



# ‘Blaming Dana’

## Revenge Porn: perceptions toward victims

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- What is the social perception and different aspects of blame attribution on victims of revenge porn
- What contextual factors influence the attribution of blame?

# Dependent Variables

**Victim responsibility** - respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they think Dana is responsible for what happened on the scale of 1-5 (where 1- is not responsible at all and 5 is very responsible).

**Compassion** - was measured by asking the respondent to rate the extent to which you feel sorry toward Dana on a scale of 1-5 (1- not sorry at all and 5 very sorry).

**Victimization** - the respondents were asked whether they think Dana is a victim to a crime? (Recoded to: Yes/No)

**Punishment** - the respondents were asked whether Tomer and the people who have shared the images should get any form of punishment? (Recoded to: Yes/No)

## *Perceptions of Victim Blame Scale—Revised (PVBS-R)*

Instructions: Please rate the victim on the following characteristics. Please circle your answer.

|               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |              |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------------|
| violent       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | nonviolent*  |
| gentle        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | forceful     |
| maniacal      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | sane*        |
| good natured  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | vicious      |
| malicious     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | kind*        |
| blameless     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | blameworthy  |
| fault         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | faultless*   |
| harmful       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | harmless*    |
| hurtful       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | innocuous*   |
| careful       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | reckless     |
| conscientious | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | careless     |
| reliable      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | unreliable   |
| dependable    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | undependable |

(Cramer et al., 2013)  
Note. PVBS = Perceptions of Victim Blame Scale. \* Denotes a reverse-scored item.

# Independent Variables

- **Vignettes**

Dana and Tomer

- (A1) have had a loving and equitable relationship for 6 years
- (A2) met on several dates for a week
- (A3) got to know each other online and chatted for a week.

During this time

- (B1) Dana sent Tomer 2 nude pictures of her
- (B2) Tomer took 2 photos of Dana naked without her knowledge.

After

- (C1) six years
- (C2) a week

Dana broke up with Tomer.

A week after the breakup, Tomer circulated Dana's nude photos online and it went viral. As a result, Dana experienced shame and pressure for several months.

Today, a year later

- (D1) she recovered and rehabilitated her life
- (D2) she is still mentally distressed and unable to work.

- **Nature and length of the relationship (A/C)**

Two dummy variables were created: Number of dates and online chatting, while Loving long relationship was the reference category.

- **Who initiated the photo shoot (B)**

- **Impact on the victim (D)**

- **Fear of revenge porn**

"I am afraid that an event like this will happen to me and nude photos of me will be distributed online"  
(1 highly disagree to 5 highly agree)

- **Control**

Gender, Age, Religiosity.

# Results

Based on a multiple regression analysis  
N= 618



In general the perception of society is to attribute blame to the victim (PVBS score: 4.37/5).

Age has a relation to a higher PVBS score ( $F=3.73$ ,  $R^2=.045$ ,  $B=.011$ ,  $Sig=.000$ )

Stronger perceptions of **Dana's responsibility** when ( $F=9.678$ ,  $R^2=0.1$ ,  $Sig=.000$ ):



The victim initiated the creation of the naked images ( $B=-.625$ ,  $sig=.000$ )



Victim and offender just met each other recently ( $B=.451$ ,  $sig=.000$ )

The nature of the relationship (online/offline) and the rehabilitation of Dana don't impact the perception of responsibility



People feel less **sorry for Dana** when she initiated the photo shoot herself ( $F=2.975$ ,  $R^2=.038$ ,  $B=.218$ ,  $Sig=.000$ )



Gender ( $B=-.06$ ,  $sig=.007$ ) and fear of revenge porn ( $B=.02$ ,  $sig=.006$ ) correlate to perceiving **Dana as a victim** ( $F=2.783$ ,  $R^2=.036$ )



## Conclusion and Future Plans

- Our data support the relevance of the PVBS scale to online victimization
- Further studies are needed to study this attribution of blame to revenge porn victims
  - Different countries and cultures
  - Sexually diverse and gender diverse victims of revenge porn
- Explore the applicability of the PVBS scale to victims of other online crimes
  - Image based sexual abuse
  - Sexual violence
  - Online crimes in general
- Study the relationship between perceptions vs. behavior