The affect sex and jealousy has on the manifestation of Intimate Partner violence attitudes and behaviours

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of Cardiff Metropolitan University for the degree of Bachelor of Science
DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my own independent investigation under the supervision of my tutor. The various sources to which I am indebted are clearly indicated. This dissertation has not been accepted in substance for any other degree, and is not being submitted concurrently for any other degree.
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Abstract

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a significant issue within society for both males and females. This phenomenon has been shown to be present not just in the UK but also worldwide. There is mixed literature on the sex differences in the perpetration of IPV, with some studies suggesting symmetry in IPV perpetration, while other studies suggest a sex asymmetry in the perpetration of IPV. Jealousy has been shown to be a significant factor that influences the perpetration of IPV. Evolutionary psychology suggests that there are sex differences in how individuals experience jealousy. Males have been shown to be more distressed by sexual infidelity whereas females have been shown to be more distressed by emotional infidelity. Due to the differences that are seen in how the sexes experience jealousy it is possible that this may affect how individuals act on these jealous feelings, and how this relates to IPV perpetration. Based on this it is hypothesised that both sex and jealousy will affect the manifestation of IPV attitudes and behaviours. After 180 participants took part in the current study a two-way MANOVA was conducted. Results indicated that sexually jealous females were more sexually coercive than emotionally jealous females. The second finding was that Males condone more psychological abuse within relationships than females. Further analysis indicated that sexually jealous males condone more psychological abuse within relationships than sexually jealous females. Future research should focus on how jealousy from an evolutionary perspective effects the perpetration of females’ sexual coercion, and should also consider why males condone more psychological abuse within relationships and the role jealousy plays in this sex difference.
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1. Introduction

1.1 Prevalence of IPV

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a huge issue in the UK and worldwide for both males and females (Viejo, Monks, Sánchez, & Ortega-Ruiz, 2015). IPV takes many forms such as the use of sexual coercion, physical violence, psychological abuse or controlling behaviours within a relationship (Dillon, Hussain, Loxton, & Rahman, 2013). In 2009 59% of all UK murder victims were killed by their intimate partner, whereas worldwide 46% of all murder victims are killed by their partner (Stöckl, et al., 2013). This just shows how extreme and consequential IPV can be. IPV has also been shown to be very prevalent in society as a whole and not just in murder cases. Recent research has suggested that 25% of Swedish women have experienced controlling behaviours by their partner, 7.5% have experienced physical violence from their partner, 2.8% have experienced sexual violence from their partner and 2.5% of women have experienced all three (Lövestad, Löve, Vaez, & Krantz, 2017). Worldwide it is thought that one third of all women experience some kind of IPV (Devries, Mak, García-Moreno, & Watts, 2013) showing just how widespread this behaviour is.

However IPV is not just an issue for females, it is also a huge issue for males. While IPV towards women has declined in recent years IPV towards men has remained stable (Hines & Douglas, 2009). One study found that 28% of males have experienced some form of IPV in their lifetime and males aged between 18 and 55 were twice as likely to have been recently abused by their partner compared with older males (Reid, et al., 2008). Research has also shown that 90% of males report being the recipient of some form of psychological abuse, and 33% of females report using aggression to coerce their partner into sex (Hines & Douglas, 2009). This research suggests that males actually experience a similar amount of IPV as females. This finding has been found in other studies. Within university students males and females were shown to perpetrate a similar amount of physical violence towards their partners (Chan, Straus, Brownridge, Tiwari, & Leung, 2008).

These studies emphasise that IPV is an issue for both males and female within society. Both physical and psychological IPV has been shown to be associated with mental health consequences for both males and females (Coker, et al., 2002). For example IPV has been
shown to be associated with depression (Hines & Douglas, 2009), and also suicidal ideation (Chan, Straus, Brownridge, Tiwari, & Leung, 2008).

1.2 Sex differences in IPV perpetration

When looking further into the issue of IPV the literature shows very mixed results in terms of sex differences. On one side of the argument there are studies that suggest that gender symmetry in the perpetration of IPV exists. A study which took place in six EU countries found that both males and females committed similar amounts of IPV against their partner (Costa, et al., 2015). The use of IPV has been shown to be bidirectional and that both males and females hold attitudes that are instrumental for the perpetration of IPV. Interestingly the severity of violence has also been shown to be the same (Robertson & Murachver, 2007). Previous Research has also shown that the perpetration of IPV was the same for both men and women. However they differed on the context and motivation for the use of IPV (Cercone & Beach, 2005).

On the other side of the argument, there is research that suggest a gender asymmetry in IPV. For example in court cases for IPV, research has shown that 86% of defendants are male compared to only 14% defendants who are female. In addition to this the female defendants were more likely to be involved in cross-complaints and use self defence (Melton & Belknap, 2003). More recent research also shows that females are far more likely to report being victims of IPV across all age groups studied (Jennings, et al., 2017).

There is also debate within this argument as to how the sex differences manifest. For example when looking into psychological abuse, some studies suggest that females are more likely to use psychological abuse within intimate relationships. Studies show that females are more likely to use engulfment and denigration (Babcock, Canady, Senior, & Christopher, 2005) and are also more likely to make threatening phone calls and false IPV claims (Basile, 2004). However other studies suggest that males may perpetrate more psychological abuse. Males were found to use psychological abuse more than females as it was deemed milder, whereas females were more likely to go straight to the use of physical violence (Winstok, Weinberg, & Smadar-Dror, 2017). This inconsistency within the literature can also be seen in the use of physical violence. Research has suggested that females perpetrate more physical violence towards their intimate partners (Archer, 2000). However females have also been shown to be
more of a victim of physical IPV (Vagi, Olsen, & Basile, 2015). This shows the inconsistency found in the literature concerning IPV.

The literature does agree on one aspect of IPV. Males have repeatedly been shown to perpetrate more sexual coercion than females. In one study, none of the females who admitted to using IPV in their intimate relationship had used sexually coercive tactics (Dobash & Dobash, 2004). Even among individuals who had been arrested, males acknowledged a more serious history of sexual violence (Feder & Henning, 2005). It has also been shown that females report more sexual assaults and sexual coercion victimisation than males (Tanha, Beck, Figueredo, & Raghavan, 2010). This relationship has also been seen cross culturally. In 6 EU countries males were shown to perpetrate more sexual coercion than females (Costa, et al., 2015). These studies suggest that males do perpetrate more sexual coercion within intimate relationships than females.

1.3 Jealousy and IPV
A variety of factors have been shown to affect the perpetration of IPV, such as age, education and wealth (Wusu, 2014), gender role (Santana, Raj, Decker, Marche, & Silverman, 2006) and substance use (Fals-Stewart, Golden, & Schumacher, 2003). As IPV has been shown to be present cross culturally, it must be the consequence of a phenomenon in human nature and one that is not culturally specific. Jealousy has repeatedly been shown to be an important factor in the perpetration of IPV (Foran & O’Leary, 2008) and also an emotion that is present across cultures (Buss, Sexual Jealousy, 2013). Jealousy scales have also been shown to be a good predictor of both physical and psychological abuse for both males and females (Brem, Spiller, & Vandehey, 2014). Jealousy has been shown to be linked with severe assault as individuals who possess more jealous thoughts are more likely to enact jealous behaviours. This study also showed that this relationship did not occur as a result of violent socialisation (Lasley & Durtschi, 2017). Individuals who experience morbid jealousy were more likely to kill or attempt to kill their intimate partner (Easton & Shackelford, 2009). Studies have also shown that both males and females who have a higher level of jealousy have a greater propensity to aggression towards their partner (Murphy & Russell, 2016). Jealousy has also been shown to predict IPV in online environments. The Jealousy and Surveillance subscales of the Facebook Mate-Retention Tactic Inventory have been shown to predict both physical and psychological aggression towards intimate partners (Brem, Spiller, & Vandehey, 2014).
Other studies have also shown this, where online jealousy has been shown to be a significant predictor of physical and psychological aggression amongst Italian university students (Sánchez, Muñoz, Nocentini, Ortega-Ruiz, & Menesini, 2014).

When specifically looking at the relationship between jealousy and male perpetration of IPV, jealousy has been shown to be a significant risk factor for psychological abuse against their female partners. The controlling aspects of jealousy were also shown to be very important within this association (Mayorga, 2012). Male jealousy has also been shown to effect sexual coercion. Studies suggest that many incidents of forced in pair copulation occurs after accusations of female infidelity, suggesting a strong link between male jealousy and forced in pair copulation (Goetz & Shackelford, 2006). Further studies have also supported this. Males who raped their wives reported being more jealous than males who did not rape their wives, which suggests that sexual coercion is linked to their partner’s infidelities or their suspicions of it (Goetz & Shackelford, 2009). Research has also shown this relationship between accusations of female infedelity and other forms of IPV such as physical violence (Kaighobadi, Starratt, Shackelford, & Popp, 2008). More recent research has also found this as male jealousy has been shown to be a significant factor affecting physical IPV (Sabri, Renner, Stockman, Mittal, & Decker, 2014).

The relationship between jealousy and IPV can also be seen in females. Jealousy has been shown to be a significant predictor of female perpetration of IPV (Caldwell, Swan, Allen, Sullivan, & Snow, 2009). Using self-reports female perpetrators have indicated that jealousy is the main reason for their violence (Gomez, Speizer, & Moracco, 2011). Jealousy has also been linked to the perpetration of physical IPV for females. Females arrested for domestic violence stated that one of their main motivations for physical assault against their partner was jealousy (Elmquist, et al., 2015). As well as physical violence, jealousy has been shown to be a common motive among female perpetrators of emotional abuse (Leisring, 2012). Qualitative research also found evidence to suggest that the experience of jealousy is positively related to female perpetration of coercive control (Broda, 2017). Collectively this research suggests that jealousy is a very important factor in the perpetration of IPV among both males and female.

The relationship between jealousy and IPV can be explained by evolutionary psychology. According to evolutionary psychology jealousy is an emotion that motivates behaviours that
deters partner infidelity or desertion from the relationship. These behaviours are called mate-retention behaviours (Kaighobadi & Shackelford, 2009). Violence and threats are used to limit a partner’s autonomy which then decreases the odds of partner infidelity (Buss, 2016). Studies have shown that non-physical mate-retention behaviours have been shown to predict physical violence against a partner (Shackelford, Goetz, Buss, Euler, & Hoier, 2005). Further research into this also found that accusations of infidelity predicted non-violent mate guarding and mate retention behaviour which then later predicted physical violence (Kaighobadi & Shackelford, 2009). This suggests that jealousy is an important emotion that aids againsts partner infedelity.

1.4 Sex differences in jealousy
As jealousy has been shown to be an important factor in the perpetration of IPV, it is important to understand jealousy. According to evolutionary psychology an important sex difference exists between how males and females experience jealousy. Males are believed to be more distressed by sexual infidelity, which is referred to as sexual jealousy. This evolved as it was more of an issue for males in our evolutionary past. Males risk wasting their resources on a child which is not theirs if their partner is unfaithful, thus being more susceptible to sexual jealousy was advantageous to males, whereas females are believed to be more distressed by emotional infidelity, referred to as emotional jealousy. This is because females risk losing the investment of a male’s resources if he is unfaithful and has a child with another female (Buss, 2016). A variety of studies have looked into this distinction between the sexes.

A seminal study in the early 1990's was conducted by Buss, Larson, Weston and Semmelroth (1992). They used a forced choice paradigm in which participants had to choose whether it would be more distressing to discover if their partner had been sexually unfaithful or emotionally unfaithful. This research found that males were more distressed by sexual infidelity, whereas females were more distressed by emotional infidelity. Numerous studies have corroborated this finding. More recent research has shown that males are more distressed by scenarios that depict sexual infidelity, whereas females were more distressed by scenarios that depict emotional infidelity. This study also suggests that the sex of the participant was the largest predictor of infidelity reaction (Brase, Adair, & Monk, 2014). This phenomenon has been shown to be present cross-culturally. Research conducted in Chille found that the sex of the participant was significantly associated with which infidelity
scenario was most distressing, with males being more distressed by sexual infidelity and females being more distressed by emotional infidelity (Fernandez, et al., 2015).

Some studies have found that this sex difference can be seen online. Jealousy was found to be a problem in an online context as time spent online has been associated with jealousy (Dainton & Stokes, 2015). One study used realistic facebook messages in order to see if this sex difference was still seen in an online environment. It was found that a sex difference was still seen online, with males being more distressed by sexual infidelity revealing messages and females being more distressed by emotional infidelity revealing messages (Dunn & Billet, 2017). This supported previous research that has shown that sex differences in jealousy can also be seen in online contexts (Guadagno & Sagarin, 2010).

Due to the differences that are seen in how the sexes experience jealousy it is possible that this may affect how individuals act on these jealous feelings, and how this relates to IPV perpetration. The aim of this is to explore whether sex and jealousy affect the manifestations of IPV attitudes and behaviours. Previous research has shown that IPV is an issue for both males and females. There is also mixed literature regarding sex differences in the perpetration of IPV. However males have repeatedly been shown to perpetrate the most sexual violence within intimate relationships. As jealousy has been shown to be a significant factor effecting the perpetration of IPV it is possible that these sex differences in jealousy may provide more explanation of the sex differences seen in the perpetration of IPV. For example sexually jealous individuals may be more likely to use sexual violence compared to emotionally jealous individuals. It is hypothesised that both sex and jealousy will affect the manifestation of IPV attitudes and behaviours. This would be very useful for future research as it will open new areas of interest in how jealousy can affect IPV. This research could also add to the research base on IPV and potentially be used in the creation of tools related to the prevention and treatment of IPV.

2. Methods

2.1 Participants
Participants were recruited using two methods, the first being the Participant Panel where students received course credits in return for their participation. The Second was Qualtrics an
online survey site. In order to participate in the study participants had to be over the age of 18 and currently in a dating relationship. In total there were 180 participants who completed the study. Participants had an average age of 24.4 years, with a standard deviation of 8.2 years. Participants were split into four groups based on their sex and whether they were more distressed by emotional infidelity or sexual infidelity. These groups included emotional male (18), emotional female (72), sexual male (24) and sexual female (66).

2.2 Design
A quantitative design method was used to analyse the data, which involved a between subjects design method. Due to there being two independent variables a Two-Way Mixed MANOVA was used. Appropriate post hoc analyses were also used. The first of the independent variables was sex. This had two levels (Male and Female). The second Independent variable was jealousy; this also had two levels (those inclined to regard emotional infidelity as more distressing and those inclined to regard sexual infidelity as more distressing). This study also had four Dependent variables (physical assault, psychological abuse, Control and Sexual Coercion). The Physical assault, psychological abuse and control factors were measured by the Intimate Partner Violence Attitude Scale – Revised (Fincham, Cui, Braithwaite, & Pasley, 2008), and the sexual coercion factor was measured by the Tactics to Obtain Sex Scale (Camilleri, Quinsey, & Tapscott, 2009).

2.3 Materials
A variety of materials were needed to carry out this study. The first were the emotional and sexual messages that were presented to each participant. Each message has been carefully constructed so that the messages are unambiguously either sexual or emotional in nature (see Fig1. Below). Both messages were kept to a similar length and used similar wording. Both messages were presented in a way that simulated the use of social media. This was done as there is a variety of evidence that links time spent using/monitoring social media and jealousy (Dainton & Stokes, 2015).
The second material that was needed was the sexual coercion subscale of the Tactics to Obtain Sex Scale (Camilleri, Quinsey, & Tapscott, 2009). This is a 19 item scale, which measures the propensity of an individual to use coercion tactics to obtain sex. This measure uses a 5 point Likert scale, ranging from ‘definitely not’ to ‘definitely’. Participants were asked to imagine that their partner did not want to have sex. Participants were then asked how effective certain behaviours would be to persuade their partners to have sex, and also how likely they are to perform these behaviours. A higher score suggests a higher propensity to use sexual coercion tactics to obtain sex. This scale has been shown to be both valid and reliable in previous research (Camilleri, Quinsey, & Tapscott, 2009).

The Final measure that was used was the Intimate Partner Violence Attitude Scale – Revised (Fincham, Cui, Braithwaite, & Pasley, 2008). This scale is a 17 item scale with 3 subscales (Psychological Abuse, Physical Violence and Control), which measures to what degree the respondents condone the use of physically violent, psychologically abusive and controlling behaviours within dating relationships. This scale also used a 5 point Likert scale ranging from ‘strongly disagree’ to ‘strongly agree’. Higher scores on this scale equal a higher acceptance of these abusive behaviours. This measure has been shown to be both valid and reliable (Shiota, 2017).

2.4 Procedure
Participants were first briefed about the study and told their rights as participants. Participants were first asked pertinent demographic questions regarding their age and sex. Participants
then completed the forced-choice paradigm where they were asked to select which of the infidelity revealing messages was the most distressing. This separated participants into those inclined to regard sexual infidelity as more distressing (sexual jealousy) and those inclined to regard emotional infidelity as more distressing (emotional jealousy). After this participants completed both the TOSS and the IPVAS-R. Participants were then debriefed and thanked for their participation.

2.5 Method of analysis
In order to conduct the analysis a Two-Way MANOVA was used. This was used to not only study the main effect that the independent variables had on the dependent variables but to also see if there was an interaction between both of the independent variables. Appropriate Post-hoc analysis was also conducted.

3. Results
3.1 Descriptive statistics
The data was obtained from 180 participants (42 males and 138 females). The Data was then analysed using a Two-Way mixed MANOVA. Results are shown in figure 2 below.

Figure 2 (A,B,C,D) differences in attitudes towards, Sexual Coercion (A), Psychological Abuse (B), Violence (C) and Control (D).
Figure 2.A shows that females who were more distressed by sexual infidelity scored higher than females who were more distressed by emotional infidelity. Figure 2.B shows that males were more condoning of Psychological Abuse within dating relationships than females.

3.2 Sexual coercion

A two way mixed MANOVA was conducted to analyse this data. The analysis found that there was no significant effect of jealousy on sexual coercion \((F(1,176) = 2.639, p = .106, \eta^2 = .015)\), Analysis also found that there was no significant effect of sex on Sexual Coercion \((F(1,176) = .013, p = .908, \eta^2 = .0)\). However, Subsequent simple main effect analysis was conducted and found a significant effect of jealousy on females \((F(1,176) = 4.187, p<0.05, \eta^2 = .023)\) for sexual coercion, indicating that sexually jealous females were more likely to use sexual coercion tactics then emotionally jealous females. The simple main effect analysis also showed that there was no significant main effect of jealousy on males \((F(1,176) = .537, p = .465, \eta^2 = .003)\) for the sexual coercion subscale. There was no significant simple main effect of sex on sexual jealousy \((F(1,176) = 0.114, p = .7361, \eta^2 = .001)\) or emotional jealousy \((F(1,176) = .023, p = .881, \eta^2 = 0)\) for the sexual coercion subscale.

3.3 Psychological abuse

With regard to the psychological abuse subscale it was found that there was no significant effect of jealousy on Psychological Abuse \((F(1,176) = .227, p = .634, \eta^2 = .001)\). However a significant difference was found for sex on psychological abuse \((F(1,176) = 6.899, p<0.01, \eta^2 = .038)\), showing that overall males were significantly more likely to condone psychological abuse within dating relationships than females. Simple main effect analysis showed a significant main effect of sex on sexual jealousy \((F(1,176) = 4.354, p<0.05, \eta^2 = .024)\), indicating that sexually jealous males were significantly more likely to use psychological abuse than sexually jealous females. However, there was no simple main effect of sex on emotional jealousy \((F(1,176) = 2.737, p = .1, \eta^2 = .015)\). No significant simple main effect was found for jealousy for either males \((F(1,176) = .137, p = .712, \eta^2 = .001)\) or females \((F(1,176) = .1, p = .752, \eta^2 = .001)\) for the psychological abuse subscale.
3.4 Physical Violence
The Two Way Mixed MANOVA revealed no significant effect of jealousy for the Physical Violence \(F(1,176) = 1.654, p = .2, \eta^2 = .009\) and no significant effect of sex on the physical violence subscale \(F(1,176) = .102, p = .749, \eta^2 = .001\). Simple main effect analysis showed that there was no significant simple main effect of sex on sexual jealousy \(F(1,176) = 0.295, p=.58, \eta^2 = .002\) or emotional jealousy \(F(1,176) = .004, p=.952, \eta^2 = 0\) for the violence subscale. This analysis also showed no significant simple main effect of jealousy for either males \(F(1,176) = .932, p=.336, \eta^2 = .005\) or females \(F(1,176) = .837, p=.361, \eta^2 = .005\).

3.5 Control
The analysis found that there was no significant effect of jealousy on Control \(F(1,176)=.006, p = .94, \eta^2 = .0\), and that there was no significant effect of sex on Control \(F(1,176) = .771, p = .381, \eta^2 = .004\). Simple main effect analysis showed no significant main effect of sex on sexual jealousy \(F(1,176) = .004, p=.953, \eta^2 =0\) or emotional jealousy \(F(1,176) = 1.278, p=.26, \eta^2 = .007\). It was also found that there was no significant simple main effect of jealousy on either males \(F(1,176) = .248, p=.619, \eta^2 = .001\) or females \(F(1,176) = .569, p=.452, \eta^2 = .005\).

4. Discussion
Jealousy has been shown to be a dominant factor in the perpetration of IPV for both men and women. Evolutionary Psychology suggests that these feelings of jealousy are an adaptive trait to aid against partner infidelity (Buss, 2016). According to this view there are two types of jealousy: sexual and emotional. Males have been shown to be more distressed by sexual infidelity whereas females are more distressed by emotional infidelity (Brase, Adair, & Monk, 2014). It has been suggested that the use of IPV is a tactic that is used by an individual to retain a mate and stop them mating with another individual. Current literature suggests that there is a difference in how the sexes perpetrate IPV, where males are thought to engage more in sexual coercive tactics (Tanha, Beck, Figueredo, & Raghavan, 2010). However the current literature shows mixed results in sex differences when it comes to the physical violence, psychological abuse and control aspects of IPV. Based on this it was hypothesised that both sex and jealousy would have an effect on the acceptance and usage of different aspects of IPV in dating relationships.
The current research found two main findings. The first is that males were found to be more condoning of psychological abuse than females with sexually jealous males in particular being more condoning of these attitudes than sexually jealous females. The second main finding was that females who were sexually jealous were found to use more sexually coercive tactics than females who were emotionally jealous. This relationship was not seen in males. Jealousy and sex did not have an effect on any of the other subscales. Based on this the hypothesis is partially accepted as both sex had an effect on psychological abuse \( F(1,176) = 6.899, p<0.01, \eta^2 = .038 \) and jealousy was shown to affect the sexual coercive attitudes of females \( F(1,176) = 4.187, p<0.05, \eta^2 = .023 \). As the null hypothesis is rejected the alternative hypothesis is accepted.

With regard to the first finding, this study suggested that males are more condoning of psychological abuse within dating relationships. However, it does not show actual perpetration. Within the literature it is widely accepted that attitudinal acceptance of IPV is often associated with the use of IPV (Simon, et al., 2001). Studies have shown that abusive males condoned the use of violence against their partners whereas non-abusive males did not (Hanson, Cadsky, Harris, & LaLonde, 1997). Further studies have shown that attitude towards IPV is positively associated with IPV perpetration (Harris, Hilton, & Rice, 2011). Together with the findings from the current study it can be inferred that males are more likely to perpetrate psychological violence than females.

Psychological abuse within dating relationships is a relatively new concept and therefore has been studied less than other aspects of IPV (Costa, et al., 2015). Research into psychological abuse within relationships shows mixed findings. On one side there is research for a gender difference in psychological abuse. Females reported using more psychologically aggressive tactics, specifically engulfment and denigration (Babcock, Canady, Senior, & Christopher, 2005). Other research also suggests that males perpetrate more psychological abuse, as in conflict situations males are more likely to use psychological abuse first as it is deemed milder, whereas females are more likely to go straight to physical violence (Winstok, Weinberg, & Smadar-Dror, 2017). However other research shows that there is gender symmetry in relation to psychological abuse. A study looking at the prevalence of different
forms of IPV across 6 EU countries found that both males and females perpetrate a similar amount of psychological abuse (Costa, et al., 2015). Other research also shows similar results. Using self-reports males and females equally report being both victims and perpetrators of psychological violence (Robertson & Murachver, 2007). Looking further into this issue, research has found that males and females perpetrate a similar amount of psychological abuse in relationships. However they differ in the types of psychological abuse they use. Males were more likely to use behaviours such as threatening harm and to say bad things about their partner, whereas females were more likely to insult or swear, shout or yell, threaten to kill, threaten suicide, and to make harassing phone calls (Basile, 2004). These differences within the facet of psychological abuse have been previously found. One study found no gender differences in the overall perpetration of psychological abuse but found that females were more likely to spit and shout at their partner. (Hines & Saudino, 2003). This shows that there is still a need for research into psychological forms of IPV.

The current study added to the literature by finding evidence to suggest that males may perpetrate more psychological abuse than females, specifically sexually jealous males scored higher than sexually jealous females. This shows that there is a sex difference in the attitudes and potential perpetration of psychological abuse within individuals who experience sexual jealousy. There are a number of theories as to why men might perpetrate psychological abuse.

One theory is based on the stressors on the male and gender roles within relationships. Research has shown that stressful personal problems are the biggest contributor towards male perpetration of psychological abuse; this relationship was not seen for women (Gormley & Lopez, 2010). The role of gender role stress has previously been identified as a factor that predicts aggression and violence within intimate relationships (Jakupcak, Lisak, & Roemer, 2002). This conflict around gender roles within relationships is now being linked with psychological abuse specifically. One study indicated that males were inclined to believe that their female partner was there to serve their emotional needs in stressful situations (Gormley & Lopez, 2010). This suggests that in times of stress for males they believe that their partner is there to serve as their emotional output, which may lead to males perpetrating psychological abuse against their partner to relieve an emotional strain.

Another theory as to why males perpetrate IPV against females is due to a disparity in resources. There is evidence to suggest that income disparity is an important factor when
considering IPV against females (McCloskey, 1996). This is due to females earning more and reversing the social norms of males. The central idea of this theory is that economic power determines the shape and roles of the individuals within the relationship (Kaukinen, 2004). Previous research has highlighted how social gender norms within relationships can affect the perpetration on IPV (Jewkes, 2002). One study around this suggested that in ‘reversal couples’, where females are the majority bread winner, males try to reassert their dominance through IPV (Kaukinen, 2004). This theory is now being applied to the use of psychological abuse against women. When males are unable to fulfil their role in the relationship they rely on other mechanisms, such as non-physical psychological abuse to assert this. In the case of reversal couples it is the use of psychological abuse (Kaukinen, 2004)

These theories both suggest that the roles individuals play in a relationship has an effect on the perpetration of psychological abuse, specifically if roles do not meet social norms or expected characteristics. Males may feel that they are able to use their partner as an output for their stressors in the form of psychological abuse (Gormley & Lopez, 2010). Other men in relationships where females are the ones with the resources and therefore the power may feel that they have to use other mechanisms such as psychological abuse to regain their dominance and role within the relationship (Kaukinen, 2004).

These theories suggest why some males may have an increased attitudinal acceptance of psychological abuse. However previous research suggests that there are many factors that may affect the prevalence and sex differences that can be found in psychological abuse such as education and wealth (Wusu, 2014). This highlights the need for more research in this understudied area. The current study also highlighted that sexual jealousy may play a role in this relationship. As yet there are no studies that look into how sexual jealousy effects psychological abuse. Future research should look into the role sexual jealousy plays in the relationship between sex and psychological abuse. As the field of psychological abuse within relationships shows very mixed results, the concept of sexual jealousy may help to clear up the sex differences that are seen.

Despite being an understudied area of IPV it has very real consequences for the victim. Psychological abuse towards women has been shown to be just as detrimental towards women’s mental health as physical abuse. In fact psychological abuse has been shown to be the biggest predictor of depression and anxiety symptomology (Pico-Alfonso, et al., 2006).
Previous research has also shown this association. Psychologically abused women have been shown to score higher on depression and lower on self-esteem scales (Kelly, 2004). These studies show that despite being classed as milder forms of abuse they can have detrimental effects on the victim.

The second finding from the current study was that sexually jealous females were more likely to use sexually coercive tactics than emotionally jealous females. However this finding was not seen in males. This finding suggests that females who are more male like in terms of jealousy are more likely to be sexually coercive.

According to evolutionary psychology jealousy is an emotion that evolved to deal with mate poaching and mate infidelity (Buss, 2016). Sexual jealousy specifically encourages mate retention behaviours that will ensure one's mate does not copulate with another individual. This has been a vital trait for males to possess as it ensures paternity and means that males are not wasting their resources on a child if it is not theirs (Buss, 2016). However, as females do not experience this problem sexual jealousy seems to be a trait found mostly in males. Several studies have shown this. When presented with two scenarios, one suggesting sexual infidelity and the other suggesting emotional infidelity, males often report the sexual infidelity messages as being more distressing, suggesting sexual jealousy is more dominant. Whereas females often report the emotional infidelity messages as being the most distressing, suggesting that emotional jealousy is more dominant in females (Brase, Adair, & Monk, 2014). Multiple studies have also shown that females often report emotional infidelity as being more distressing than sexual infidelity (Dunn & Billet, 2017). Due to these differences in how the sexes experience jealousy there is very little if not any research that looks at female sexual jealousy and its consequences, as females do not typically experience sexual jealousy.

There is some research into how females experience jealousy in more general terms, and how this relates to female sexual coercion. One study looking at how Body Mass Index and jealousy may affect the perpetration of sexual coercion found that jealousy was significantly associated with the perpetration of sexual coercion for females (Salwen, O’Leary, & Hymowitz, 2016). This finding backs up previous research that found that females who are sexually aggressive were found to engage in jealous behaviours (Muñoz-Rivas, Graña, O’Leary, & González, 2009). These studies do suggest a link between female jealousy and
sexual coercion. However the current study suggests that this link between female jealousy and sexual coercion may be explained by females who experience sexual jealousy specifically. This is due to them being more likely to engage in sexually coercive behaviours than emotionally jealous females. Future research should look into emotional and sexual jealousy more specifically and how this relates to sexual coercion among females. The area of female perpetrated sexual coercion also seems to be an under researched area within the literature. This could be due to the myths around male victimisation of sexual coercion and that males cannot be the victim of sexual violence within a relationship.

Studies have shown that there are a variety of myths surrounding male victims of sexual coercion. These include beliefs that men are more in control of their victimisation and that sexual coercion is pleasurable for men and therefore not an issue (Huitema & Vanwesenbeeck, 2016). Males are often blamed for being raped and that based on the social ideals of males and female ‘real men’ cannot be raped (Javaid, 2015). This shows that myths regarding male victimisation exist. Research into this has also shown that these myths don’t just exist in the general public but also in counsellors, medical trainees, law enforcement, and rape crisis workers (Hammond, Ioannou, & Fewster, 2016) The acceptance of these myths could explain why there is such a disparity in the research for male sexual coercion victims compared to female sexual coercion victims. This shows a need for more research regarding female sexual jealousy and female perpetration of sexual coercion.

The current research has added the literature regarding IPV by finding evidence to suggest that males perpetrate more psychological abuse than females. However this difference that was found between sexually jealousy males and sexually jealous females. The role of sexual jealousy in the perpetration of IPV has yet to be studied and could be an interesting area for future research. This study also found evidence that sexually jealous females were more sexually coercive than emotionally jealous females. Female sexual coercion is an understudied area in psychology, and future research may benefit from investigating the role of sexual jealousy in female perpetrated sexual coercion.

Despite showing several interesting findings this research did have some limitations. The main limitation within the current study is the idea of the context of the violence perpetrated. The methods used in the current study did not take into account the context and motivations behind the violence perpetrated within relationships. Therefore this research cannot comment
on the use of self-defence or similar behaviours within relationships. Many studies have shown that when context is taken into considerations males perpetrate more IPV than females (Chan K., 2011). This points to a gender asymmetry in the perpetration of IPV, which was not found in this study except on the psychological abuse subscale.

The idea of context and motivations of violence within relationships has been a big issue on the study of IPV. Some researchers claim that gender symmetry in the perpetration of IPV only exists in the literature due to the context of the violence not being taken into account. Several studies have shown this to be true. One study found that males are more likely to initiate violence whereas females are more likely to be violent in response to violent acts against them (Chan K., 2011). This suggests that there are no sex differences in the perpetration of IPV but there are sex differences in the motivations for the use of IPV (Melton & Belknap, 2003). Previous research also showed that females were more likely than males to endorse the use of violence for self-defence (Henning, Jones, & Holdford, 2005). This suggests that gender symmetry only exists due to female use of self-defence. However other research does suggest that a sex difference does exist in the motivations for IPV but no differences were found for the use of self-defence between the sexes (Hamberger & Larsen, 2015). Future research into IPV should take into account the motivations behind the use of IPV.

In conclusion, this study has found evidence to suggest there is a sex difference in the endorsement of psychological abuse. Males are more endorsing of psychological abuse within relationships then females. More specifically sexually jealous males were more endorsing of this behaviour than sexually jealous female. There are several reasons as to why this might exist such as the stress of gender roles within the relationship. The second finding of this study was that sexually jealous females are more sexually coercive than emotionally jealousy females. This area of research is much understudied and needs further investigation. A variety of research suggests that a link between female jealousy in general and the use of sexual coercion does exist. The current study suggests that this relationship may be explained by sexually jealous females’ use of sexually coercive tactics. This study highlights the role that jealousy plays in the perpetration of IPV and specifically the role sexual jealousy plays in this relationship.
There are a variety of areas for future research that were alluded to in the current study. More research should be conducted on males’ use of psychological abuse within relationships. The idea of psychological abuse is a new concept within IPV research and needs further investigation. Specifically future research should focus on the role that sexual jealousy may play in the sex differences that are shown in psychological abuse perpetration. Another major area for research is female perpetrated sexual coercion, specifically the role that sexual jealousy plays in this.
5. References


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Signed:

Date: 17/04/2018