Kinsey- Sex the Measure of All Things

Kaitie Panka
Alfred C. Kinsey

- Born in Hoboken, New Jersey on June 3, 1894
- Quaker Kinseys helped found the city of Philadelphia
- He disliked his past and childhood
- Cleanliness and tidiness were next to Godliness
- He had an interesting and intensely curious and capacious mind—but over a long time it can be oppressive.
- Showed warmth and sweetness
- He was extremely good looking
  - Bright blue eyes
  - Golden-blonde hair which easily became curled
  - Thin and full of energy
  - Smiled often
Alfred Suguine Kinsey

- Father
- Born in Mendham in 1871
- He only ever reached 8th grade
- Very strict and religious
Sarah Ann Charles

- Mother
- Was virtually uneducated (fourth grade)
- Was a gentle woman of great sweetness but totally dominated by her iron-hard, stubborn and dictatorial husband
- She was very subdued and bullied.
Childhood

- Alfred suffered from several medical conditions as a child and his parents being poor could not afford good quality treatment for him. He suffered from rickets which led to a curvature of the spine.
  - Measles
  - Chicken pox
  - Rheumatic fever
- Poverty was the second factor which dominated his early life.
  - Grew worse when his sister Mildred was born in 1896.
- Begging for credit intensely humiliating.
- For the rest of his life he never went into debt.
Childhood

- The third major strand in Kinsey’s childhood was religion.
  - Intense religious upbringing
- Of all the little group of Hoboken Methodists, Alfred S. Kinsey was the sternest, the strictest, and the most unforgiving.
- The only thing they could do was pray on Sunday’s.
- The Kinsey’s had very few friends.
- Their social life was restricted to a few of the Hoboken Methodists.
- To say Kinsey disliked his memories of his first ten years is an understatement. He hated them.
Childhood

- From the age of five his parents provided piano lessons, or allowed his aunt to give them. Someone had recognized that he had musical talent.
- In 1903, he got another still more serious Third World disease, typhoid, a disease often due to poor water and sewage facilities.
- They moved to the village of South Orange—Kinsey was to remain here until 1914.
- Younger brother Robert born in 1908.
- Their doctor had told them that disease had so weakened his heart that he was unlikely to live to twenty-one.
- Doc said—the boys best chance of survival was to get out into fresh air and walk.
- He was interested in nature from a young age and loved camping. He became a Boy Scout with his parents' support and earned an Eagle Scout in 1913, becoming one of the earliest Eagle Scouts.
Religion vs. Sex

- Religion played a dominant role.
- All sex was sinful unless between man and wife in order to have children.
- Knowledge of sex was even a sin.
- Alfred Sequine tried to ensure total ignorance by seeing that his son was told nothing and saw nothing.
- No adult was ever seen naked in the Kinsey household.
- He had banned masturbation, nocturnal emissions and obviously any form of intercourse.
- Boys, still in 1939, thought masturbation caused insanity.
- The church taught boys that wasting their vital fluid could be very dangerous.
- Any sinful thoughts Kinsey had, he would punish himself by shoving objects into his urethra (pipe cleaners, pencils, toothbrushes). This continued through adulthood.
- Kinsey was still wrestling with masturbation at the age of twenty.
Education

- He attended Columbia High School where he shone academically and was also a good pianist. He developed a deep interest in botany, biology and zoology and decided to study botany in college, much to the chagrin of his father.
- His authoritative father ordered him to study engineering at the Stevens Institute of Technology to which Alfred reluctantly agreed. But he could not force himself to study engineering for long and left the course after two years.
- In 1914, he enrolled at Bowdoin College in Maine where he studied entomology. He was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa society in 1916 and graduated with degrees in biology and psychology.
- He went to the Bussey Institute at Harvard University to continue his studies. There he studied biology under William Morton Wheeler, an expert in entomology.
- Alfred did his doctoral thesis on gall wasps. He traveled widely and collected thousands of specimens as samples. He earned his PhD degree in 1919.
Clara Bracken McMillen ‘Mac’

- Kinsey’s wife
- Was 22 in October 1920, when they met
- Only daughter of two Fort Wayne, Indiana teachers.
- She was small (5’2’’)
- Very dark, almost black-hair
- Extremely clever
- Got a degree in chemistry
- Was Phi Beta Kappa and elected to Sigma Xi even before Kinsey himself.
- They married June 21, 1921 at Bookville, the home of Mac’s grandparents.
- Honeymoon- white mountains of New Hampshire
- They had sexual difficulties and doctor diagnosed Mac with an inordinately thick hymen.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWY9siSHrjE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWY9siSHrjE)
Kinsey’s Family

- Mac had planned to continue her graduate work in chemistry but as soon as she knew she was pregnant, in October 1922, she gave it up.
- Kinseys moved to a new house a month before their child, Donald was born in July 1922.
- Kinsey was an involved father.
- Joan born on October 16, 1925.
- Bruce in November 1928.
- Watched the birth of his two last children, which was highly unusual at that time.
- In August and early September 1923 Kinsey and Mac camped a lot before Anne was born the following January.
- June 1925- Donald fell ill with a exophthalmic goiter case.
- Surgery was a success, but was still feeling ill.
- March 1926- diagnosed with diabetes.
- Died in April, three months short of his fifth birthday.
Career

- He was appointed as an assistant professor at the Indiana University in 1920. In 1926 he published a biology textbook, ‘An Introduction to Biology’ in which he unified the fields of zoology and botany which were previously treated as separate from each other.

- He was promoted to full professorship in 1929. He published his works ‘The Gall Wasp Genus Cynips: A Study of the Origin of Species’ and ‘The Origin of Higher Categories in Cynips’ during the 1930s. However, he was getting disillusioned with his career at this time.

- In 1938, he was offered an opportunity to lead a team-taught course on marriage and the family. He lectured on the biology of sexual stimulation, the mechanics of intercourse and contraception. His course became very popular.
Career

- He founded the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction, a nonprofit research institute at Indiana University in 1947. The Institute’s mission was to encourage sexual health and research on sexual issues. The founding of this institute too was met with much controversy.

- His book ‘Sexual Behavior in the Human Male’ was out in January 1948. It became a best-seller immediately upon its release even though it was a very thick volume of 804 pages. The book infuriated the religious leaders because of its sexual content.

- In 1953, he published ‘Sexual Behavior in the Human Female’ which created even more controversy than its predecessor. The book was based on almost 6000 sexual histories.
Marriage Course

- VD skyrocketed, Syphilis reported, Gonorrhea cases
- People were in need of sex education
- Marriage course-1938
  - Participants- married/engage, seniors, faculty and wives
  - Topics-functions, contraception, techniques, reproductive anatomy, harmlessness of masturbation
- After each lecture, he would ask if they could volunteer to give their sex histories.
- He not only asked the marriage course students to give sex histories but he asked his students in his entemology, taxonomy, and evolution classes to give their sex histories as well.
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UxVz4tn7ZA&nohtml5=False
The Start of Sex Research

- All girls at the university were segregated. They had to be in their dormitories by 10:30pm.
- Campus dances were beadily supervised to see that girls didn’t go ‘too far’ with boys.
- And so, frustrated, ignorant, anxious, they sought excitement and picked up knowledge where they could: anywhere from catalouges to manuals, from cars to corpses.
- They thus reinforced the idea that sex was something hidden and unmentionable.
- This is when students started to ask Kinsey questions about sexual behavior.
- Team of researchers to help take sex histories:
  - Clyde Martin
  - Wardell Pomeroy
  - Paul Gebhard
Sex Histories

- He would get the sex history from the president, or secretary/chairperson/leader of the group itself, then they would tell the group that they would be asked to contribute their sex history—but this was entirely up to them.

- Kinsey found it easier to get 100% of a large group than a proper random sample from the same group. Of course, technically, they were ‘volunteers’

- He along with his team would go to different places around the country in order to get sex histories.

- He would eventually interview homosexuals from Chicago, prison inmates, prostitutes, pedophiles, children, sex offenders, along with the normal every day person.
Sex Histories

- Kinsey needed a precise unit of measurement. The one he chose was orgasm. He would study every aspect of sexual behavior but it would only ‘count’, as it were, if it led to orgasm.

- The factors were launched into a series of about 350 questions with 220 extra for the unusual—such as homosexuals, pimps/prostitutes/multiple marriages, etc.

- Each interview was recorded on a single sheet of squared paper divided into 287 little squares, and even part of a square, answered a different question. Symbols therefore meant different things according to where they were placed in the blocks and/or squares.

- 1 page = 20 pages of information

- Kinsey and his team of researchers would eventually collect over 18,000 sex histories
## Kinsey Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Exclusively heterosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Predominantly heterosexual, only incidentally homosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Predominantly heterosexual, but more than incidentally homosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Equally heterosexual and homosexual.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Predominantly homosexual, but more than incidentally heterosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Predominantly homosexual, only incidentally heterosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Exclusively homosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Asexual, Non-Sexual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clyde Martin

- Kinsey hired Martin in 1939
  - Would have dropped out if he didn’t get the job
  - Kinsey fell in love w/ him
  - Affair lasted 3-4 years
- This led to open relationships in the other members of the team (only if they wanted to participate)
Reports

- Funding from NRC and Rockefeller Foundation, some from IU too
- Sexual Behavior in the Human Male
  - 1948
  - More than 200,000 copies
  - Best seller
- Sexual Behavior in the Human Female
  - 1953
  - More than 185,000 copies
  - Sold faster
  - Also a best seller
- People had mixed reactions to the findings of the sex histories. There was horror and shock as well as gratitude and admiration. They also brought up controversies.
Anal Sex

- 11% of males reported, in marriage, a frequency of anal sex ranging from a single attempt to often.
- There is little data in the original Kinsey Studies regarding heterosexual or homosexual anal sex.
- Kinsey found some anal play in some of the male marital histories and occasional instances of anal coitus but not enough to determine "the incidence of individuals who are specifically responsive to such stimulation.
- He reported, among the male homosexual, occasional individuals brought to orgasm anally.
- For females, Kinsey said that good incidence data was not available.
Bisexuality

- Males
  - Kinsey estimated that nearly 46% of the male population had engaged in both heterosexual and homosexual activities, or "reacted to" persons of both sexes, in the course of their adult life.
  - 11.6% of white males (ages 20-35) were given a rating of 3 (about equal heterosexual and homosexual experience/response) on the 7-point Kinsey Heterosexual-Homosexual Rating Scale for this period of their lives.
Bisexuality

- Females
  - Kinsey found only a very small portion of females with exclusively homosexual histories.
  - He reported that between 6 and 14% of females (ages 20-35) had more than incidental homosexual experience in their histories.
  - 7% of single females (ages 20-35) and 4% of previously married females (ages 20-35) were given a rating of 3 (about equal heterosexual and homosexual experience/response) on the 7-point Kinsey Heterosexual-Homosexual Rating Scale for this period of their lives.
Coitus

- Age at first intercourse:
  - Males:
    - 20.9% by age 16
    - 10.7% at age 17
    - 11.5% at age 18
    - 10.8% at age 19
  - Females:
    - 6% by age 16
    - 4.9% at age 17
    - 9.1% at age 18
    - 11.2% at age 19
Coitus

- **Frequency of Marital Coitus**
  - Females (average frequency reported):
    - 2.8 times a week, in late teens
    - 2.2 times a week, by age 30
    - 1.0 times a week, by age 50
  - Male data were comparable.
Length of Coitus:

Males:
- 17.6% of males reported ejaculation less than 2 minutes after intromission
- 47.6% less than five minutes in coitus in first marriage
- 22.9% claimed to have lasted 10 or more minutes

Females:
- 22.8% of females reported reaching climax less than 2 minutes after intromission
- 52.6% less than five minutes in coitus in first marriage
- 19% claimed to have lasted 10 or more minutes

In the discussion of marital coitus in the Male volume, Kinsey speculated that for perhaps three-fourths of all males, orgasm was reached within 2 minutes after initiation of coitus, and reported this as a frequent source of marital conflict.
Coitus

- **Positions, Coital**
  - Kinsey found the most frequently reported coital position to be male-above, and the most common variant position to be female-above.
- **Females:**
  - 100% used male-above position in marital coitus
  - 45% used female above
  - 31% used side-by-side positions
  - 15% rear vaginal entry
  - 9% sitting; and 4% standing
- **Males:**
  - In the *Male* volume, Kinsey estimated that as much as 70% of the population only used the male-above position in coitus
  - In about 35% of the male College Sample histories the female-above-male position was used
Coitus

- **Preference for Coitus in Light or in the Dark:**
  - 40% of the males in the sample preferred to have sexual activities in some light
  - 19% of the females preferred to have sexual activities in some light
Erogenous zones

- The Kinsey interviews showed that there is no part of the human body which is not sufficiently sensitive to effect erotic arousal for at least some individuals in the population.
- He estimated that breasts and especially the nipples of the breasts were erotically sensitive in perhaps half of the females (with breast stimulation alone sufficient for orgasm in a very small percentage of females).
- There were some 2% of females who even by their late 40s had never recognized any sexual arousal under any sort of condition.
Extramarital Sex

- **Incidence**
  - Males: Kinsey estimated that approximately 50% of all married males had some extramarital experience at some time during their married lives.
  - Females: Among the sample, 26% of females had had extramarital sex by their forties. Between 1 in 6 and 1 in 10 females from age 26 to 50 were engaged in extramarital sex.
Extramarital Sex

- **Number of Extramarital Partners**
  - **Males:**
    - Number of extramarital sexual partners, not counting prostitutes, during first marriage:
    - 71.6% reported none
    - 16.7% reported 1-3 partners
    - 5.6% reported 4-6 partners
    - 5.9% reported 7 or more
  - **Females:**
    - Number of extramarital sexual partners, not counting prostitutes, during first marriage:
    - 79% reported none
    - 15.7% reported 1-3 partners
    - 2.4% reported 4-6 partners
    - 2.7% reported 7 or more
Fantasy

- **Males:**
  - 84% of the males in the sample indicated that they were sometimes aroused by thinking of sexual activities with females.
  - 89% of males reported having used sexual fantasy with masturbation.
  - Only 3-4 males, out of more than 5000 in the sample, had experienced ejaculation by fantasy alone.

- **Females:**
  - 31% insisted they had never been aroused by thinking about males or sexual relations with them.
  - 69% of females reported erotic fantasies about males.
  - 64% of the female sample used fantasy as part of masturbation.
  - Some 2% of females in the sample had reached orgasm by fantasizing erotic situations (without any tactile stimulation).
Foreplay

- Duration of foreplay in marriages, (from sexual histories):
  - 11% of marriage histories, foreplay lasted 3 min.
  - 36% of marriage histories, foreplay lasted 4-10 min.
  - 31% of marriage histories, foreplay lasted 11-20 min.
  - 22% of marriage histories, foreplay lasted more than 30 min

- Comparative data:
  - 18.5% of males and 20.7% of females reported foreplay of 3-7 minutes in marital coitus
  - 19.5% of males and 21.2% of females reported foreplay of 8-12 minutes
  - 19.1% of males and 13.8% of females reported foreplay of 13-17 minutes

- In descending order of techniques of foreplay in marital coitus, Kinsey found:
  - simple lip kissing (99.4%);
  - manual stimulation of female breast (98%);
  - manual stimulation of female genitalia (95%);
  - oral stimulation of female breast (93%);
  - manual stimulation of the male genitalia (91%);
  - deep kissing (87%);
  - oral stimulation of the female genitalia (54%);
  - oral stimulation of the male genitalia (49%).
Homosexuality

- Kinsey said in both the *Male* and *Female* volumes that it was impossible to determine the number of persons who are "homosexual" or "heterosexual". It was only possible to determine behavior at any given time.

- **Instances of at least one same-sex experience to orgasm:**
  - 37% of males
  - 13% of females

  **Males:**
  - 10% of males in the sample were predominantly homosexual between the ages of 16 and 55
  - 8% of males were exclusively homosexual for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55
  - 4% of white males had been exclusively homosexual after the onset of adolescence up to the time of their interviews

  **Females:**
  - 2 to 6% of females, aged 20-35, were more or less exclusively homosexual in experience/response
  - 1 to 3% of unmarried females aged 20-35 were exclusively homosexual in experience/response
Masturbation

- **Males:**
  - 92% of males reported that they had masturbated (p. 499, Male).

- **Females:**
  - 62% of females reported that they had masturbated (p. 142, Female).
  - 45% of females who reported having masturbated indicated that they could reach orgasm within 3 minutes.

- **Masturbation techniques reported by females:**
  - 84% used clitoral and labial manipulation
  - 20% used vaginal insertion
  - 11% used breast stimulation
  - 10% used thigh pressure
  - 5% muscular tension
  - 2% had fantasy alone to reach orgasm; and
  - 11% used other techniques
Nudity

- Kinsey found that attitudes toward nudity differed by level of education and socioeconomic status.
- Still, about half (41%) of males in the College Sample reported sleeping nude, and half of the married females in the sample had regularly slept nude.
Oral Sex

- **Percentage of males who said they had performed cunnilingus:**
  - before marriage about 10%
  - in marriage 48.9%

- **Percentage of females who said they had performed fellatio:**
  - before marriage, 19.1%
  - in marriage 45.5%

- **Percentage of males who reported experiencing homosexual fellatio, with climax, at least once:**
  - 14% had performed fellatio
  - 30% had received fellatio
Orgasm

- **Sources of first ejaculation for males:**
  - 68.2% masturbation
  - 13.11% nocturnal emission
  - 12.53% coitus
  - 4.33% homosexual contact
  - other sources, including premarital petting

- **Sources of first orgasm for females:**
  - 40% masturbation
  - 27% coitus
  - 24% premarital petting (not found in chart)
  - 5% nocturnal dreams
  - 3% homosexual contact
  - 1% other sources
Multiple Orgasm

- Females: 14% of females in the sample reported regularly responding with multiple orgasms, (p. 375, Female).
- Males: 15-20% of males in their teens and twenties reported that they were capable of repeated orgasm in a limited period of time. Kinsey stated that most men lost this capacity by age 30 or 40.
Premarital Sex

- Occurs in:
  - Males:
    - 67-98%, depending on socioeconomic level.
    - 68% by age 18 had experienced premarital coitus
  - Females:
    - about 50%
Prostitutes, Sex with

- 69% of white males have had at least one experience with a prostitute;
- among unmarried males, sex with a prostitute was about 10% of the total premarital intercourse;
- among married males, sex with a prostitute was never more than 1.7% of the total sexual outlet reported.
Death

- No more funding
  - Negative feedback
- Tried to search for funding
- His stress and anxiety slowed him down
- Suffered heart attacks and rising blood pressure
- Died on August 25th, 1956 at the age of 62
Discussion

- Kinsey took sex histories from multiple different groups including pedophiles, homosexuals, prisoners, and prostitutes. Do you think they are a representative sample?

- Do you think the way he collected the sex histories was a viable choice?
  - If not, what other way could Kinsey have collected sex histories?

- How did high school sex education affect your youth? Thoughts and decisions about sex?