

# An example of how sexism is measured in studies.

May 13, 2021 | 73 upvotes | by [DistrictAccurate](#)

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Here you can see examples of Statements used in questionnaires to determine sexism.

These are important to keep in mind as they might paint a vastly different picture compared to what you would expect. Also keep in mind that this might be relevant to cases of circular reasoning, like trying to use this to assess if attitudes towards feminism correlate with hostile sexism - which is, of course, impossible as the Inventory already assumes negative attitudes towards feminism to be in and of themselves a manifestation of hostile sexism. Quick tip from me: compare the benevolence sections of both questionnaires.

The statements are taken from the ambivalent sexism inventory (ASI; Glick & Fiske, 1996) and the ambivalence towards men inventory (AMI; Glick & Fiske, 1999).

## ASI

### Benevolence towards women

- Every man ought to have a woman whom he adores
- Men are incomplete without women
- Women should be cherished and protected by men
- Many women have a quality of purity that few men possess
- Women, compared to men, tend to have a superior moral sensibility
- Men should be willing to sacrifice their own well being in order to provide financially for the women in their lives
- A good woman should be set on a pedestal
- Men should sacrifice to provide for women
- In a disaster, women need not be rescued first
- Women have a more refined sense of culture, taste

### Hostility towards women

- When women lose to men in a fair competition, they typically complain about being discriminated against
- Once a woman gets a man to commit to her, she usually tries to put him on a tight leash
- Women exaggerate problems they have at work
- Women seek to gain power by getting control over men
- Feminists are making unreasonable demands of men
- Many women get a kick out of teasing men by seeming sexually available and then refusing male advances
- Women are too easily offended
- Most women interpret innocent remarks as sexist
- Women seek special favors under guise of equality
- Feminists are seeking more power than men
- Women fail to appreciate all men do for them

## Benevolence towards men

- Men are more willing to put themselves in danger to protect others
- Men are more willing to take risks than women
- Even if both members of a couple work, the woman ought to be more attentive to taking care of her man at home
- Every woman needs a male partner who will cherish her
- Men are mainly useful to provide financial security for women
- A woman will never be truly fulfilled in life if she doesn't have a committed, long-term relationship with a man
- Women should take care of their men at home, for men are not able to look after themselves if they have to
- Each woman needs a man who shows great respect to her
- If a woman does not have a long-term enchainment relationship with a man, she may not be deemed to complete herself in this life in the real sense
- Each woman must have a man that she admires
- Women are incomplete without men

## Hostility towards men

- Men will always fight to have greater control in society than women
- When it comes down to it, most men are really like children
- Men act like babies when they are sick
- Even men who claim to be sensitive to women's rights really want a traditional relationship at home, with the woman performing most of the housekeeping and child care
- When men act to "help" women, they are often trying to prove they are better than women
- Most men sexually harass women, even if only in subtle ways, once they are in a position of power over them
- Most men supposedly defend equity for women but cannot stand seeing a woman equal to themselves
- Men would lose their way in the world if it was not for women who would show them the way
- A man typically has no ethical value in terms of doing anything to get a woman he finds sexually attractive to bed
- Men generally try to be dominant while talking to women

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## Comments

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GodlessPerson • 33 points • 13 May, 2021 02:09 AM

Men are mainly useful to provide financial security for women

Women should take care of their men at home, for men are not able to look after themselves if they have to

That's considered benevolent towards men?

PsychoPhilosopher • 10 points • 13 May, 2021 07:41 AM

"benevolent sexism" generally means "These people are inferior so we have to be nice to them"

Things like opening doors for women or walking on the road side of a footpath because they are delicate and fragile.

That's how this fits. "Women should take care of men because men are useless and incompetent"

GodlessPerson • 12 points • 13 May, 2021 07:56 AM\*

But the examples of benevolent sexism towards women don't have that as justification. In fact, "Men should be willing to sacrifice their own well being in order to provide financially for the women in their lives" which is very similar to "Men are mainly useful to provide financial security for women" is listed as benevolent sexism against women. Surely it makes little sense that the same sentiment is classified as benevolent sexism towards both men and women.

Burlerevvy • 3 points • 13 May, 2021 11:41 PM

"benevolent" sexism is an oxymoron.

PsychoPhilosopher • 5 points • 14 May, 2021 01:36 AM

Yeah it's a weird bit of academic jargon.

It only makes sense by direct contrast to other forms of sexism. Without that point of comparison its pretty bizarre.

Welcome to academia, where words mean whatever people want them to mean and it only has to make sense to a handful of people to be taught for decades.

iaimf • 15 points • 13 May, 2021 10:32 AM

Don't get me started on the ASI.

I don't think it measures sexism exactly. I think it measures something like feminist beliefs about sexism. To fully measure sexism it would need to include the sexist beliefs feminists have. For example, that women don't have any real agency and are victims of circumstance.

[deleted] • 7 points • 13 May, 2021 06:04 PM

Those examples would fall under Benevolent sexism as it results in women receiving better treatment because people assume less about their competence and capability.

The thing is, as much as feminists will say they reject benevolent sexism, I sure as hell don't see them lobbying law enforcement and criminal justice systems to judge them as harshly as men. How convenient.

iaimf • 4 points • 13 May, 2021 07:47 PM

The questions about benevolent sexism are not about agency. They are about putting women on a pedestal and valuing women for their unique qualities.

Blauwpetje • 8 points • 13 May, 2021 02:18 PM\*

'Many men, most men, men, many women etc.,' it is all so inexact, in the broadest sense it can all be true. Like the women getting a kick out of teasing men, that is not an opinion, I simply *know* they exist and admit it, but are they *many* women?

And does the questionnaire ask for emotional or rational agreement? The ideas that men are incomplete without women (as partners or in general?) or need a woman to adore, appeal to me, but are they exactly *true*?

What is 'being like children'? Sometimes people get complimented for 'still keeping the child in themselves alive'. And what is 'no ethical value' or 'doing anything'? Will he rape her if he gets the chance or just think 'all is fair in love and war'? Whatever you think of feminism or men's rights, scientifically this is an embarrassingly bad, more suggestive than informative, questionnaire.

BloomingBrains • 3 points • 14 May, 2021 06:03 AM

I actually think that a lot of these statements could provide a substantial basis for debates though, because when you get a chance to qualify your answer by saying why you agree/disagree with the statement, the nuances come alive.

Blauwpetje • 3 points • 14 May, 2021 09:08 AM

a substantial basis for debates

Yeah, but the aim of a questionnaire is about the opposite.

BloomingBrains • 5 points • 14 May, 2021 05:51 AM

Does anyone else notice that these are basically all the same?

Every woman needs a male partner who will cherish her

A woman will never be truly fulfilled in life if she doesn't have a committed, long-term relationship with a man

Each woman needs a man who shows great respect to her

Each woman must have a man that she admires

Women are incomplete without men

Evidently they really need to pad the list that much. Telling, isn't it?

Poly\_and\_RA • 7 points • 13 May, 2021 12:22 PM

Yeah. I've seen that, and it doesn't at all measure what they claim to measure -- instead it's complete bullshit.

Take this one question:

"Every man ought to have a woman whom he adores"

Any answer other than "strongly disagree" will have you pegged sexist. But I happen to think that in a world where (roughly) half the people are women and roughly half are men -- if there's not even one person from the opposite gender that you like a lot; that's a pretty clear sign that you're probably misogynist and/or misandrist.

So yes, I think men ought to have (at least) one woman that we adore. And that women ought to have (at least) one man that they adore.

\*Sexism\* is about judging people differently depending on their gender. I don't, so how does it make sense to describe my position as "sexist"?

Blauwpetje • 2 points • 13 May, 2021 02:20 PM

Actually, I thought that sentence was meant as 'Benevolent sexism'.

Poly\_and\_RA • 4 points • 13 May, 2021 03:12 PM

Yepp. But benevolent sexism is a type of sexism. (just like blue balloon is a type of balloon) It's just not what is most commonly considered.

BloomingBrains • 2 points • 14 May, 2021 06:00 AM

What about asexual or gay people? But even if the question were reworded to "Every straight (man/woman) ought to have at least one (man/woman) they adore", there's still a problem.

I'm not sure how I'm supposed "adore" a woman when (so far) they've done almost nothing but kept me at arms length. Unless you're a weird person that falls in love with strangers you don't get to spend that much (or any) time with, it's highly unlikely you'll develop enough passion to reach the level of "adoring" them. Certainly its possible to have a strong interest in someone, but that interest fades when you get rejected and never really get to see them again. Especially if they refuse to remain friends afterward. The kind of certainty that comes with "adoring" someone is something that I would imagine takes a lot of time, effort, and mutual passion. It's hard to care about people when they don't care about you. At best, you just have a series of fleeting infatuations.

Honestly, the assertion sounds one step away from "anyone who doesn't have a partner must be a gross incel".

Nelerath8 • 8 points • 13 May, 2021 06:17 AM

Just to be clear, these are all supposed to be sexist. It's whether or not that sexism paints the gender in a good/bad light.

Men are mainly useful to provide financial security for women

Is supposed to be "good" because it is saying that men are useful, which is a good statement. Though that one is worded a little funny.

None of these responses are meant to be truly good for society, all of them are considered sexist.

[deleted] • 2 points • 16 May, 2021 08:01 AM

Interesting how most of the "hostility towards women" lines are really about hostility towards feminism.