

Sexual Crime in Hong Kong:

How do the Acceptance of Modern Myths about Sexual Aggression, Belief in a Just World, and Pluralistic Ignorance Influence the Reporting Behavior of Sexual Crime in Hong Kong

Abstract

Incidents of sexual crime are happening every day at every moment around the world. While some considered sexual crime as immoral and offensive, others justified the wrongdoings by having misperception of others' attitudes, holding certain myths about sexual aggression, and blaming the victims for self-inflicted misfortune. In this study, online questionnaire was conducted to investigate sexual crime victims' and witnesses' reporting behavior in Hong Kong, by utilizing the Acceptance of Modern Myths about Sexual Aggression (AMMSA) scale and the Belief in a Just World (BJW) scales. Results suggested that participants were more likely to consider oneself as being more concerned about sexual crime than others, those with high AMMSA scores were significantly less likely to report a witnessed crime, and respondents with high BJW scores were more likely to overestimate the sexual crime report rate. Analyses on gender differences demonstrated that male victims and witnesses of sexual crime were significantly less likely to engage in reporting behavior. Implications on the low report rate of sexual crime were discussed.

Keywords: report rate, sexual aggression, just world, pluralistic ignorance