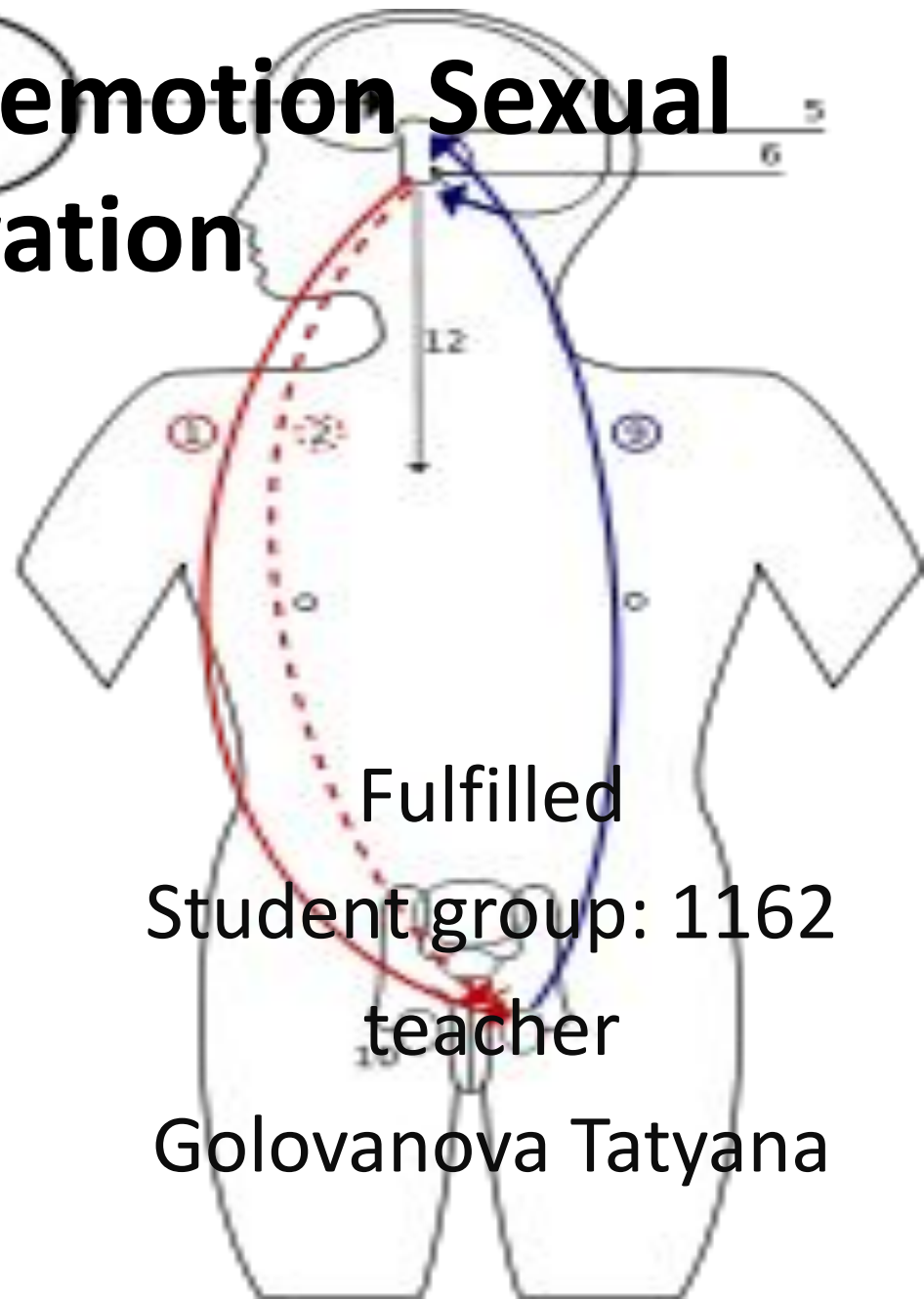
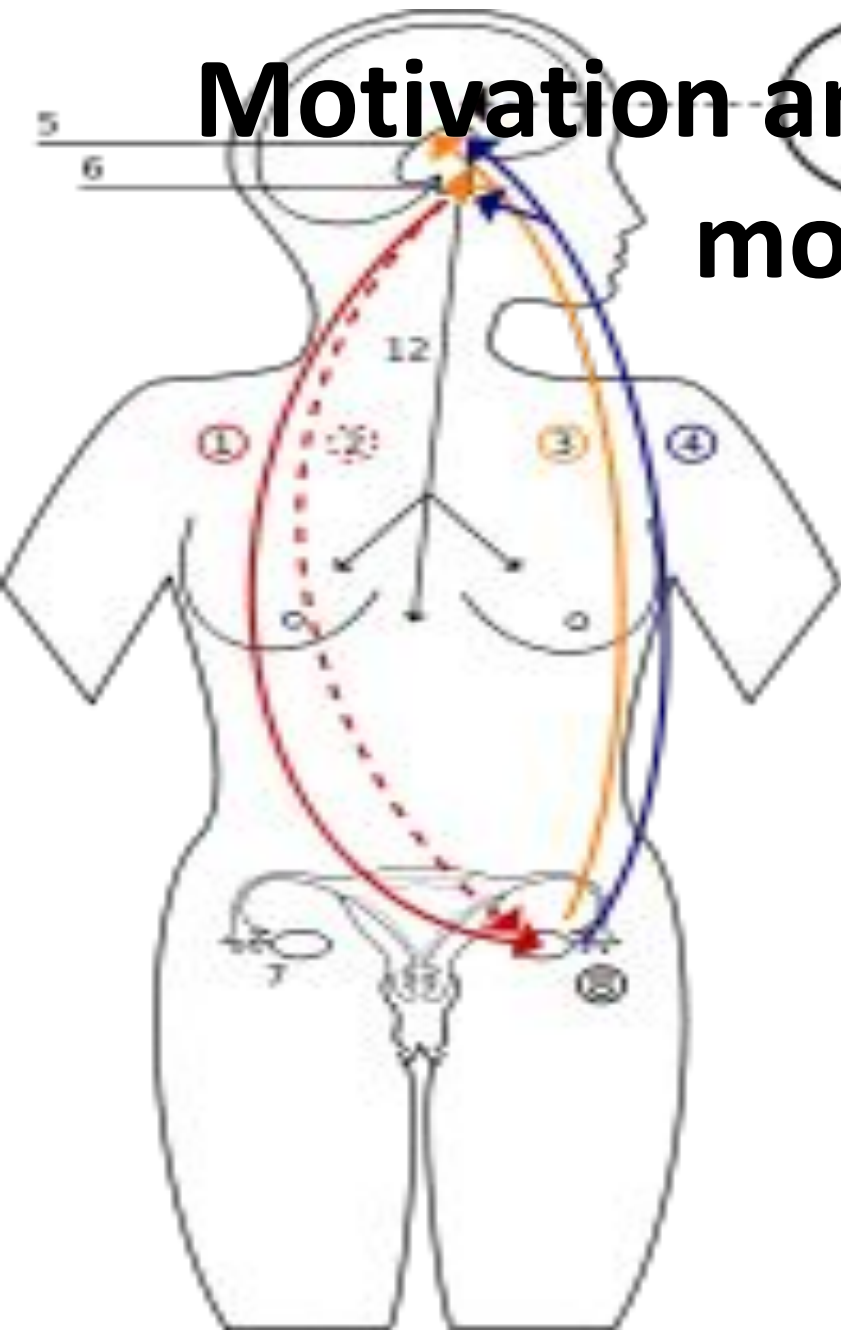


Motivation and emotion Sexual motivation



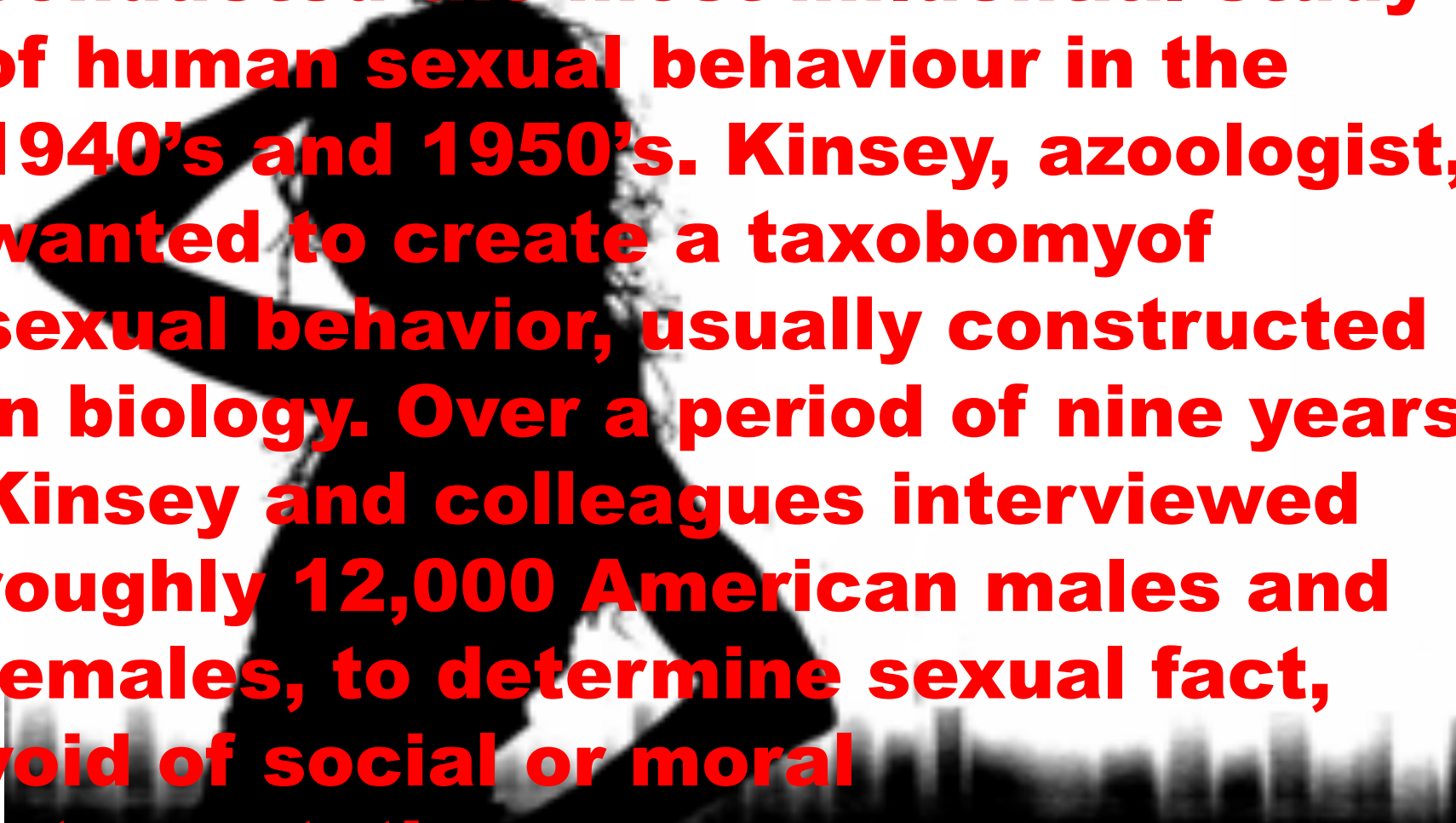
Fulfilled
Student group: 1162
teacher
Golovanova Tatyana

Introduction

This chapter introduces psychological understandings of sexual motivation. After reading this chapter you will have an understanding of some of the most influential studies in human sexual behavior, the evolution of human sexual behavior, the physiology, gender differences, the role of pheromones, issues in the field.

Kinsey's Landmark Study of Human Sexual Behavior

Alfred Kinsey and colleagues (1953) conducted the most influential study of human sexual behaviour in the 1940's and 1950's. Kinsey, zoologist, wanted to create a taxonomy of sexual behavior, usually constructed in biology. Over a period of nine years Kinsey and colleagues interviewed roughly 12,000 American males and females, to determine sexual fact, void of social or moral interpretations.



Masturbation

Masturbation can be defined as self gratification of sexual desire. Masturbation has been identified as good indicator of sexual motivation or drive. Studies report that males masturbate far more often than females. Women are more likely than men to report never masturbating at all and those who do masturbate do it much less frequently.

A photograph of a person lying on their back on a bed, partially covered by a white sheet. Their hands are positioned near their groin area, suggesting the act of masturbation. The background is a textured, brownish surface, possibly a wall or a large piece of fabric.

Pheromones

Pheromones play a large role in interactions between genes, nerve cells, hormones and neural pathways during development; they also influence learning, memory and behaviour (Kohl & Francoeur, 1995). Thus, odours and smell probably play a much greater role than we think in human social interactions, sexual attraction, sexual arousal, mating, bonding and parenting.

Sexual Motivation and Pheromones

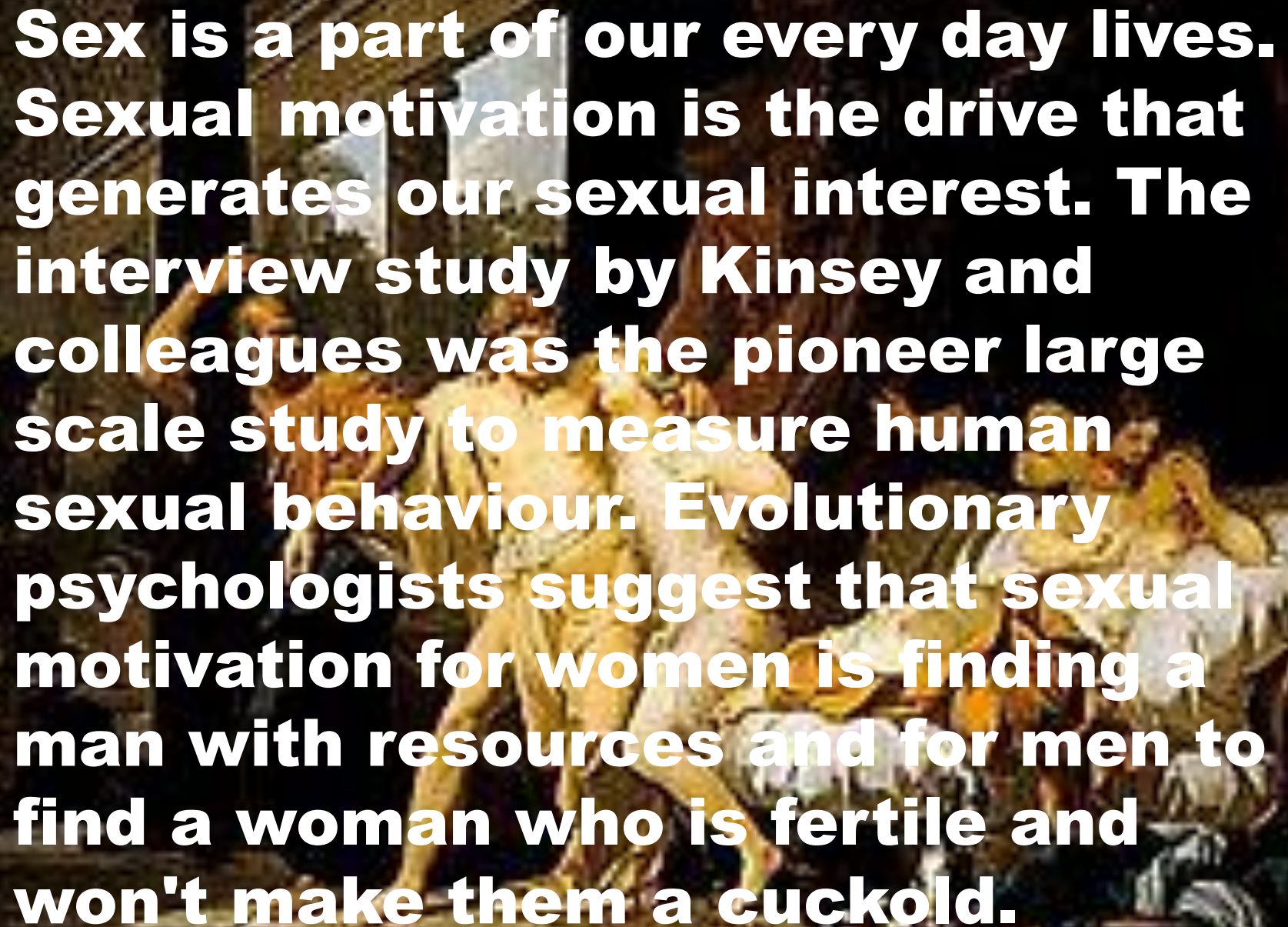
There has been no specific behaviour that has been directly linked to pheromones. It is proposed that the scent of pheromones is released through all areas of the body via skin cell secretions and gaseous glandular secretions in the skin, scalp, feet, mouth, breast, armpits and genital area.

Furthermore motivation towards oral genital sex may be a drive to experience the pheromones that are being secreted in behind the ridge of the penile glands, in males, and the vaginal pheromones, which increase with the rise of estrogen levels associated with fertility in females

However, as romantic.

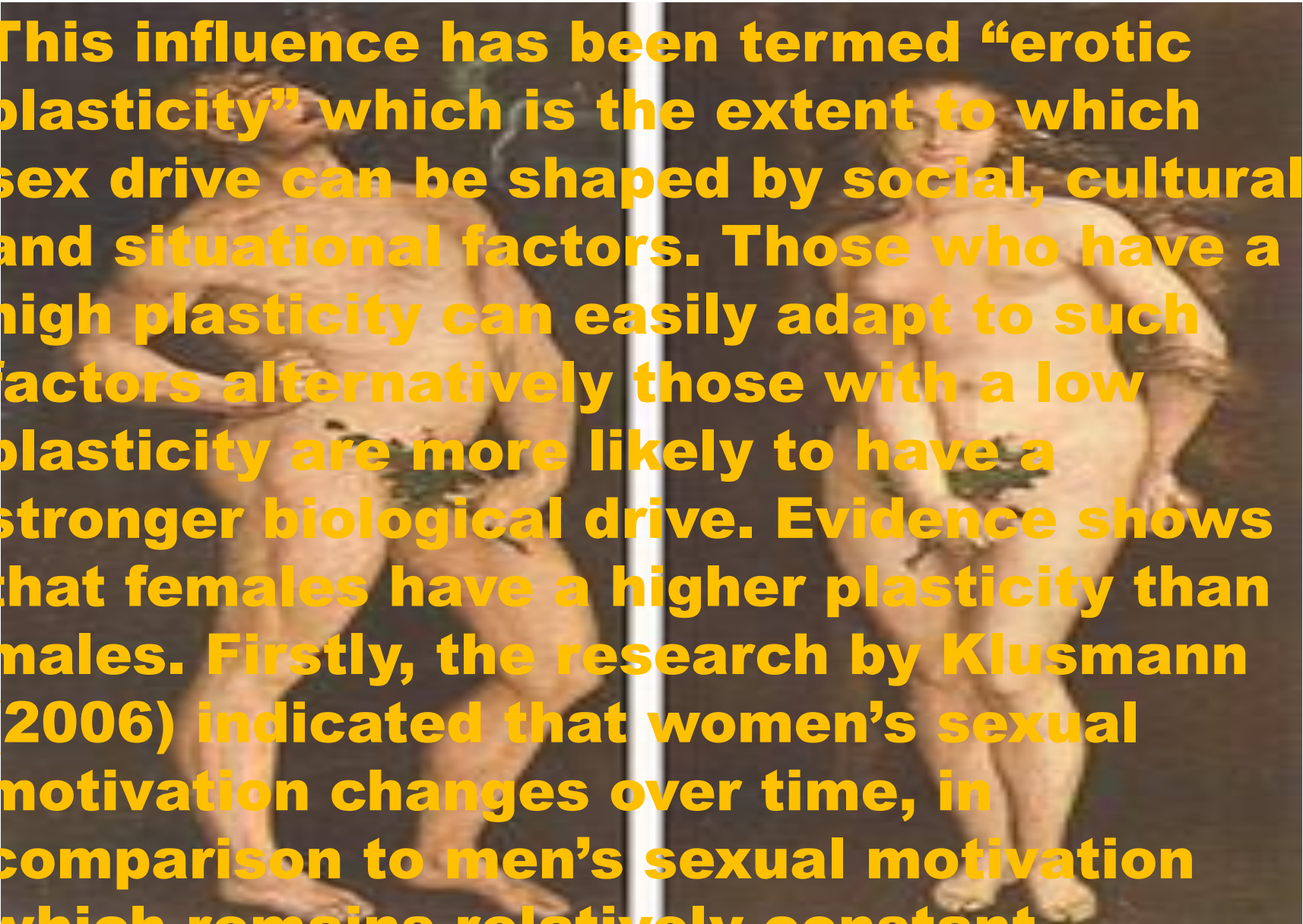
Summary

Sex is a part of our every day lives. Sexual motivation is the drive that generates our sexual interest. The interview study by Kinsey and colleagues was the pioneer large scale study to measure human sexual behaviour. Evolutionary psychologists suggest that sexual motivation for women is finding a man with resources and for men to find a woman who is fertile and won't make them a cuckold.



Sociocultural influences

This influence has been termed “erotic plasticity” which is the extent to which sex drive can be shaped by social, cultural and situational factors. Those who have a high plasticity can easily adapt to such factors alternatively those with a low plasticity are more likely to have a stronger biological drive. Evidence shows that females have a higher plasticity than males. Firstly, the research by Klusmann (2006) indicated that women’s sexual motivation changes over time, in comparison to men’s sexual motivation which remains relatively constant



Research Issues

Due to sex being mostly a private activity, researching sexual motivation can be a complex task. The most common forms of collecting data on sexual motivation are through interviews (structured and unstructured) or questionnaires. Other methods include observation, self reports, physiological and biochemical measures and clinical evaluations (Persky, 1987). Very limited studies have involved direct observation; the research conducted by Masters and Johnson has been the most extensive in this form of data collection.

Relationships

Does sexual motivation change in relationships? Research on sexual activity in relationships have indicated a negative correlation between relationship length and sexual motivation. However, regardless of how long a couple have been together, men's sexual motivation remains constant over the course of a long-term relationship. In comparison, when women first engage in a relationship their sexual motivation matches that of males and then steadily declines through time. However, Klusmann found an exception to the rule of female sexual motivation.

Psychology of Sexual Motivation

There is great diversity of sexual motivation between individuals. An example of the diversity was discovered in a study by Meston and Buss. The core of human sexual motivation was encapsulated by the most frequently rated reasons for why people have sex which included attraction, pleasure, affection, love, romance, emotional closeness, arousal, the desire to please, adventure, excitement, experience, connection, celebration, curiosity and opportunity.

Promiscuity

Empirical evidence also supports the notion that men prefer sexual variety in comparison to women. A study assessing four different samples all resulted in men having a higher preference for many partners. Men want on average 14 partners, comparatively women reported only wanting two over their lifetime. One explanation for these findings is not biological but instead cultural in the form of gender socialisation.