

Inventory of Partner Sexual Objectification (IPSO)

Thinking about interactions with your partner over the past month, please rate the extent to which you agree with each of the following statements as it applies to you and your relationship using the below scale.

- 1 = Strongly Disagree
- 2 = Disagree
- 3 = Neutral
- 4 = Agree
- 5 = Strongly Agree

General Scale

This is a broad measure of sexual objectification in intimate relationships (i.e., person feels reduced to appearance and sexual attributes for use by their partner)

1. My partner values my physical attractiveness over who I am as a person
2. My partner focuses on sex with me over other aspects of our relationship
3. Sex is the primary reason my partner is with me
4. My partner compliments my appearance at inappropriate times
5. My partner tries to initiate sex when they know I'm not interested
6. My partner often scans my body in ways that make me feel uncomfortable
7. My partner stares at my body or body parts in inappropriate contexts
8. My partner frequently sexually objectifies me in ways that make me feel uncomfortable

Specific Scales

These reflect specific manifestations of objectification in intimate relationships.

Body Autonomy Denial

1. My partner expresses strong preferences about the clothes I wear
2. My partner has strong opinions about whether I should get piercings or tattoos
3. My partner encourages me to exercise so that I look more attractive
4. My partner expresses strong preferences about my body hair
5. My partner makes suggestions about ways I could improve my appearance
6. My partner disapproves when I don't look my best
7. My partner suggests foods I should eat to stay or look attractive, even when I don't ask
8. My partner is more likely to compliment me when I look my best

Body Neglect

9. My partner rarely compliments my appearance
10. My partner initiates sex less often than I want
11. I wish my partner would tell me I'm sexy more often
12. My partner thinks my sexual desires are unimportant

Unconditional Body Appreciation (Note: Lower Scores reflect Greater Objectification)

13. My partner thinks I'm sexy no matter how I look
14. My partner appreciates all of my attributes--the physical and non-physical ones
15. My partner finds me attractive no matter what
16. My partner values me even when I can't have sex
17. My partner values me even when I don't want to have sex
18. My partner thinks I'm sexy even if I don't look my best
19. My partner is always respectful when they comment on my physical appearance
20. My partner is attracted to me regardless of how feminine or masculine my appearance is
21. My partner appreciates my company even if we're not physical

Administration instructions:

If possible, items should be presented in a random order. The general scale and subscale names and descriptions should be omitted during administration.

Scoring Instructions:

Compute a mean score across items for each scale. Given the hierarchical nature of the scale, investigators interested in broadly assessing sexual objectification in intimate relationships can use the general scale (8 items); a total score across the 29 items is not necessary. Specific scales can be used to assess specific manifestations of objectification in intimate relationships.

Important: Proceed with caution if simultaneously modeling general and specific scales (i.e., body autonomy denial; body neglect, unconditional body appreciation); partialing out shared variance with the general scale will change the interpretation of the specific scales (i.e., they may no longer reflect objectification).

This scale is free to use. Please cite:

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