

Seminario di discussione del paper:

**Sexual Empowerment among Women: the Role of
Pornography Consumption and Masturbation in Minor Age in Italy**
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Much research has been devoted to the correlates of pornography consumption and masturbation, but the combination of these practices has never been analyzed so far with a quantitative approach. The paper explores whether and to what extent pornography consumption and masturbation in minor age affect sexual empowerment in later life among Italian women. To this aim, several multivariate logistic regression models have been carried out. The research design allows to move beyond the establishment of simple correlations, which characterizes many previous studies on pornography and masturbation, and the large survey random sample used here assures a greater generalizability of the research findings. The more relevant evidence of the study is the assessment of a joint effect of pornography use and masturbation: women who, during their adolescence, both consumed pornography and masturbated are more likely to develop a stronger sexual empowerment. An explanation is that, if pornography consumption on its own tends to enlarge sexual imagery and strengthens sexual self-confidence, and masturbation promotes women's re-appropriation of their body in terms of the expression of their desires and the pursuit of their own pleasure, the experimentation of both these practices aggregates and enhances the singular empowering effects.

Seminario promosso nell'ambito delle attività dell'Osservatorio su Mutamento
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