

TITLE: Who Plays and Who Pays? Gendered Codes of Dating and Sexual Behaviors

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Abstract

Using survey data drawn from a sociology class at Georgia State University (n=941) between the years of 2000 and 2013, this paper examines the relationship between gender and gendered code in dating and sexual behaviors. Three dependent variables are included in this study: age of first sexual experience, attitude toward initiation of first sexual intercourse, and attitude toward payment for the first meal at a restaurant. The author hypothesized that age of first sexual experience as well as attitudes toward traditional dating and sexual scripts differ by gender. According to statistical analysis, men report having had their first sexual experience around age 16.58 while women report having had their first sexual experience around age 16.97. This difference is not statistically significant. Further, according to a T-test, attitudes toward initiation of first sexual intercourse differ by gender. Women indicate that they strongly agree that males should initiate and males somewhat agree that they should be responsible for sexual initiation. This gendered difference is statistically significant. Finally, this study reveals that men and women differ in their attitudes toward payment for the first meal at a restaurant. Women indicate that they would go on a date believing that men should always be ready to pay for the meal even though they were willing to share the bill sometimes. Men indicate that they would either definitely pay or sometimes be willing to share. This difference in attitude is found to be statistically significant. Findings of this study suggest that men and women are closing the gap in their age of first sex; yet in gendered code of dating and sexual behaviors, there is a continuation of traditional expectations of gendered code of conduct. This paper adds to the current sociological literature by way of the racial diversity of this sample, and by providing a deeper understanding of meanings in gendered code of dating behavior in a racially diverse college population.