

A Transcendental Phenomenological Study to Describe Christian Married
Couples' Experiences Leading to Mutually Satisfying Sexual Intimacy

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Doctor of Philosophy

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Liberty University

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Research Question

“What are the experiences of Christian married couples who would describe their sexual intimacy as mutually satisfying?”

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this Transcendental Phenomenology is to describe Christian Married Couples' experiences leading to mutually satisfying sexual intimacy.

At this stage of the research married couples are understood as heterosexual couples who have identified as Christians for at least ten years.

Conceptual Model

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this Transcendental Phenomenology is to describe Christian Married Couples' experiences leading to mutually satisfying sexual intimacy. At this stage of the research Christian married couples are understood as heterosexual couples who have identified as Christians for at least ten years.

Christian Married Couples' Experiences

Sexual Activity

Sex Positive Ideas
Foreplay
Sexual Variety

Communication

General
Relational
Sexual
Spiritual

Approachability

Emotional Intimacy
Emotional Vulnerability
Emotionally Supportive
Emotional Trust

Quality Time

Non-Sexual Time
Physical Touch

Work Life

External Work
Internal Work

Religious Activity

Faith Participation
Prayer
Community/ Church
Bible Study

Relationship
Satisfaction

Sexual Satisfaction



Appendix B. The New Sexual Satisfaction Scale Items

| Thinking About Your Sex Life During the Last Six Months, Please Rate Your Satisfaction With the Following Aspects:^a | Subscale A (Ego Focused) | Subscale B (Partner- and Sexual Activity-Centered) |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| (1) The intensity of my sexual arousal | X | |
| (2) The quality of my orgasms | X | |
| (3) My “letting go” and surrender to sexual pleasure during sex | X | |
| (4) My focus/concentration during sexual activity | X | |
| (5) The way I sexually react to my partner | X | |
| (6) My body’s sexual functioning | X | |
| (7) My emotional opening up in sex | X | |
| (8) My mood after sexual activity | X | |
| (9) The frequency of my orgasms | X | |
| (10) The pleasure I provide to my partner | X | |
| (11) The balance between what I give and receive in sex | | X |
| (12) My partner’s emotional opening up during sex | | X |
| (13) My partner’s initiation of sexual activity | | X |
| (14) My partner’s ability to orgasm | | X |
| (15) My partner’s surrender to sexual pleasure (“letting go”) | | X |
| (16) The way my partner takes care of my sexual needs | | X |
| (17) My partner’s sexual creativity | | X |
| (18) My partner’s sexual availability | | X |
| (19) The variety of my sexual activities | | X |
| (20) The frequency of my sexual activity | | X |

^aResponses range from 1 (*not at all satisfied*), 2 (*a little satisfied*), 3 (*moderately satisfied*), 4 (*very satisfied*), to 5 (*extremely satisfied*).

Directions: Read each of the following statements. Using the scale to the right, CIRCLE the response that best describes how true each statement is for you.

Not at all
true of me
1

Somewhat
true of me
2

Moderately
true of me
3

Mostly
true of me
4

Totally
true of me
5

- _____ 1. I often read books and magazines about my faith.
- _____ 2. I make financial contributions to my religious organization.
- _____ 3. I spend time trying to grow in understanding of my faith.
- _____ 4. Religion is especially important to me because it answers many questions about the meaning of life.
- _____ 5. My religious beliefs lie behind my whole approach to life.
- _____ 6. I enjoy spending time with others of my religious affiliation.
- _____ 7. Religious beliefs influence all my dealings in life.
- _____ 8. It is important to me to spend periods of time in private religious thought and reflection.
- _____ 9. I enjoy working in the activities of my religious affiliation.
- _____ 10. I keep well informed about my local religious group and have some influence in its decisions.

Kidwell, J. E. M. (2010). *Exploring the relationship between religious commitment and forgiveness through quantitative and qualitative study*

Literature Review Outline: Sexual Satisfaction and Intimacy in Christian Married Couples

Introduction

Purpose of the literature review

Value of studying sexual satisfaction within Christian married couples

Framework

Qualitative Framework

Husserl's Transcendental Phenomenology

Social Exchange Theory

Sexual and Marital Satisfaction

Ashkinazi et al. (2024); Body image and partner commentary's impact on sexual frequency and satisfaction

Gillespie (2017); Correlates of sexual frequency and satisfaction in older adults

Fallis et al. (2016); Longitudinal relationship between relationship and sexual satisfaction

Wagner et al. (2020); Intimate touch, adult attachment, and marital satisfaction

Communication and Emotional Intimacy

Barrett & Raphael (2018); Housework, gender dynamics, and sexual satisfaction in midlife

Jocz et al. (2018); Chronotype similarity, timing of sexual activity, and sexual/relationship satisfaction

Skoblow et al. (2023); Perceptions of aging and their role in older adult sexual satisfaction

Literature Review Outline: Sexual Satisfaction and Intimacy in Christian Married Couples

Religious and Moral Dimensions of Sexual Behavior

Regnerus et al. (2016); Methodological challenges in documenting pornography use in the U.S.

Reid et al. (2016); Hypersexual behavior in religious patients

Roza et al. (2024); Treatment approaches for problematic pornography use

Tan et al. (2022); Gender differences in problematic pornography use and psychological distress

Elderly Sexual Satisfaction, Health, and Cognitive Outcomes

Smith et al. (2021); Links between sexual satisfaction and future cognitive decline in older adults

Forgiveness and Mental Health in Marital Contexts

Miller & Worthington (2010): Sex differences in forgiveness and mental health among newlyweds

Gaps in the Literature

Limited qualitative research focused on Christian married couples and mutually satisfying sexual intimacy and their lived experience

Lack of phenomenological perspectives on lived experiences and subjective meanings

Spiritual and emotional dimensions in scholarly research regarding sexual satisfaction is lacking.

Conclusion

Summary

A map of where to head from here

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this Qualitative study using Husserel's Transcendental Phenomenological Theory is to investigate relationship and sexual satisfaction as experienced by Christian Married Couples who report mutually satisfying sexual intimacy.

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this Qualitative Research using Transcendental Phenomenological ideals is to have conversations with Christian Married Couples who report mutually satisfying sexual intimacy and asking them to share what lived experiences they would say has helped to bring about their relationship and sexual satisfaction.

Sexual Activity

Sex Positive Ideas
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Sexual Variety

Communication

General
Relational
Sexual
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Emotional Intimacy
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Quality Time

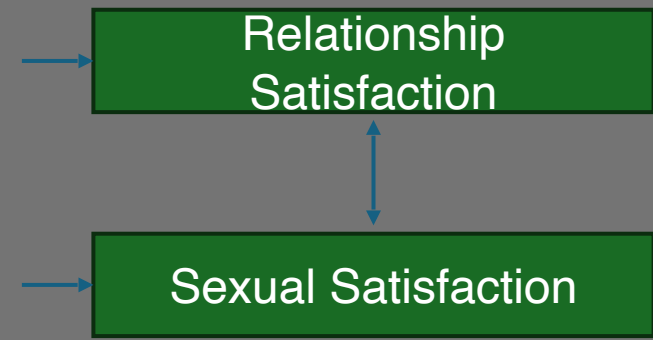
Non-Sexual Time
Physical Touch

Religious Activity

Faith Participation
Praying
Community/ Church
Bible Study

Relationship Satisfaction

Sexual Satisfaction



Purpose Statement

The purpose of this Qualitative study grounded in Husserel's Transcendental Phenomenological Model is to describe the lived experiences of Christian Married Couples who report mutually satisfying sexual intimacy, to bring to light the nuances and value of those experiences.

Cristian Married Couples' Experiences

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| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Foreplay | Sex Positive Ideas |
| Non-Sexual Time | Sexual Variety |
| Physical Touch | General Communication |
| Emotional Intimacy | Spiritual Communication |
| Emotional Vulnerability | Sexual Communication |
| Bible Study | Faith Participation |
| Community/ Church | Praying |

Relationship Satisfaction

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Purpose Statement

Christian Married Couple

Experiences

Research Question

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Relationship Satisfaction

Sexual Satisfaction

Husserl's Transcendental Phenomenological

What are the experiences of Christian married couples who would describe their sexual intimacy as mutually satisfying?

Christian Married Couple

Husserl's Transcendental Phenomenological

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Relationship Satisfaction

Sexual Satisfaction

What are the experiences of Christian married couples who would describe their sexual intimacy as mutually satisfying?

Purpose Statement

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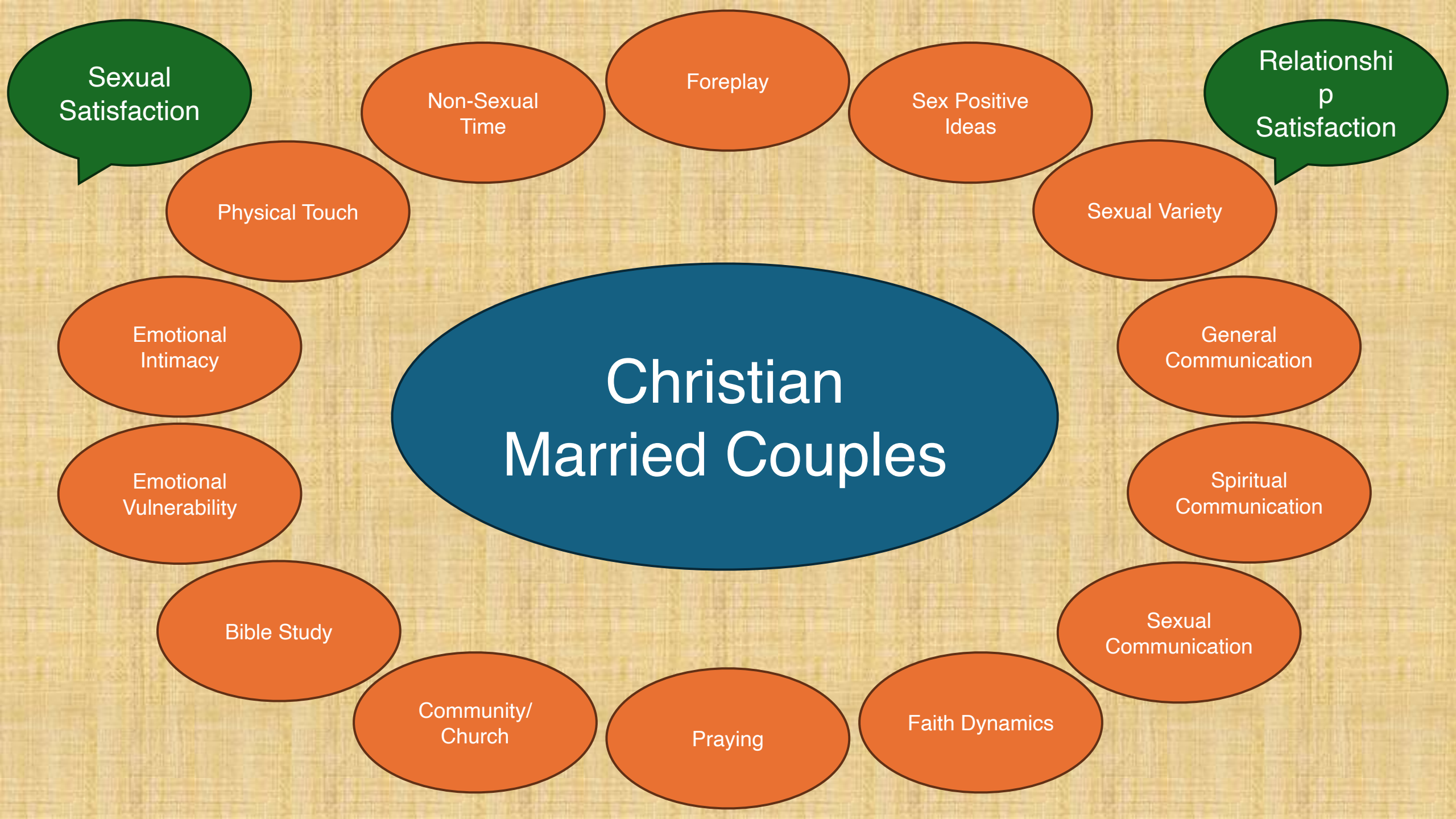
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Emotional Vulnerability

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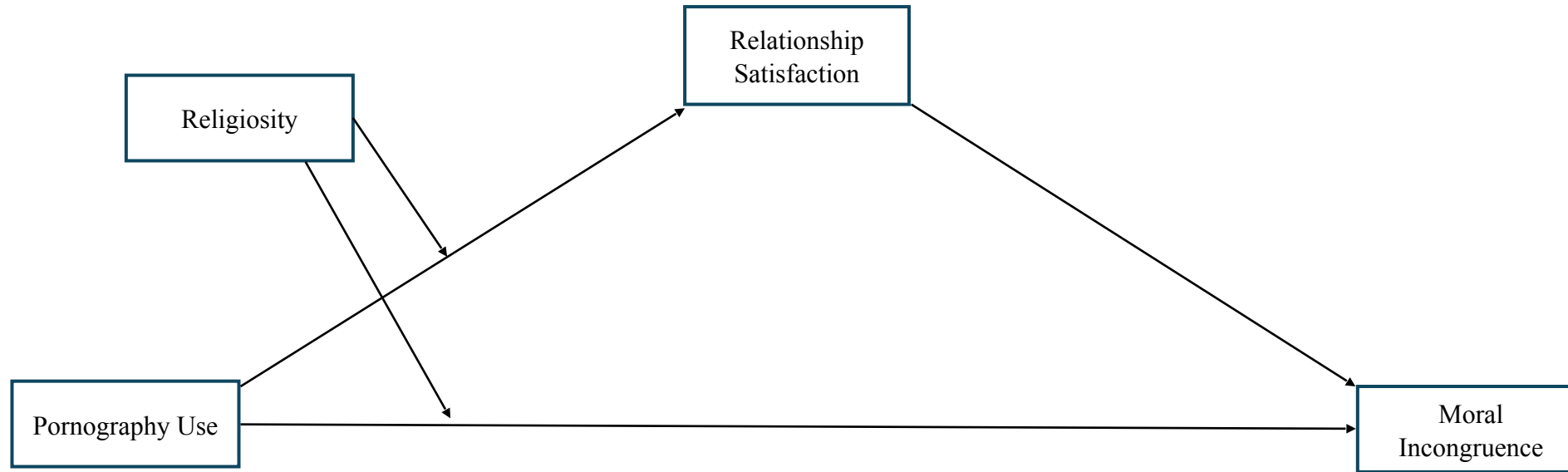
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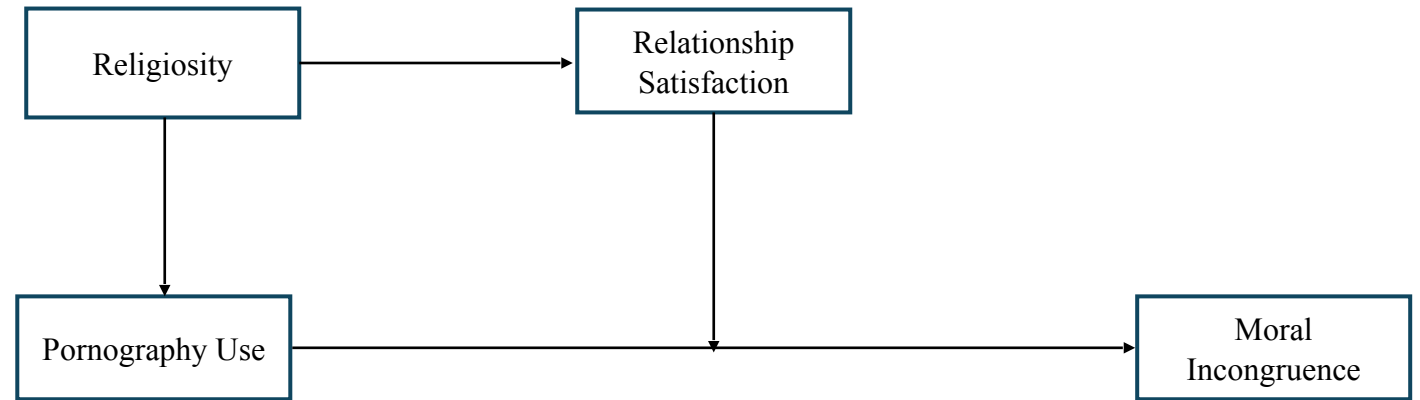
Sexual Satisfaction

The mediating effect of relationship satisfaction on moral incongruence among pornography users moderated by religiosity



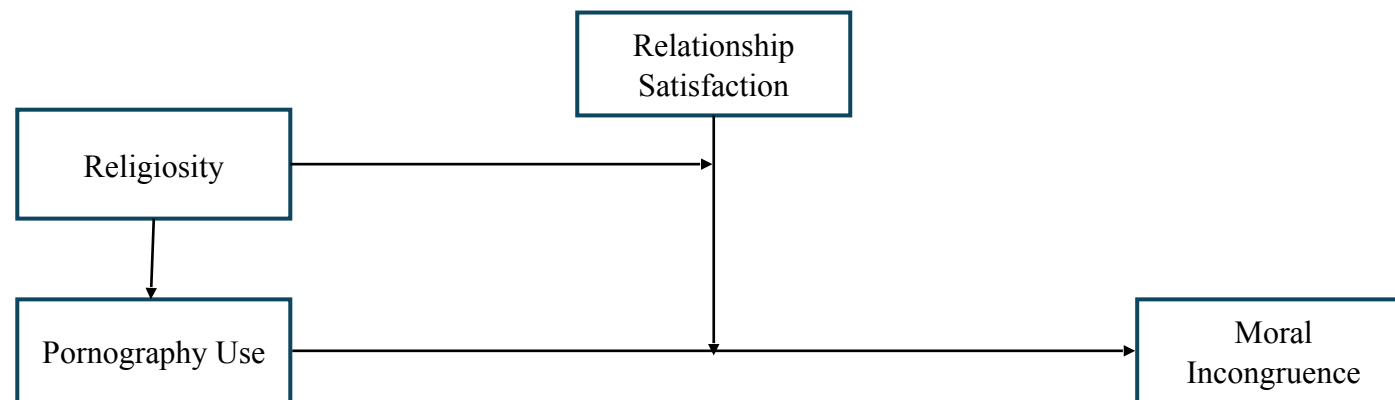
The moderating effect of relationship satisfaction on moral incongruence among religious pornography users

Conceptual Model



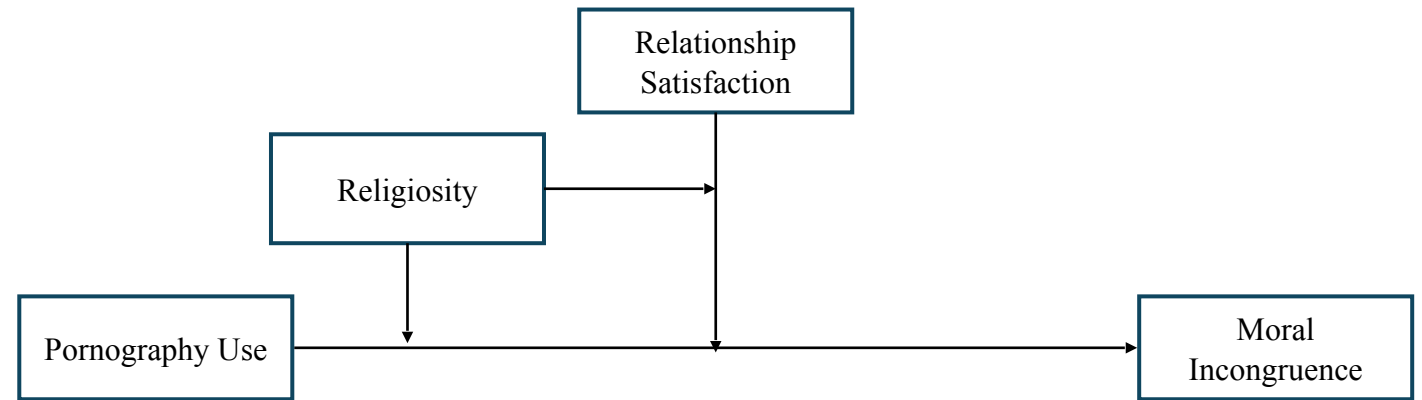
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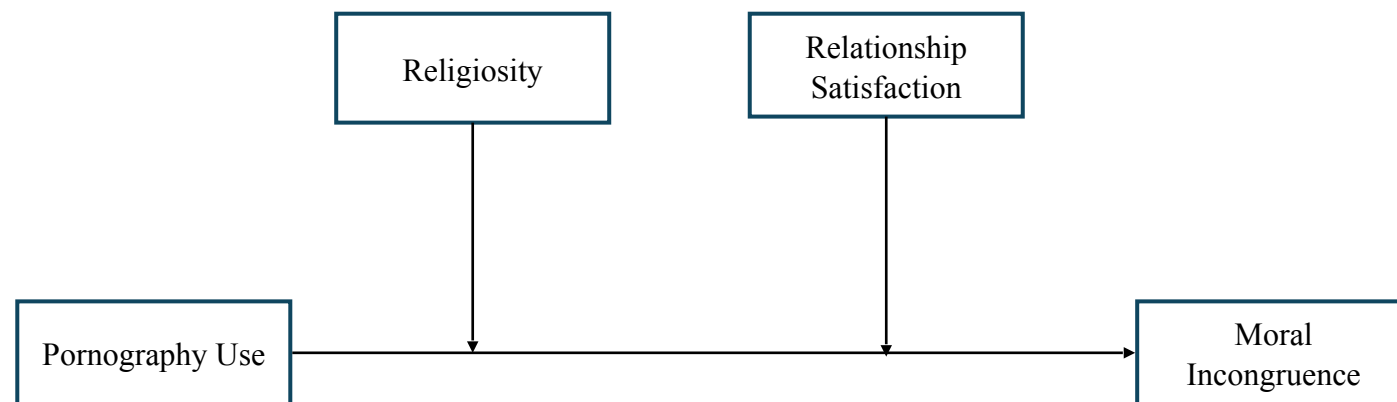
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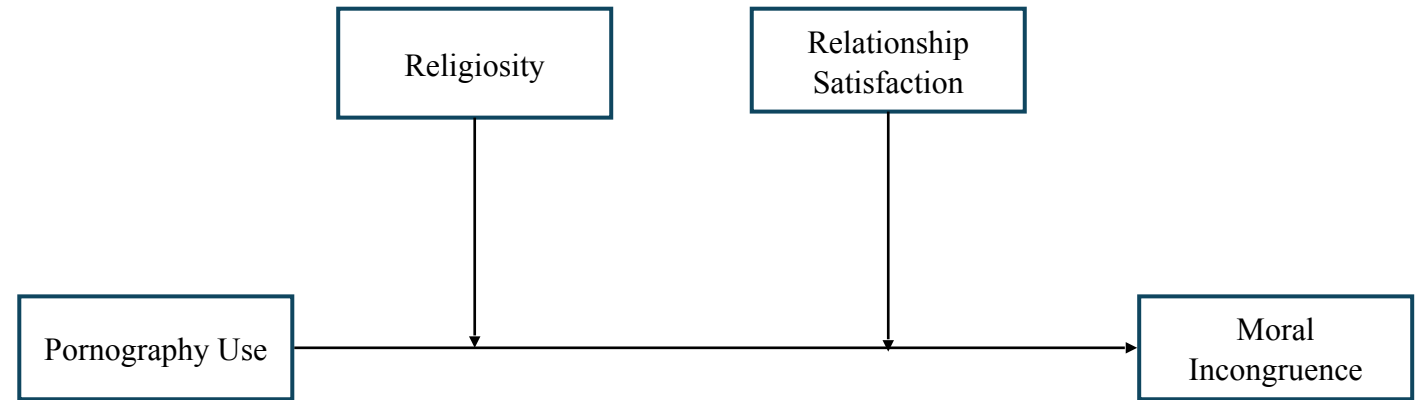
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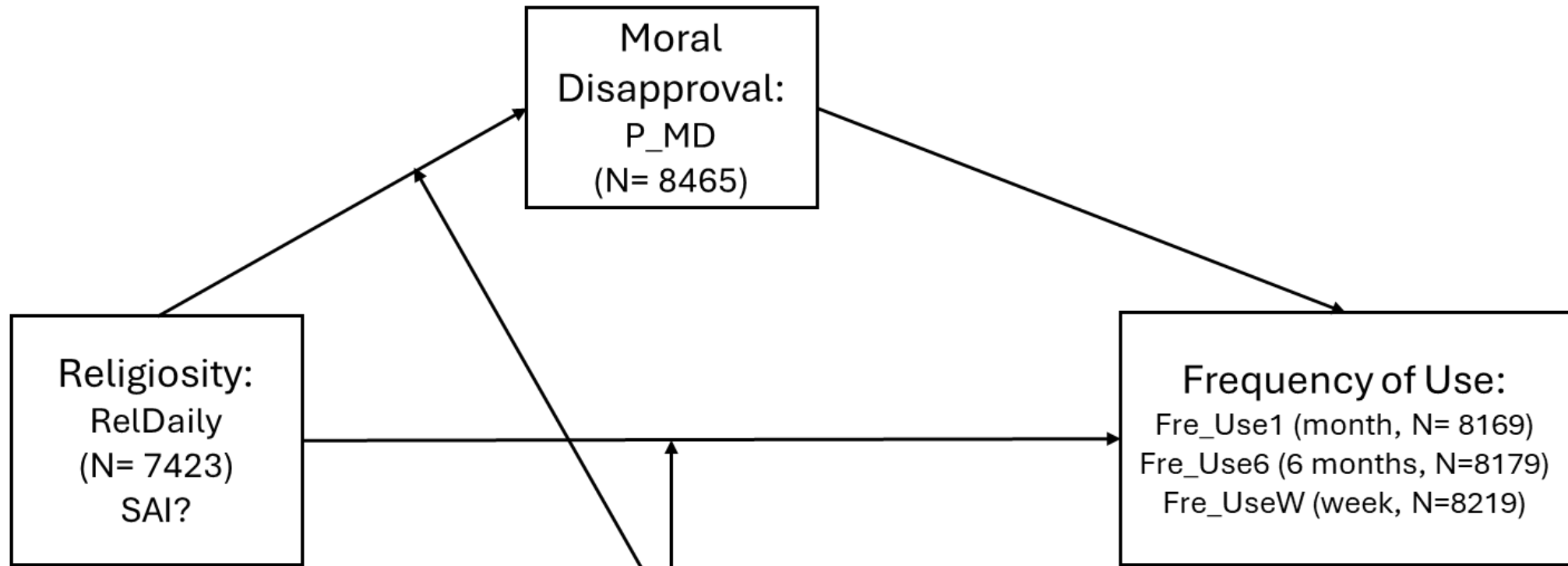
Conceptual Model



The moderating effect of relationship satisfaction and the moderating effect of religiosity on moral incongruence among pornography users

Conceptual Model





Studies support relationship between religiosity and level of porn use only significant with high moral disapproval.

Borgona et al., 2020
 Coleman et al., 2023
 Cranney & Stulhofer, 2017
 Grubbs, Exline, et al., 2015
 Grubbs et al., 2020
 Grubbs & Perry, 2019
 Grubbs et al., 2019
 Guidry et al., 2020