An exploration of sex differences in attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour in nightclubs

2018
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.
Acknowledgments

Firstly I would like to thank my amazing uni girls for your constant support and motivation throughout the three years. Without you, my Uni experience wouldn’t have been the same. You have guided me through my degree and taught me to be confident in my own work when I felt like giving up.
I will cherish our laughs, cries and pub crawls forever.

S/O to my uni mums ()
*****

Secondly, I would like to thank my family for their support emotionally and financially throughout my university degree. Soon I will be able to pay for the bar tab.

*****

Finally, a huge thank you to all the participants who took part in my research. Your participation and willingness to help was greatly appreciated. This project would not have been possible without you.
Abstract

Sexual harassment is a growing concern in today's society and can be defined as "conduct as unwanted or unwelcome, and which has the purpose or effect of being intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive" Krebs et al, 2008; McDonald’s, 2012, p. 2). With an estimated 3.1% of women aged 16-59 experienced sexual assault in the last year (Onsgovuk, 2018). Young females, specifically college students are a target population of large interest within the psychological field, as college-aged women are particularly vulnerable to sexual assault (Sinozich & Langton, 2014). However, it appears that there are significant sex differences in perceptions and attitudes towards sexual harassment; males are more likely to accept ‘rape myths’ and support unwanted sexual behaviour than are females (Acock and Ireland, 1983). This study aimed to explore the present gender differences in undergraduate’s attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviours in nightclubs. The study adopted a between subjects design, using a quantitative online questionnaire. The sample consisted of 56 undergraduate male and females, with ages ranging from 18-24. All participants completed an annotated version
## Contents

Declaration .......................................................................................................................... ii
Acknowledgments .............................................................................................................. iii
Abstract ............................................................................................................................ iv
Contents ............................................................................................................................. v

1.0 Introduction: ................................................................................................................. 1
   1.1 Sexual harassment and unwanted sexual behaviour .................................................. 1
   1.2 Sexual harassment in the workplace ......................................................................... 2
   1.3 Student environment .............................................................................................. 4
   1.4 Role of alcohol consumption and student nightlife ................................................... 7
   1.5 Rape Mythology ...................................................................................................... 9
   1.6 Gender differences ................................................................................................. 11
   1.7 Rationale and aim of research ................................................................................. 12

2.0 Method: ......................................................................................................................... 13
   2.1 Participants ............................................................................................................... 13
   2.2 Design ..................................................................................................................... 13
   2.3 Materials ................................................................................................................. 13
   2.4 Updated Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (IRMA) ........................................... 14
   2.5 Procedure ............................................................................................................... 15
   2.6 Method of analysis ................................................................................................. 16
   2.7 Ethics ...................................................................................................................... 16

3.0 Results .......................................................................................................................... 17
   3.1 Male and Female Mean Scores .............................................................................. 17
   3.2 Male and Female Responses .................................................................................. 18
   3.3 Statistical Analysis ................................................................................................. 19

4.0 Discussion ...................................................................................................................... 20
   4.1 Overview .................................................................................................................. 20
   4.2 Main Findings ......................................................................................................... 20
   4.3 Considerations ........................................................................................................ 23
   4.4 Conclusion .............................................................................................................. 25

5.0 References .................................................................................................................... 26
6.0 Appendices ..........................................................................................................................35
7.0 word count ..........................................................................................................................43
1.0 Introduction:

1.1 Sexual harassment and unwanted sexual behaviour

Sexual harassment is a serious problem in today's society. It is described as a public safety problem with many implications and defined as “conduct as unwanted or unwelcome, and which has the purpose or effect of being intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive” (Krebs et al, 2008; McDonald’s, 2012, p. 2). Research suggests that the definition of sexual harassment is “widely misunderstood” by those who have been victims of sexual harassment, and perpetrators of harassment (Paludi et al, 1991). With a large volume of literature defining sexual harassment differently, the most useful but early definitions is the one proposed by Fitzgerald et al (1998). Fitzgerald views sexual harassment as a continuum; with gender harassment at one end of the spectrum, and sexual imposition (sexual assault/rape) at the other. Gender harassment is perceived to consist of sexist remarks and behaviours towards women which are viewed as degrading and insulting (Paludi et al, 1991). Furthermore, with behaviour more likely to be labeled as ‘harassment’ when the behaviour is surprising to the sex victim (Pryor, 1985) and sexual assault consisting of assault and rape (Paludi et al, 1991). Definitions of sexual harassment have more recently been supported by The U.S department of Education (2010) who defined it as “unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature which may include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature” (Gruber & Fineran, 2016).

Following on, the definition of unwanted sexual behaviour is often queried, with research outlining different perceptions on what is deemed as ‘unwanted sexual behaviour’. Research conducted by Kelley and Parson, (2000) stated that unwanted sexual attention includes verbal and non-verbal behaviours that can be considered offensive to the person that is experiencing the attention. Unwanted sexual looks, sexual comments, and touching are all behaviours which can be considered unwanted
sexual attention (Wwwunorg, 2018). Furthermore, rape and other instances of serious sexual assault are reportedly widespread, among many different countries, with 22 percent of surveyed women and 2 percent of surveyed men had been “forced to do something sexual” at some time in their lifetime (Laumann et al, 1994). This suggests that a large percentage of the victims are female (Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998, 2006). These shocking prevalence rates are also still high today, with an estimated 3.1% of women (510,000) aged 16-59 experienced sexual assault in the last year (ending March 2017) in England and Wales (Onsgovuk, 2018). Young females, specifically college students, as stated earlier are a target population of large interest within the psychological field, as college-aged women are particularly vulnerable to sexual assault (Sinozich & Langton, 2014). With statistics showing that approximately one in seven female students in the UK are sexually assaulted (Nus 2010), therefore making it evident that unwanted sexual behaviour is a major concern for female students in today's society.

1.2 Sexual harassment in the workplace

As previously discussed, it is apparent that sexual harassment is a growing concern. With particular interest in female undergraduate students at high risk of experiencing sexual harassment or sexual assault, with research outlining that out of a sample of 2058 female students, 16% of respondents experiences less serious sexual assault, 12% had experienced stalking and 25% had experienced sexual assault (Nusorguk, 2018). In response to this, there has been a large volume of literature exploring this topic, with particular interest of sexual harassment within the workplace; with a previous survey reporting that approximately 40% of female workers and 15% of male workers had encountered sexual harassment within the workplace (Comer and Copper, 1998). However, this has been supported by more recent literature, with 46% of women surveyed had experienced 1 or more types of violence; with 7.6% sexual assault and 0.6% sexual assault (Duncan, Hyndman and Hesketh et al, 2016). Black’s law dictionary defines workplace sexual harassment as a type of employment discrimination which can be verbal or physical abuse with a sexual nature (Garner & Black, 1999).
Sexual harassment within the workplace can be placed into two categories: Hostile-environment sexual harassment and Quid pro quo sexual harassment (Fitzgerald et al, 1995). Both types of harassment include similar behavioral characteristics of sexual nature, which may cause offence. Furthermore, Hostile-environment sexual harassment refers to unwelcome verbal or physical sexual behaviour whereas quid pro quo sexual harassment refers sexual demands initiated by a superior figure within the working environment, which can be used as a basis of an employment decision (Kaner, 2002). In addition to Comer and Copper, (1998) research, another study conducted by Collins and Blodgett, (1981) identified that most individuals had difficulty agreeing on exactly what sexual harassment was, with women not reporting sexual harassment due to not understanding the variance between sexual harassment (unwanted) and what is just interaction between male and female co-workers. Hostile work environment has been defined by The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) (1980) as unwanted sexual advances, including physical conduct as well as verbal and sexual comments which may interfere with the individual's experience with being at work. This type of harassment has been found to be hard to conceptualize as sexual relationships within the workplace are not always sexually harassing and harmful, with interactions such as sexual bantering and flirting between employees is part of the sexualized work culture. Which in order reduces stress (Giuffre, 1997). This therefore indicates that these interactions should be beyond the scope of the sexual harassment policy (Williams et al 1999). It is evident from past literature that sexual harassment within the workplace is a concern, however with new research released by The Trade Union Congress (TUC) found that in 2016, over half of women had experienced sexual harassment at work and nearly two thirds (63%) of women aged 18-24 old (Tucorguk, 2018). The survey also discovered that one in three women (32%) have been subject to sexual jokes, 28% of sexual natured comments, and 23% touching. These findings portray that harassment is still prevalent in the workplace, causing hostile working environments for many women. Specifically with relation to higher authority figures in the workplace. Research has exposed that one in five (17%) of women reported that it was their manager or someone with higher authority than them (Tucorguk, 2018). Controversially past research found that sexual harassment is still a concern in today,
findings from Collins and Blodgett (1981) still have relevance in today’s society, with women not having a clear understanding of what sexual harassment is and therefore not reporting the incident. Additionally, a recent survey identified that around four out of five women who said they experienced sexual harassment did not tell their employer, this could be due to embarrassment (20%) or creating negative relationships at work (28%) (Tucorguk, 2018). Though, past research into sexual harassment in the workplace is dated and has failed to explore the attitudes and perceptions of sexual harassment in students.

1.3 Student environment

There has been a large volume of literature conducted on adolescents which has shown that one-third of both male and female students have experienced hostile environment harassment (Uggen and Blackstone, 2004. Additionally, previous research conducted by Benson and Thomson, (1982) found that thirty percent of women undergraduates, reported having received unwanted sexual attention from at least one male instructor during their time at college. This has been supported by Kalof et al (2001) who found that 40 percent of women on college campuses have experienced a sexually harassing incident by a male figure with higher authority than them, i.e. a university professor (Kalof et al, 2001). Research conducted by both Benson and Thomson (1982) and Kalof et al, (2001) provide sufficient evidence that Quid Pro quo sexual harassment occurs not only in the workplace, but also arise within University campuses as it has been Initiated that University professors have been harassing female students. Although research proposes that female college students are at greater risk of experiencing sexual harassment from a higher authority at university/ college; past research is dated and majority of more recent research concludes that sexual harassment is perpetrated by an acquaintance or peer (Campbell et al, 2017 ); Indicating that professors behaviours have changed towards students. However, recent evidence has in fact challenged this view; The Guardian (2017) explored sexual harassment allegations in UK Universities from 2011-2018, which found that 169 students have been a victim of sexual harassment from staff. Statistics displayed that Oxford University (5 reports) had
the highest reported allegations of staff on student sexual harassment in 2011-2018 (Theguardiancom, 2018). These figures suggest that student environments remain a hostile environment for females and quid pro quo harassment is still a concern. Additionally, research led by Mellins et al, 2017 found from a sample of American colleges that since college entry, 22% of students had reported experiencing at least one incident of sexual assault. The data also found that women (28%) reported significantly higher rates of experiencing any type of sexual assault compared to men (12%) indicating that women are at higher risk of sexual assault. In addition to these findings, Revolt Sexual harassment found that almost two thirds (62%) of students and graduates have experienced sexual violence at UK universities (Revoltsexualassaultcom, 2018). Although research supports previous literature, presenting that college campuses are still a concern for sexual victimization (Bonnie et al, 1998), past literature has primarily focused on more severe sexual assault such as rape, therefore there is gaps in the study when exploring sex differences in attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour.

Conclusively, it is clear from these findings that college students, specifically women, are at higher risk of experiencing sexual victimization. With a significantly high percentage of female college students being victims of different forms of sexual harassment and assault on campus’, many colleges and Universities have put in place sexual assault prevention programs and bystander interventions (Karjane, Fisher, & Cullen, 2005; Labhardt et al, 2017). In response to this, American colleges have put in place a ‘campus sexual assault education program’ which includes education about rape, rape myths, rapist characteristics and prevention strategies (Karjane, Fisher & Cullen, 2005). These programs have been implemented to increase awareness of what a sexual assault is, the warning signs of a sexual assault and also for the development of skills to intervene when witnessing future sexual assaults. According to findings by Burn (2009) and Planty (2002), a third of all sexual assaults are witnessed by bystander, yet the bystander only report the assault a third of the time. This is supported by Armstrong, Hamilton and Sweeney (2006) who state that sexual violence on college campuses is
still greatly unreported. These results could suggest that bystanders are unsure about whether or not the incident was an emergency; therefore not reporting what they had witnessed (Nickerson, Aloe, Livingston and Feeley, 2014). In response to this, further research has in fact explored bystander intervention programs. McMahon (2010) aimed to explore bystander attitudes and their relationship with rape myths in a sample of college students in America, and discovered that males (M = 3.47) reported significantly less positive bystander attitudes than females (M= 3.89). These results advocate that there are significant gender differences in bystander attitudes. Further research has in fact supported McMahon (2010) findings. Brady & Jurek (2017) surveyed 377 undergraduate students on a campus without bystander intervention programs in Texas; aiming to examine the impact on intervention across sexual assault, and sexual harassment scenarios. It was found that positive bystander attitudes and prevention efficiency correlated with direct intervention of sexual assault. Indicating that bystander attitudes and beliefs in rape myths can be negatively related to student’s motivations to intervene in a sexual assault (Brady & Jurek, 2017; McMahon, 2010).

Exploration has identified that a direct relationships between confidence and bystander intervention does in fact exist (Labhardt et al, 2017; Nickerson et al, 2014). Nickerson et al (2014) found that both empathy and attitudes positively correlated with interpreting the event and implementing the intervention decision; suggesting that intervention is based on personal characteristics of an individual. Contrastingly, their research also concluded that empathy and attitudes were not associated with knowing what to do and how to help when noticing an incident (Nickerson et al, 2014). Therefore interventions have been put in place aiming to decrease the prevalence rates of sexual assault on university campuses. Although past research has shown that intervention programs are effective for improving bystander attitudes to sexual assault (Senn & Forest, 2016), prevalence rates will remain unchanged. Suggesting, that further research is required to investigate and improve bystander intervention (Labhardt et al, 2017). In response to this, Labhardt et al (2017) aimed to gain a greater understanding of bystander behaviours in order to develop intervention programmes; finding that there was a direct relationship between confidence and bystander behaviour. Results indicate that
bystander intervention programs may help decrease the prevalence rates of sexual assaults of university campuses, due to further understanding about sexual harassment and assault. Although research into bystander intervention has raised awareness of sexual harassment and sexual assault on university campuses, which in the future aims to decrease prevalence rates. Whereas, currently all research exploring bystander intervention is based in the USA and therefore fails to explore how bystander interventions work in the UK to decrease prevalence rates on university campuses. There are likely to be many differences between the US and UK, and therefore the findings from past research exploring bystander interventions are not representative to UK university campuses.

1.4 Role of alcohol consumption and student nightlife

Research into unwanted sexual experiences outlines the importance of understanding specific characteristics of a sexual assault; a good example of this would be Karjane, Fisher & Cullen (2005) research, who put in place ‘Campus sexual assault education program’ in order to decrease prevalence rates of sexual assaults on University campuses. However, Karjane, Fisher and Cullen (2005) focus their interventions on sexual assault, such as rape. Therefore there is no reference to unwanted sexual behaviour, which has been found to be a significant problem in the world today, specifically within the student population. Additionally, Ullman, Karabatsos & Koss, (1999) states the importance to understand a range of characteristics of a sexual assault as well as risk factors which may increase the chances of individuals experiencing unwanted sexual behavior. Ullman et al (1999) aimed to explore the social mechanisms behind alcohol and how it may affect outcomes of sexual attacks in female college students. The research summarized that the role of alcohol is an important risk factor; it has been associated with the increased likelihood that individuals would be placed in situations where more severe sexual victimization is likely impact women (Ullman et al, 1999). These discoveries offer an explanation to why a large volume of literature focuses on university students, as it has been found that party culture increases the risk of sexual assaults (Fisher et al, 2003). In response to this, attention to
sexual victimization of college women has extensively been researched; with specific reference into the role of alcohol consumption and student nightlife. Research directed by Webb, Ashton, Kelly and Kamali (1996) found that 89% of a sample of 3075 second-year university students reported being "drinkers". In addition to this, 61% of the men and 48% of the women exceeded "sensible" limits of units per week. These statistics were supported by further research conducted by Hughes (2012) who found that high alcohol consumption is common in university students, with alcohol playing an important factor in university culture. These findings suggest that alcohol consumption is an important factor in university life, which has resulted into further research aiming to explore the relationship between sexual assault and harassment and alcohol consumption, with literature suggesting that alcohol and sexual victimization are linked (Testa & Parks, 1996). In addition to this, further research exploring the relationship between alcohol and sexual victimization has also been supported. George et al (2014) found from a sample of 436 young women that alcohol significantly increased risk taking behaviour and increased sexual desire.

According to The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) (2009), statistics indicate that drinking by college students between the ages of 18-24 years estimated 97,000 cases of sexual assault or date rape each year (Hingson et al, 2009). Portraying that a large majority of students engage in heavy drinking during university, which can cause many alcohol-related consequences. As previously discussed, Fisher et al (2003) Specified that party culture may increase sexual victimization. This idea was supported by research conducted Thompson and Cracco (2008) who found over 90% of a sample of 264 college men, revealed they had used overt sexually aggressive tactics in a bar or party settings. This indicates that mainstream clubs and the nightlife sector, mainly used by most universities can provide a male dominated environment for women, where they are viewed as 'sex objects' (Hubbard, 2011).
1.5 Rape Mythology

There is an abundance of research exploring gender differences in perceptions about what can be conceptualized as sexual assault or sexual harassment; with women perceiving more behaviors as sexually harassing (American Psychological Association, 1993) and males viewing the victim as more responsible (Gerdes, Dammann & Helilig, 1998). These verdicts suggest that males are more likely than females to favour rape myths. The concept of rape mythology was first introduced by Brownmiller in 1975. However, further research into rape mythology was led by Burt (1980) who described rape myths as “prejudicial, stereotyped, or false beliefs about rape, rape victims and rapists” (Burt, 1980). This definition was also more recently supported by Lonsway and Fitzgerald (1994) who further labelled rape myths as attitudes which are used to “deny and justify male sexual aggression against women” (Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1994). This can create an extremely hostile climate for rape victims (Burt, 1980). Although there has been an increasing number of reported male rapes, it is apparent that a large majority of rape victims are women (Suarez & Gadalla, 2010). A recent meta-analysis conducted by Suarez and Gadalla (2010) found that men displayed a significantly higher acceptance to rape myths than women. Additionally, this the higher the enforcement of rape myth acceptance displayed a significant association to negative attitudes and behaviour towards women (Suarez & Gadalla, 2010).

Acceptance to rape methodology can be measured in a number of ways; The Updated Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance scale (IRMA) was created by Payne, Lonsway & Fitzgerald (1999). There was two versions of the IRMA: original and a short version. The original questionnaire consisted of 45 items and 7 subscales; (1) She Asked for It, (2) It Wasn't Really Rape, (3) He Didn't Mean To, (4) She Wanted It, (5) She Lied, (6) Rape Is a Trivial Event, and (7) Rape Is a Deviant Event. However, due to the length of the scale, the questionnaire was shortened to a 23 item scale as shown in Mcmahon and Farmer (2011) research. The testimony is viewed as one of the most reliable rape myth scales to date, and was updated to improve the validity of the measurement of rape myth attitudes in today's society (Mcmahon & Farmer 2011). The wording in the
questionnaire was therefore annotated and amended to produce relevant terminology to students on college campuses. For example, “women” was replaced “girls” and “man” was replaced with “guys” in order to increase validity; additionally the word ‘slut’ was introduced as it is related to victim blaming (McMahon & Farmer, 2011). The revised version of the IRMA contains updated and relevant language to the college student population in order to increase the measures validity. However, there are limited measures available from past literature, and consequently this current research will need to adopt and adapt the IRMA to make it specifically relevant to this current literature.

It is obvious that a large majority of the rape mythology shifts the blame towards the victim; with views that women “ask for it” which can have a significant impact on who is held responsible for the crime (Gerdes, Dammann & Helilig, 1998; O’Sullivan, 1993). Other examples include: “women cry rape” and “only bad girls get raped” which all displays shift towards the rape victim. Acceptance of these rape myths imply that rape victims are in fault, which is a significant problem in today’s society. Additionally, favor of rape myths such as “she lied” can cause victims to be silent due to fear of victim blaming (Schwartz & Leggett, 1999; Xenos & Smith, 2001). This is supported by research produced by Schwartz and Leggett (1999) who concluded that many women fail to acknowledge that they had been raped and therefore not reporting the assault. According to the criminal Justice system statistics, only 310 out of every 1,000 sexual assaults are reported to police; working out as a shocking 3 sexual assaults go unreported (Department of Justice, 2015). In addition to these statistics, it has also been estimated that only 20% of female students report sexual assault (Department of Justice, 2014). Extensive research into the acceptance of rape mythology has a significant impact on the rape victim; as they are less likely to report the crime due to the fear of not being believed. Additionally, it is clear that there are significant gender differences in the endorsement of rape myths; with men having less supportive attitudes towards rape victims (Ward 1988).
1.6 Gender differences

In order to research a clear consensus on what is perceived as unwanted sexual behaviours; there has been a diverse volume of literature exploring individual differences, in particular sex differences when it comes to sexual harassment. Research has distinguished significant sex differences in attitudes towards rape and sexual aggression. Gerdes, Dammann and Heilig (1998) found that when subjects were exposed to different versions of a rape case; female subjects considered the victim less responsible, whereas the male subjects considered the victim more responsible. Gerdes, Dammann and Heilig (1998) findings were supported by research conducted by Muehlenhard, Friedman and Thomas (1985) who found that male subjects considered rape as “more justifiable” when females engage in certain behaviours. These findings indicate that there sex differences in a major factor when exploring attitudes towards rape and sexual aggression. In response to this view, courts developed the “reasonable woman standard (RWS) based on assumptions of the significant differences in perceptions of men and women viewing social sexual behaviour. The federal courts aim to use this technique instead of the reasonable man or reasonable person standard in order to determine a more accurate outcome on whether a sexual harassment/ assault has occurred; In hope that the technique will encourage judges to examine facts (from the female’s perspective) and to become more sensitive towards sexual harassment complaints (Gutek & O’Connor, 1995; Perry et al, 2004). Nevertheless, the reasonable woman standard is an american practice; therefore does not apply for UK court systems to determine whether hostile environment sexual harassment has occurred.

There has been a considerable amount of research exploring gender differences in attitudes of what is perceived as sexual assault and harassment. Research conducted by Feltey, Ainslie and Geib (1991) supported these previous findings. It aimed to explore sexual coercion attitudes among high school students using a questionnaire ‘A survey on Sexual Attitudes of teenagers” in which participants had to reflect on their own opinions as well as responding to 17 situations regarding attitudes towards sexual harassment (Feltey et al, 1991). The outcome of this research confirms that males are more likely than females to support sexually coercive behaviour. Overall, the studies
that are discussed above provides further understanding of gender differences in attitudes towards sexual assault and harassment and acceptance of rape mythology.

1.7 Rationale and aim of research

Although previous research has provided relevant literature for examining sex differences in attitudes and perceptions towards sexual assault and harassment. Past research appears to only focus on more severe sexual assaults such as rape, as shown in Gerdes, Dammann and Heilig (1998). Additionally, past research has only explored behaviours on college campuses, and not directly focused on nightclubs. Therefore, this current research aims to explore sex differences in university student’s attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour, by measuring their endorsement towards unwanted sexual behavior mythology using an annotated version of the IRMA.

Based on previous literature, evidence proposes that males are more likely to favor rape mythology, as they view the victim as more responsible (Gerdes, Dammann and Heilig, 1998). Previous literature has also found that women are more likely than men to perceive behaviours such as touching as sexual harassment. Which suggests that there are clear sex differences towards sexual harassment; therefore this study predicted that there will be a significant difference in attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour. With males undergraduates accepting unwanted sexual behaviour mythology more than female’s undergraduates.
2.0. Method:

2.1 Participants
The sample was achieved by an opportunity trial. The majority of the participants were recruited through a South Wales university participant panel, where undergraduate students volunteered themselves to take part in the current research. All contributors who took part were assigned credits for their course for their participation in the study. Other undergraduate students were enlisted through an advert posted on the University Facebook page. 56 Undergraduate females and 30 Undergraduate males all took part in the research. All participants were between the ages of 18-25 years old. The inclusion criteria to take part in the research was that all participants had to be undergraduate students, and over the age of 18. The exclusion criteria highlighted that participants who have experienced any form of unwanted sexual behaviour may not wish to take part in the study, as the online questionnaire may cause distress due to the focus of the research.

2.2 Design
The current research is quantitative, with the use of an online questionnaire and it is a between subjects design. The independent variable is the sex of the individual (female and male). The dependent variable will be the questionnaire outcomes in terms of the student’s perceptions on unwanted sexual behaviour. The participant perceptions were measured through the use of an adapted version of the 'Updated Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale' (IRMA) (Payne, Lonsway, & Fitzgerald, 1999; McMahon and Farmer, 2011).

2.3 Materials
An information sheet and a consent form was presented to the participants at the beginning of the study. The participants were then given an online questionnaire which was accessible through and online software; Qualtrics. A shortened version of the updated Illinois Rape Myth acceptance scale (IRMA) created by Payne, Lonsway, &
Fitzgerald, 1999 and McMahon and Farmer, 2011) includes a total of 22 items scored on a 5 point Likert scale. The questionnaire was further adapted for this current research, replacing the word ‘rape’ to ‘Unwanted sexual behaviour’. Participants responded to each statement to which they strongly agree (1), agree (2), neither (3), disagree (4) or strongly disagree (5) to the 22 statements. Once they had submitted their questionnaire, the data was recorded on Qualtrics anonymously. The higher the score indicated the greater rejection to the 22 statements. The data was then exported to SPSS for further analysis.

2.4 Updated Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (IRMA)

The Updated Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (IRMA) was created by Payne, Longsway, & Fitzgerald, (1999); McMahon and Farmer, (2011) and is viewed as the more reliable rape myth scale to date (Payne, Lonsway, & Fitzgerald, 1999). The IRMA (45-item scale) was tested with a sample of of 604 undergraduate students and the overall scale reliability was .93 (Payne et al 1999). Additionally, tests were performed to test the questionnaires construct validity. In addition to this, The IRMA demonstrated construct validity throughout the tests (Payne et al, 1999). The purpose of updating the scale was to improve the validity of the measurement of rape myth attitudes and to assess the efficacy of the rape prevention programmes on college campuses (Mcmahon & Farmer 2011). The original questionnaire consisted of 45 items. However, due to lengthy scale, the questionnaire was shortened to a 22 item scale as shown in Mcmahon and Farmer (2011) research. Mcmahon and Farmer (2011) annotated the questionnaire, by replacing “women” with “girls” and “man” was replaced with “guys” in order to increase validity, relevant to student culture on campuses. The revised version of the IRMA contains updated and relevant language to the college student population in order to increase the measures validity, the overall Cronbach's alpha for the measure was a .87.

This existing research used the shortened, revised version of the (IRMA), however, the researcher adapted the questionnaire. The 22 questions were adapted and designed to measure the attitudes of unwanted sexual behaviour in undergraduate students;
therefore the word ‘rape’ was replaced with ‘unwanted sexual behaviour’. The participants had to consider their attitudes towards the unwanted sexual behaviour myths that was presented to them. Participants responded to each statement to which they strongly agree (1), agree (2), neither (3), disagree (4) or strongly disagree (5) to the following statements. The questionnaire that was used in this current research had been revised from the Updated Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (IRMA) (Payne, Lonsway, & Fitzgerald, 1999; McMahon & Farmer, 2011) which has been found to have a positive correlation with men's rape proclivity and sexual aggression (Stephens & George, 2009) therefore the questionnaire was seen to be a reliable and valid measurement for this current research.

2.5 Procedure
Before the participants took part in the research, they were asked to read an information sheet. This sheet will contain details about the research, as well as a brief procedure of what is expected from the participants. After reading this form, the participants then gave their consent to take part, by signing the consent form. As previously stated, the participants had to be undergraduate students between the ages of 18- 25 years old, who have not had any previous experience with unwanted sexual behaviour.

The participants were asked to complete the Updated Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (IRMA) (Payne, Lonsway, & Fitzgerald, 1999; McMahon and Farmer, 2011). After they had completed the questionnaire, they were then shown a debrief sheet containing information about further support. The questionnaire will be made available for participants through an online software system Qualtrics. Due to the questionnaire being accessible online, the location of completion varied between participants, as they would have completed the questionnaire in their own environment. The research took on average 15 minutes to complete and the data was recorded anonymously. The data was then exported and analyzed on SPSS.
2.6 Method of analysis
Microsoft Excel was firstly used to input the recorded data, it then analyzed the findings. A T test will be used, this method of analysis was used as the current research explored gender difference in attitudes and perceptions of unwanted sexual behaviour. SPSS was used to conduct the analysis.

2.7 Ethics
Ethical approval was obtained from Cardiff Metropolitan Ethics Board on the 6th of March 2018. Subjects were provided with an information sheet at the start of the research which explained the aims of the study as well as what the study entails. Consent forms for each participant had to be ticked before completion of the online questionnaire. All participants were made aware that their identity will stay anonymous and their data will stay confidential. Participants were (also) informed that they could withdraw at any point prior to submitting their questionnaire; after completion, and lastly they were aware that they could not withdraw from the research elements. After they had completed the questionnaire, participants were presented with a debrief sheet informing them about helpful websites and support numbers if they felt the need to seek support.
3.0 Results

3.1 Male and Female Mean Scores

The mean averages analyzed via an independent T test concluded that female’s average mean scores were significantly higher (M=89.21) than males average mean scores (M=79.59). Although there was only a minor difference in mean scores, the findings can conclude that there is a significant sex difference in attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour. This is evident as, the females rejecting (scoring higher) on the annotated version of the IRMA, indicates a greater rejection of unwanted sexual behaviour mythology.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean scores</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>79.59</td>
<td>18.57</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>89.21</td>
<td>11.84</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Showing Male and Females mean, standard deviation and number of participants.

Figure 1, displays the data presented in table 1. The bar chart was created to present the data more clearly, identifying a significant difference in male and female’s attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour. It is evident from this figure, that females’ mean score was significantly higher (M=89.21), than males (M=79.59) suggesting that males accept unwanted sexual behaviour mythology over females.
3.2 Male and Female Responses
As well as identifying the differences between male and females overall scores, their responses to each question was also explored. It was found that in general, females scored higher than males in the majority of questions which reflects on their attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour. The greater the score on the questionnaire indicates a greater rejection of unwanted sexual behaviour myths. As predicted, it is
evident from the scatter plot graph that male and female responses were suggestively diverse for each question, with the males scoring lower scores on majority of the questions than females. It is obvious from figure 2 that certain questions display a greater gender difference in attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour. For example, the scores on question 2, 12, 18 and 19 (refer to appendix for questions) with females responses higher to these questions, and males scoring lower. Nevertheless, responses to question 7 and 9 (see appendix for full questions) are not substantial with males scoring higher than females.

![Scatter plot graph](image)

Figure 3: A scatter plot graph showing male and females responses (1 being strongly agree and 5 being strongly disagree) to each question

### 3.3 Statistical Analysis
There was a significant variance in scores between males (m= 79.59, SD= 18.568) and Females (M=89.21, SD= 11.84) attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour in nightclubs. The independent T test was conducted to compare differences in male and females attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour. Conditions; t(86)=2.97, p= .150.
4.0 Discussion

4.1 Overview
The overall aim of this research was to explore the differences in male and females attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour in nightclubs. Past research exploring sexual victimization in undergraduate students primarily focuses on more severe sexual harassment and sexual assault such as rape (Gerdes, Dammann & Helig, 1998); with supporting statistics showing that one in seven female students in the UK are sexually assaulted (Nus, 2010). The findings suggest that female undergraduate students are at greater risk of experiencing sexual assault on university campuses, with research discoveries that women (28%) reported significantly higher rates of experiencing any type of sexual assault compared to men (12%) (Mellins et al, 2017). Though, research in this area fails to explore attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour in a nightclub setting. By inducting research into this project will provide further evidence into attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour in undergraduates. By researching into sexual harassment within student environments and links between alcohol consumption and sexual assault, this current study explores gaps in the research, by exploring attitudes and perceptions of unwanted sexual in a nightclub setting.

4.2 Main Findings
The results of this current research do evidently indicate that there are significant gender differences in undergraduate attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour in nightclubs. A T-test analysis indicated that females scored a higher mean (M= 89.21) than males (M=79.59) therefore rejecting the unwanted sexual behaviour mythology. Unsurprisingly, the results supported the current research predictions, as clear gender differences have been found; with males accepting more unwanted sexual behaviour mythology. As discussed, this finding is expected with similar research using a similar target populations of male and female students found that males are more likely than females to support sexual coercive behaviour (Feltey et al, 1991). Additionally, past research found that males show a higher acceptance to rape mythology than women,
suggesting clear gender differences (Payne, Lonsway, & Fitzgerald, 1999; McMahon & Farmer, 2011; Suarez & Gadalla, 2010). Results of this current research is a new outcome, adding to previous literature; exploring attitudes towards sexual behaviour with a UK undergraduate population. Furthermore, past research has failed to explore unwanted sexual behaviour in nightclubs; therefore further research in this area should be considered to provide a better understanding of differences in male and female undergraduate’s attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour in nightclubs.

Clear gender differences were found in this research, with males accepting more unwanted sexual behaviour mythology than females. Although this was expected, as previous research using similar methodology also found significant gender differences (Payne, Lonsway, & Fitzgerald, 1999; McMahon & Farmer, 2011; Suarez & Gadalla, 2010); these findings indicate that there are still gender differences in today's society. This finding is surprising, considering times have changed and males and females are seen as more equal in today's society; which in theory should reflect in the results of this current research. Although the research found significant gender differences; it is clear from the analysis that research found no dramatic gender differences overall. These findings suggest that male and female attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour are becoming more equal in today’s society. This may be explained by the rising of males, being a victim of sexual harassment in the prior year (McLaughlin, Uggen, & Blackstone, 2012). Although the research predictions were supported, the small gender differences presented for each question is an interesting finding; therefore future research should consider how gender differences are changing over time.

Although multiple studies have found the IRMA to be a valid and reliable predictor of attitudes and acceptance towards rape mythology (Payne, Lonsway, & Fitzgerald, 1999; Peterson & Muhlenhard (2004); McMahon & Farmer, (2011). With recent research findings that the overall Cronbach’s alpha for the measure was a .87; suggesting a high internal consistency of items. The IRMA has been annotated and updated a number of times to increase the validity of the questionnaire, making it more relevant to undergraduates and university campuses. However, annotating the questionnaire may
be seen as a limitation of past research, as the measure is not standardized across populations. Farmer and McMahon’s research annotated the IRMA, changing words such as “males” and “females” to “guys” and “Girls”, additionally, words such as ‘slut’ was added to the terminology. In order to increase the validity for this current research, the IRMA was annotated; changing the word ‘rape’ to ‘unwanted sexual behaviour’. Even though these changes have increased, the face validity of this research; as the results from the IRMA acknowledged gender differences, supporting the current research hypothesis. However, the statements used in the questionnaire had no direct reference to a nightclub environment; which could decrease the validity of the results. Therefore, based on further research, it would appear that a more specific measure would be more applicable to explore gender differences in attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour in nightclubs. In order to improve the methodology for this current research, the measure would have been more valid if the questionnaire was created to fit the purpose for this current research.

More females (63%) than males, (36%) took part in the research. This is not surprising as research has found that female students have reported significantly higher rates of sexual assault compared to men (Mellins et al, 2017). This could then explain the results in this current research, with females rejecting more unwanted sexual behaviour mythology than men. This falls in line with past research, finding that men have less supportive attitudes towards rape victims (Ward 1988). Future research should then consider exploring attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour in night clubs, however focusing on all age groups. Research directed by Graham et al (2014) found that young female bar-goers were at high risk of experiencing unwanted sexual behaviour, whilst attending city nightspots. Therefore it is evident that unwanted sexual behaviour is a concern in nightclub, involving individuals of all ages. This will be an interesting topic of research as it may aid intervention programs to decrease prevalence rates of unwanted sexual behaviour in nightclubs. Furthermore, interventions should be considered to change male’s attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviours, as past research has argued that the best way to address these issue to introduce prevention strategies (Graham et al, 2014).
Consequently, certain findings oppose previous research, as the analysis found a negative association in two of the questions; with males scoring higher than females, therefore rejecting the unwanted sexual behaviour mythology. As portrayed in the scatter plot graph in chapter three; question seven: “When guys perform unwanted sexual behaviour it is usually because of their strong desire for sex” showed no significance With males mean score (M= 3.34) slightly higher than females (M=3.05), therefore indicating greater rejection to unwanted sexual behaviour mythology. Additionally, question nine found similar findings, with males (M=4) scoring higher than females (M=3.79). This indicates that for both of these questions, males agree with these statements more than females; suggesting males rejected these myths more than females. These results are hard to interpret, as they are not consistent with previous findings which used the same measures (McMahon & Farmer, 2011). Suggesting there may be a respondent bias. Furthermore, these non-significant findings could be linked with explicit attitudes. The IRMA questionnaire that was adopted into this research taps into explicit attitudes, and therefore males may have answered in a filtered way; therefore fabricating these findings.

4.3 Considerations
This current study contains strengths and weakness. Firstly, it can be considered that a potential limitation of this research is the sample. Although the research has found significant findings, which has in fact added to previous literature; the sample is too small and difficult to generalize to a larger population of undergraduate students. Past research has failed to explore undergraduate gender differences in attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour in a nightclub setting, therefore it should be considered that these measures should be explored again with a larger sample to produce more generalizable findings to UK undergraduate students.

As previously discussed above, the information that was collected for this current research was obtained through a self-report questionnaire, which deeply relied on participants true attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour in nightclubs. There are a
multiple of different limitations that was caused by using an annotated version of the IRMA questionnaire (Payne, Lonsway, & Fitzgerald, 1999; McMahon & Farmer, 2011). Firstly, due to the questionnaire being a self-report method, there may be potential issues with honesty of the participants. The updated IRMA questionnaire measures individuals responses to attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour; therefore the research is unable to control participants responses as it is likely that participants would lie over taboo subjects such as unwanted sexual behaviour. This current research did not consider respondent bias, so future research should consider an improved measurement to capture these attitudes. Additionally, the self-report measure used a 5 point Likert scale, to which participants had to respond to the statements to how strongly agree (1), agree (2), neither (3), disagree (4) or strongly disagree (5). This can cause restrictions within the research, as students may ‘sit on the fence’ by choosing a neutral response to the statements (Brown, 2000). Arguably then, the results could be spurious, therefore decreasing the validity of the version of the IRMA used in this current research.

Secondly, another drawback that should be considered is the wording used in the questionnaire. The Updated IRMA created by Payne et al (1999) was first adapted to update language in order to increase validity of the questionnaire. In addition, McMahon and Farmer (2011) study attempted to update the language further, making it particularly relevant for that current research and the campus. However, the language used in past literature may not be relevant to undergraduates around the world, meaning the terminology is not standardized across student populations universally. This current research updated the measure, changing ‘rape’ to ‘unwanted sexual behaviour’ in order for participants to relate; increasing the face validity of the research. However, future research should consider a newly developed questionnaire, which is specifically relevant to this current research. In response to this consideration, it would be beneficial to run a pilot study, to measure the internal consistency of the new measures.
4.4 Conclusion

Conclusively, the objective of this study was to determine whether there were differences between male and female undergraduate’s attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour in a nightclub environment. This present study strongly supported the predicted hypothesis, as the results identified a significant and obvious difference between male and females attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour; with males supporting more unwanted sexual behaviour mythology than females. The study explored to provide further findings of McMahon & Farmer, (2011) who found that males accept more rape mythology than females, suggesting significant gender differences. This current study however, aim to fill in gaps in the research, providing further evidence towards unwanted sexual behaviour in night clubs; using male and female UK undergraduates. The results imply that females have higher rejection to unwanted sexual behaviour mythology than males. However, as discussed above; there are a few implications that need to be addressed, such as increasing sample size and creating a questionnaire which is relevant to this current research. Addressing these limitations will provide past literature with a superior understanding of attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviour in nightclubs, as well as gender differences in UK undergraduates.
5.0 References


Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, (2014) Bureau of Justice Statistics, Rape and Sexual Victimization Among College-Aged Females, 1995-2013


Kalof, L., Eby, K. K., Matheson, J. L., & Kroska, R. J. (2001). The influence of race and
gender on student self-reports of sexual harassment by college professors. *Gender &
Society, 15*(2), 282-302.


colleges and universities are doing about it*. Washington, DC: US Department of Justice,
Office of Justice Programs,
National Institute of Justice.

colleges and universities are doing about it*. Washington, DC: US Department of Justice,
Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

survey of female faculty, administrators, staff, and students. *The Journal of Higher

Kenig, S., & Ryan, J. (1986). Sex differences in levels of tolerance and attribution of

prevalence of sexual aggression and victimization in a national sample of higher
education students. *Journal of consulting and clinical psychology, 55*(2), 162.

campus sexual assault (CSA) study. *US Department of Justice*. 

30


### 6.0 Appendices

A questionnaire to measure undergraduate’s attitudes and perceptions towards unwanted sexual behaviour in **nightclubs**.

*Scoring: Scores range from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree). Please circle how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements in relation to unwanted sexual behaviour in nightclubs.*

#### Subscale 1: She asked for it

1. If a girl experiences unwanted sexual behaviour while she is drunk, she is at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of hand.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. When girls go to parties wearing slutty clothes, they are asking for trouble.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. If a girl goes to a room alone with a guy at a party, it is her own fault if she experiences unwanted sexual behaviour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. If a girl acts like a slut, eventually she is going to get into trouble.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. When girls receives unwanted sexual behaviour, it's often because the way they said "no" was unclear.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. If a girl initiates kissing or hooking up, she should not be surprised if a guy assumes she wants sexual attention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Subscale 2: He didn't mean to**

7. When guys perform unwanted sexual behaviour, it is usually because of their strong desire for sex.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

8. Guys don’t usually intend to force unwanted sexual behaviour on a girl, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

9. Unwanted sexual behaviour happens when a guy’s sex drive goes out of control.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

10. If a guy is drunk, he might perform unwanted sexual behaviour to someone unintentionally.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

11. It shouldn’t be considered unwanted sexual behaviour if a guy is drunk and didn’t realize what he was doing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

12. If both people are drunk, it can’t be unwanted sexual behaviour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Subscale 3: It wasn’t really unwanted sexual behaviour

13. If a girl doesn’t physically resist unwanted sexual behaviour—even if protesting verbally—it can’t be considered unwanted sexual behaviour.

Strongly agree 2 3 4 Strongly disagree
1

14. If a girl doesn’t physically fight back, you can’t really say it was unwanted sexual behaviour.

Strongly agree 2 3 4 Strongly disagree
1

15. Unwanted sexual behaviour probably doesn’t happen if a girl doesn’t have any bruises or marks.

Strongly agree 2 3 4 Strongly disagree
1

16. If the accused “harasser” doesn’t have a weapon, you really can’t call it.

Strongly agree 2 3 4 Strongly disagree
1

17. If a girl doesn’t say “no” she can’t claim unwanted sexual behaviour.

Strongly agree 2 3 4 Strongly disagree
1

Subscale 4: She lied

18. A lot of times, girls who say they have experienced unwanted sexual behaviour agreed and then regret it.

Strongly agree 2 3 4 strongly disagree
1
19. Unwanted sexual behaviour accusations are often used as a way of getting back at guys.

Strongly agree          Strongly disagree
1         2   3  4  5

20. A lot of times, girls who say they had experienced unwanted sexual behaviour often led the guy on and then had regrets.

Strongly agree          Strongly disagree
1         2   3  4  5

21. A lot of times, girls who claim they experienced unwanted sexual behaviour have emotional problems.

Strongly agree          Strongly disagree
1         2   3  4  5

22. Girls who are caught cheating on their boyfriends sometimes claim it was unwanted sexual behaviour.

Strongly agree          Strongly disagree
1         2   3  4  5
Title of Project: An exploration of sex differences in attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviours in nightclubs.

Participant information sheet

The study:

This current study aims to explore the sex differences present in undergraduates' attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviors in nightclubs. It is part of a dissertation Project of a Psychology degree at Cardiff Metropolitan University.

What would happen if you agree to participate?

Taking part in the research will require you to complete a questionnaire regarding students’ perceptions and attitudes towards sexual assault and offences. To take part, you are required to have access to the internet, which you are able to complete in your own environment. The questionnaire will take 10-15 minutes to complete.

Inclusion Criteria:

All undergraduate students, both male and female, are welcome to take part in the current research. Between the ages of 18-25.

Exclusion Criteria:

The questionnaire will involve references about unwanted sexual behavior. If you have been involved in any unwanted sexual behavior in the past, you may not wish to participate.

Potential Risk:

There could be potential risk of emotional harm caused by the questionnaire. Please see below for support information.

Potential benefits:

If you take part in this research, you will be making a helpful contribution to the researchers’ final year dissertation.
Withdrawal, anonymity and confidentiality:

Participants have the right to withdraw from the research at any point before the questionnaires have been submitted. Once the data has been submitted, participants are not able to withdraw from the research as the data will be anonymous. The data will be recorded and submitted to an online computer program, Qualtrics. This data will be secured on a locked laptop, which only myself and my dissertation supervisor will have access to.

If you have any questions about the study, please contact:

lwatson@Cardiffmet.ac.uk

If you have any concerns, or want any further support after completing the questionnaire, please feel free to visit the link below:

1. https://rapecrisis.org.uk/
2. https://www.bacp.co.uk/

In addition to these links, Cardiff Met offer an outstanding counselling service:
http://www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/study/studentservices/disabilityservice/Pages/Wellbeing-and-Mental-Health-Advisory-Service.aspx

As well as a Bullying and sexual harassment policy:
PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM

Title of Project: An exploration of sex differences in attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviours in nightclubs.

Name of Researcher: 
___________________________________________________________________

Participant to complete this section: Please initial each box.

1. I confirm that I have read and understand the information sheet for the above study. I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily. [ ]

2. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time before or during the questionnaire. [ ]

   3. I understand that once I submit my questionnaire, I am unable to withdraw my data from the research. [ ]

   4. I understand that there may be some graphic content involving unwanted sexual behaviour. [ ]

3. I agree to take part in the above study. [ ]

Signature of Participant Date
_______________________________________ ___________________

Name of person taking consent Date
____________________________________

Signature of person taking consent
_________________________________
Participant Debrief Sheet

Title of Project: An exploration of sex differences in attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviours in nightclubs.

Thank you for taking part in this research.

The study aimed to explore the sex differences present in undergraduates attitudes towards unwanted sexual behaviours in nightclubs. Based on previous literature, it is predicted that female participants will view behaviour has being a sexual harassment and an offence.

If you feel like you have been affected by this research, or that you need any further support with issues that have been brought up since taking part in the questionnaire regarding unwanted sexual behaviour, the below links are available:

- [http://www.btp.police.uk/advice_and_information/how_we_tackle_crime/report_it_to_stop_it.aspx](http://www.btp.police.uk/advice_and_information/how_we_tackle_crime/report_it_to_stop_it.aspx)
- [https://rapecrisis.org.uk/](https://rapecrisis.org.uk/)
- [https://www.bacp.co.uk](https://www.bacp.co.uk)
- [https://revoltsexualassault.com/category/harassment/](https://revoltsexualassault.com/category/harassment/)

In addition to these links, Cardiff Met offer an outstanding counselling service:

- [http://www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/study/studentservices/disabilityservice/Pages/Wellbeing-and-Mental-Health-Advisory-Service.aspx](http://www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/study/studentservices/disabilityservice/Pages/Wellbeing-and-Mental-Health-Advisory-Service.aspx)

As well as the Cardiff Met Bullying and sexual harassment policy:


Your right to withdraw still applies until you submit your questionnaire.
# 7.0 Word Count

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Word Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>4,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method</td>
<td>1,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>1,874</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7,548