



# THEOLOGISCHE FAKULTÄT PADERBORN

**The Monday academy**  
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'Between Joy and Affliction –  
the Ambivalence of Human  
Sexuality'

## **Internet Pornography – Its Prevalence and Psychological Consequences**

*Auditorium Maximum - December 13, 2010 – 5:00 p.m.*

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„The complaints about loose sexual morality are older than the miniskirt. Yet this time the warnings are not coming from uptight, narrow-minded people, fundamentalist feminists, or the strait-laced clergy. It is teachers, social education workers, educational scientists, neuroscientists, therapists, sexual scientists, and youth authority officials. They are observing nothing less than a sexual revolution. And yet this is not about free love. It has nothing to do with freedom and love. The motor for this sexual upheaval is not one of ideals. It is pornography . . . , a form of disintegration: sexual disintegration.<sup>1</sup>

If one reads the collection of essays from relevant symposia such as, for instance, that of the Gesellschaft für Sexualwissenschaft e.V.'s (Sexual Science Association) conference entitled “Sexuality and New Media,”<sup>2</sup> or specialist books such as the handbook for law enforcement authorities and counseling services by a psychology professor and a sociology professor about sexual offenders on the internet,<sup>3</sup> it is astounding that these results are simply ignored. Why is almost nothing heard about these findings in the media or in schools' sex education classes?

When pornography was liberalized for the public in the 1970s, one of the main arguments was that the interest in pornography would dwindle if it were legal and people were able to live out their sexuality as they desired. Instead, every rape sequence, group sex, and sex with every conceivable species of animal can be seen on the internet nowadays, and the sex object of choice can be put together according to skin color, nationality, age, preferences, subvarieties, etc. Pornography in the narrow sense, together with lightly clad eroticism, has conquered one area of life and the media after the other and is today so ubiquitous that one is forced to participate in it even if one rejects it. Nothing happens without it. Whoever looks at poster advertising could think that clothing stores only sell underwear and bikinis. Complete sectors of industry almost exclusively advertise with massive eroticism and only appear to incidentally sell products. Even in a number of men's magazines, advertising has in the meantime become more suggestive than the images of the magazine's actual topic. Health programs which are broadcasted appear to no longer get away without a demonstration of the extent of sexual permissiveness. “In the summer of 2002 on prime time, Swiss television showed close-ups of women masturbating with vibrators in front of the camera in its health program PLUS.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Walter Wüllenweber. “Sexuelle Verwahrlosung: Voll Porno!” *stern.de* dated February 14, 2007 from the *Stern* 6/2007 issue, [www.stern.de/politik/deutschland/581936.html](http://www.stern.de/politik/deutschland/581936.html) (accessed October 11, 2010).

<sup>2</sup> Kurt Seikowski (ed.). *Sexualität und neue Medien*. Lengerich: Pabst Science Publ., 2005, see in particular Nadine Van Ngoc, Kurt Seikowski. “Sexualität und Kriminalität im Internet.” pp. 133-149.

<sup>3</sup> Dennis Howitt, Kerry Sheldon. *Sex Offenders and the Internet*. New York: Wiley, 2007.

<sup>4</sup> Kornelius Roth. *Wenn Sex süchtig macht*. Berlin: Ch. Links Verlag, 2004. p. 22.

The ‘pornographization’ of society is reaching ever new parts of society, culture, and leisure time pursuits. One example should suffice. Although scantily clad women athletes have long been a favored means of advertising, the line between athletics, news reporting, erotic staging of athletic bodies,<sup>5</sup> and pornography has blurred since women athletes have shown their well-trained naked bodies in order to ensure sales in *Playboy* and many other magazines. This is in the case where they have not themselves already offered their scarcely clad bodies in calendars or on their websites. High-circulation magazines such as *Sports Illustrated* live from nothing else, and pornographic video clips and late night programs are what finance a large part of a German sports television channel.

**1. Thesis: Pornography is the major misleading tool of the sex education of children and adolescents.** “Since generally accepted programs of sex education are lacking, erotica has become the overriding means of sexual socialists”<sup>6</sup> with which many children come into contact at late elementary school age.

Pornography in magazines, on the internet, and in films is – and this is a willingly kept secret – the major tool of sex education for children. They often come into contact with it at the end of elementary school age. In the process a horrible picture of sexuality is conveyed. It places one’s own immediate gratification as being the highest standard, above all degrades women, but in any case one’s partner, to the status of an accessory, and does not have much more to convey than the biological aspect. Dolf Zillmann has written:

“The intensive use of pornography offered via the media fosters and strengthens the conviction that promiscuous behavior is healthy and that the suppression of sexual needs presents a health risk.”<sup>7</sup>

Long-term relationships, faithfulness of all sorts, the desire for children, and a whole lot more fall by the wayside, not only due to pornography but definitely because of it.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 5 that the secret of sexuality is that the wife does not belong to herself but to her husband, and that the man does not belong to himself but rather to his wife. This sort of sexual equality, and the thought of gratifying the other, undoes pornography, for here we are always dealing with my own gratification. This is because I am either alone anyway, or because the partner has to meet my specifications and has to do so whenever I want. This is what has been demonstrated by many studies: The relative frequency of masturbation has risen strongly over against earlier times, and the number of mutual sexual contacts has, however, dropped.

#### **What does Internet Pornography teach Children and Adolescents?**

1. Sex is possible anywhere, and it is good at any time and with anyone.
2. Sex has no consequences.
3. Sex is a spectator sport which should take place as publicly as possible.
4. Faithfulness is boring.
5. Women have to always be ready for anything.
6. Women are naked creatures and created to primarily bring gratification.
7. Men are the ones who determine things, and things have to go according to their wishes.
8. Appearance determines the value of an individual.
9. Partners can be compiled according to one’s own wishes or can be switched.
10. Often on top of this: violence/pain and sex belong together.

<sup>5</sup> Comp. the somewhat older study by Lothar Mikos. “Körper-Begegnungen: Die Erotik inszenierter Körper beim Sport im Fernsehen.“ pp. 37-42 in: Margrit Lenssen, Elke Stolzenburg (eds.). *Schaulust: Erotik und Pornographie in den Medien*. Schriftenreihe der Gesellschaft für Medienpädagogik ... 11. Opladen: Leske + Budrich, 1997; Allen Guttman. *The Erotic in Sports*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1996; Manfred Schneider. “Die Erotik des Fernsehsports: Beobachtungen zur Liturgie alltäglicher heroischer Ereignisse.“ *Merkur* 47 (1993) Nr. 534/535: 864-874.

<sup>6</sup> Dolf Zillmann. “Influence of Unrestrained Access to Erotica.“ *Journal of Adolescent Health* 27 (2000): 41-44, p. 41.

<sup>7</sup> Dolf Zillmann. “Pornografie.“ pp. 566-585 in: Roland Mangold et al. *Lehrbuch der Medienpsychologie*. Göttingen: Hogrefe, 2004. p. 585.

**2. Thesis: If pornography was once the taboo, today it is one of the greatest taboos to critically deal with it or to question for whom it possibly has negative consequences.**

We are dealing with massive taboos here! The old taboos included not talking about sex, not describing it or showing it, much less practicing it in public. These taboos have to a large extent fallen away. I regularly sit across from school children under 14 years of age in largely middle-class Bonn who kiss in a way in public, push up their clothing, and fondle male and female genitals as if they were completely alone. And on the internet there is nothing, absolutely nothing, more that is taboo when it comes to sexuality, except for the dangers of pornography.

Instead of that there are just as massive taboos that have taken its place, namely the prohibition on reporting on and talking about the consequences of sexual mass consumption and of bondage to pornography. Sex addiction has become taboo. Pornographic addiction has become taboo. The consequences that it has on the development of children have become taboo, an example being that at the age of ten children see things together which others do not even dare think about. A taboo is made of the fact that the message of a woman's disposability shatters all the successes of equal rights. A taboo is made of the fact of how many divorces are traceable back to pornography and sexual addiction or from cases of infidelity or affairs touched off by them. It has been demonstrated that massive pornography reduces the desire for long-term relationships and the desire for children. However, it is taboo to speak about the role played by sexual degeneration in Germans' having fewer and fewer children.

Let us choose another example: "The intensive use of pornography offered via the media increases the men's admitted willingness to commit rape. Sexual depictions expressing coercion as well as those which do not express coercion have this effect,"<sup>8</sup> writes Dolf Zillman, an American psychology professor and for decades one of the leading researchers of pornography, in the 2004 textbook *Lehrbuch der Medienpsychologie* (title translation: *Textbook of Media Psychology*). Yet why does one almost never hear about this in the media or in schools' sex education instruction?

**3. Thesis: For quite a number of groups of people and individuals concerned, pornography has negative psychological consequences and can damage and inhibit real sexuality.** The largest problem is that certain thoughts become established in an individual's mind that do not correspond to reality but which nevertheless determine behavior as if they were reality.

The psychologist Herbert Selg, himself an advocate of pornography, has researched the psychological consequences of pornography on behalf of the pornographic magazine *Penthouse*<sup>9</sup> and incisively summarized it in 1986: "Erotica frequently endows male models with especially impressive genitals and extraordinary potency. It is probably the case that the already present and widespread inferiority complex among younger people is thereby reinforced. That penis size is targeted for exaggeration in erotica, that in reality it is less important than the quality of the relationship between the partners and less important than the behavior of the man, that male potency varies widely and does not take on the magnitude of fantasized porn heroes can be read about in well meaning sex education books; however, they possibly do not reach the same audience. Clinical psychologists and doctors complain – should someone speak to them about pornography – about the pressure to perform which grows out of the extreme depictions in productions of pornography.

Women are similarly caricatured in pornography. In the first place, only those models who fit the current concept of beauty for the group of customers addressed are largely chosen. In the process, there is, photographically speaking, much 'assistance' which is possible, such that in the final event

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Comp. the foreword in Herbert Selg. *Pornographie: Psychologische Beiträge zur Wirkungsforschung*. Bern: Verlag Hans Huber, 1986 and Judith Rauch. "Die Beweise liegen vor." pp. 31-34 in: Alice Schwarzer (ed.). *PorNo. Emma Sonderband 5* (1998). Köln: Emma, 1988. pp. 33-34.

almost unblemished and youthful bodies are offered. Therein even possibly lies a reason why much erotica is not accepted by women: They sense that bodily ideals are constructed with which they are supposed to compete and which they cannot meet – or can only do so for a relatively short time. If such erotica is, however, acknowledged, it can by all means lead to an inferiority complex. Furthermore, pornographic material depicts women's behavior and experiences according to the desires of the men producing it: as invariably responsive sexual partners – or as sexual objects which quickly become available. It is probably the case that men either willingly or unwillingly compare their partners with porn models. This can lead to erroneous expectations with respect to female attractiveness and sexual willingness. Disappointments, which can hardly even be picked up on through discussion, might well be the consequence."<sup>10</sup>

This has all intensified since 1986, and internet pornography has enormously amplified the one-sided depiction of sexual relationships and the stress upon false values.

**Risks [of Cybersex and Internet Pornography]:**

- "Avoids 'real' sexual and non-sexual interpersonal contact, isolation, loneliness
- Brings dissatisfaction with 'real life' sexuality and relationships which cannot 'compete' with the elaborate sexual fantasies and images of the virtual world
- Places a burden on partner relationships
- Exhibits flight into a virtual world
- Normalizes the unusual
- Leads to addictive developments (unlimited . . . availability of pornography and cybersex)
- Lowers the inhibition threshold: repeated fantasies which are possibly harmful to oneself or to others are more readily translated into 'real life'
- Heightens the sexually aggressive impulse
- Abuses bonds of trust established on the internet
- Is a medium which can only be controlled with difficulty by a third party"<sup>11</sup>

**4. Thesis: Internet pornography has a ratchet effect for individuals and across generations. What yesterday was still suggestive is passé today and has to be replaced by a continuously growing number of alternatives or something 'hotter,' 'more forbidden,' and more violent. Herein lies the main business for the porn industry.**

Where does the enormous, almost boundless demand for the depiction of sex? It has to do with the fact that pornography blunts sexual stimulation. This also has biochemical-hormonal reasons, such that increasingly hard-core pictures and sounds have to be used in order to achieve the effect again. On the other hand, intensive use of pornography frequently becomes a habit or even an addiction – and here also lies the actual earnings source of the industry. If consumers of pornography only bought ten films for the rest of their lives, there would be nothing to earn.

Doubt is often cast upon the ratchet effect of pornography as a cheap argument by opponents of pornography. And yet it is repeatedly described in academic literature, for instance by Hans-Bernd Brosius: "From the side of the public, the depiction of sexuality leads relatively quickly to a habitua-

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<sup>10</sup> Herbert Selg. *Pornographie*. op. cit., pp. 76-77.

<sup>11</sup> Andreas Hill, Peter Briken, Wolfgang Berner. "Pornographie im Internet – Ersatz oder Anreiz für Gewalt?" pp. 113-136 in: *Internet-Devianz*. Stiftung Deutsches Forum für Kriminalprävention: Berlin, 2006. pp. 117-118, [www.kriminalpraevention.de/downloads/as/internet/Internet-Devianz-finalweb.pdf](http://www.kriminalpraevention.de/downloads/as/internet/Internet-Devianz-finalweb.pdf); abridged version: the same authors. "Pornographie und sexuelle Gewalt im Internet." *Bundesgesundheitsblatt – Gesundheitsforschung – Gesundheitsschutz* 50 (2007) 1: 90-102.

tion, so that from the viewpoint of the provider there is the necessity for new, more explicit forms.”<sup>12</sup> As said before, in this ‘necessity’ lies the real business for the porn industry.

Whoever regularly consumes pornography always wants to see more and often something ‘more hard-core.’ This is not just something that is able to be noticed in oneself. Rather, it reflects the history of pornography since it was liberalized. Why do pornographic pictures from the 1920s to the 1960s hardly elicit any sexual stimulation? Whatever counted as suggestive in the 1960s and was effective hardly elicits any effect nowadays. When measured against today’s stars, the eroticized performances of the Beatles or Elvis Presley appear conservative and unexceptional.

**5. Thesis: Internet pornography can lead to clinically ascertainable addiction, and there are millions worldwide who already are so addicted to pornography that they require therapy.**

Addiction to pornography as well as the more specific addiction to internet pornography can by all means be compared with other types of addiction.<sup>13</sup> M. Douglas Reed poses the question: Can excessive viewing of pornography be an addiction? By pointing to many medical studies, one comes to an unambiguous result: The clinical facts say yes!<sup>14</sup> Many people become addicted through pornography, and they flee from reality into a dream world in which they spend endless hours.<sup>15</sup> Whoever begins early with the consumption of pornography has difficulties growing up and persists in immature thought and a dream world in which what is real is simply not what reality can deliver.<sup>16</sup>

The American medical professor Victor B. Cline first described addiction to pornography in 1974 and since that time has investigated it thoroughly.<sup>17</sup> The stages of addiction to pornography are well documented on the basis of clinical studies conducted by Cline and other physicians and psychologists. Victor B. Cline summarizes them as follows:<sup>18</sup>

**Stages of Addiction to Internet Pornography**

1<sup>st</sup> Stage: One can no longer free oneself from pornography.

2<sup>nd</sup> Stage: The consumption of pornography becomes more frequent, more comprehensive, and used more explicit depictions.

3<sup>rd</sup> Stage: A tolerance effect occurs in which the desired result can no longer be achieved even when very large amounts of pornography are consumed.

<sup>12</sup> Hans-Bernd Brosius. “Die medial vermittelte soziale Realität in Pornographie und Erotikangeboten.“ pp. 34-53 in: Kurt Seikowski (ed.). *Sexualität und neue Medien*. Lengerich u.a.: Pabst Science Publ., 2005. p. 35.

<sup>13</sup> According to Corinne Sweet. “Pornography and Addiction: A Political Issue.“ pp. 179-200 in: Catherine Itzin (ed.). *Pornography: Women, Violence and Civil Liberties*. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 1993<sup>2</sup>; James C. Dobson. “Enough is Enough.“ pp. 31-55 in: Tom Minnery (ed.). *Pornography: A Human Tragedy*. Wheaton (IL): Tyndale House, 1986. p. 40; “Sexfilme machen süchtig: US-Studie: Wer Pornos sieht, verharmlost bald Vergewaltigungen.“ *Idea-Spektrum* 22/1998: 25.

<sup>14</sup> M. Douglas Reed. “Pornography Addiction and Compulsive Sexual Behavior.“ pp. 249-269 in: Dolf Zillmann et al. (ed.). *Media, Children, and the Family*. Hillsdale (NJ): Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1994. p. 249.

<sup>15</sup> William A. Stanmeyer. *The Seduction of Society. : Pornography and Its Impact on American Life*. Ann Arbor (MI): Servant Books, 1984. p. 57.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 55-56.

<sup>17</sup> Victor B. Cline (ed.). *Where do you Draw the Line? An Exploration into Media Violence, Pornography, and Censorship*. Provo (UT): Brigham Young University Press, 1974; comp. Victor B. Cline. *Pornography’s Effects on Adults and Children*. New York: Morality in Media, 1999; Victor B. Cline. “Pornography Effects: Empirical and Clinical Evidence.“ pp. 229-247 in: Dolf Zillmann et al. (ed.). *Media, Children, and the Family*. Hillsdale (NJ): Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1994.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 232-235.

4<sup>th</sup> Stage: An individual is increasingly dulled and desensitized in the face of strange depictions and actions.

5<sup>th</sup> Stage: A compulsion develops to practice what has been seen, whereby any means necessary to do so seems increasingly legitimate.<sup>19</sup>

**6. Thesis: Hard-core pornography and internet pornography make a lot of consumers aggressive – above all against women – or it heightens existing aggression since the relationship is seldom monocausal. If violence is added to the depiction of sexual acts, this applies to an even greater degree.**

Many investigations<sup>20</sup> have shown that under certain circumstances pornography promotes aggressive behavior. If people who are already aggressive are shown pornographic material, as a general rule their aggression increases. Sex and violence in ‘normal’ feature films heightens the willingness and the desire to use violence against women, and indeed with or without sexual acts.<sup>21</sup> Diane E. H. Russell points to Malamuth’s report for the U.S. Attorney General, according to which 10% of male students were aroused by pornography with extreme violence and blood and limited sexual elements, 20-30% by films in which the women only demonstrated refusal and no consent, and 50-60% when victims of rape finally showed consent.<sup>22</sup>

**7. Thesis: Hard-core pornography with and without violence heightens men’s self admitted willingness to commit rape, as has been shown in many studies. In particular, it produces or reinforces the ‘rape myth.’**

The English term ‘rape myth’ was coined, described, and documented by Martha R. Burt in 1980.<sup>23</sup> What does the ‘rape myth’ say? Stated briefly: Women who are raped almost always enjoy it

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<sup>19</sup> Comp. sexual addition. Andreas Hill, Peter Briken, Wolfgang Berner. “Sexuelle Sucht: Diagnostik, Ätiologie, Behandlung.“ *Zeitschrift für Sexualforschung* 18 (2005) 2: 185-197; Kornelius Roth. *Wenn Sex süchtig macht*. Berlin: Ch. Links, 2004.

<sup>20</sup> Studies are presented in in Elizabeth Paolucci-Oddone, Mark Genuis, Claudio Violato. “A Meta-Analysis of the Published Research on the Effects of Pornography.“ pp. 48-59 in: Claudio Violato, Elizabeth Paolucci-Oddone, Mark Genuis (eds.). *The Changing Family and Child Development*. London: Ashgate, 2000; Elizabeth Paolucci-Oddone, Mark Genuis, Claudio Violato. “A Meta-Analysis of the Published Research on the Effects of Pornography.“ *Medicine, Mind and Adolescence* 11 (2000): 23-28; Mike Allen, David D’Alessio, Keri Brezgel. “A Meta-Analysis Summarizing the Effects of Pornography II: Aggression After Exposure.“ *Human Communication Research* 22 (1995): 258-283; Neil M. Malamuth, Ramara Addison, Mary Koss. “Pornography and Sexual Aggression: Are There Reliable Effects and Can We Understand Them?“ *Annual Review of Sex Research* 11 (2000): 26-91; Nancy Bowen. “Pornography: Research Review and Implications for Counseling.“ *Journal of Counseling and Development*. 65 (1987): 345-350; comp. the discussion of other studies in Herbert Selg. *Pornographie*. op. cit., 84-90. Neil M. Malamuth, Ramara Addison, Mary Koss. “Pornography and Sexual Aggression: Are There Reliable Effects and Can We Understand Them?“ *Annual Review of Sex Research* 11 (2000): 26-91, pp. 31-38 target William A. Fisher, Guy Grenier. “Pornography, Anti-women Thoughts, and Anti-woman Acts.“ *The Journal of Sex Research* 31 (1994): 23-38, which maintains that all studies have shown that pornography does not make people aggressive. They list all of the studies used by Fisher and explain how Fisher wrongly quotes them.

<sup>21</sup> William A. Stanmeyer. *The Seduction of Society*. op. cit., p. 62.

<sup>22</sup> Diana E. H. Russell. “Pornography and Rape: A Causal Model.“ pp. 310-349 in: Catherine Itzin (ed.). *Pornography: Women, Violence and Civil Liberties*. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 1993<sup>2</sup>. p. 313.

<sup>23</sup> Martha R. Burt. “Cultural Myths and Supports for Rape.“ *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 38 (1980): 217-230. On the scale of acceptability of the rape myth according to Burt compare Anna C. Salter. *Treating Child Sex Offenders and Victims: A Practical Guide*. Newbury Park (CA): Sage Publ., 1988. p. 283.

in the end.<sup>24</sup> We again find a good description by the psychologist Herbert Selg, who conducted his study on behalf of the porn magazine *Penthouse*: The rape myth says:

### **The Rape Myth**

#### *Regarding Victims/Women:*

“(1) All women (in actual fact) want to be raped. They enjoy being raped.

(2) No woman can be raped against her will. Only ‘bad’ women are raped or can be raped.

(3a) For example, a woman unjustly accuses a man of rape if he wants to break up with her.

(3b) A woman unjustly accuses a man if she has something else to hide (if, for example, she were caught in the act of committing infidelity).“

#### *Regarding Offenders/Men:*

„(1) Men who commit rape are sick.

(2a) Men who commit rape are sexually starved.

(2b) Men who commit rape have such a strong sex drive that they could hardly do otherwise.

The function of such theses is clear: They excuse the offenders and blame the victims.“<sup>25</sup>

**8. Thesis: Internet pornography spawns increasingly brutal depictions and scenes, among them unbelievably violent orgies, the mere description of which can disturb other people. This is the case even as the market for soft pornography is likewise growing.**

As opponents of pornography have declared, pornography takes on increasingly brutal and perverse forms. The former Minister of Family Affairs Renate Schmidt (party affiliation: SPD) already stated the following in 1990: “Similar to the USA, the market for pornographic materials has changed from a gentle sex playground into a hard-core world of porn with increasing brutality against women.”<sup>26</sup> How would she label today’s DVD and internet porn market compared to violent pornography in the 1980s that was downright seldom and harmless?

A pornography advocate has written the following in this regard: “There are indications that the share of violence in erotica is growing. Contrary to earlier opinions, depictions of violently conducted sexuality arouse the consumer. In depictions of rape, it is important whether the victim achieves orgasm or not. Rapes with the woman achieving orgasm are strongly stimulating, often stronger than depictions of ‘normal’ sexual intercourse. The emphasis on negative experiences on the part of the victim reduces or inhibits stimulation by a multiple; however, there are sufficient exceptions among men who are oriented towards violence anyway. It is specifically these individuals who could also be the primary consumers of the relevant products on the market.”<sup>27</sup>

In contrast to these older authors, we know today that the increase in violence apparently does not have an end and thus will not peter out at some point. Instead, film producers and internet porn website operators outdo each other – and at the same time the public becomes accustomed to the idea that sex and violence are apparently well compatible.

In short order a simple internet search also brings the most repulsive pictures to light for the non-payer (which thereby includes children). Sexual relations with the dead, the undead, with beasts, with

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<sup>24</sup> According to Richard E. McLawhorn. *Summary of the Final Report of the Attorney General’s Commission on Pornography July 1986*. Cincinnati (OH): National Coalition against Pornography, 1986. p. 8.

<sup>25</sup> Herbert Selg. *Pornographie: Psychologische Beiträge zur Wirkungsforschung*. Bern: Verlag Hans Huber, 1986. p. 93 + 94.

<sup>26</sup> Renate Schmidt. “Pornographie – hinsehen oder wegsehen? Rückblick nach 20 Jahren.“ pp. 15-22 in: Eva Dane, Renate Schmidt (ed.). *Frauen und Männer und Pornographie*. Frankfurt: Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag, 1990. p. 19.

<sup>27</sup> Herbert Selg. *Pornographie*. op. cit., p. 116.

the beheaded, with animals and children, with those enchained, beaten up and tortured, sex with and the rape of pregnant women, women who moan with excitement while their breasts are roughly handled with a scorching hot pair of pliers, and women who urinate and defecate are long since the order of the day. Whoever pays a lot or is willing to accept what is illegal can see and hear what is even worse.

**9. Thesis: Internet pornography can lead to imitation crimes, from sexual coercion in marriage all the way up to gang rape.**

Inputting ‘sex’ and ‘rape’ in Google leads with one click to a realm of darkness – and it can just as easily lead a six-year-old there. Here are the advertising taglines for the first two offers – “The Rape Sex Video Store – humiliated girls, debased, used, and brutally raped. Thousands of pictures of extreme forced sex, pictures, and hard-core violent sex videos. The Sex Orgies of a Sex Offender.” “Brutal Rape Sex Website with thousands of rapes and rape sex porn films. Degraded and defiled girls on video in DVD quality.” And all of that is alleged to remain fantasy when adults, adolescents and children see it? Is this, then, the great new freedom which was fought for, so that sexuality should never have anything more to do with morality and religion?

**10. Thesis: The increase in child pornography is not only linked to the pornographization of society, but it is indeed linked to it. Child pornography cannot simply be artificially isolated from internet pornography as if the two had nothing to do with each other.**

A study by the US Department of Justice calculated that about 20% of internet pornography is child pornography,<sup>28</sup> and the line separating liberalization of pornography and the prohibition on child pornography is often an artificial one. Without the large quantities of pornography available at the present time, there would not be such massive quantities of child pornography. The call made by experts on child pornography from within the police force is the more realistic one: “In this connection, it is high time that societal condemnation of every form of pornography and every other degrading depiction of individuals be initiated by revealing the links between them.”<sup>29</sup>

**11. Thesis: Given the idiosyncracies of the internet, individuals who are addicted to internet pornography also need particular ways of being helped, counseled, and attended to. This should also become a topic for pastoral care and counseling within the church, for instance because excessive use of internet pornography can develop into a frequent contributing factor in divorce.**

In the USA the short summary ‘triple A’ has become common in order to describe the reasons for the popularity of internet sex: 1. accessibility, 2. affordability, 3. anonymity.<sup>30</sup> For that reason, the

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<sup>28</sup> S. Janis Wolak, Kimberly J. Mitchell and David Finkelhor. *Internet Sex Crimes Against Minors: The Response of Law Enforcement*. Virginia: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2003 and [http://www.missingkids.com/en\\_US/publications/NC132.pdf](http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/NC132.pdf). Comp. to child pornography under “Kinderpornografie“ literature found in the bibliography, the most current of which is by Korinna Kuhnen. *Kinderpornographie und Internet: Medium als Wegbereiter für das (pädo-)sexuelle Interesse am Kind?* Göttingen: Hogrefe, 2007.

<sup>29</sup> Adolf Gallwitz, Manfred Paulus. Grünkram: *Die Kinder-Sex-Mafia in Deutschland..* Hilden: Verlag Deutsche Polizeiliteratur, 1997. p. 42; comp. by the same. *Pädokriminalität weltweit*. Ibid., 2009.

<sup>30</sup> For example, Al Cooper et al. “Online Sexual Problems: Assessment and Predictive Variables.“ *Sexual Addiction and Compulsivity* 8 (2001): 267-285, p. 268 and Andreas Hill et al. “Pornographie im Internet ...“ op. cit., pp. 124-125.

help for those affected on the internet should reflect the same characteristics. It should be available to the public, free of charge, and anonymous.<sup>31</sup>

#### “Characteristics of Internet Pornography

- 1) Low threshold: easily accessible (at home, anytime), inexpensive, anonymous
- 2) Great diversity of pornographic material: photos, films, texts, messaging systems, chats (with one or with multiple individuals), audio-visual communication (microphone, webcams), in the future possibly the with the transmission of other sensory qualities
- 3) Limitless market: continuously new material
- 4) Blurring of the lines between the consumer, producer, and provider
- 5) More deviant, violent pornography
- 6) Interactive communication with mutual influences on fantasies and real behavior, time-delayed and simultaneously
- 7) Room for experimentation between fantasy und ‘real life‘ behavior
- 8) Virtual identities
- 9) Enables concrete ‘self-deceptive actions’
- 10) Facilitates addictive-type consumption and production
- 11) Easy, unlimited networking: anonymous initiation of contacts between ‘offender’ and ‘victim’ or various ‘offenders’
- 12) Low risk with respect to discovery of illegal activities<sup>32</sup>

The topic is discussed in more in the book *Internetpornografie*. Holzgerlingen: SCM Hänssler, 2008 and its Russian and Romanian translation.



<sup>31</sup> For instance Dan E. Purnam, Marlene M. Maheu. “Online Sexual Addiction and Compulsivity.” pp. 93-112 in : Al Cooper (ed.). *Cybersex. Journal of Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity* – Special Issue Philadelphia (PA): Brunner-Routledge, 2000 and Kimberley S. Young et al. “Online Infidelity.” pp. 59-74 in *ibid.*, p. 59 with the ACE modell, as help calls for “anonymity, convenience, escape.”

<sup>32</sup> Andreas Hill et al. “Pornographie im Internet ...“ *op. cit.*, pp. 124-125.