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The features marked with a star (*) are based entirely on material taken straight from standard research (and other Official and Therefore Always Correct) literature. Many of the other articles are genuine, too, but we don't know which ones.

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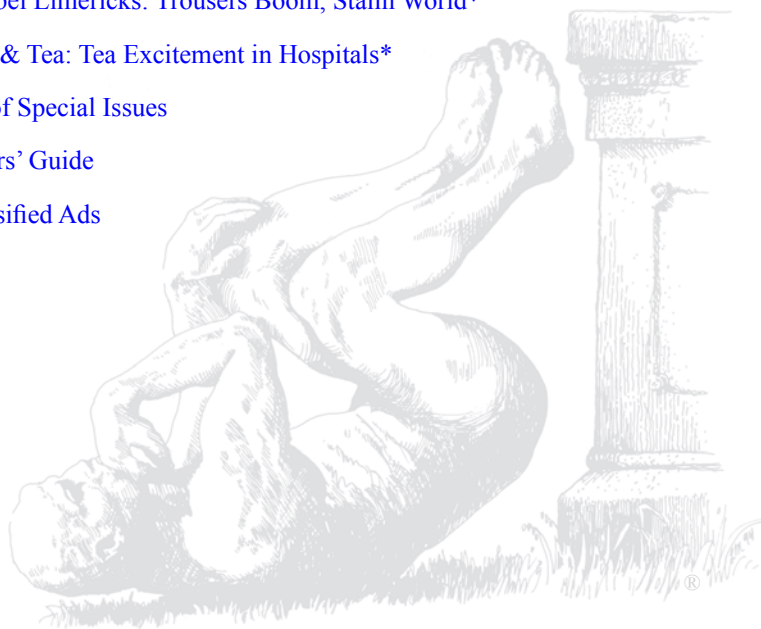
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On the Front Cover

Two of the many commonplace sources of noise.



On the Back Cover

Sign posted at the entrance to a cemetery near Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, UK. Photo: Alice Shirrell Kaswell.



Some Coming Events

See IMPROBABLE.COM for details of these and other events:

June 5, 2018

Dead Duck Day, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

July 10, 2018

Ig Nobel Ceremony Tickets go on sale

September 13, 2018

Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony, Harvard U

September 15, 2018

Ig Informal Lectures, MIT

September 2018

Japan

October 3, 2018

Orlando, FL, USA

October 4, 2018

Harvard University

October 10, 2018

Hartford, CT, USA

Autumn 2018

Ig Nobel Fall EuroTour

November 23, 2018

Annual "Science Friday" radio broadcast

Where There's More

There's always new improbable — it's not what you expect! — stuff on the **Improbable Research** blog at IMPROBABLE.COM

IMPROBABLE SEX: SOUNDS

Improbable, stimulating investigations

compiled by Alice Shirrell Kaswell, Improbable Research staff

Non-Word and Word Noises During Sex

“An Examination of Predictors of Nonverbal and Verbal Communication of Pleasure During Sex and Sexual Satisfaction,” Elizabeth A. Babin, *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, vol. 30, no. 3 2013, pp. 270-292. (Thanks to Ig Nobel Prize winner Geoffrey Miller for bringing these to our attention.) The author, at Cleveland State University, reports:

Verbal communication during sex did not predict sexual satisfaction. The findings draw attention to the need for scholars to examine both verbal and nonverbal forms of sexual communication, as well as factors that might influence the extent to which individuals communicate sexual pleasure during sexual encounters...

The original scale reported in Brogan *et al.* (2009) asked participants to report on their partner’s communication during sex. To fit the needs of this study, the SCSS [Sexual Communication Style Scale] was adapted to measure participants’ own communication during sex.

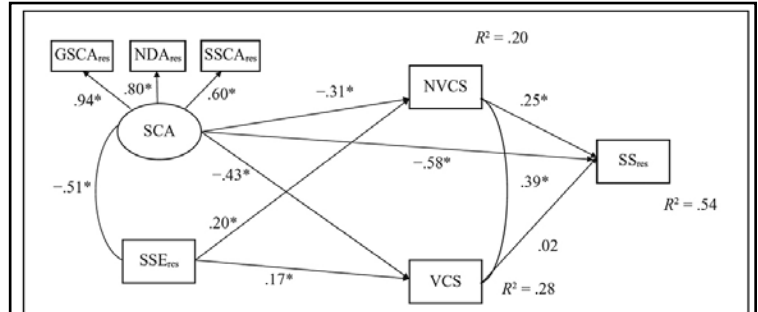


Figure 3. Final model predicting communication during sex and sexual satisfaction. Notes. SCA = sexual communication apprehension; GSCA_{res} = residual of general sexual communication apprehension after controlling for relational status; NDA_{res} = residual of negative disclosure apprehension after controlling for relational status; SSCA_{res} = residual of safer sex communication apprehension after controlling for biological sex, method of recruitment, and relational status; SSE_{res} = residual of sexual self-esteem after controlling for biological sex; NVCS = nonverbal communication during sex; VCS = verbal communication during sex; SS_{res} = residual of sexual satisfaction after controlling for biological sex and relational status. All path coefficients are standardized. * $p < .05$.

Detail from the study “An Examination of Predictors of Nonverbal and Verbal Communication of Pleasure During Sex and Sexual Satisfaction.”

Vocalised Sounds During Sex

“Vocalised Sounds and Human Sex,” Roy J. Levin, *Sexual and Relationship Therapy*, vol. 21, 2006, pp. 99-107. The author, at the University of Sheffield, UK, reports:

[An] early study of the coital behaviour of a single Caucasian married couple (Fox & Fox, 1969)... highlights the complexity of the vocal behaviour of but one female, which may be highly idiosyncratic....

Perhaps the oldest and fascinating, but so far unvalidated, documented account (El-Khalidi, 1970) of the diversity of vocalisations at orgasm, supposedly of 10 women of the female entourage of a 13th century Arabic physician (Al-Sayed Haroun Ibn Hussein Al-Makhzoumi), has been published from a claimed translated ancient Arabic document. The range included piercing screams (“Aye”), groaning, moaning and crying, snorting, grunting, heavy breathing and speech vocalisations including repeated “Please, Please, Please” (because so much pleasure experienced), “Oh’s! and ah’s!”, “No, No, No” (could not believe the pleasure experienced) and “Faster, faster”. None of these would be out of place in a modern report, which of course may be the case if the document is a fake!...

There is even less data about sounds made during the male orgasm than there is about the female.... Kinsey *et al.* (1948), in their study of the sexual behaviour of the human male, described the different reactions that occur in young males at orgasm into six categories.

Vocalised sounds and human sex

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ABSTRACT The review examines the possible involvements that vocalisations, linguistic and non-linguistic, have in human sex.

KEYWORDS: Human sexual arousal; acoustic sexual signals; linguistic and non-linguistic sounds; coital vocalisations; female and male orgasm; hyperventilation; genital muscular contractions; clitoral glans hypersensitivity; penile glans hypersensitivity; hedonic amplification

TABLE II. Various rhythmic sexual stimulations of female erotogenic sites obtained from explicit sexual videos normalised to per minute duration with responding female vocalisations also normalised to per minute

Type of stimulus	Penile thrusts or tongue flicks/min (mean ± S.E.)	Female vocalisations/ min (mean ± S.E.)	Number of stimuli for each vocalisation
Penile-vaginal coitus (heterosexual) (n = 187)	129 ± 3	45 ± 1	2.9
Penile-anal coitus (heterosexual) (n = 29)	129 ± 8	48 ± 2	2.7
Clitoral oral stimulation (lesbian) (n = 66)	92 ± 6	34 ± 2	2.7

Mean ± S.E. where n = number of individual sessions assessed. See text for details.

Detail from the study “Vocalised Sounds and Human Sex.”