

“Being Motivated to Protect”: The Influence of Sexual Communal Motivations on Sexual Risk Taking

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Introduction

- Women, ages 18-19, account for over 70% of teenage pregnancies in the U.S. (Kost & Arpaia, 2013)
- 61% of women who have children after entering community college, don't finish their degree. (Jill & Chelsey, 2014).
- Communal motivation, being oriented towards others needs, and have been linked to relationship satisfaction (Muisse & Impett, 2016) and sexual communal motivations (SCM) with condom use behavior (Phillips, Olds, Graham, Brown, & Barr, 2019).
- WISE interventions (being psychologically WISE) have been shown to be effective.

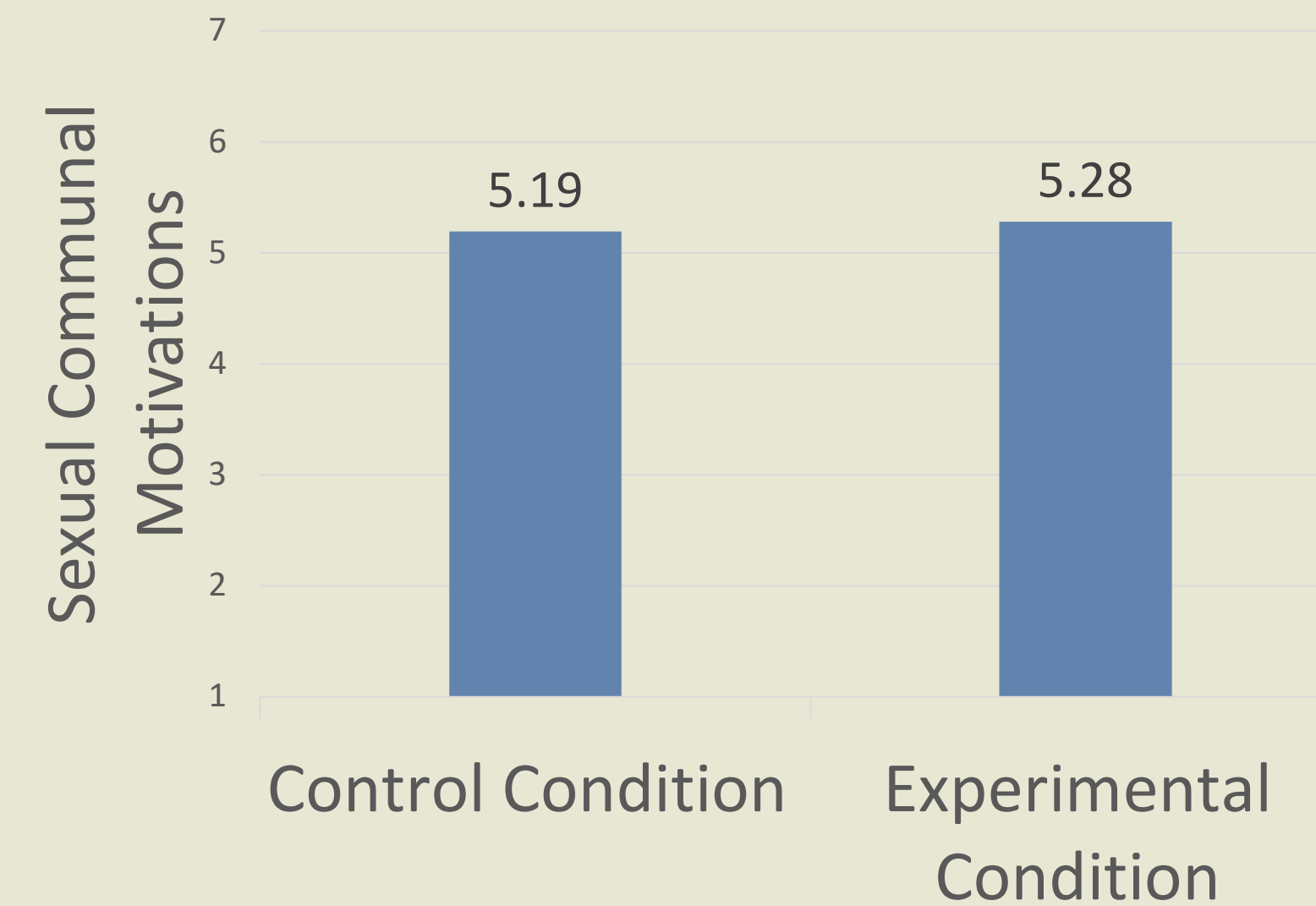
Methods

Demographics:

- $N = 264$, communal: $n = 133$; age: $M = 20.82$ ($SD = 3.77$); 84.7% female; 40.8% minority race/ethnicity (13.6% Black, 12.1% Latin(x), 7.2% Asian, 6.4% mix race, 1.5% other); 57.7% in a committed relationship; 42.2% single.
- Sexual Communal Motivations:** 5 questions on 7-point Likert scales (Brown & Barr, 2019) ($\alpha = 0.856$).
- Number of Sexual Partners in Last 3 Months:** One question on a 7-point Likert scale. (Turchik & Garske, 2008).
- Tested for STDs other than HIV:** One question on a 3-point scales (Turchik & Garske, 2008).



Results



- SCM was positively correlated with number of sexual partners in the past 3 months, $r(262) = .162, p < .001$.
- SCM was positively correlated with testing for STDs other than HIV, $r(263) = .178, p < .001$.



Discussion and Future Directions (cont.)

- Consistent with our hypothesis and previous literature (Phillips, Olds, Rooney, Graham, Brown & Barr, 2019) SCM is related to condom use behavior.
- SCM is related to other safe sex practices
- Future research will develop a WISE intervention which will be better able to promote SCM
 - Explore difference in gender identity, and sexuality, which affect condom use intentions, and communal motivation.
- Future research would assess sexual health resources and sex health practices in differing socio-economic statuses.
 - Low income women are especially more likely to have an unintended pregnancy, (Iseyemi, et al.)