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GENDER, SOCIOSEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND PERSONALITY TRAITS AS PREDICTORS OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEX²

The aim of the present study was to examine relations among gender, personality traits, and a behavioral component of sociosexual orientation on the one hand, and four dimensions of attitudes towards sex on the other hand. Participants ($N = 266$) from the general population of Serbia completed Sociosexual Orientation Inventory (SOI), the brief Sexual Attitudes Scale (BSAS) and Big Five Plus Two, shorten version (BF+2). Results pointed to a very modest contribution of gender to the prediction of sexual attitudes. Small effects of openness on instrumentality, extraversion on communion, and neuroticism on permissiveness were noted, and sociosexual orientation predicted all these three dimensions of attitudes towards sex. Results also indicated a significant effect of interaction between neuroticism and gender, as well as a positive valence and gender on instrumental attitude towards sex. The relationship in both cases was positive for males and negative for females.

Key words: attitudes towards sex, gender differences, personality traits, sociosexual orientation

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Introduction

Pioneering studies of human sexuality, conducted in the US in the mid-20th century, revealed extensive individual and considerable gender differences in a variety of sexual behaviors and attitudes towards sex. The results of Kinsey's research initiated a number of studies aimed at a more detailed exploration of specific sexual behaviors and their correlates.

One line of research focused on the question of the nature and source of gender differences in sexual behavior and attitudes towards sex. According to meta-analytic studies and systematic reviews (Ellis et al., 2008; Oliver & Hyde, 1993; Petersen & Hyde, 2010), among the small number of consistently documented gender differences in sexual behavior, all of which favoring men, large gender differences were found in the frequency of masturbation, while moderate gender differences were found in the age of the first intercourse, the frequency of intercourse, and a number of partners. In addition, men consistently showed more positive attitudes towards casual and uncommitted sex, masturbation and use of pornography. According to Petersen and Hyde (2010), gender differences in a desirable number of sexual partners were consistent with evolutionary theory; diminishing gender differences in attitudes towards sex over time, and smaller effect sizes in more egalitarian versus more traditional societies supported social learning and socio-structural theory; while relatively small gender differences in the majority of sexual attitudes and specific behaviors corroborated gender similarities hypothesis.

A potential explanation of gender differences in sexual behavior is linked to the proposal of the underlying dimension of individual differences reflecting sociosexual orientation. The concept of sociosexual orientation has been derived from observations of significant individual differences in a number of engraved behaviors and attitudes (Simpson & Gangestad, 1991a, 1991b). Restrictive sociosexual orientation is characterized by fewer sexual partners, a need for closeness before entering sexual relations, a negative attitude towards casual sex, and an emotional investment in partner relations, whereas unrestricted sociosexual orientation is associated with the opposite set of characteristics of sexual behaviors and attitudes. Along with individual variations, sociosexuality displays significant gender differences as well, in the direction of more unrestricted orientation of men. Readdressing restricted/unrestricted sociosexual tendencies in the evolutionary framework, Simpson and Gangestad (1991a) constructed a *Sociosexual Orientation Inventory* (SOI), which comprised of two facets: sociosexual behavior and sociosexual attitudes. High SOI scores were interpreted as an inclination to short-term versus long-term mating strategies, which was characterized by a greater number of desired partners, uncommitted relationships, less emotional investment, and weaker affection bonding. Gender differences in sociosexuality were universal, i.e., present in different cultures (Lippa, 2009; Schmitt, 2003, Schmitt, 2005;

Sprecher et al., 2013), and relatively persistent in spite of cultural changes (Sprecher et al., 2013).

Even though there is a consensus that sociosexuality affects the sexual behavior of men and women in a similar manner, the results of several studies indicate that some correlates of sociosexuality in the domain of personality and attitudes are gender-specific (Clark, 2006; Reise & Wright, 1996; Yost & Zurbriggen, 2006). Women who have an unrestricted sociosexual orientation are (self)described as unconventional, morally inconsistent, hedonistically oriented, and prone to domination fantasies. For men, unrestricted sociosexuality is associated with more pathological self-description, as they see themselves as arrogant and manipulative, with a higher level of power motivation, and insufficient capacity to form close relationships.

Although sociosexual orientation has proved to be important in understanding significant aspects of sexual behavior, the results of several studies suggest a need for additional refining of the construct. For example, Ostovich and Sabini (2004) bring into doubt the theoretical assumption of the independence of sex drive and sociosexuality, while Penke and Asendorpf (2008) demonstrate the need to differentiate sociosexual behavior (quantity of past short-term encounters), desire (preference for novel partners), and attitude (endorsement of uncommitted sex), considering that these three components do not contribute equally in the prediction of future sexual and partner behavior. Also, gender differences are significantly larger with respect to the desire component, compared to the behavioral one. These findings, along with the evidence of a weak correlation between behavior and desire components, suggest that the desire for unrestricted sexual activity is not inevitably expressed at the behavior level, most likely because limits are placed by personal sociosexual preferences of a potential partner(s).

In addition to the studies of individual and gender differences in sexuality, several studies addressed the question of the role of basic personality traits in separate aspects of sexual behavior. The first presumptions, elaborated within Eysenck's PEN model, assumed the association between extraversion and acquisition of sexual knowledge at a younger age, earlier age of the first intercourse, more frequent intercourse, a greater number of partners, and, generally, open and hedonistic attitude towards sex. Neuroticism was expected to be related with lower sexual satisfaction, a greater feeling of guilt, and fewer sexual contacts with fewer partners, while psychoticism was related with the interest for impersonal and more aggressive forms of sexual behavior. Findings supported Eysenck's predictions regarding extraversion and psychoticism, and, in part, neuroticism. However, they also pointed to a stronger association of personality traits with attitudes towards sex, than with actual sexual behavior (Barnes et al., 1984). More recent research in the Five-factor model framework have shown similar results. Extraversion has shown to be a significant predictor of the overall sexual activity, sexual satisfaction and promiscuity (Allen & Walter, 2018; Costa et al., 1992; Schenk & Pfrang, 1986). Neuroticism

is associated with sexual dysfunction (Allen & Walter, 2018) and, according to some findings, with more permissive sexual attitudes (Lameiras Fernandez & Rodriguez Castro, 2003). Low agreeableness and low conscientiousness are linked to aggressive and risky sexual behavior and sexual infidelity, and openness was linked to experiences with a more liberal attitude towards sex (Allen & Walter, 2018; Hoyle et al., 2000).

Although studies have demonstrated some regularity in the relationship between personality traits and sexual behavior, the findings are sometimes inconsistent or even contradictory. However, some results also suggest that the relationship between personality traits and sexual behavior may differ depending on gender. For instance, the link of neuroticism and sexual guilt has been found in both genders, with low sexual satisfaction only in women, and sexual curiosity and sexual excitement only in men (Heaven et al., 2000).

In addition to biological and psychological factors, different socio-cultural factors also affect sexual behavior, either directly, through the established norms of social behavior, or indirectly through their role in shaping attitudes towards sex. Attitudes towards sex show certain, not necessarily strong, association with sexual behavior, and it seems that the strength of this connection is different in men and women (Baumeister, 2000; Wells & Twenge, 2005). However, considerable individual variations in attitudes towards sex suggest distinct effects of social and cultural influences depending on personal disposition and experience. It is likely to expect a significant role of personality traits, cognitions and emotions in attitudes towards sex, particularly when emotional and relational components are included in the domain of sexual behavior.

Assuming that an adequate measure of attitudes towards sex should encompass multidimensionality of sexual behavior, Hendrick and colleagues (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1987, Hendrick et al., 2006) propose four dimensions of attitudes: permissiveness (acceptance of casual sex), sexual practices (responsible sexuality), communion (idealistic, "spiritual" sexuality), and instrumentality (utilitarian, pleasure-focused sexuality). It has been shown that permissiveness and instrumentality are related to game-playing love (Ludus), whereas communion is related to passionate (Eros) and altruistic (Agape) love (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1987). Also, gender differences have been noted in the direction of greater permissiveness in men and greater conservativeness in women (Hendrick et al., 1985). Sexual attitudes scale has not been extensively used. However, sexual attitudes in several studies show to be linked to relevant behaviors, such as distress due to sexual and emotional infidelity (Cann et al., 2001), or exposure and time spent on sexually explicit websites (Braun-Courville & Rojas, 2009).

As the results from previous research suggest, the relationships among attitudes towards sex, sexual behaviour, and personality traits are complex, and probably linked to gender. The present study aims at examining relations among gender, personality traits, and the behavioral component of sociosexual orientation on the one hand, and four dimensions of attitudes towards sex on

the other hand. In accordance with the data from previous research (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1995), a significant correlation between gender and permissiveness, and to a lesser extent, between gender and instrumentality is expected. Furthermore, a high and significant correlation between the behavioral aspect of sociosexual orientation (an accomplished and anticipated tendencies towards novelty and variety in sexual relations) and permissiveness is expected, as permissive attitudes are, conceptually, a part of the sociosexual orientation (Simpson & Gangestad, 1991a). Taking into account that a high score on sociosexual orientation represents an inclination towards “depersonalized” sex, a positive association with instrumentality and a negative association with communion could be assumed (based on the results from LeGall et al., 2002). When it comes to personality traits, the data on their relations to attitudes towards sex are relatively inconsistent, and the strength of association has proven to be rather weak, making it difficult to give straightforward predictions. Based on the results of Shafer (2001), a low negative correlation between extraversion and communion could be expected, as well as a low positive correlation between openness to experiences and communion. Also, some findings suggest association between neuroticism and permissive attitudes (e.g., Lameiras Fernandez & Rodriguez Castro, 2003), but such correlation has never been consistently documented. In the present study, personality traits have been assessed by a short version of the Big Five plus two Questionnaire (BF+2; Čolović et al., 2014), based on the results of the lexical study of personality descriptors in Serbian language (Smederevac et al., 2010). The BF+2 includes two (self) evaluative traits, positive valence and negative valence, in addition to the dimensions analogous to the Big five dimensions (extraversion, neuroticism, conscientiousness and openness, and aggressiveness). Positive valence refers to positive self-evaluation and the feeling of superiority, whereas negative valence refers to negative self-evaluation and manipulative tendencies. Regarding the nature of these two dimensions, their significant contribution to the prediction of attitudes towards sex could be assumed.

Method

Participants and Procedure

The sample consisted of 266 participants (62.4% female), age between 18 and 53 ($M = 24.7$, $SD = 4.67$). Data were collected during the first half of the year 2017. Psychology students were asked to acquire participants via the “snowball” sampling method. Research was anonymous, and all respondents signed the informed consent before participating. Questionnaires were dis-

tributed in the pen-paper form. Respondents were not compensated for their participation in the research.

Instruments

Sociosexual Orientation Inventory (SOI)

Original version of SOI (Simpson & Gangestad, 1991a) consists of seven items, which measure two aspects of the sociosexual orientation: attitudes and behavior. Since another measure of attitudes was used in the study, four items that referred to behavioral component of sociosexuality were selected: "How many partners have you had sex with in the past year?"; "How many partners will you probably have sex with over the next five years?"; "With how many partners have you had sex on one and only one occasion?" and "How often do you fantasize about having sex with someone other than your current partner?". SOI composite ($\alpha = .62$) was computed by summarizing participant's responses to those four questions. Confirmatory factor analysis indicated acceptable fit indices ($\chi^2/df = 3.61$, CFI = .94, RMSEA = .09, SRMR = .06) for SOI questionnaire theoretical model with three correlated dimensions (Simpson & Gangestad, 1991a) in our sample.

The Brief Sexual Attitudes Scale (BSAS)

BSAS (Hendrick et al., 2006) consists of 23 self-descriptive statements with 5-point Likert response scales, measuring four dimensions of sexual attitudes: permissiveness (10 items, $\alpha = .89$), sexual practices (3 items, $\alpha = .53$), communion (5 items, $\alpha = .78$) and instrumentality (5 items, $\alpha = .70$). Confirmatory factor analysis indicated adequate fit indices ($\chi^2/df = 1.26$, CFI = .99, RMSEA = .03, SRMR = .04) for BSAS questionnaire theoretical model with four correlated dimensions (Hendrick et al., 2006), in our sample.

Big Five plus Two – Short Version (BF+2)

BF+2 (Čolović et al., 2014) was used for assessing seven personality traits. Extraversion scale ($\alpha = .88$) mainly consists of items related to sociability and positive emotionality. Neuroticism ($\alpha = .88$) is mainly related to negative affect and depression, while conscientiousness scale ($\alpha = .87$) includes indicators of persistence, self-discipline and dependability. Aggressiveness mainly refers to anger and antagonism ($\alpha = .87$), while openness ($\alpha = .80$) reflects tendency to engage in various intellectual activities and novelty seeking. Positive valence ($\alpha = .87$) refers to positive self-image and narcissistic tendencies. Negative valence ($\alpha = .77$) predominantly describes tendency towards manipulative behavior, and to some extent, negative self-image. Each dimension contains ten

items with 5-point Likert response scale. BF+2 has proven to be a reliable instrument in a number of earlier research (e.g., Čolović et al., 2014; Smederevac et al., 2010).

Data Preparation and Analysis

A small number of missing values (from 0.3 % to 1.4%) was replaced by using the Expectation Maximization algorithm implemented in SPSS software v24 (IBM corp., 2016). Twenty-nine participants were identified as univariate outliers ($-3.29Z < Z < 3.29Z$; Tabachnick & Fidell, 2013) and excluded from the dataset. Four separate hierarchical regression models were conducted in order to examine: (1) the relationship between BSAS dimensions (criteria variable; one dimension in each model) and gender, SOI and BF+2 dimensions and (2) the moderation effect of gender on the relations among BSAS, SOI, and BF+2 dimensions. All predictor variables were mean-centered to avoid non-essential multicollinearity. The first step of each regression analysis included only gender. The second step included gender, SOI and BF+2 dimension, and the third and final step included gender, SOI, BF+2 dimension and interactions between gender and SOI, and interactions between gender and BF+2 dimensions.

Results

Skewness and kurtosis values for all variables were within or very near recommended range (± 1.5 ; Tabachnick & Fidell, 2013). Gender correlated negatively and significantly with SOI, permissiveness, and negative valence (Table 1). SOI had the strongest correlation with permissiveness and negative valence, but also correlated significantly and negatively with communion and conscientiousness, and significantly and positively with instrumentality, openness, and positive valence. Correlations between BSAS dimension were low, while correlations between BF+2 dimensions were low to moderate, which was in line with theoretical expectations.

Table 1
Descriptive statistics and correlations of all variables

	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Sk</i>	<i>Ku</i>	Gender	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. SOI	8.84	6.26	1.33	1.20	-0.34**											
2. Permissiveness	26.87	9.59	0.08	-0.99	-0.29**	.59**										
3. Sexual practices	14.16	1.43	-1.63	1.45	.08	-.03	-.03									
4. Communion	19.66	4.28	-0.74	0.02	.07	-.18**	-.25**	-.01								
5. Instrumentality	14.6	4.17	0.12	-0.18	-.02	.18**	.35**	-.02	.14*							
6. Aggressiveness	27.27	8.31	0.30	-0.34	.01	.11	.13*	.03	-.03	.16**						
7. Extraversion	37.46	7.52	-0.78	0.30	-.10	.04	-.01	.06	.21**	.00	-.18**					
8. Neuroticism	23.33	8.51	0.41	-0.56	-.01	.05	.21**	.03	-.02	.13*	.45**	-.41**				
9. Negative valence	18.41	5.97	0.81	0.12	-.16*	.29**	.31**	-.04	-.05	.23**	.47**	-.16**	.34**			
10. Openness	40.05	6.05	-0.42	-0.29	-.01	.22**	.07	.13*	.04	-.03	.00	.30**	-.07	-.05		
11. Positive valence	32.03	7.35	-0.20	-0.02	-.03	.22**	.07	.12*	.14*	.12	.20**	.32**	-.14*	.13*	.43**	
12. Conscientiousness	35.02	7.83	-0.42	-0.01	.08	-.15*	-.20**	.16*	.15*	-.11	-.16**	.25**	-.29**	-.34**	.29**	.29**

Notes. Gender was coded as 1 – male and 2 – female. Relations between gender and all other continued measures were tested with point-biserial correlation. Measures from 2 to 5 were dimensions from BSAS. Measures from 6 to 11 and Conscientiousness were dimensions from BF+2. *M* – mean; *SD* – standard deviation; *Sk* – skewness; *Ku* – kurtosis. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Model parameters for each step in hierarchical regressions are shown in Table 2. Instrumentality was best predicted in the step 3, with 11% of explained variance. Communion was best predicted in the step 2, with 8% of explained variance. Sexual practices did not have a significant relationship with predictors in any step, while permissiveness was best predicted in the step 2, with 37.6% of explained variance.

Table 2
Model parameters for four hierarchical regression models

Criterion variable	Step	R^2	p	ΔR^2	Δp
Instrumentality	1	0.00	0.79		-
	2	0.09	0.00	0.09	.00
	3	0.17	0.00	0.07	.01
Communion	1	0.00	0.24		-
	2	0.11	0.00	0.11	.00
	3	0.12	0.01	0.01	.94
Sexual practices	1	0.01	0.18		-
	2	0.05	0.14	0.04	.17
	3	0.07	0.28	0.02	.59
Permissiveness	1	0.08	0.00		-
	2	0.34	0.00	0.31	.00
	3	0.43	0.00	0.03	.07

Notes. In the step 1, gender was the only predictor. In the step 2, predictors were gender, SOI, and BF+2 dimensions. In the step 3, predictors were gender, SOI, BF +2 dimensions, and interactions between gender and SOI and gender and BF+2 dimensions. *df* value for the first, the second and the third step were: 1, 264; 9, 256 and 17, 248. Each *df* for all ΔF - tests was 8.

R^2 - multiple determination coefficient; p - statistical significance; ΔR^2 - multiple determination coefficient change; Δp - statistical significance change.

In the first regression model, with Instrumentality as the criterion variable, gender was not a significant predictor throughout the first step. In the second step, only SOI was proved to be a significant and positive predictor. In the third step, SOI was not a significant predictor anymore. Here, openness was a significant predictor in the negative direction, and interactions gender x neuroticism and gender x positive valence were significant in a positive direction. In the second regression model, where communion was the criterion variable, gender was not a significant predictor in the first step. In the second step, significant predictors were SOI in a negative direction, and extraversion

in a positive direction. In the third regression model, in which permissiveness was a criterion variable, gender was a significant and negative predictor in the first step. In the second step, gender was not a significant predictor anymore, whereas SOI and neuroticism were significant predictors in a positive direction.

Table 3
Standardized regression weights

Predictor	Instrumentality	Communion	Permissiveness	VIF
	β	β	β	
Step 1 Gender	-.02	.07	-.29***	-
Gender	.07	.03	-.10	1.21
SOI	.15*	-.20***	.52***	1.43
Aggressiveness	.03	-.07	-.04	1.62
Extraversion	.07	.22***	-.06	1.45
Step 2 Neuroticism	.09	.13	.13*	1.62
Negative valence	.13	.04	.09	1.67
Openness	-.11	-.05	-.01	1.42
Positive valence	.11	.14	-.01	1.64
Conscientiousness	-.03	.07	-.03	1.46

	Gender	.07	1.21
	SOI	.14	1.64
	Aggressiveness	.05	1.66
	Extraversion	.01	1.44
	Neuroticism	.12	1.72
	Negative valence	.11	1.61
	Openness	-.15*	1.56
	Positive valence	.12	1.68
Step 3	Conscientiousness	.00	1.45
	Gender x SOI	-.05	1.59
	Gender x Aggressiveness	-.01	1.79
	Gender x Extraversion	-.10	1.46
	Gender x Neuroticism	.21**	1.63
	Gender x Negative valence	-.06	1.62
	Gender x Openness	.05	1.55
	Gender x Positive valence	.19*	1.66
	Gender x Conscientiousness	-.04	1.42

Notes. β – partial contribution of predictor; *VIF* - variance inflation factor; values lower than *VIF* < 5.0 suggesting there was no multicollinearity between predictors (Sheather, 2009).

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Graphical representation of significant interactions for the model where the criterion variable was instrumentality, is shown in Figure 1. The relationship between instrumentality and positive valence was positive for male participants and negative for female participants. Very similar, the relationship between instrumentality and neuroticism was positive for male participants and negative for female participants.

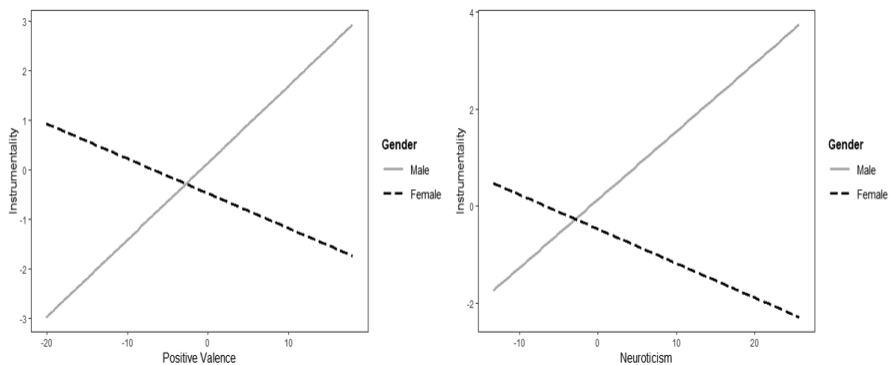


Figure 1. Significant interactions: Gender x Positive valence (left) and Gender x Neuroticism (right).

In the regression model, where the criterion variable was permissiveness, gender had moderate and negative relationship with the criterion variable ($\beta = -.29$). In the second step, after SOI and personality traits were included in the model, gender was not the significant predictor anymore, while SOI was the best predictor of permissiveness in the positive direction.

Discussion

Attitudes towards sex are an important part of human sexuality. They are influenced by different factors, and they can affect different activities and practices. Since sexual attitudes reflect, to a certain extent, sexual needs, and adequate satisfaction of sexual needs affects, in more or less direct ways, one's psychological well-being, the results of this research could have some important implications. Examining individual differences in attitudes towards sex, and their connection with some personal characteristics and certain aspects of sexual behavior itself, can shed more light on the complex intertwinement of numerous factors affecting human sexuality.

A characteristic that is often associated with differences in sexual behavior and attitudes towards sex is gender. According to the findings of the present study, permissiveness is the only dimension of sexual attitudes that is related to gender, with men scoring higher, which is in line with previous findings in Serbian culture (Dinić & Knežević, 2008). Previous research has indicated greater permissiveness in men, but has also suggested higher instrumentality (Hendrick et al., 1985), which is not found in the present study. Moreover, even in the case of permissiveness, gender loses predictive power when the sociosexual orientation and personality traits are introduced into the model.

The only personality trait that predicts permissiveness is neuroticism, with a rather modest effect, while the effect of sociosexual orientation is substantial. Thus, the results point to the possibility that permissiveness is more related to mating strategies, as proposed by Sexual strategies theory (Buss & Schmitt, 1993), than to gender itself.

No gender differences are found in instrumentality, which implies that men and women do not differ in considering sex as a mean of meeting biological need and receiving satisfaction. Although this result is not consistent with previous findings (Hendrick et al., 1985), it is, in a less direct way, in line with the results suggesting similarities between genders regarding sexual satisfaction (Baumeister et al., 2001). However, the interaction of gender and certain personality traits significantly predicts instrumentality. Findings suggest that a highly positive self-image, reflected in the high score on positive valence, is associated with gender-specific tendencies to view sex as an instrumental activity. This may suggest that instrumental attitude towards sex is related to the self-image, but in a different way for men and women. While a positive self-image of men might include somewhat exploitative attitude towards sexual partners and the view of sex as a means of achieving personal satisfaction, a positive self-image of women implies low expression of such an attitude towards sexuality. This finding can be explained in the context of evolutionary approach based on different parental investments of men and women, and, consequently, differences in mating strategies (Buss & Schmitt, 1993), but the influence of societal pressures and roles should be considered important as well (Eagly & Wood, 1999).

Moreover, the results suggest that in men with higher neuroticism, the instrumental attitude towards sex tends to be pronounced, whereas in women with higher neuroticism instrumentality is low, the finding consistent with results pointing to low sexual satisfaction in women, and high sexual curiosity and satisfaction in men, scoring high on neuroticism (Heaven et al., 2000). This might indicate that emotional instability in men produces tension and frustration that may possibly be interpreted or experienced by a person as sexual dissatisfaction or arousal, which can lead to an increased importance of the biological/drive aspect of sexuality, whereas the increased tension in women could lead to the suppression of this aspect of sexuality. This result might also reflect differences of the weight that men and women put on satisfying sexual drive (Peterson & Hyde, 2010), since it possibly points to differences between genders in experiencing emotional tension as being related to sexual tension. Gender differences are not registered either when it comes to the communion. Thus, men and women do not differ in considering sex as a form of communication and connection with another person. The result is in line with the previous findings (Hendrick et al., 1985), indicating a similar need for achieving closeness through sexual contact, and, generally, similar motives for sexual activity (Meston & Buss, 2007) in men and women.

Findings of this study show that attitudes towards sex can be predicted to some extent by the sexual behavior itself, but the relationship between sexual attitudes and sexual behavior is shown to be fairly modest, except for permissiveness. Previous findings have pointed to different strength of this attitude-behavior connection in men and women. Baumaister (2000) has argued that a slightly lower attitude-behavior consistency in women is a reflection of a greater influence of social factors on female than male sexuality, due to higher plasticity of women's sex drive. Wells and Twenge (2005) have suggested that the attitudes towards sex are better predictors of male sexual behavior over a short period of time, and female behavior in the long term. The results of the present study indicate that people of both genders who are prone to frequent encounters with different sexual partners and casual sex, do not seek for closeness to their partners through sexual activity, tend to perceive sex as a pleasure-pleasing activity, and are more permissive in their attitudes towards sexual behavior (casual sex, sex out of partner relationships, multiple sexual relationships in the same period of time, etc.). These relations of a non-restrictive socio-sexual orientation with the dimensions of attitudes towards sex suggest that people who show unconstrained sexual behavior are directed primarily at satisfying sexual impulses, rather than at establishing connection with sexual partners, and that the way people practice sex is, to some extent, consistent with their attitudes towards sex. However, in addition to generally modest attitude-behavior consistency, it should be noted that after interactions of gender and personality traits are introduced into the model, the socio-sexual orientation is no longer a significant predictor of instrumentality. Instead, openness to experience appears as a significant negative predictor of instrumentality, although it does not achieve a significant bivariate correlation with this dimension of sexual attitudes. In addition, openness correlates positively with a non-restrictive socio-sexual orientation. Therefore, it should not be ruled out that the suppressor effect of the socio-sexual orientation leads to a significant effect of openness. Namely, a part of the openness variance that negatively predicts instrumentality is probably the one that is not related to non-restrictive sexual behavior.

When it comes to personality traits, only extraversion, neuroticism, and openness have proven to be important for predicting attitudes towards sex. Although previous findings have suggested that individuals who score higher on extraversion tend to be more sexually active and are prone to promiscuous behavior (Allen & Walter, 2018; Costa et al., 1992; Schenk & Pfrang, 1986), the reasons for these patterns of behaviors have stayed less clear, and therefore these results might not contradict ours. However, Shafer (2001) has found extraversion to be negatively connected to communion, contrary to the result of the present study. This inconsistency may be due to a somewhat different content of the extraversion scale used in this study, comparing to the extraversion scales used in previous research. The extraversion scale from BF+2, beside common indicators of positive affect and sociability, comprises of markers that

refer to warmth and a need for close connection to others (Smederevac et al., 2010).

The negative association of openness with instrumentality could be explained by the cognitive and emotional complexity of open-minded individuals, which is why they probably approach sexuality in a more complex way than viewing it as an activity which simply meets their biological need. On the other hand, the positive bivariate correlation between openness and non-restricted sexual behavior may arise from the aspect of openness, which refers to the excitement seeking and the need for miscellaneous experiences, and it is possible that the suppression of this very aspect has led to the negative effect of openness on the instrumental attitude towards sex.

People with higher neuroticism show more permissive attitudes towards sex, which is in line with the results of Lameiras Fernandez and Rodriguez Castro (2003). One of the characteristics of these individuals is lack of impulse control, which could also affect sexual behavior, and the attempt to rationalize it might explain a tendency towards more permissive attitudes towards sex.

In general, results of this study point to complex relations among personality, socio-sexuality, gender, and attitudes towards sex. Gender is shown to be relatively weak predictor of sexual attitudes. Personality traits have also shown a very modest impact on attitudes towards sex, with rather small effects of extraversion, openness and neuroticism on the particular components of these attitudes. Some results, which are not entirely in line with the previous ones, indicate a positive association of extraversion with communion and a negative one between openness and instrumentality, as well as a significant effect of interaction between some personality traits and gender on instrumentality. Additionally, results appear to imply the need to examine potential predictors of the sexual attitudes beyond global personality traits included in the current study, such as more specific traits like sensation seeking, or sexuality traits that are not covered by the standard personality models. Also, some variables regarding the relationship status could contribute to understanding of sexual behavior and attitude towards sex. The lack of this kind of information about participants is one limitation of this study. Another limitation refers to the sample of participants, since two-thirds of them consist of female respondents.

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POL, SOCIOSEKSUALNA ORIJENTACIJA I OSOBINE LIČNOSTI KAO PREDIKTORI STAVOVA PREMA SEKSU

Osnovni cilj ovog istraživanja bio je ispitati relacije između pola, osobina ličnosti i bihejvioralne komponente socioseksualne orijentacije s jedne strane, i četiri dimenzije stavova prema seksualnom ponašanju s druge strane. Ispitanici koji su učestvovali u ovom istraživanju ($N = 266$, 62,4% žena, starosti između 18 i 53 godine, $M = 24,7$, $SD = 4,67$) popunili su upitnike namenjene samoproceni socioseksualne orijentacije (SOI), stavova prema seksu (BSAS) i bazičnih osobina ličnosti (Velikih pet plus dva - kratka verzija; VP + 2). Rezultati ukazuju na vrlo skroman doprinos pola pri predviđanju stavova prema seksu, koji su na adekvatniji način objašnjeni socioseksualnošću. Pokazani su mali doprinosi otvorenosti predikciji instrumentalnosti, ekstraverzije predikciji bliskosti i neuroticizma predikciji permisivnosti, dok socioseksualna orijentacija predviđa sve pomenute dimenzije stavova prema seksu. Rezultati ovog istraživanja takođe ukazuju da je instrumentalni odnos prema seksu povezan sa efektom interakcije između neuroticizma i pola, kao i pozitivne valence i pola. U oba slučaja relacija je pozitivna kod muškaraca, a negativna kod žena.

Cljučne reči: osobine ličnosti, polne razlike, socioseksualna orijentacija, stavovi prema seksu