

# But How Do You Really Feel?

## Different Assessments of Reactions to Child Sexual Abuse

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### Introduction

#### Reactions to Child Sexual Abuse

- Across Perpetrators & Victims
  - Between Perpetrators & Victims
  - Sex of Perpetrators
  - Sex of Victims
- (Cromer & Goldsmith, 2010; Denov, 2003; Leone et al. 2018)
- Minimization Effect
- (Cromer & Goldsmith, 2010; Denov, 2003)

### Sex Stereotypes

(Fiske, 2018)

Women	Men
Nurturing	Aggressive
Submissive	Dominant

Girls	Boys
Delicate	Tough
Sexually Reticent	Sexually Adventurous

### Methods of Assessment

**Self-Report** (Braun et al., 2002; Kite et al., 2008; Leone et al., 2018; Wood & Eagly, 2010)

- Easy to interpret & indicates individual's perspective
- Socially desirable responding & minimization

**Psychophysiological Measures** (Smyth et al., 2013)

- Involuntary response & easy to obtain
- Costly & time-consuming

### Research Question

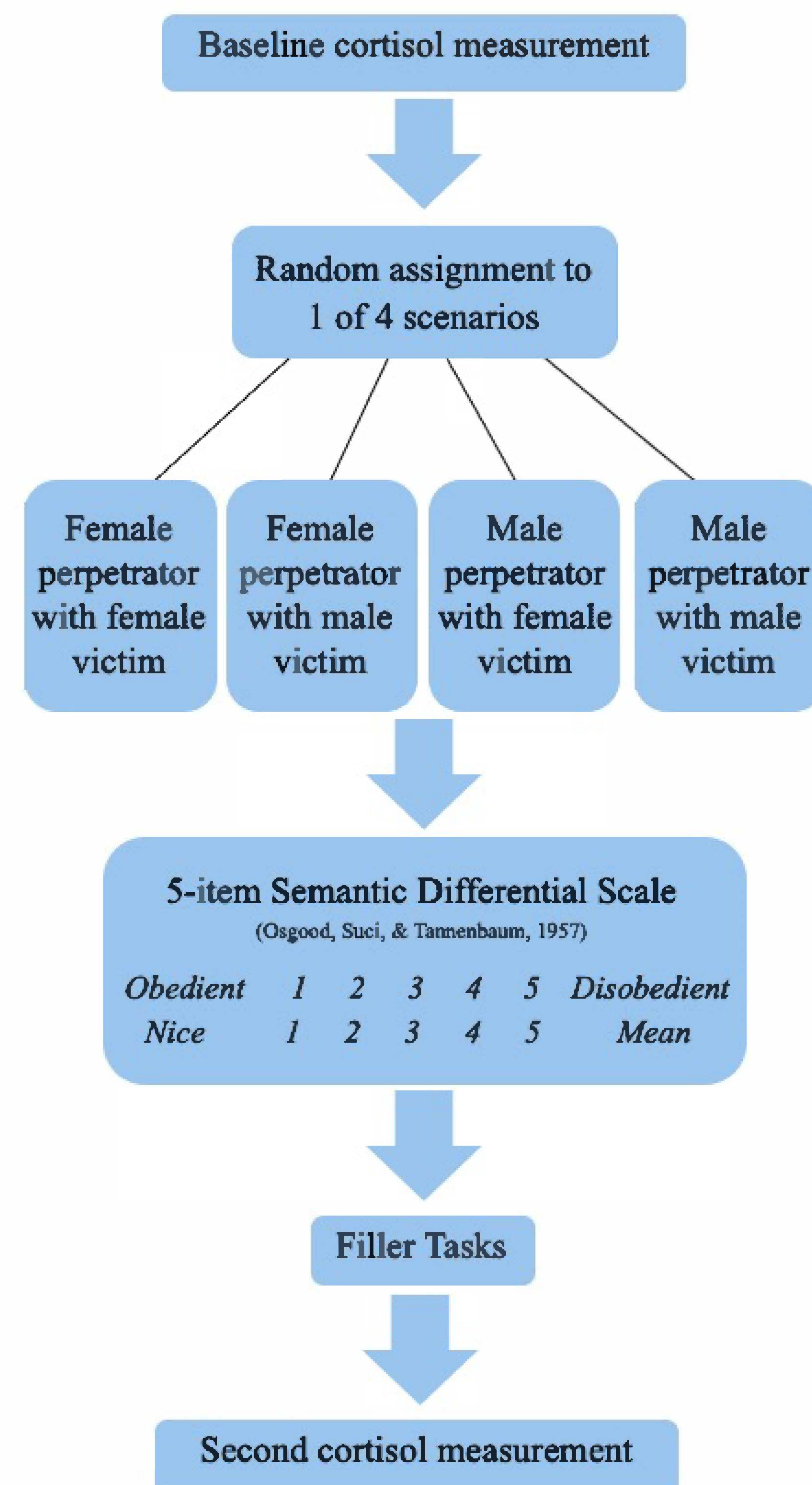
Can the validity of self-report measures be relied upon when expressing attitudes about socially undesirable events?

### Method

#### Participants

- $N = 160$  (anticipated)
- 65% female, 35% male
- Predominantly childless

#### Procedure



### Results (Expected)

#### Minimization Effect

	Female Victim	Male Victim
Female Perpetrator	100	50
Male Perpetrator	100	100

DV = Strength of Negative Attitudes

#### Cortisol Assessment

	Female Victim	Male Victim
Female Perpetrator	high	low
Male Perpetrator	high	high

DV = Level of Cortisol

#### Convergent Assessment

	Female Victim	Male Victim
Female Perpetrator	positive $r$	positive $r$
Male Perpetrator	positive $r$	positive $r$

DV = Correlations between Self-Report & Level of Cortisol

### Discussion

#### Conclusions

- Minimization effect prevalent in the results
- (Cromer & Goldsmith, 2010; Denov, 2003; Leone et al. 2018)
- Lowest cortisol (least stress) when victims were boys AND perpetrators were women

#### Implications

##### Legal System

- Potential overreliance on self-report measures
- Underreporting of child sexual abuse
- Unequal prosecution of perpetrators

##### Research Methodology

- Increased knowledge about stereotype-based processing
- Control for socially desirable responding

#### Limitations

- Representativeness of Sample (e.g., college students)
- Experimental Realism

#### Future Directions

- Different Samples (e.g., greater diversity)
- Other Psychophysiological Measures (e.g., blood glucose)
- Alternative Methodologies (e.g., jury simulations)
- Moderator Variables
  - Dispositional Factors (e.g., Benevolent vs Hostile Sexism)
  - Situational Factors (e.g., perpetrator/victim relationship)