



'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

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

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, R2= .045, B=.011, Sig=.000)

Stronger perceptions of **Dana's responsibility** when (F=9.678, R2=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)

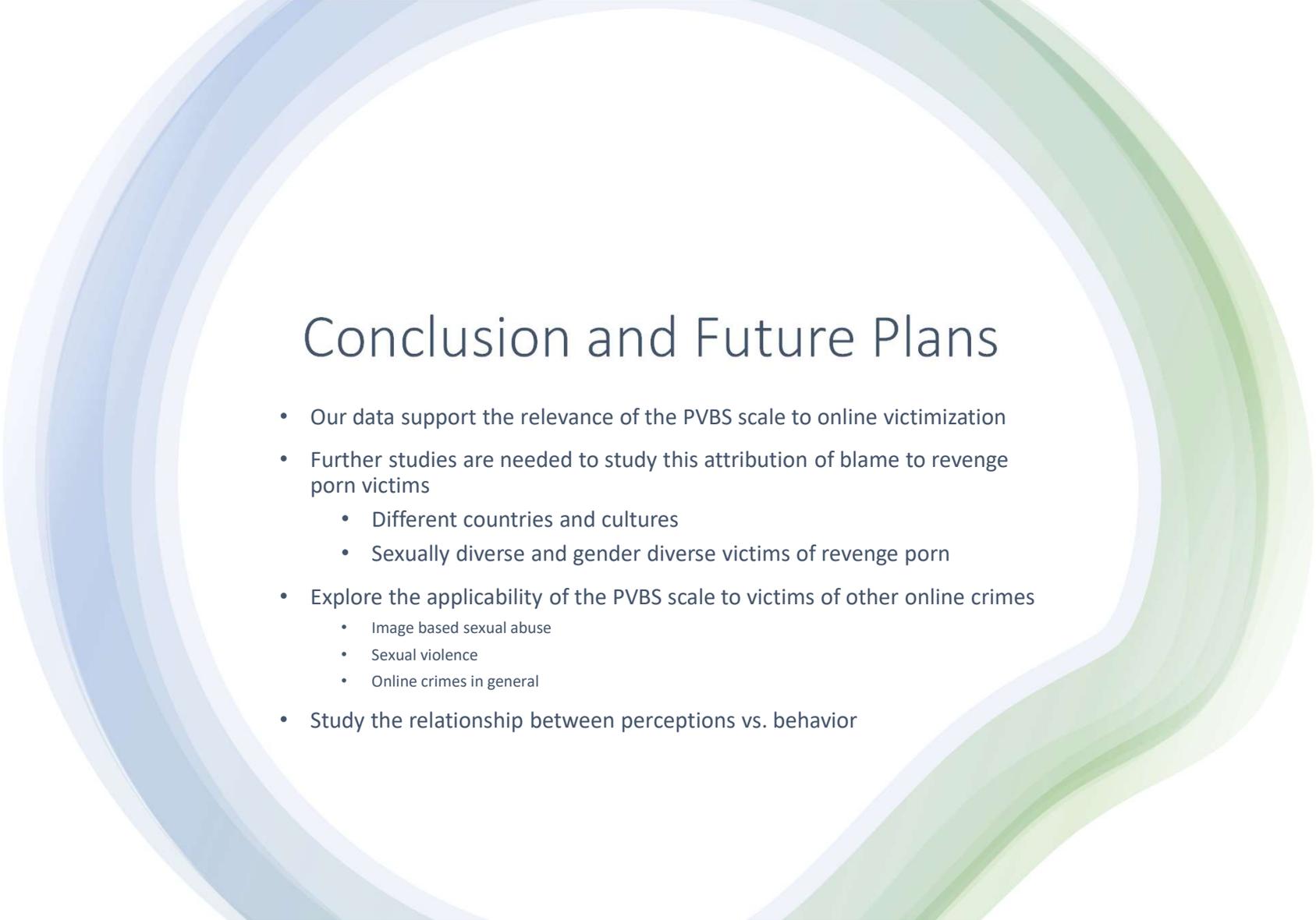
The nature of the relationship (online/offline) and the rehabilitation of Dana don't impact the perception of responsibility



People feel less **sorry for Dana** when she initiated the photo shoot herself (F=2.975, R2=.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, R2=.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