with an asterisk where the scale is reversed. A high score indicates a profeminist, egalitarian attitude while a low score indicates a traditional, conservative attitude.

Spence, J.T., Helmreich, R., & Stapp, J. (1973). A short version of the Attitudes toward Women Scale (AWS). *Bulletin of the Psychonomic Society*, 2, 219-220.

Spence, J.T. & Helmreich, R.L. (1978). *Masculinity and femininity: Their psychological dimensions, correlates, and antecedents*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.

## Appendix B

## Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale

	Strongly agree		Strongly disagree		
	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Subscale 1: She asked for it</b>					
1. If a girl is raped while she is drunk, she is at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of hand.					
2. When girls go to parties wearing slutty clothes, they are asking for trouble.					
3. If a girl goes to a room alone with a guy at a party, it is her own fault if she is raped.					
4. If a girl acts like a slut, eventually she is going to get into trouble.					
5. When girls get raped, it's often because the way they said "no" was unclear.					
6. If a girl initiates kissing or hooking up, she should not be surprised if a guy assumes she wants to have sex.					
<b>Subscale 2: He didn't mean to</b>					
7. When guys rape, it is usually because of their strong desire for sex.					
8. Guys don't usually intend to force sex on a girl, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away.					
9. Rape happens when a guy's sex drive goes out of control.					
10. If a guy is drunk, he might rape someone unintentionally.					
11. It shouldn't be considered rape if a guy is drunk and didn't realize what he was doing.					
12. If both people are drunk, it can't be rape.					
<b>Subscale 3: It wasn't really rape</b>					
13. If a girl doesn't physically resist sex—even if protesting verbally—it can't be considered rape.					
14. If a girl doesn't physically fight back, you can't really say it was rape.					
15. A rape probably doesn't happen if a girl doesn't have any bruises or marks.					
16. If the accused "rapist" doesn't have a weapon, you really can't call it rape.					
17. If a girl doesn't say "no" she can't claim rape.					
<b>Subscale 4: She lied</b>					
18. A lot of times, girls who say they were raped agreed to have sex and then regret it.					
19. Rape accusations are often used as a way of getting back at guys.					
20. A lot of times, girls who say they were raped often led the guy on and then had regrets.					
21. A lot of times, girls who claim they were raped have emotional problems.					
22. Girls who are caught cheating on their boyfriends sometimes claim it was rape.					

## Appendix C

*Vignettes with American Residents*

## Subtle Force:

One night Barbara and John; both New York City residents attending Graduate school, went on a dinner date. Barbara and John have been married for 3 years and both grew up in New York City. Following the dinner, Barbara and John went back to their apartment and watched a late night television series. While watching the series, John put his arm around Barbara and asked her if she wanted to have sex. Barbara told him “no” but John ignored her response. John embraced her, lifted her skirt and completed the act of intercourse.

## Moderate Force:

One night Barbara and John; both New York City residents attending Graduate school, went on a dinner date. Barbara and John have been married for 3 years and both grew up in New York City. Following the dinner, Barbara and John went back to their apartment and watched a late night television series. While watching the series, John put his arm around Barbara and asked her if she wanted to have sex. Barbara told him “no” but John ignored her response. John grabbed her shoulders, pinned her down and completed the act of intercourse.

## Extreme Force:

One night Barbara and John; both New York City residents attending Graduate school, went on a dinner date. Barbara and John have been married for 3 years and both grew up in New York City. Following the dinner, Barbara and John went back to their apartment to catch a late night television series. While watching the series, John put his arm around Barbara and asked her if she wanted to have sex. Barbara told him “no” but John ignored her response. John grabbed her by the hair, threw her to the couch, forced himself on top of her and completed the act of intercourse.

## Appendix D

1. To what extent was Barbara in control of the situation?

0 – Not at all	1- Very little	2- Somewhat	3-To a great extent	4- Completely
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2. To what extent was the incident influenced by Barbara's lack of responsibility for the situation?

0 – Not at all	1- Very little	2- Somewhat	3-To a great extent	4- Completely
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3. To what extent was the incident influenced by Barbara's desire for intercourse?

0 – Not at all	1- Very little	2- Somewhat	3-To a great extent	4- Completely
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4. To what extent did Barbara lead John on?

0 – Not at all	1- Very little	2- Somewhat	3-To a great extent	4- Completely
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5. To what extent was the situation influenced by John's misunderstanding of Barbara's behavior or desires?

0 – Not at all	1- Very little	2- Somewhat	3-To a great extent	4- Completely
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6. To what extent was the situation influenced by John's inability to stop the incident?

0 – Not at all	1- Very little	2- Somewhat	3-To a great extent	4- Completely
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7. To what extent was the situation influenced by John's excessive sex drive?

0 – Not at all	1- Very little	2- Somewhat	3-To a great extent	4- Completely
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8. To what extent was the situation influenced by John's responsibility?

0 – Not at all	1- Very little	2- Somewhat	3-To a great extent	4- Completely
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9. To what extent would Barbara be psychologically damaged?

0 – Not at all	1- Very little	2- Somewhat	3-To a great extent	4- Completely
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10. To what extent was John violating Barbara's rights?

0 – Not at all	1- Very little	2- Somewhat	3-To a great extent	4- Completely
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11. Would you characterize the intercourse as rape?

0 – Definitely not rape	1- Probably not rape	2- Possibly rape	3- Probably rape	4- Very probably rape	5. Definitely rape
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12. To what extent was the incident violent?

0 – Not violent at all	1- Slightly violent	2- Moderately violent	3-Very Violent	4- Extremely violent
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13. In your opinion, does Tim deserve punishment?

0 – Not at all	1- Possibly	2- Probably	3-Definitely
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14. If you think that John deserves punishment, how severe should it be?

0 – Very light Punishment	1- Mild punishment	2- Moderate punishment	3- Harsh punishment	4- Very severe punishment
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## Appendix E

## Demographic Questions

Q1. What gender do you identify with?

1. Masculine
2. Feminine

Q2. What is your age? (Mark X to the option that best applies)

1. 17-19
2. 20-22
3. 23-25
4. > 25

Q3. Please specify your race. (Mark X to all the applies)

1. White
2. Hispanic or Latino
3. Black or African American
4. Native American or American Indian
5. Asian / Pacific Islander
6. Other  Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Q4. Kindly select your status as a student

1. In state student
2. Out of state student
3. International student

Q5. Kindly state your nationality \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship: If you were born in the USA, please specify how you received your citizenship.

1. Born
2. Naturalized

If naturalized, where were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

(Responses would be coded based on region)

Q6. How long have you lived in the United States

1. Less than 5 years
2. 6-11 years
3. 12-17 years
4. All my life

Q7. What is your current major? \_\_\_\_\_

Q8. Kindly select your current year of study.

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Year
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Year
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Year
4. 4<sup>th</sup> Year

Q9. Kindly state your marital status

1. Single
2. Married
3. Living common law
4. Separated
5. Divorced
6. Widowed

Q10. Have you ever been a victim of rape?

1. Yes
2. No