

# Review of: "The Learning of Interpersonal Sexuality Among Young French Adults Under the Prism of Consent"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

Whilst I think the subject matter of this paper is incredibly important and relevant, I found the structure of the paper disjointed in the first half. Further, there were various presumptions made throughout the paper (e.g., in asserting that sexuality education is lacking in schools, a presumption was made that it is left to families to impart to young people) and a lack of evidence brought to substantiate various claims (e.g., a sentence starting with 'according to experts on the matter...' had no citation at the end). I would suggest cutting the introduction significantly and focusing therein on the evidence around first sexual experiences.

With regard to the methodology, more information is needed about how and why these 14 people were recruited - the details of this are left to the imagination. Also, for example, why is it important that they came of age before the #metoo movement?

Further information would also need to be provided in the methodology about the data collection tool. For example, why did the authors choose to use a follow-up question on the source of sexuality education in a study about interpersonal sexual experiences?

I think the findings and discussion sections of the paper are well laid out, but unfortunately, by the time I reached those sections, I had too many questions about the methodology to focus on them.

Given that this is a purely retrospective study, the limitations need to be more fully elaborated. Asking a 28-year-old about their first sexual experience more than a decade before definitely has its shortcomings. Further, their opinions may have changed about where they want to get information about sexuality in the intervening years.

This is an important topic for research, and as the authors rightly point out, there is little qualitative data on first sexual experiences during adolescence. That said, the authors need to avoid making assumptions (that are not grounded in research) about what sexuality education in schools can provide, or to insinuate that school-based sexuality education is a magic bullet. There are studies that show the importance of adolescents 'experimenting' in a stepwise manner as part of their natural, healthy developmental process. Your study could also be read with other studies about where adolescents prefer to get information on certain sexuality education topics - there are studies from the US, for example, that show that adolescents do not necessarily want to talk about sex, consent, and pleasure with their school teachers.

If the authors are willing, I do believe that this paper could be reworked for publication. Top tips are: shorten the

introduction and focus on a clear rationale for this study; more fully articulate the methodology; fully document your limitations; and point to 'what's next' in terms of research in this field (in France or beyond). Overall, avoid making assumptions or statements that are not grounded in your or other, existing research.