

Why is female sexuality more flexible than male sexuality?

May 16 2016

A new evolutionary theory argues that women may have been evolutionarily designed to be sexually fluid—changing their sexual desires and identities from lesbian, to bisexual, to heterosexual and back again—in order to allow them to have sex with their co-wives in polygynous marriages, therefore reducing conflict and tension inherent in such marriages while at the same time successfully reproducing with their husbands in heterosexual unions.

The theory may also help explain a number of puzzles in human sex research, including differences in female and male homosexuality, male arousal to lesbian sex, and menstrual synchrony.

"The theory suggests that [women](#) may not have sexual orientations in the same sense as men do," said Dr. Satoshi Kanazawa, author of the *Biological Reviews* article. "Rather than being straight or gay, to whom women are sexually attracted may depend largely on the particular partner, their [reproductive status](#), and other circumstances."

More information: *Biological Reviews* , [DOI: 10.1111/brv.12278](https://doi.org/10.1111/brv.12278)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Why is female sexuality more flexible than male sexuality? (2016, May 16) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-05-female-sexuality-flexible-male.html>

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