2983 ~77

CX 16 77-5
2/78

Final Report on Project:

ATTITUDES SUPPORTIVE OF RAPE IN

AMERICAN CULTURE

Principal Investigator: Dr. Martha R. Burt

January 19, 1978

Submitted to St. Peter State Security Hospital and
the Department of Public Welfare, State of Minnesota

HV
6565
.B8x

ATTITUDES SUPPORTIVE OF RAPE IN
AMERICAN CULTURE

Outline

What is a rape-supportive culture?

The usual approaches to stopping rape focus on the law and the rapist. Recent law reforms have attempted to affect the rate of conviction by lowering penalties, rationalizing the variety of charges available for sexual offenses, reducing the age of consent to avoid some problems with "statutory" rape, and controlling the amount and type of prejudicial testimony about the victim's character and habits that can be introduced as evidence. The legal approach assumes that the law can operate as a deterrent, stopping the would-be rapist from committing crimes because the potential penalty is too great in comparison to the immediate gain of criminal activity. Unfortunately, most evidence on the law as deterrent strongly suggests that little deterrence occurs unless the probability of capture and conviction is very high. Neither of these conditions is present in the case of rape. While law reform is necessary, and may have very

beneficial effects in the long run, many attitudinal and social changes will have to occur before the new reform laws will have full impact.

A second approach to stopping rape involves treatment for convicted offenders. It is too early to tell whether these efforts will succeed in reforming sexual assailants, although the attempts are laudable and deserve support. In addition to potentially reforming people who have already assaulted, treatment programs learn a great deal about the thought patterns and motivations used by actual assailants to justify their behavior to themselves. Such programs also learn about the life exper- iences which may increase the probability that a person will use sexual assault as a way to deal with his problems. However, since very few sexual assailants ever get convicted for their offenses, and even fewer reach treatment programs, solutions which concentrate on known sex offenders offer little hope of reducing the rising rate of sexual assaults.

A third approach, rape prevention through extensive community organizing and self-defense mechanisms, depends heavily on first changing community attitudes and beliefs about rape.

Because we believe that each approach discussed so far relies on a thorough understanding of attitudes and beliefs about rape, we concentrated our research effort in this area. Law reform ultimately depends on juries and judges who do not blame rape

victims for their own victimization; sex offender treatment

programs depend on a systematic analysis of rape attitudes,

among other things, if they are going to succeed; and community

action programs begin with re-education efforts to change

rape-supportive attitudes as the basis for other actions.

What do we mean by rape-supportive attitudes, and a rape-

supportive culture? There are many beliefs in our culture which

blame the victim for being raped, which deny the possibility

of rape, and which claim that the victim wanted and enjoyed being

raped. (The items in our Rape Myth Acceptance scale listed in

Table 4 describe these beliefs, and measure adherence to them.)

In addition to beliefs and attitudes relating specifically to

rape, a number of other attitudes, such as sex role stereotyping,

sexual conservatism, acceptance of interpersonal violence, and

beliefs that sexual relationships between men and women are

adversarial in nature (a "battle of the sexes" philosophy), have

been analyzed by both criminologists and feminists as feeding

and supporting victim-blaming attitudes. These attitudes effect-

ively support rape, because they do not oppose it in any way

in the actions of victims, the general public and potential

sexual assailants.

Victims' actions in reporting assaults to authorities,

seeking medical or counseling attention, and obtaining support

from friends and family members depend on their own beliefs

about rape. The more they accept the idea that women ask for and deserve to be raped, and that their own behavior is somehow responsible for their victimization, the less they will tell anyone, the less social support and assistance they will receive, and the less authorities will know about the true extent of rape in their community.

The effects of rape-supportive attitudes on friends and family members are twofold. With respect to victims, such potential support people may deny support and actually increase the victim's emotional trauma by questioning her behavior, her motives, and her responses, causing her to doubt the justice of her own complaint. They may impede law enforcement efforts by convincing victims that no one would believe their story or that the fact of victimization is so shameful that victims should not make it public by reporting to authorities. With respect to assailants and potential assailants, family and friends who hold rape-supportive beliefs may make excuses for actual assailants by blaming the victim, or by downgrading or denying that any serious injury was done to the victim (this is especially likely in date rapes and bar pick-up rapes). Attitudes and beliefs need not actively encourage assault in order to be rape-supportive. All they need to do is passively permit, dismiss or deny the seriousness of an assault in the vast majority of real-life rape situations which do not fit

our extreme cultural stereotype of a "real" rape. This provides

potential assailants with the practical assurance that they can

plan rape situations which contain little real danger of capture

or conviction.

Finally. rapists themselves hold rape-supportive attitudes

and use them to excuse or deny their behavior after the fact.

Their attitudes may also serve as psychological releasers or

neutralizers, allowing potential rapists to turn off social

prohibitions against injuring or using others when they want

to commit an assault.

Because we believe that rape-supportive attitudes are impor-

tant, and are so pervasive as to constitute a rape-supportive

culture in the United States today, we designed our research

to investigate them.

Research Rationale and Design

Rape-supportive attitudes have received little research

attention until the National Rape Center began funding studies

like the present one, although the theoretical underpinnings

have been developed by feminists and criminologists over the

past several years. We designed our research to test the

assumptions which these theoretical analyses had produced.

We wanted to (1) measure rape myth acceptance directly;

(2) measure related attitudes and assess how much they were

related to rape myth acceptance; (3) find out if convicted rapists in treatment shared these attitudes; (4) find out if social service workers who had professional contacts with victims and assailants shared these attitudes; and (5) determine what effects rape myth acceptance and other potentially rape-supportive attitudes had on labeling particular situations as rape and judging the severity of punishment deserved in such situations. To accomplish these objectives, we designed an interview schedule which measured rape myth acceptance, sex role stereotyping, sexual conservatism, acceptance of interpersonal violence, adversarial sexual beliefs, several personality and background variables, and respondents' contacts with victims and assailants, including their own experiences as one or the other. We also developed vignettes which describe different rape situations, and asked respondents how much they thought each situation was a rape, what they thought of the victim and assailant in the situation, and how likely they would be to convict the assailant. We administered this interview schedule to 599 randomly sampled members of the general public in Minnesota, aged 18 and above; to 99 social service workers with a high probability of contact with either victims or assailants; and to 36 convicted rapists in two sex offender treatment programs.

Results

Characteristics of Samples. Table 1a-c gives the basic background and demographic characteristics of the general public (GP) sample, the social service worker (SW) sample, and the rapist (R) sample. On the average, the social workers are younger, better educated, earn more money, have more female respondents, and have much more experience with both victims and assailants than the general public. Rapists are younger, less well educated, earned less money before conviction, and, for obvious reasons, have more male respondents and more experience with victims and assailants than the general public. The most outstanding fact about the rapist sample is the amount of physical abuse and violence they experienced toward themselves as children, in their parents' marriages, and in their own marriages. These figures range from 2 to 8 times higher for the rapists than for either the social worker or general public sample.

Personality Scale Development. We created two scales and used Rosenberg's Self-Esteem scale as a third personality measure. Table 2 gives the final items, the item-to-total correlations obtained from the general public sample, Cronbach's alpha (a measure of internal consistency), and partial distributions of each sample on each item for the three personality scales: Own Sex Role Satisfaction; Romantic Self Image, and Self-Esteem.

In Table 2, the social worker sample reports the most satisfaction with their own sex role performance, followed by the general public sample and the rapist sample. This same pattern holds for general self-esteem, as measured by Rosenberg's scale, but not for romantic self image, on which the rapists mostly resemble the general public. These results support the theoretical expectation that rapists are people with low self-confidence, who use violence to help themselves feel in control. The fact that they do not feel particularly inadequate in specifically sexual ways, as measured by the romantic self image scale, suggests that general self-dissatisfaction rather than sexual inadequacy lies behind their assaultive behavior.

Attitude Scale Development. We created four scales to measure attitudes we believed were theoretically relevant to rape myth acceptance: Sex Role Stereotyping, Sexual Conservatism, Adversarial Sexual Beliefs, and Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence. Table 3 gives the final items, the item-to-total correlations obtained from the general public sample, Cronbach's alpha, and partial distributions of each sample on each item for these four scales.

In Table 3, the general public sample displays the most consistently conservative and stereotyped attitudes, and the social workers display the most liberal and nonstereotyped ones. The rapists tend to express attitudes closer to those held by the social workers. This pattern reflects the impact of the

treatment programs in which the rapists participate. These programs place heavy emphasis on changing stereotyped attitudes which the rapists originally held when they entered the programs. These rapists in treatment have clearly gotten the programs' verbal messages, at least well enough to report them back in an interview.

Rape Myth Acceptance. Table 4 reports the final items, item-to-total correlations from the general public sample, Cronbach's alpha, and partial distributions of each sample on each item for the Rape Myth Acceptance scale.

Again, we found the pattern of most stereotyping occurring among the general public and least occurring among the social workers, with rapists in between but tending more in the non-stereotyped direction. These expressed attitudes among the rapists interviewed reflect their participation in treatment.

Several items are not included in the final Rape Myth Acceptance scale, but do pick up some self-justifying or excusing attitudes among the rapist sample. The rapists agreed with the following statements significantly more than did either the general public or the social workers:

- Any healthy woman can resist a rapist. (% agreeing: 25%-R; 15%-GP; 0%-SW)

- Women who have rape fantasies may believe that they actually have been raped. How often do you think this happens? (% sometimes, frequently or always: 33%-R; 22%-GP; 18%-SW)

- The amount of false reporting of rape is about the same
  as for other crimes (% disagreeing: 58%-R; 46%-GP; 43%-SW)

- The majority of known rapists are psychotic. (% agreeing:
  28%-R; 14%-GP; 18%-SW)

- What percentage of women who report a rape really
  consented to intercourse but were ashamed afterwards?
  (% estimating 1/2, 3/4 or all: 28%-R; 14%-GP; 6%-SW)

Interestingly, in light of the general public's idea of
rape, most of the rapists themselves do not see rape as compulsive
sexual behavior. In response to the item, "The rapist is a man
who cannot control his sex drive," 32% of the general public
and 24% of the social workers, but only 17% of the rapists
agreed even slightly that a rapist is someone out of control.
Coupled with the facts that virtually all of the rapists reported
planning their assaults to some degree, and that very few of
them gave sexual gratification as a motive for their behavior,
our data indicate that treated rapists, at least, see their
behavior as primarily aggressive, not as primarily sexual.

Racial Stereotyping. Responses to two questions reveal
the extent to which people still believe the stereotype that
rape is an interracial crime of black men against white women.
While 70% of the general public believed that a black man and
a white man were equally likely to commit rape, of those remaining
30% who thought the probability unequal, twice as many believed
a black man more likely to rape than a white man. The general
public reported the converse with respect to the likelihood of

being victimized. 50% believed a black and a white woman had equal chances to be sexually assaulted, but of the 50% who thought the probability unequal, twice as many believed a white woman would be raped as a black woman.

Causal Relationships--Predicting Rape Myth Acceptance. Using the causal structure we predicted in the original research design, we can explain 47% of the variance in Rape Myth Acceptance. Figure 1 shows the causal relationships which path analytic techniques reveal among selected background variables (age, education, occupation), measured personality variables, contact and experience variables, attitude variables, and the Rape Myth Acceptance scale. Figure 1 shows that Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence has the strongest direct effect on Rape Myth Acceptance, followed by education, Adversarial Sexual Beliefs, and Sex Role Stereotyping. The personality variables Romantic Self Image and Self-Esteem each affect Adversarial Sexual Beliefs and Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence. Both age and education affect the attitude variables, and all three of the background variables have a slight impact on the personality variables. Below we list the direction of the strongest relationships found in Figure 1:

- the more the Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence, the more the Rape Myth Acceptance;

- The more the education, the less the Rape Myth Acceptance;

- the more the Adversarial Sexual Beliefs, the more the Rape Myth Acceptance;

- the more the Sex Role Stereotyping, the more the Rape Myth Acceptance;

- The better the Romantic Self Image, the less the Adversarial Sexual Beliefs, Sexual Conservatism and Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence;

- the better the Self-Esteem, the less the Adversarial Sexual Beliefs and Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence;

- the more victims known, the less the Adversarial Sexual Beliefs;

- the older, the more the Adversarial Sexual Beliefs, Sexual Conservatism, and Sex Role Stereotyping;

- the better educated, the better one's Own Sex Role Satisfaction and Self-Esteem, and the less the Sex Role Stereotyping, Adversarial Sexual Beliefs, Sexual Conservatism, Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence, and Rape Myth Acceptance.

These observed relationships <u>strongly confirm</u> the theoretical constructs with which we began this research, and support the fruitfulness of this research approach.

<u>Predicting the Probability of Labeling a Situation a Rape.</u>

The interview presented each respondent with a case study of a rape situation, and asked the respondent to judge how much the situation was a rape, and how likely he or she would be to convict the assailant in the situation. Interviewers also recorded the respondents' perceptions of the woman and the man (the victim and the assailant) in the rape situation. Figure 2 shows the causal relationships among personality and attitude variables, Rape Myth Acceptance, perceptions of the victim and assailant, and the probability of labeling the situation a rape.

Perceptions of the victim and assailant have the strongest effect on the probability of labeling a situation a rape. Rape Myth Acceptance has a slightly weaker impact. Explaining the perceptions themselves is a little harder, given the data available. Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence tends to cause more positive feelings toward the assailant, and to have no effect on perceptions of the victim. Rape Myth Acceptance, Sexual Conservatism and Adversarial Sexual Beliefs have slight, if any, impact on perceptions of the victim, and no impact on perceptions ofthe assailant. The strongest relationship revealed in the entire analysis is the one between Self-Esteem and Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence--the higher the self-esteem, the less acceptable such behavior . All together, we can predict 9% of the variance in labeling a situation a rape, in the legal context used for the case study in this research.

Predicting the Probability of Convicting. In the same case study used to assess labeling as rape, respondents were also asked how likely they would be to convict the assailant in the case. Figure 3 showsthe causal relationshils among attitude variables, Rape Myth Acceptance, perceptions of the victim and assailant, and the probability of convicting. Again, perceptions of the victim and assailant play the dominant causal role--the more positive toward the assailant, the less likely to convict, and the more positive toward the victim, the more likely to convict. Using the variables in the model, we can explain 16% of the variance in probability of convicting. Rape Myth Acceptance

does not affect probability of convicting directly, but does impact on perceptions of the victim, which in turn influences conviction.

Policy Implications of the Research

The success we have had in measuring rape myth acceptance, and in predicting other variables which affect it, strongly supports the analysis of rape-supportive beliefs advanced by feminists, some criminologists, and rape support workers. It is the first step toward developing systematic basic descriptive data about rape beliefs, and beginning to understand their sources. Although this work must be looked on as preliminary, and more research will follow to corroborate our findings, we might venture some conclusions about what appear to us to be outstanding findings. The strongest influence on rape myth acceptance is an approving attitude toward interpersonal violence. Such approval of violence also contributes toward perceiving a seuxal assailant as positive, thereby reducing the probabilities of labeling a situation a rape and convicting the assailant. The strongest predictor to Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence is self-esteem, and education impacts directly and substantially on both self-esteem and acceptance of violence, as well as directly on Rape Myth Acceptance. These data suggest the overall liberalizing and de-stereotyping effects of education. They also suggest that, in addition to direct attacks on rape-supportive attitudes, serious efforts to change the atmosphere of violence and brutality in general will have important consequences speci-fically for rape.

T A B L E   Ia

CHARACTERISTICS OF SAMPLES

Characteristic	GP sample	SW sample	R sample	
Age. mean =	44	33	27	
Sex. % female =	60	70	0	
Education. mean years =	12.6	17.0	11.8	
Occupation (Duncan's SES scale). mean =	29.5	62.4	28.5	before conviction, if they were working. 14 % of rapists were unemployed or erratically employed for the year prior to conviction.
Income. mean =	$11,000	$17,500	$8,500	for rapists who had an income for the year prior to conviction.
Marital Status. % presently married = % never married =	65.7 17.4	59.6 18.2	25.0 55.6	
Ethnicity. % perceiving themselves as having an ethnic identity =	43.0	50.5	36.1	
Contacts with Victims. % knowing one or more =	27.2	86.9	61.1	excluding the people they victimized.
Contact with Assailants. % knowing one or more =	14.8	60.6	52.8	excluding assailants in treatment program.

TABLE Ib -- Respondents' Sexual Victimization
Experiences

% reporting:	Females		Males		
	GP (N=328)	SW (N=70)	GP (N=258)	SW (N=29)	R (N=36)
a. "forced sex against your will"	8.4	21.0	1.7	2.2	36.0
b. "unsuccessful attempt to force sex"	26.6	36.4	9.6	12.2	41.7
c. "had sex only because afraid of physical force"	3.2	4.4	0.0	1.1	22.2
d. % reporting a. and/or b. and/or c.	26.4	45.1	10.6	14.1	69.4

TABLE Ic -- Respondents' Experiences with Interpersonal
Violence as Child and Adult

Item		% always or frequently	% always, frequently or sometimes
How often did your parents hit you when you were growing up?	GP	10%	42%
	SW	8%	34%
	R	44%	72%
In your family, when you were growing up, how often did your parents hit each other violently?	GP	2%	6%.
	SW	0%	8%
	R	14%	28%
In your marriage, how often does/did the husband hit the wife? (percentages reflect only those respondents ever married)	GP	3%	6%
	SW	1%	3%
	R	13%	25%

PERSONALITY MEASURES

I-T-T r's	Item	GP sample (N=599)		SW sample (N=99)		R sample (N=36)	
		a*	b§	a	b	a	b
	SCALE: Own Sex Role Satisfaction (Cronbach's alpha = .781)						
	How satisfied are you with:						
.444	your sympathy and understanding for others	47%	67%	72%	89%	19%	44%
.569	your competence and skillfulness	40%	61%	44%	77%	17%	36%
.420	the amount of socializing you do	28%	40%	39%	59%	8%	28%
.297	the amount of money you earn	25%	36%	38%	61%	8%	28%
.538	your independence and ability to make decisions by yourself	51%	69%	53%	78%	27%	47%
.319	your participation in sports and athletic activities	26%	36%	29%	43%	22%	42%
.449	your ability to express your emotions	45%	62%	45%	68%	17%	36%
.562	your initiative, or "get-up-and-go"	43%	61%	50%	70%	25%	50%
.542	your dependability in times of crisis	55%	72%	76%	92%	33%	58%
.455	your attractiveness to the opposite sex	30%	42%	31%	50%	25%	39%
	SCALE: Self-Esteem (Cronbach's alpha = .872)						
.559	On the whole, I am satisfied with myself	38%	86%	57%	87%	36%	47%

I-T-T r's	Item	GP		SW		R	
		a	b	a	b	a	b
.590	I feel I have a number of good qualities	40%	90%	72%	99%	67%	92%
.555	Sometimes I think I'm no good at all (R)	16%	44%	40%	66%	14%	28%
.545	I am able to do things as well as most other people	40%	86%	67%	98%	47%	80%
.611	Sometimes I feel I don't have much to be proud of (R)	54%	86%	85%	99%	42%	61%
.562	I certainly feel useless at times (R)	28%	59%	39%	68%	22%	33%
.717	I take a positive attitude toward myself	36%	82%	58%	94%	33%	53%
.619	I wish I could have more regard for myself (R)	22%	52%	32%	61%	14%	20%
.624	All in all, I'm inclined to think I'm a failure (R)	59%	95%	88%	99%	42%	67%
.657	I feel I am a person of equal worth, at least on a plane with others	41%	93%	76%	100%	36%	61%

SCALE: Romantic Self Image
        (Cronbach's alpha =.665)

I-T-T r's	Item	GP		SW		R	
.309	Sometimes I think I'm very ugly (R)	16%	47%	22%	40%	21%	48%
.155	I wish I took more initiative in starting romantic relation-ships (R)	8%	16%	16%	46%	3%	17%
.366	I frequently feel used or exploited sexually (R)	36%	73%	46%	70%	30%	61%

I-T-T r's	Item	GP		SW		R	
		a	b	a	b	a	b
.191	I'm frequently anxious when I'm getting to know somebody (R)	15%	42%	29%	51%	17%	31%
.333	I like the way my face looks	18%	58%	41%	86%	33%	61%
.396	I usually enjoy sexual activities	40%	77%	70%	93%	70%	81%
.338	Dating is more trouble than it's worth (R)	35%	63%	57%	79%	58%	83%
.487	Most of the sexual relationships I've had have been pretty satis-fying	33%	83%	52%	81%	19%	36%
.441	I wish my partner made it easier for me to say how I feel about our relationship (R)	20%	43%	42%	64%	14%	20%
.286	I usually feel free to take the initiative when I'm interested in someone	8%	27%	33%	71%	28%	42%

* a = % giving responses indicating strong to moderate self-satisfaction on item.

§ b = % giving responses indicating strong to slight self-satisfaction on item.

"I-T-T r's" = item-to-total correlations (each item to the total scale excluding that item).

T A B L E   III

ATTITUDE MEASURES

I-T-T r's	Item	GP sample (N=599)		SW sample (N=99)		R sample (N=36)	
		a*	b§	a	b	a	b
	SCALE: Sex Role Stereotyping (Cronbach's alpha = .800)						
.345	A man should fight when the woman with him is insulted by another man	9%	28%	5%	7%	11%	31%
.440	It is acceptable for the woman to pay for the date	11%	32%	3%	4%	11%	31%
.631	A woman should be a virgin when she marries	21%	42%	3%	7%	11%	14%
.435	There is something wrong with a woman who doesn't want to marry and raise a family	6%	18%	0%	3%	6%	14%
.549	A wife should never contradict her husband in public	15%	43%	4%	12%	20%	25%
.567	A man should be a virgin when he marries	15%	35%	4%	7%	6%	20%
.389	It is better for a woman to use her feminine charm to get what she wants rather than ask for it outright	2%	11%	2%	6%	11%	14%
.431	It is acceptable for a woman to have a career, but marriage and family should come first	30%	65%	7%	14%	17%	31%
.466	It looks worse for a woman to be drunk than for a man to be drunk	22%	51%	9%	23%	14%	33%
.469	There is nothing wrong with a woman going to a bar alone	22%	50%	6%	14%	8%	11%

I-T-T r's	Item	a	b	a	b	a	b
	SCALE: Sexual Conservatism (Cronbach's alpha = .811)						
.507	A woman who initiates a sexual encounter will probably have sex with anybody	8%	32%	2%	6%	3%	6%
.556	A woman shouldn't give in sexually to a man too easily or he'll think she's loose	19%	60%	7%	27%	8%	31%
.442	Men have a biologically stronger sex drive than women	17%	47%	7%	18%	6%	14%
.579	A nice woman will be offended or embarrassed by dirty jokes	14%	42%	3%	13%	6%	25%
.432	Masturbation is a normal sexual activity	9%	23%	2%	7%	12%	15%
.595	People should not have oral sex	14%	32%	0%	4%	0%	6%
.411	I would have no respect for a woman who engages in sexual relationships without any emotional involvement	24%	56%	8%	22%	19%	31%
.492	Having sex during the menstrual period is unpleasant	14%	20%	7%	22%	11%	31%
.469	The primary goal of sexual intercourse should be to have children	4%	14%	1%	4%	3%	8%
.405	Women have the same needs for a sexual outlet as men	2%	9%	1%	1%	3%	3%
	SCALE: Adversarial Sexual Beliefs (Cronbach's alpha = .802)						
.489	A woman will only respect a man who will lay down the law to her	3%	17%	2%	5%	0%	0%

I-T-T r's	Item	a	b	a	b	a	b
.432	Many women are so demanding sexually that a man just can't satisfy them	6%	22%	4%	8%	3%	17%
.566	A man's got to show the woman who's boss right from the start or he'll end up henpecked	5%	19%	2%	3%	0%	3%
.562	Women are usually sweet until they've caught a man, but then they let their true self show	4%	16%	0%	8%	3%	11%
.420	A lot of men talk big, but when it comes down to it, they can't perform well sexually	9%	32%	10%	37%	19%	42%
.580	In a dating relationship a woman is largely out to take advantage of a man	1%	7%	0%	2%	6%	11%
.452	Men are out for only one thing	2%	9%	1%	2%	8%	14%
.578	Most women are sly and manipulating when they are out to attract a man	6%	30%	4%	22%	6%	25%
.381	A lot of women seem to get pleasure in putting men down	11%	41%	5%	30%	6%	17%

SCALE: Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence
(Cronbach's alpha = .586)

I-T-T r's	Item	a	b	a	b	a	b
.206	People today should not use "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" as a rule for living	4%	14%	3%	9%	3%	6%
.363	Being roughed up is sexually stimulating to many women	3%	18%	0%	10%	3%	3%
.345	Many times a woman will pretend she doesn't want to have intercourse because she doesn't want to seem loose, but she's really hoping the man will force her	3%	21%	2%	12%	3%	6%

I-T-T r's	Item	a	b	a	b	a	b
.254	A wife should move out of the house if her husband hits her	13%	44%	9%	35%	11%	42%
.396	Sometimes the only way a man can get a cold woman turned on is to use force	1%	8%	0%	2%	3%	3%
.318	A man is never justified in hitting his wife	5%	16%	1%	10%	3%	11%

* a = % giving responses indicating <u>strongly to moderately</u> stereo-
    typed, conservative, adversarial or pro-violence attitudes.

§ b = % giving responses indicating <u>strongly to slightly</u> stereo-
    typed, conservative, adversarial or pro-violence attitudes.

"I-T-T r's" = item-to-total correlations (each item to the total
    scale excluding that item).

T A B L E IV

RAPE MYTH ACCEPTANCE
(Cronbach's alpha = .875)

I-T-T r's	Item	GP sample (N=599)		SW sample (N=99)		R sample (N=36)	
		a*	b§	a	b	a	b
.271	A woman who goes to the home of a man on the first date implies she is willing to have sex	23%	50%	2%	10%	0%	14%
.363	Any female can be raped	3%	7%	0%	2%	3%	3%
.423	One reason that women falsely report a rape is that they frequently have a need to call attention to themselves	8%	41%	2%	20%	6%	22%
.533	Any healthy woman can resist a rapist	4%	15%	0%	0%	14%	25%
.545	When women go around braless and wearing short skirts they are just asking for trouble	17%	48%	2%	12%	6%	11%
.532	In the majority of rapes, the victim was promiscuous or had a bad reputation	37%	69%	0%	0%	8%	14%
.560	If a girl engages in necking or petting and she lets things get out of hand, it is her fault if her partner forces sex on her	9%	39%	1%	9%	0%	3%
.539	A woman who gets raped while hitchhiking gets what she deserves	10%	33%	10%	24%	0%	3%
.617	A woman who is stuck-up and won't talk to men deserves to be taught a lesson	1%	17%	1%	2%	0%	0%
.512	Women who have an unconscious wish to be raped may unconsciously do something to bring it on	38%	71%	0%	4%	3%	6%

I-T-T r's	Item	a	b	a	b	a	b
.598	If a woman gets drunk at a party and has intercourse with a man she's just met there, she should be considered "fair game" to other males at the party who want to have sex with her too, whether she wants to or not	6%	17%	1%	2%	0%	0%
.561	What percentage of women who report a rape do you think are actually lying because they are angry with the man and want to get back at him	10%	56%	6%	24%	3%	50%
.512	What percentage of reported rapes would you guess were merely invented by women who discovered that they were pregnant and wanted to protect their own reputation	10%	53%	2%	20%	3%	31%
	A person comes to you and claims they were raped. How likely would you be to believe their statement if the person were:						
.355	a. your best friend	4%	10%	0%	0%	6%	14%
.578	b. an Indian woman	10%	33%	1%	5%	3%	25%
.587	c. a neighborhood woman	5%	20%	0%	4%	3%	17%
.462	d. a young boy	13%	36%	0%	7%	3%	36%
.607	e. a black woman	5%	28%	1%	7%	3%	25%
.599	f. a white woman	5%	30%	0%	6%	0%	22%

* a = % giving responses indicating strongly to moderately myth-accepting attitudes.

§ b = % giving responses indicating strongly to slightly myth-accepting attitudes.

"I-T-T r's" = item-to-total correlations (each item to the total scale excluding that item).
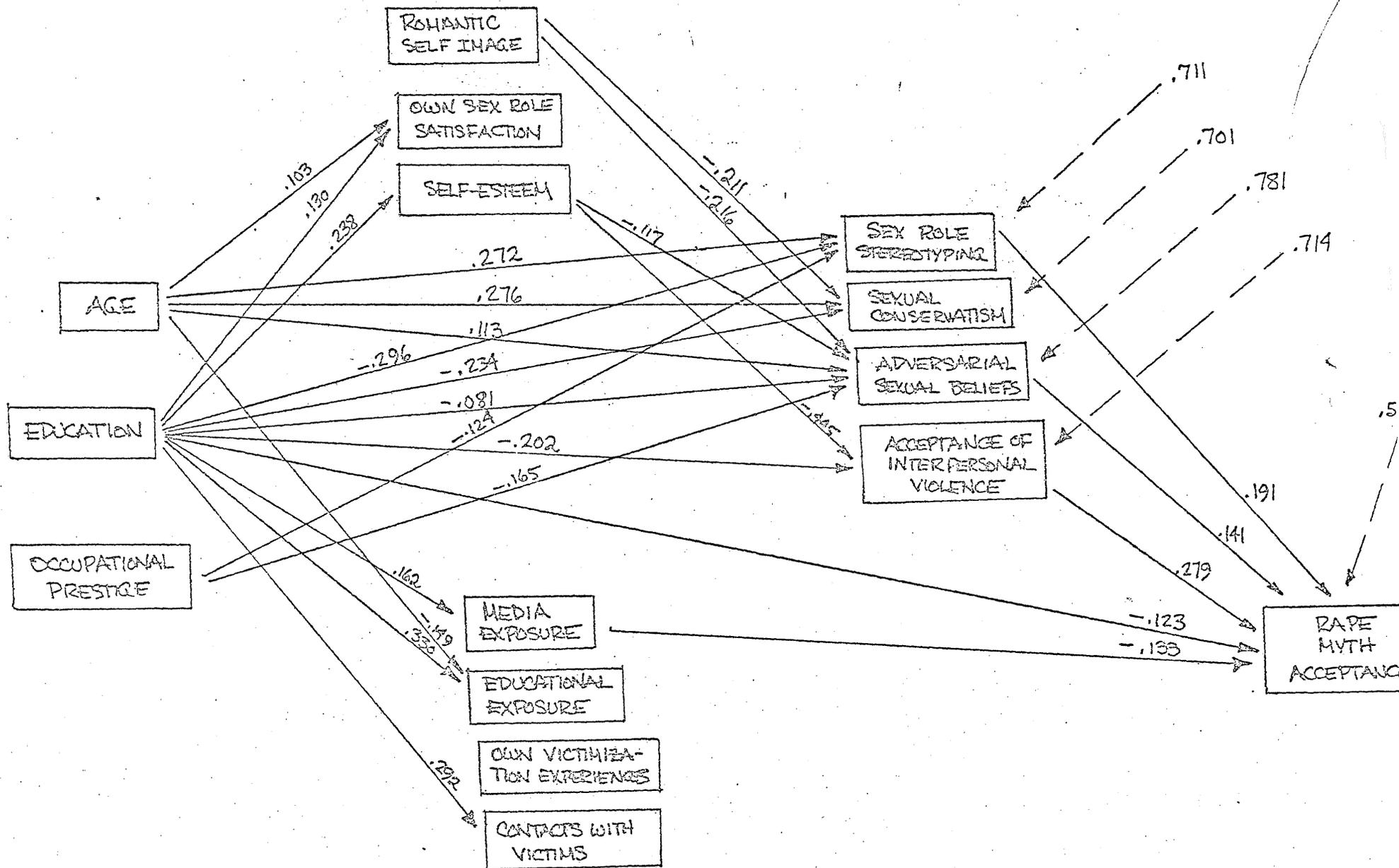
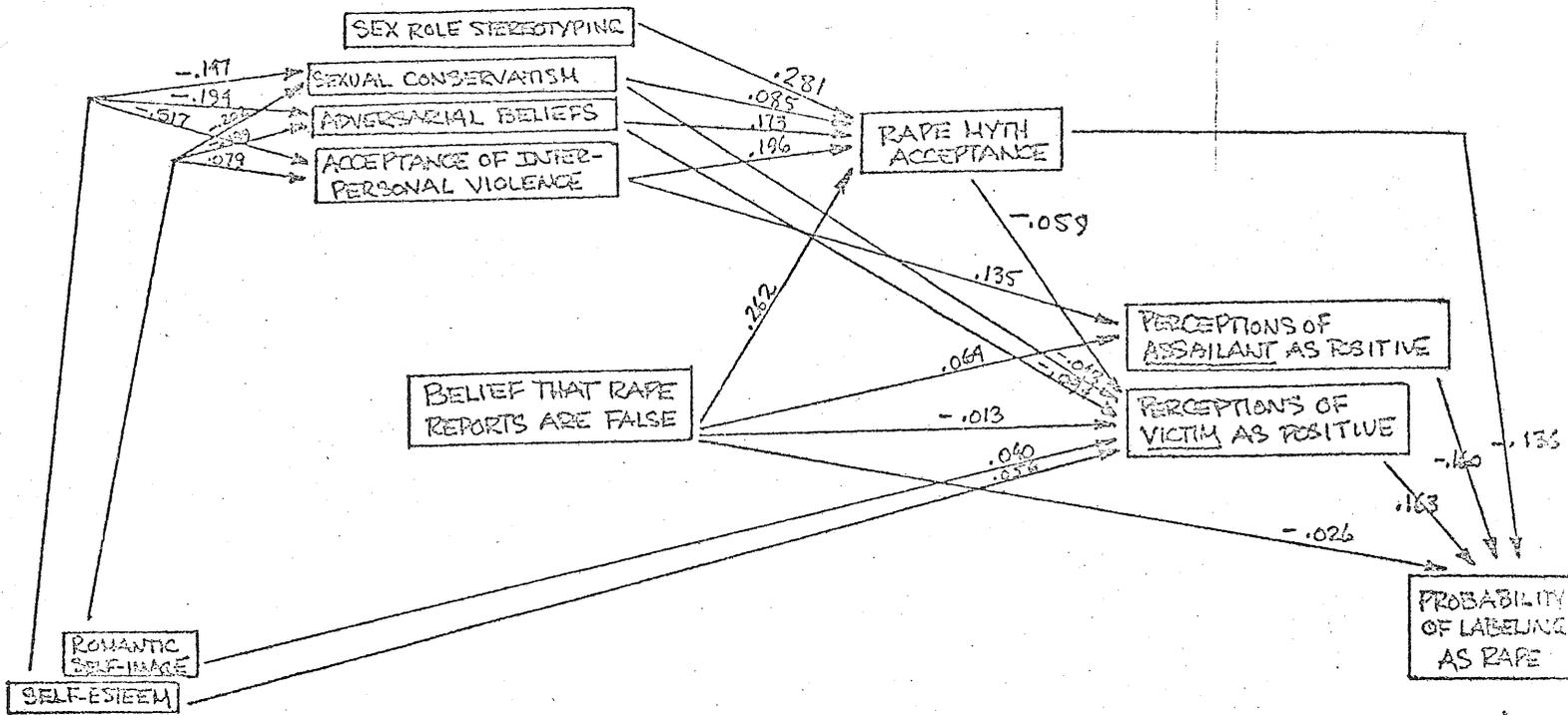FIGURE 1 : PATH ANALYTICALLY DETERMINED
CAUSES OF
RAPE MYTH ACCEPTANCE

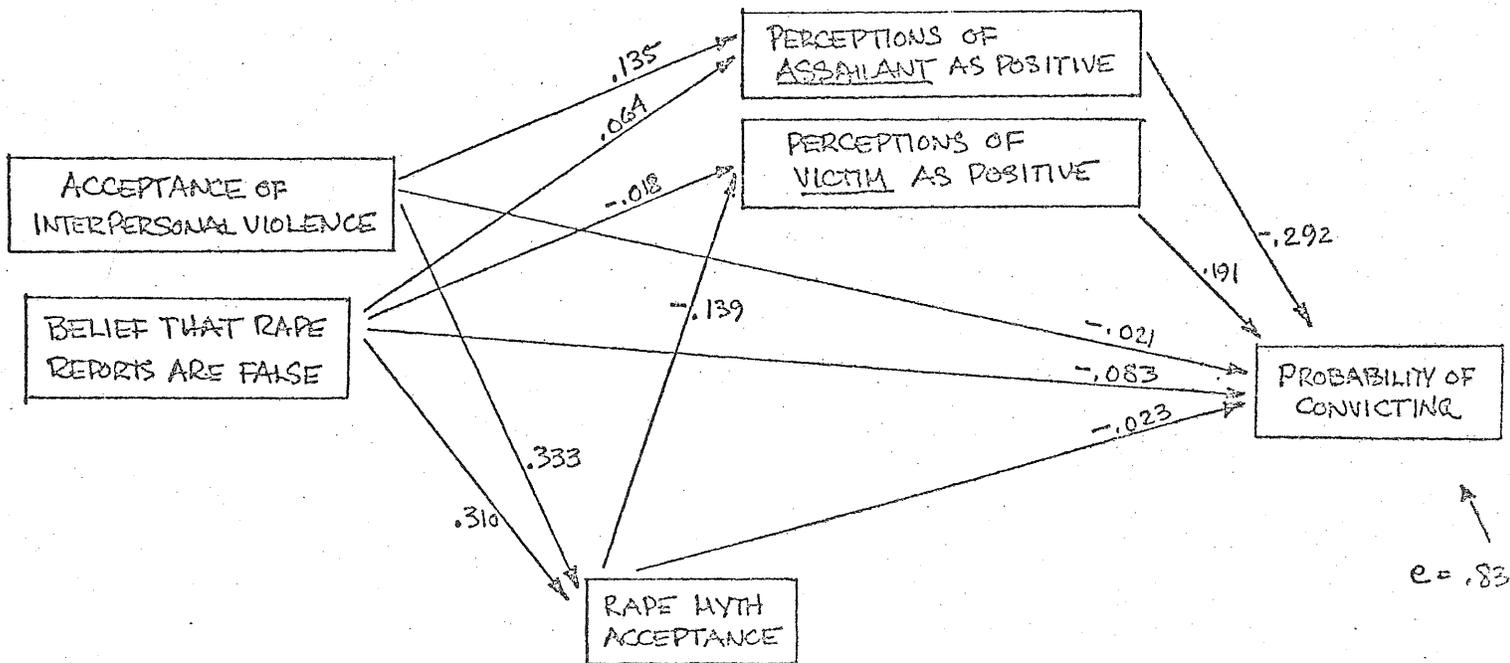FIGURE 2: PATH ANALYTICALLY DETERMINED CAUSES OF LABELING SITUATION AS RAPE

FIGURE 3: PATH ANALYTICALLY DETERMINED CAUSES OF DECISION TO CONVICT