

## **SEXUAL AGGRESSION**

**Sexual aggression:** In close relationships, refers to interactions where one relationship member asserts his or her sexual wishes on an unwilling partner.

**Sexual Assault:** Involves the use or threat of physical force. Rape.

**Sexual coercion:** Characterized by psychological, verbal, and sometimes persistent physical pressure in the absence of threats or use of force.

### **Methodological Concern**

#### **Relational Dynamics**

Men more frequently choose direct influence strategies including assertion and open discussion (wearing down one's opponent)

Women more frequently choose indirect strategies including hinting, withdrawing, or attempting to manipulate a partner's emotions

Woman often see themselves as possessing less power than their partner in a romantic relationship (Sprecher, 1985)

Finkelhor and Yllo (1985) distinguish between:

*Forced-only rape*  
*Battering rape*  
*Obsessive rape*

## **Social Support for Sexual Aggression**

1. The Immediate social network of aggressive men
2. Cultural support
3. Gendered qualities inherent in dating roles that provide social support for sexual aggression (Lloyd, 1991)
  1. A single man's dating role expectations
  2. Role expectation of single women
  3. The role of romance in dating relationships.

## **Individual Characteristics**

**Interventions Focused on Women**

**Interventions Focused on Men**

**Mixed-Gender Interventions**