**LET’S TALK ABOUT SEX: A REVIEW OF SEXUALITY RELATED ARTICLES IN THE JOURNAL OF APPLIED BEHAVIOUR ANALYSIS**

**Lauren Martell, Rebecca Hansford, Kaitlyn Young, and Rosemary Condillac, Centre for Applied Disability Studies, Brock University.**

**Objectives:** Since the 1960s, there has been a significant shift in the focus of research in behaviour analysis and sexuality. This systematic review sought to identify trends in articles related to sexual issues in the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis (JABA) from the first issue in 1968 to present. The focus of the review was to identify articles with research focusing on sexual issues, analyze the topics of sexuality related research within each decade, and assess how these topics relate to significant societal events at the time.

**Method:** A systematic review of JABA was completed through the Wiley Online Library database using a list of key words relating to sexual issues. The number of sexuality related articles was divided by the total articles published in JABA to obtain the proportion of articles targeting sexuality related issues from each decade. Furthermore, significant sexuality related societal events occurring within each decade were explored and compared to topics of sexuality research in JABA across the decades. The effect size of 164 individual interventions for sexuality related issues from 12 articles were calculated using the percentage of data points exceeding the median of baseline data (PEM) approach (Ma, 2006).

**Results:** The review of JABA from 1968 to present identified 25 relevant articles (N = 25) relating to sex and sexuality, with the greatest number of articles published during the 1970s. This analysis found that the topics of sexuality related issues studied within each decade varied and many of the topics were consistent with significant societal events occurring at the time. For example, articles published in the early decades reported interventions for homosexuality and sex-role reconditioning whereas more recent articles focused on treatment for sexual offences and arousal assessments and less so on gender roles or sexual orientation. Results of the PEM analysis found that effect size varied largely within and across decades and did not highlight evidence of any intervention effectiveness trends over time.

**Discussion/Conclusions:** Dworkin, Lerum, and Zakaras (2016) found that the 1960s and 1970s had some of the highest proportions of sexuality research in the Global South; sexual and reproductive health were the most prevalent topics at this time (Dworkin et al., 2016). In contrast, although the highest proportions of sexuality related articles published in JABA occurred in the 1960s and 1970s, this period was characterized by a focus on sexual deviance, sexual response, and sex-role reconditioning. In the 1990s, the trends in sexuality related research shifted in JABA; topics such as sexual behaviour, HIV, and health related behaviours were dominant. Similarly, Dworkin et al. (2016) found that sexuality related research focused on sexual risk related themes in the 1990s. Overall, the limited number of articles relating to sexual health published in JABA highlight the need for more sexuality related research to be conducted in this field in order to fill gaps in knowledge on how to best intervene on sexually related issues for all populations, including individuals with disabilities.

**Correspondence:**

Lauren Martell, M.ADS. BCBA lm10ih@brocku.ca

Rebecca Hansford, B.Sc. Hons, rh15om@brocku.ca

Kaitlyn Young, B.Sc. Hons, ky15mo@brocku.ca

Dr. Rosemary Condillac, C. Psych., BCBA-D, rcondillac@brocku.

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