

International Students and Sex

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International Students and Sex

International students have long been found to face acculturative stress (Mallinckrodt & Leong, 1992). Research shows that Asian international students report greater overall acculturative stress than their European counterparts (Poyrazli, Kavanaugh, Baker, & Al-Timimi, 2004). It is possible that differences in cultural values will impact individual's sexual attitudes (Villarruel, 1998). No studies have been done on the sociosexual orientation among the international student population – i.e their attitudes and behaviors towards casual sex. This warrants further research to examine if acculturation plays a role in international students' sexual attitudes and behaviors. In addition to addressing this question, the current study also examines the role of region of origin in international students' sociosexual orientation and acculturation.

Five hundred international students in the U.S. who are 18 years or older will be recruited to participate in the study via an anonymous online survey. The acculturative stress scale will be used to assess the acculturation stress, the Sociosexual Orientation Inventory will be used to assess attitude towards and tendency to have casual sex, and the Demographic Questionnaire will be used to solicit participants' background information.

It is expected that higher levels of acculturation to U.S. culture will predict more unrestricted sociosexual attitudes and behaviors. It is also expected that region of origin will act as a moderator between sociosexual orientation and acculturation, with Asian international students showing a stronger relationship between unrestricted sociosexual orientation and acculturation than their European counterparts. Implications and the need for further research will be discussed.

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