



The Role of Sexualization and Objectification Processes on Well-Being and Mental Health

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Message from the Guest Editor

Sexualization and objectification of women in Western culture are pervasive and undeniable. Individuals are exposed to a multitude of messages that sexualize and objectify women through media programs, music videos, advertisements, and magazines. Exposure to such messages appears to lead some women to believe that being sexually appealing to men is a component of the female gender role and their own identities, thus internalizing these social standards within their belief system. Research has shown that objectification may have negative effects in a variety of domains, including cognitive functioning, physical and mental health, sexuality, and attitudes and beliefs. However, self-sexualizing behaviors may also be considered by women an empowering act whereby they express and display ownership of their bodies. The purpose of this Special Issue is to provide a scholarly space for studies that focus on these processes.





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