

SOC 1 – Guest Lecture Roger Friedland (Part II)
November 17, 2009

- He's interested in asking, "Do networks of people participate in common sexual cultures?"
 - He'll be able to answer this using the data from the extra credit assignment (students sending the survey to their friends, lovers, etc.)
- Traditionally, most adolescents transition to intercourse via romantic relationships
 - Sex was more covert, especially among young women (wasn't openly talked about)
- However, with the "hook up culture," things seem to be changing
 - Now, some people are concerned that sex and intimacy seem to be disassociated
 - Sex is a "public story" and at times even a joking matter
 - Seems to be a reversal of love/sex such that sex is taken for granted instead of love

Findings from this year's SOC 1 class

- 1/3 of students have never had vaginal sex
- 50% have had 1 or no sexual partners
- 42% of last sex acts were 1st time sex acts with partner (vs. 49% were more than the 2nd time to have sex with the partner)
- 41% of last sex act was with a boyfriend/girlfriend (vs. 48% was "casual sex")
- About 50% believe that "romance brainwashes"
- Repeated sex usually associated with love
- It's generally harder for women to have sex without love (compared to men)
- For those for whom it is difficult to separate sex and love, it is 3x more likely that they are virgins
- Children of divorced families find it harder to separate love and sex (though this finding was not significant)
- Almost 90% of the students want to have a long-term romantic relationship
- 1/3 hoped to get into a relationship with person in last sex encounter
- There is no difference between those who think love is ideology (that "romance brainwashes") and those who don't think that in their desire for sex to lead to a relationship
 - Friedland associates the belief that "romance brainwashes" with feminism. It is worth noting, however, that feminism is NOT a unitary belief system (e.g. there are different views among feminists), and that even if feminism has some influence on this idea about romance, it is definitely not the only factor.
- Religiosity has no impact on when people have their 1st intercourse
 - "Sexual profiles" (what they do, when they do it) of believers vs. non-believers are no different
- However, Friedland sees a difference in religiosity's connection to love...

- Those who believe in God find it much more likely to separate sex and love (and a belief in the Devil is an even stronger determinant of the difficulty of separating love and sex).
- People who believe in the God/Devil are more likely to have been in love/relationship during their last sex act.
- Love (at least among his students in his “Sex, Love, God” course), speak about love in religious terms
- He poses the question, do religious people get practice loving because of their relationship with God? Or, did the development/experience of love lead to monotheism?