

A Billion Wicked Thoughts: Discussion and Follow-Up

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This follow-up session to our plenary talk will provide attendees with the opportunity to ask us questions about our research and data.

We will focus on the prevalence of sexual interest in young and underage models/characters among the global male population (both straight and gay). Our data suggests that an interest in young models, partners, and characters is the norm in every culture, an interest that is very salient in all forms of pornography, literary erotica, and interactive erotica (such as webcams).

We will put the sexual interest in youth into context by comparing it with other highly prevalent sexual interests—as well as rare and unusual interests. Specifically, we will compare the interest in young and underage models with the interest in older models. We will also compare the prevalence and patterns of interest in young/underage models with the prevalence and patterns of sexual interest in types of erotica commonly considered to be extreme, atypical, or deviant, including bestiality, incest, shemale porn, and granny porn. (The data suggests that none of these are extreme or atypical.)

We will share typical patterns of online sexual behavior and compare them to true atypical patterns. In particular, we will provide evidence of a qualitatively different kind of sex searcher, a highly atypical and uncommon "promiscuous" searcher type who seeks out a great variety of sexual content.

We will also spend time describing our "erotical illusion" approach to understanding sexual interests, a neurocognitive approach to sexual desire that provides a distinct alternative to evolutionary and social constructionist approaches to understanding sexuality. Erotical Illusion theory provides a way of making sense of biologically non-adaptive sexual interests (such as shemale porn, bukkake, CFNM, and slash fiction) that defy evolutionary and social constructionist explanations. Finally, we will describe the implications of Erotical Illusion theory for evaluating the effects of animated erotica featuring young and underage characters.