Psychology & Sexuality ›
Volume 8, 2017 - Issue 3

958 Views | 10 CrossRef citations to date | 168 Altmetric

Articles

What do two men kissing and a bucket of maggots have in common? Heterosexual men's indistinguishable salivary α-amylase responses to photos of two men kissing and disgusting images

Breanna Maureen O'Handley, **Karen L. Blair** & Rhea Ashley Hoskin

Pages 173-188 | Received 31 Mar 2017, Accepted 04 May 2017, Published online: 22 May 2017

Download citation https://doi.org/10.1080/19419899.2017.1328459 Check for updates

ABSTRACT

The current study sought to examine how Utah men's physiological reactions to viewing same-sex public displays of affection (PDA), measured through salivary alpha-amylase (sAA), differ as a function of sexual prejudice, as assessed using the Attitudes Towards Lesbians and Gay Men Scale (ATLG) and the Modern Homonegativity Scale. In examining physiological responses to same-sex PDA, the present study hoped to assist in explaining current levels of anti-gay hate crimes despite growing positive public opinion for the LGBTQ community. Participants in the current study viewed six different slide shows depicting same-sex PDA, mixed-sex PDA, everyday items, and disgusting images, while providing saliva samples in the lab. A series of paired-samples *t*-tests was performed and found that sAA

full sample, regardless of individual levels of prejudice. The results of the current study suggest that all individuals, not just highly sexually prejudiced individuals, may experience a physiological response indicative of stress when witnessing a male same-sex couple kissing. The possibility of a socialised disgust response to same-sex PDA is discussed.

KEYWORDS: Sexual prejudice | salivary alpha-amylase | same-sex PDA | hate crimes | psychophysiology

Previous article View issue table of contents Next article

Acknowledgements

This study was made possible through the generosity of 127 donors to an online crowdfunding campaign run through www.Experiment.com. A complete list of donors can be found here: http://www.drkarenblair.com/pdasponsors.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

Dedication

This research is dedicated to Joseph 'Joey' Kellogg: 1986–2014. Joey was one of the crowdfunding donors for this study and a passionate advocate for LGBTQ civil rights.

> Find the truth that we are all human, we are all different, and yet the same. *Found* by Joey Kellogg, October 14, 1928

Funding

This work was supported by the American Institute of Bisexuality; St. Francis Xavier University; Experiment.com [10.18258/1003].

Notes on contributors

Breanna Maureen O'Handley

Breanna M. O'Handley, BSc., (Hon), is the research coordinator for the KLB Research Lab at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, Canada. The present work is based on her honours thesis conducted at St. Francis Xavier University. Her current research is examining shared memories of LGBTQ coming out stories between parents and their LGBTQ adult children.

Karen L. Blair

Karen L. Blair, PhD., is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, Canada, and director of KLB Research. Dr. Blair studies the role that social support for relationships plays in the development, maintenance and dissolution of relationships, LGBTQ Psychology, and the connections between relationships, social prejudices and health. Dr. Blair's work has received funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Social Science and Humanities Research Council, the American Institute of Bisexuality, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association 's Lesbian Health Fund, Patreon, and Experiment.com. http://www.drkarenblair.com.

Rhea Ashley Hoskin

Rhea Ashley Hoskin, MA, PhD., Candidate, is a SSHRC-CGS doctoral

Related research

People also read | Recommended articles | Cited by 10

Fisting intimacy: The sexual scripting of intimacy in gay men's anal fisting

Jarred H Martin
Psychology & Sexuality
Published online: 20 Nov 2022

The proportions of heterosexual and homosexual pedophiles among sex offenders against children: An exploratory study

Kurt Freund et al.
Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy
Published online: 14 Jan 2008

"We're Disgusted With Queers, not Fearful of Them": The Interrelationships Among Disgust, Gay Men's Sexual Behavior, and Homonegativity

Todd G. Morrison et al.
Journal of Homosexuality
Published online: 27 Jul 2018

View more

R&D professionals
Editors
Librarians
Societies

Open Journals
Open Select
Dove Medical Press
F1000Research

Opportunities

Reprints and e-prints
Advertising solutions
Accelerated publication
Corporate access solutions

Help and information

Help and contact
Newsroom
All journals
Books

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email

Sign me up

Copyright © 2023 Informa UK Limited Privacy policy Cookies Terms & conditions Accessibility

Taylor & Francis Group an informa business

Registered in England & Wales No. 3099067
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG