

Introduction

- There has been a noteworthy shift within media over the last decade with regard to the representation of the female body (Gill, 2008)
- Traditionally, women were portrayed as submissive, unassertive objects
- Currently, women are depicted as powerful, independent participants who can choose to use their bodies as a source of financial gain
- Activities and apparel once contained within the sex industry are being integrated into mainstream culture; this is the "Stripper Chic" movement (Fensterstock, 2006; McNair, 2002)
- It remains unknown whether the "Stripper Chic" movement has influenced the perceptions of exotic dance as a legitimate profession

Rationale

- To explore whether similarities exist between exotic dancers and female students on:
 - Demographics
 - Self-esteem
 - Personality
 - Sexual permissiveness
 - Attitudes toward exotic dance
- To investigate whether the current "Stripper Chic" Movement promotes the acceptance of exotic dance as a legitimate profession.

Methods

Participants:

- A total of 230 participants were recruited:
 - 178 female university students (mean age = 22.88 years, SD = 4.85)
 - 52 female exotic dancers (mean age = 29.43 years, SD = 8.42)

Procedure:

- Students were recruited using convenience sampling from the KPU research participant pool and advertising poster at local universities
- Exotic dancers were recruited via site visits and snowball sampling techniques
- Participants completed an anonymous online survey

Measures:

- Demographics
- Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (Rosenberg, 1965)
- Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (Brief Version; Sato, 2005)
- Brief Sexual Attitudes Scale (Hendrick, Hendrick, & Reich, 2006)
- Attitudes Toward Exotic Dance Scale (modified from Levin, & Peled, 2011)

Results

Figure 1. Sexual Orientation

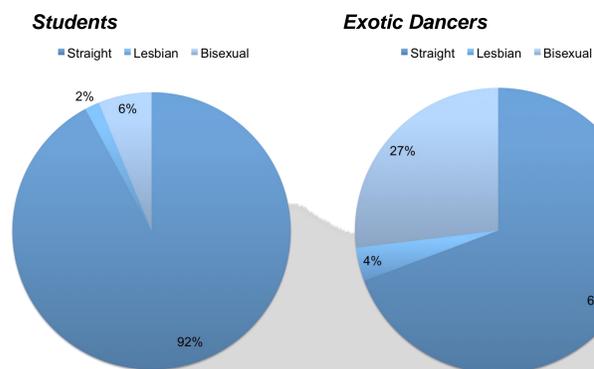


Figure 3. Education Level

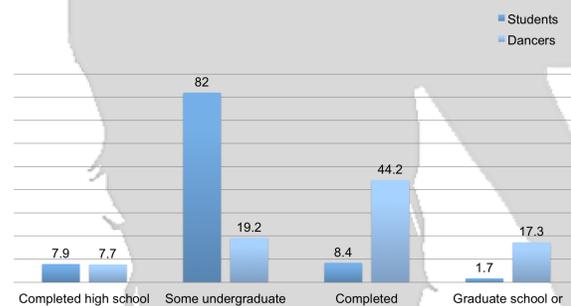


Figure 5. Personality

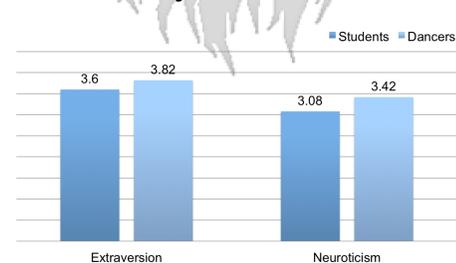


Figure 7. Attitudes toward Exotic Dance

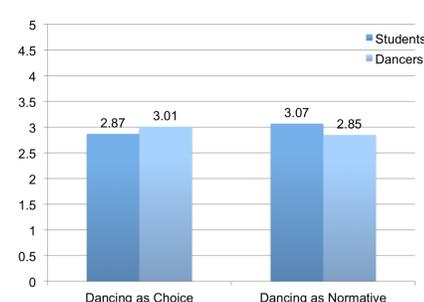


Figure 2. Relationship Status

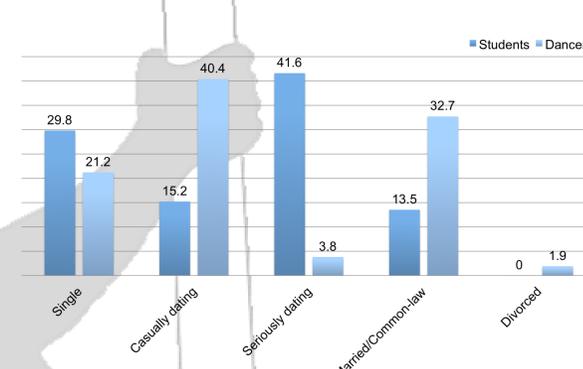


Figure 4. Self Esteem

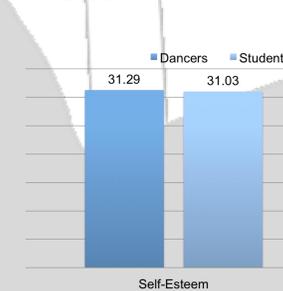
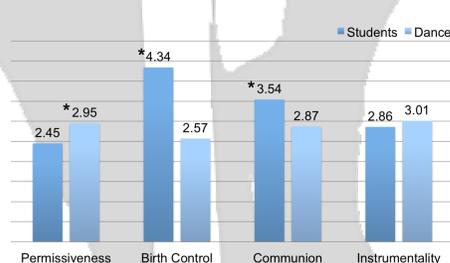


Figure 6. Sexual Attitudes *



Results Summary

- Exotic dancers and students differ with regards to sexual permissiveness, birth control and communion
- There were NO significant differences between groups on measures of perceptions of exotic dance, personality, or self-esteem

Discussion

- The current study was the first of its kind to provide quantitative evidence of the similarities and differences between exotic dancers and university students
- Among university students and dancers, exotic dance is viewed as socially & morally acceptable
- No significant differences between university students and exotic dancers in perceptions of exotic dance as a normative activity or as a matter of choice
- Exotic dancers exhibited significantly more permissive attitudes toward sexuality than university students → More casual and open attitudes toward sex
- University students were found to have more conscientious attitudes toward sexual practice → Responsible birth control
- Students also scored higher on the subscale of communion, insinuating a greater appreciation of sex as a "peak experience"

Limitations

- Difficult to recruit participants:
 - Dancers may mistrust researchers
 - Concerns were raised by dancers about how they would be portrayed in the study
 - Concerns were raised by dancers about how their profession would be represented in the study
- A small population of dancers from which to sample

Acknowledgements

- A special thanks to Dr. Arleigh Reichl for his statistical guidance on this project.
- Thanks to Maria Goldin, Kate Morrison, Abby Ratcliff and Michelle Dean for their editorial contributions.
- Thanks to all our research participants for the generous contributions of their time.

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