

“THAT’S DISGUSTING! IT’S OVER!” MORAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND EMOTIONAL
REACTIONS TO SAME-SEX AND OPPOSITE-SEX SEXUAL INFIDELITY VARY BY
POLITICAL ORIENTATION BUT ARE NOT AFFECTED BY MORTALITY SALIENCE

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ABSTRACT

“THAT’S DISGUSTING! IT’S OVER!” MORAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND EMOTIONAL REACTIONS TO SAME-SEX AND OPPOSITE-SEX SEXUAL INFIDELITY VARY BY POLITICAL ORIENTATION BUT ARE NOT AFFECTED BY MORTALITY SALIENCE

by Andrew S. Franks

Prior studies have been inconsistent in determining whether heterosexual women react more negatively to their partners committing sexual infidelity with another man or another woman. The present experiment is based on two recent findings: one, level of disgust is the best emotional predictor of breakup intentions, and two, disgust sensitivity predicts bias against male homosexuality. Based on these findings, it was predicted that women with higher levels of disgust sensitivity, dispositional or experimentally enhanced, would react with greater breakup likelihood and more disgust to same-sex infidelity relative to opposite-sex infidelity.

It has been shown that disgust sensitivity is higher among political conservatives than political liberals. Further, mortality salience (MS) or increasing accessibility of death-related thoughts has been shown to increase disgust sensitivity. Accordingly, in the present experiment, MS was manipulated by asking participants to complete “Fear of Death” scale. Further, participants were asked to indicate their political orientation. Female college students were asked to indicate on six forced-choice items whether they would be more (1) morally offended, (2) likely to break up the relationship, (3) jealous, (4) angry, (5) disgusted, and (6) hurt when their partners commit sexual infidelity with another man or another woman. The same six variables were measured using continuous scales. Further, participants were asked to rate the likelihood that their partners would contract a sexually transmitted infection when the infidelity is with another man or another woman.

Mortality salience did not affect reactions to infidelity. Political conservatives reacted more negatively than liberals on most continuous measures. Further, on forced-choice measures, political conservatives indicated homosexual infidelity more disgusting and more likely to precipitate a breakup than liberals. These results indicate that participants' political orientation may have been responsible for some of the contradictory results by the prior studies.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Men and women are different in their reactions to relationship infidelity because each sex faces different adaptive problems in relation to achieving reproductive fitness. A man must deal with paternity uncertainty, which is caused by the lack of assurance that the child his partner gives birth to is actually his own. Conversely, a woman knows the child to whom she gives birth is her own, but is vulnerable to the possibility that her partner is uncommitted to investing the resources in their shared offspring. These differences form the basis of a theory of jealousy, referred to as Jealousy as a Specific Innate Module (JSIM), which was developed to explain sex differences in jealousy (Buss, Larsen, Westen, & Semmelroth, 1992). According to this theory, men and women are expected to be different in the amount of jealousy they would experience in response to the sexual (purely physical) and emotional (e.g., love and attachment) aspects of infidelity. Men, relative to women, are expected to show more jealousy over sexual infidelity because this type of infidelity could result in cuckoldry (being duped into raising another man's offspring) and therefore, exacerbate paternity uncertainty. Women, conversely, are expected to show a greater amount of jealousy in response to emotional infidelity because this type of infidelity would be more likely to lead to abandonment than a purely sexual infidelity. The first empirical support for this theory (Buss, Larsen, Westen, & Semmelroth, 1992) confirmed these differences using psychological (forced-choice) as well as physiological measures.

Cross Cultural Support of JSIM and Refuting the “Double Shot” Hypothesis

Any evolutionary theory requires cross-cultural validation. JSIM was supported by consistent results across samples from the United States, Germany, and the Netherlands (Buunk, Angleitner, Oubaid, & Buss, 1996), from Sweden (Wiederman & Kendall, 1999), and from

China (Geary, Rumsey, Bow-Thomas, & Hoard, 1995). The effect size was smaller in the European countries (e.g., German men and women differed by 22% whereas in the US, men and women differed by 44%). This finding was attributed to generally more permissive sexual attitudes and egalitarianism between the sexes in European countries relative to the United States. Critics noted, however, that both types of infidelity are distressing to both sexes and proposed that sex differences in jealousy were caused by metacognitive beliefs about what each type of infidelity implied. The “double-shot” hypothesis (DeSteno & Salovey, 1996) proposed that the sex differences in jealousy were caused by men assuming that a woman’s sexual infidelity also implies emotional infidelity (e.g., She would not have sex with another man unless she was in love with him) and by women assuming that a man’s emotional infidelity also implies sexual infidelity (e.g., He would not be in love with her unless he had already had sex with her).

This double shot hypothesis was discounted when sexual and emotional infidelities were presented as explicit, mutually exclusive occurrences (Buss et. al, 1999). The results supported the original JSIM in samples from South Korea and Japan. Nevertheless, to avoid the double-shot criticism, many subsequent studies have completely bifurcated sexual and emotional aspects of infidelity across conditions (e.g., Franks & Otani, 2011)

Additional cross-cultural validation from Australia (Burchell & Ward, 2011) is notable for being part of a recent trend to include participant variables (in this case, relationship status and real life experience with infidelity) that cause within-sex differences in jealousy. Another study, which also supported JSIM, showed within-sex differences in response to sexual and emotional infidelity based on sociosexuality (sexual attitudes) and attachment style (Treger & Sprecher, 2011). The results showed that more permissive sexual attitudes predicted a greater likelihood of selecting emotional infidelity as the more distressing infidelity type for both sexes.

Further, men who sought emotional intimacy, relative to men who did not, were more likely to choose emotional infidelity as worse than sexual infidelity, whereas women who avoided emotional intimacy, relative to women who did not avoid, were less likely to choose emotional infidelity as worse than sexual infidelity.

Infidelity and Dependent Measures Other Than Self-Reported Jealousy

Studies are increasingly adopting multiple dependent measures in assessing responses to infidelity (e.g., Franks & Otani, 2011; Pietrzak, Laird, Stevens, & Thompson, 2002). Pietrzak and colleagues (2002) tested a sample of participants using three types of dependent measures. In addition to usual forced-choice items, participants were asked to indicate their level of jealousy to sexual and emotional infidelity on separate continuous scales. Heart rate, palm sweating, frowning, and blood pressure, were used as physiological measures. JSIM was supported by all three types of dependent measures. Other research has focused on hypothetical behavior following sexual and emotional infidelity. Women, relative to men, showed less willingness to forgive an emotionally unfaithful partner and also showed a higher tendency to indicate that emotional infidelity is more likely to precipitate a breakup than sexual infidelity (Shackleford, Buss, & Bennett, 2002). Men showed the same pattern for sexual infidelity.

A recent study by Franks and Otani (2011) used both forced-choice and continuous measures to assess moral judgments and willingness to forgive sexual and emotional infidelity. This study examined the effect of mortality salience (MS) on participants' reactions to these infidelity types. The notion of MS, proposed by Terror Management Theory (TMT), refers to the idea that being reminded of one's mortality activates defensive reactions against those who threaten one's world view, including moral conventions one embraces. Their results supported JSIM by showing that men were more likely to choose sexual infidelity as a worse form of

infidelity than emotional infidelity. In addition, there was an effect of MS on moral judgments. On the forced choice measures, women in the mortality salience condition became significantly more likely to endorse sexual infidelity as the worse transgression of the two infidelity types. Mortality salience also caused participants of both sexes to become more severe in their judgments against sexual infidelity, but not emotional infidelity. In addition, participants in the MS condition, relative to those in the control condition, were less willing to forgive sexual infidelity. This study showed that transient manipulations, such as MS, can affect how infidelity is perceived. It was concluded that infidelity that elicits feelings of corporeal disgust (e.g., sexual infidelity) was especially susceptible to MS effects.

Kuhle (2011) used a novel measure to assess sex differences in jealousy in response to real life incidents of infidelity. Research assistants were trained to watch and code episodes of the syndicated television program *Cheaters*, which is a reality show that conducts investigations of alleged unfaithful partners and captures confrontations between victims and perpetrators of infidelity. The research assistants were instructed to categorize the inquiries the victims made into sexual (e.g. “Did you have sex with him/her?”) and emotional (“Are you in love with him/her?”) aspects of infidelity. Across 75 videotaped confrontations, men were more likely than women to inquire about sex whereas women were more likely than men to inquire about love.

A number of studies have also investigated emotions other than jealousy that sexual and emotional infidelity elicits. Shackelford et. al.(2000) asked participants to rate the likelihood that each of 15 emotions would be elicited when learning that their partners committed sexual and emotional infidelity. The results showed that the majority of the emotions were affected only by infidelity type, such that for both men and women, sexual infidelity was rated as more likely to

result in hostility, shock, disgust, humiliation, sexual arousal, and suicidal feelings whereas emotional infidelity was rated as more likely to result in insecurity, depression, exhaustion, forgiveness, and feelings of helplessness and abandonment. In another study, sexual infidelity was found to elicit more anger and disgust and less hurt than emotional infidelity, regardless of participant sex (Becker, Sagarin, Guadagno, Millevoi, & Nicastle, 2004).

Infidelity and Issues of Sexual Orientation

All of the studies discussed so far focused exclusively on the responses of heterosexual participants to infidelity, which is also heterosexual in nature. However, the sexual orientation of both the participant and the type of infidelity are also important factors. In one such study, sex differences in response to infidelity disappeared when participants were considering same-sex infidelities (Sagarin, Becker, Guadagno, Nicastle, & Millevoi, 2003). All participants made a forced-choice response indicating whether sexual infidelity or emotional infidelity would cause greater distress. In addition, the researchers manipulated whether the two infidelities were committed with an opposite-sex (heterosexual) or same-sex (homosexual) third party. When presented with the typical heterosexual infidelity types, 51% of men reported that sexual infidelity was worse compared to only 16% of women. However, 33% of men and 37% of women (a non-significant difference) chose sexual infidelity to be worse when their hypothetical partners were unfaithful with a same-sex third party. Further, in a study comparing heterosexual participants and homosexual participants, it was found that homosexual participants were more likely than heterosexual participants to choose emotional infidelity as worse than sexual infidelity (Harris, 2002). Homosexual men and heterosexual women showed a similar frequency of choosing emotional infidelity as worse than sexual infidelity, whereas lesbian women almost unanimously indicated emotional infidelity was worse than sexual infidelity.

The results from a sample of homosexual participants in the Netherlands partially contradicted Harris' (2002) findings. Gay men, more often than lesbian women, chose a mate's emotional infidelity as more upsetting than sexual infidelity (Dijkstra, Grootho, Poel, Laverman, Schrier, & Buunk, 2001). These effects were mediated by beliefs about the co-occurrence of sexual infidelity and emotional infidelity, indicating that this sample of homosexual participants may have demonstrated the double-shot hypothesis proposed by DeSteno and Salovey (1996).

Confer and Cloud (2011) also focused on the orientation of sexual infidelity. Heterosexual participants were asked to indicate the likelihood that they would continue relationships with partners who had committed either opposite-sex or same-sex sexual infidelities. Based on sexual strategies theory (Buss & Schmidt, 1993), these researchers predicted that men would be less concerned with their girlfriends having a lesbian affair because a lesbian encounter cannot result in cuckoldry and may even result in the man gaining access to an additional sex partner. Women were predicted to have strong negative feelings in response to both opposite-sex and same-sex affairs because both may result in the loss of resource investment. The results confirmed these hypotheses, with an additional finding: women indicated that they were less likely to continue a relationship after their boyfriends had committed infidelity with another man.

Stigmatization of Homosexuality and the Behavioral Immune System

If women are less likely to continue a relationship after their boyfriends had committed a homosexual affair rather than a heterosexual affair, it could be due to stigmatization of male homosexuality. Such stigmatization could be attributed in part to beliefs linking homosexual men and sexually transmitted diseases (Herek, 1991). A Canadian survey found that people report negative feelings, including disgust, towards people with AIDS, which is a disease

commonly perceived as being associated with male homosexuals. Further, participants high in disgust sensitivity (i.e., those who report higher levels of disgust when imagining contamination, sexuality, or moral transgression) have been shown to possess implicit bias against homosexuals (Inbar, Pizarro, Knobe, & Bloom, 2009). Research also showed that disgust sensitivity, particularly regarding sexuality, has been found to be higher in women than in men (Tybur, Bryan, Lieberman, Caldwell-Hooper, & Merriman, 2011). Therefore, a man's sexual infidelity with another man, rather than with another woman, may trigger a stronger "behavioral immune system" (Schaller and Park, 2011) response from his female partner. The behavioral immune system is conceptualized as a group of psychological mechanisms that facilitate avoidance of people and objects that are likely to carry dangerous pathogens. Because intercourse between two men is more likely to result in disease transmission than intercourse between a man and a woman, behavior immune system needs to be considered when investigating woman's reactions to same-sex and opposite sex infidelity.

However, Confer and Cloud's (2011) findings that heterosexual women were less likely to continue a relationship after their partner's homosexual rather than heterosexual affair has been contradicted by recent findings suggesting that the orientation of the infidelity does not significantly affect the breakup intentions of heterosexual women (Franks & Otani, 2012). It was found that women reported more jealousy and hurt in response to a man's heterosexual infidelity; however, infidelity orientation did not cause significantly different levels of anger or disgust. Reported feelings of disgust were the best emotional predictor of breakup intentions, thereby suggesting the possibility that the contradiction between Confer and Cloud (2011) and Franks and Otani's (2012) results was the disgust sensitivity of the participants. One could test this hypothesis by experimentally increasing disgust sensitivity.

Purpose of Study

One possible method of experimentally increasing disgust sensitivity would be to activate MS. In a study using samples of college students, older adults from the general population, and mortuary workers, disgust sensitivity was increased in all three groups after a MS manipulation (Bassett & Sonntag, 2010). Accordingly, increased disgust sensitivity after a MS manipulation may increase stigmatization of homosexuality, which may lead heterosexual women to increase breakup intentions after their unfaithful partners committed infidelity with another man, as opposed to with another woman.

Prejudice against homosexuality is also related to conservative ideology. Experimentally primed disgust has been shown to cause conservative participants to become more prejudiced toward homosexuals (Terrizzi, Shook, & Ventis, 2010). Consistent with this finding, conservatism and many concepts related to it are associated with higher sensitivity to disgust-related issues. Conservatives place more importance on purity concerns when making moral judgments (Graham, Haidt, & Nosek, 2009). Conservatism is linked with introversion, which predicts higher levels of germ avoidance behaviors (Duncan, Schaller, & Park, 2009). Further, higher prevalence of infectious disease has been linked with increased traditional, authoritarian, conservative views in a study that compared modern countries (Thornhill, Fincher, & Aran, 2009). Accordingly, the present study will also measure participants' political ideology.

The purpose of this study was to reconcile the results of the Confer and Cloud (2011) and Franks and Otani (2012) studies by examining the effects of the variables related to disgust sensitivity (political orientation and MS) that affect the reactions of heterosexual women to instances of same-sex and opposite-sex infidelity.

Because MS has been shown to increase negative responses to sexual infidelity (which induces disgust due to infection concerns and corporeality reminders), it is hypothesized that participants randomly assigned to a MS manipulation will show comparatively more negative reactions to sexual infidelities committed between two men rather than between a man and a woman in comparison to control group participants. These effects are predicted to be larger for conservative participants than liberal participants because conservatives are more physiologically and morally sensitive to disgust.

CHAPTER II

METHOD

Participants

One hundred and ten heterosexual women who were undergraduate students in psychology courses at Central Michigan University completed an online survey hosted by Surveymonkey.com for extra credit.

Materials, Instrumentation, and Procedure

After locating the study signup on the psychology subject pool website, participants were directed to surveymonkey.com where they first read and electronically agreed to the terms of an online consent form. Participants then completed a series of questionnaires which included a sex attitudes scale and questions regarding political ideology. Mortality salience was manipulated by having participants fill out either a “Fear of Death” or “Fear of Failure” scale (see Appendix), adopted from Franks and Otani (2011). This manipulation was found to produce a MS effect. A distractor task disguised as an arithmetic intelligence test provided a delay to remove thoughts of mortality from immediate consciousness, which is consistent with most TMT research which measured mortality salience effects after a short delay (e.g., Rosenblatt, Greenberg, Solomon, Pyszczynski, & Lyon, 1989; Florian & Mikulincer, 1997). Participants were given a list of 18 numbers and asked to check a box next to those numbers that were divisible by 3. Participants were instructed to spend between 2 and 3 minutes on this task.

After the distractor task, participants were presented with a hypothetical scenario in which the participant’s boyfriend had committed sexual infidelity (see Appendix). Participants proceeded to indicate whether the infidelity would be more likely to precipitate a breakup if the

third-party was a man or a woman. Similarly, participants indicated which orientation (i.e., the third party a woman or a man) of infidelity would be more morally wrong and which would cause more jealousy, anger, disgust, and hurt. Participants also indicated on separate continuous 10-point Likert type scales (1) the likelihood that each type of infidelity would lead to a breakup, (2) the moral wrongness of each infidelity type, and the degree to which each infidelity type would cause (3) jealousy, (4) anger, (5) disgust, and (6) hurt and (7) how likely it was that the infidelity would result in the boyfriend contracting a sexually transmitted infection. All questionnaires, dependent measures, and the infidelity scenario are presented in the Appendix.

CHAPTER III

RESULTS

Data Analytic Approach

For all analyses, two-tailed tests were conducted with the significance level set at .05. Binomial as well as Chi square tests were used to analyze each forced-choice item whereas a 2 (political orientation: liberal and conservative) x 2 (MS condition: control and mortality salience) x 2 (third party sex: man and woman) analyses of variance (ANOVA) was used to analyze each continuous measure. Further, regression analyses were conducted to determine which emotions predicted the ratings on the moral offense and breakup likelihood measures. Although the main goal of the study was to investigate the effect of MS, no main or interaction effects involving MS condition was found in the results of the ANOVAs. In contrast, the main effect of political orientation was significant in all but one measure (jealousy). Accordingly, political orientation will be the main focus of the following analyses. The reason for using the MS was to increase disgust sensitivity. Because past research has shown that socially conservative individuals are higher in disgust sensitivity than socially liberal individuals (Inbar, Pizarro, & Bloom, 2009), the emphasis on political orientation is still consistent with the main goal of the present study. Nevertheless, the correlational nature of political orientation will be addressed in the discussion section.

Binomial tests were performed on each of six forced-choice items to determine which third party sex, a woman or a man, caused greater (1) moral offense, (2) likelihood of breakup, (3) jealousy, (4) anger, (5) disgust, and (6) hurt. These analyses were performed separately for participants who were classified as socially conservative and liberal. Chi squared tests were then conducted to determine whether the conservative and liberal participants were different from

each other. On each continuous measure, a 2 (political orientation: liberal and conservative) x 2 (MS condition: control and mortality salience) x 2 (third party sex: man and woman) mixed-design ANOVA was performed. Political orientation was a between-subjects variable, which was created by a median split on the item that asked participants to rate themselves on a 7-point scale of social political views (1 = extremely liberal and 7 = extremely conservative). To achieve an equal number of participants in each group ($n = 55$), participants who rated 4 and identified as Democrats were classified as liberal whereas participants who rated 4 and identified as Republicans were classified as conservative. Further, MS condition was a between-subjects variable, which was created by the MS manipulation, whereas third party sex was a within-subjects variable, which was created by using two scales: one was to rate the item when the third party was a woman and the other was to rate the item when the third party was a man. Lastly, regression analyses were conducted to determine which emotions (jealousy, anger, disgust, and hurt) would be the best predictors of the moral offense and the breakup likelihood for the liberal and conservative participants. Because multiple analyses were performed on each dependent variable (e.g., moral offense), in the following sections, the results of the analyses will be organized based on the dependent variables rather than the type of measures and analyses. Zero order correlations for continuous measures in each condition of Third Party Sex are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. *Correlations for Continuous Measures when Third Party was a Woman (N = 110)*

Variable	<i>M (SD)</i>	Moral	Breakup	Jealousy	Anger	Disgust	Hurt
Moral	7.9 (1.7)	-					
Breakup	7.9 (1.7)	.36*	-				
Jealousy	8.1 (1.5)	.38*	.27*	-			
Anger	8.3 (1.4)	.55*	.42*	.40*	-		
Disgust	7.7 (1.8)	.35*	.41*	.18	.45*	-	
Hurt	8.5 (1.3)	.43*	.41*	.33*	.75*	.31*	-
STI	5.7 (2.2)	-.02	.06	-.05	.07	.03	.09

* $p < .01$

Table 2. *Correlations for Continuous Measures when Third Party was a Man (N = 110)*

Variable	<i>M (SD)</i>	Moral	Breakup	Jealousy	Anger	Disgust	Hurt
Moral	7.4 (2.1)	-					
Breakup	8.0 (1.8)	.35*	-				
Jealousy	6.3 (2.6)	.01	.08	-			
Anger	7.7 (1.8)	.23	.25*	.41*	-		
Disgust	8.0 (1.9)	.41*	.53*	.09	.45*	-	
Hurt	7.9 (1.7)	.29*	.41*	.40*	.56*	.25*	-
STI+	6.0 (2.3)	.04	.05	-.08	.12	.07	-.01

* $p < .01$ + Sexually transmitted infection

Moral Offense

On the forced-choice item that asked participants to choose the third party sex that constituted a worse form of a moral offense, 46 out of 55 (84%) liberal participants and 37 out of 55 (67%) conservative participants indicated that it would be a worse offense for their partners to commit an infidelity with a woman than a man. Binomial tests revealed that the proportion was significantly greater than the equality (50%) for both liberals, $Z = 5.07, p < .001$, and conservatives, $Z = 2.54, p = .01$. A Pearson Chi square test showed that a greater proportion of conservative women than liberal women chose infidelity committed with a man as a worse offense than infidelity committed with a woman, $\chi^2(1, N = 110) = 3.98, p = .05$.

Next, the continuous measures were analyzed. As mentioned, two 10-point rating scales (see Appendix for wording of continuous measures and anchors) were used to rate the severity of moral offense when the infidelity involved another women or a men. These two scales were used to create as a within-subject variable because the goal was to compare which third party sex was considered worse. A 2 (political orientation: liberal and conservative) x 2 (MS condition: control and mortality salience) x 2 (third party sex: man and woman) mixed-design ANOVA showed that the main effect of third party sex was significant, $F(1, 106) = 8.55, MSE = 1.40, p = .004, \eta_p^2 = .08$, indicating that the moral offense was greater when the third party sex was a woman ($M = 7.90, SD = 1.68$) than a man ($M = 7.44, SD = 2.09$). The main effect of political orientation was also significant, $F(1, 106) = 8.07, MSE = 5.47, p = .005, \eta_p^2 = .07$, indicating that the mean rating was higher for the conservative participants ($M = 8.11, SD = 1.58$) than for the liberal participants ($M = 7.23, SD = 2.06$). The effect of MS condition was non-significant, $F(1, 106) = 1.57, MSE = 5.47, p = .21, \eta_p^2 = .02$, indicating that the MS manipulation did not produce an effect. There were no significant interaction effects: third party sex x political

orientation, $F(1, 106) = 2.41$, $MSE = 1.40$, $p = .12$, $\eta_p^2 = .02$; third party sex x MS condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.07$, $MSE = 1.40$, $p = .791$, $\eta_p^2 = .001$; political orientation x MS condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.02$, $MSE = 1.40$, $p = .89$, $\eta_p^2 = .00$; third party sex x political orientation x MS condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.37$, $MSE = 1.40$, $p = .85$, $\eta_p^2 = .00$.

A regression analysis was conducted to determine which emotions predicted the moral offense when the third party was a woman. The moral offense continuous measure for infidelities committed with women was regressed onto the predictor emotions of jealousy, anger, disgust, and hurt. For the liberal participants, the four predictor emotions explained 71.8% (reported percentages represent adjusted R^2) of the variance, $R^2 = .74$, $F(4, 50) = 35.42$, $p < .001$, and it was found that anger significantly predicted the ratings of moral offense, $\beta = .56$, $p = .01$, whereas none of the other emotions were significant (see Table 3). For the conservative women, the four predictor emotions were marginally significant, $R^2 = .16$, $F(4, 50) = 2.41$, $p = .06$, but none of the individual emotions were significant with the others held constant (see Table 3).

A regression analysis was also conducted to determine which emotions predicted the moral offense when the third party was a man. The moral offense continuous measure for infidelities committed with men was regressed onto the predictor emotions of jealousy, anger, disgust, and hurt. For the liberal participants, the four predictor emotions explained 44.3% of the variance, $R^2 = .49$, $F(4, 50) = 11.76$, $p < .001$. However, none of the individual emotions was significant (see Table 4). For the conservative participants, the four predictor emotions explained 12.1% of the variance, $R^2 = .19$, $F(4, 50) = 2.86$, $p = .03$, and disgust significantly predicted the ratings when the other emotions were held constant, $\beta = .35$, $p = .04$. None of the other emotions were significant (see Table 4).

Table 3. *Emotions Predicting Reported Moral Offense Severity when Third Party was a Woman (N= 110)*

Variable	Liberals			Conservatives		
	<i>B</i>	<i>SE B</i>	β	<i>B</i>	<i>SE B</i>	β
Jealousy	0.21	0.12	.18	0.20	0.13	.21
Anger	0.57	0.22	.56*	0.12	0.49	.06
Disgust	0.05	0.10	.06	0.25	0.22	.18
Hurt	0.14	0.18	.12	0.42	0.93	.11
R^2		.74			.16	
<i>F</i>		35.42***			2.41	

* $p < .05$. *** $p < .001$.

Table 4. *Emotions Predicting Reported Moral Offense Severity when Third Party was a Man (N = 110)*

Variable	Liberals			Conservatives		
	<i>B</i>	<i>SE B</i>	β	<i>B</i>	<i>SE B</i>	β
Jealousy	-0.13	0.16	-.14	0.03	0.09	.05
Anger	0.42	0.28	.40	- 0.35	0.22	- .29
Disgust	0.33	0.18	.34	0.60	0.29	.35*
Hurt	0.10	0.29	.08	0.36	0.18	.31
R^2		.49			.19	
<i>F</i>		11.76***			2.86*	

* $p < .05$. *** $p < .001$.

In summary, participants of both political orientations were more likely to choose infidelity committed with a woman as a worse offense than infidelity committed with a man. However, comparing between the liberal and conservative participants, the former was more

likely to choose infidelity with a man as worse than infidelity with a woman. Infidelity with a woman was also rated as a greater offense on continuous scales by both liberal and conservative participants; however, the main effect of political orientation was significant, indicating that regardless of the third party sex, the conservative participants reported higher levels of moral offense than the liberal participants. The liberal and conservative participants also showed differences in emotions. When the third party was a woman, anger predicted the ratings for the liberal participants whereas none of the emotions predicted the ratings for the conservative participants. Further, when the third party sex was a man, none of the emotions predicted the ratings for the liberal participants whereas disgust predicted the ratings for the conservative participants.

Breakup Likelihood

On the forced-choice item that asked participants to choose the third party sex that would cause the decision to breakup the relationship, 34 out of 55 (62%) liberal participants and 36 out of 55 (67%) conservative participants indicated that a breakup up is more likely when the third party was a woman than a man. Binomial tests revealed that for the liberal participants, the proportion was not significantly different from the equality, $Z = 1.79, p = .10$, whereas for the conservative participants, the proportion was significantly different from the equality, $Z = 2.24, p = .03$. Although the binomial tests showed a difference between the liberal and conservative participants, a Pearson Chi square test failed to show a significant difference between the groups, $\chi^2(1, N = 110) = 0.16, p = .69$, indicating that the responses by these two groups were similar to each other.

On the continuous measures, a 2 (political orientation: liberal and conservative) x 2 (MS condition: control and mortality salience) x 2 (third party sex: man and woman) mixed-design

ANOVA showed that the main effect of political orientation was significant, $F(1, 106) = 7.76$, $MSE = 5.17$, $p = .01$, $\eta_p^2 = .07$, indicating that the conservative participants ($M = 8.36$, $SD = 1.28$) reported a greater likelihood of breakup than the liberal participants ($M = 7.52$, $SD = 2.05$), and this effect is illustrated in Figure 1. The main effects of MS condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.002$, $MSE = 5.17$, $p = .96$, $\eta_p^2 = .00$, and third party sex, $F(1, 106) = 0.96$, $MSE = .80$, $p = .33$, $\eta_p^2 = .01$, were non-significant. There were no significant interaction effects: third party sex x political orientation, $F(1, 106) = 1.18$, $MSE = 0.80$, $p = .28$, $\eta_p^2 = .01$; third party sex x MS condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.16$, $MSE = 0.80$, $p = .69$, $\eta_p^2 = .001$; political orientation x MS condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.02$, $MSE = 1.40$, $p = .89$, $\eta_p^2 = .00$; and third party sex x political orientation x MS condition, $F(1, 106) = 1.98$, $MSE = .80$, $p = .16$, $\eta_p^2 = .02$.

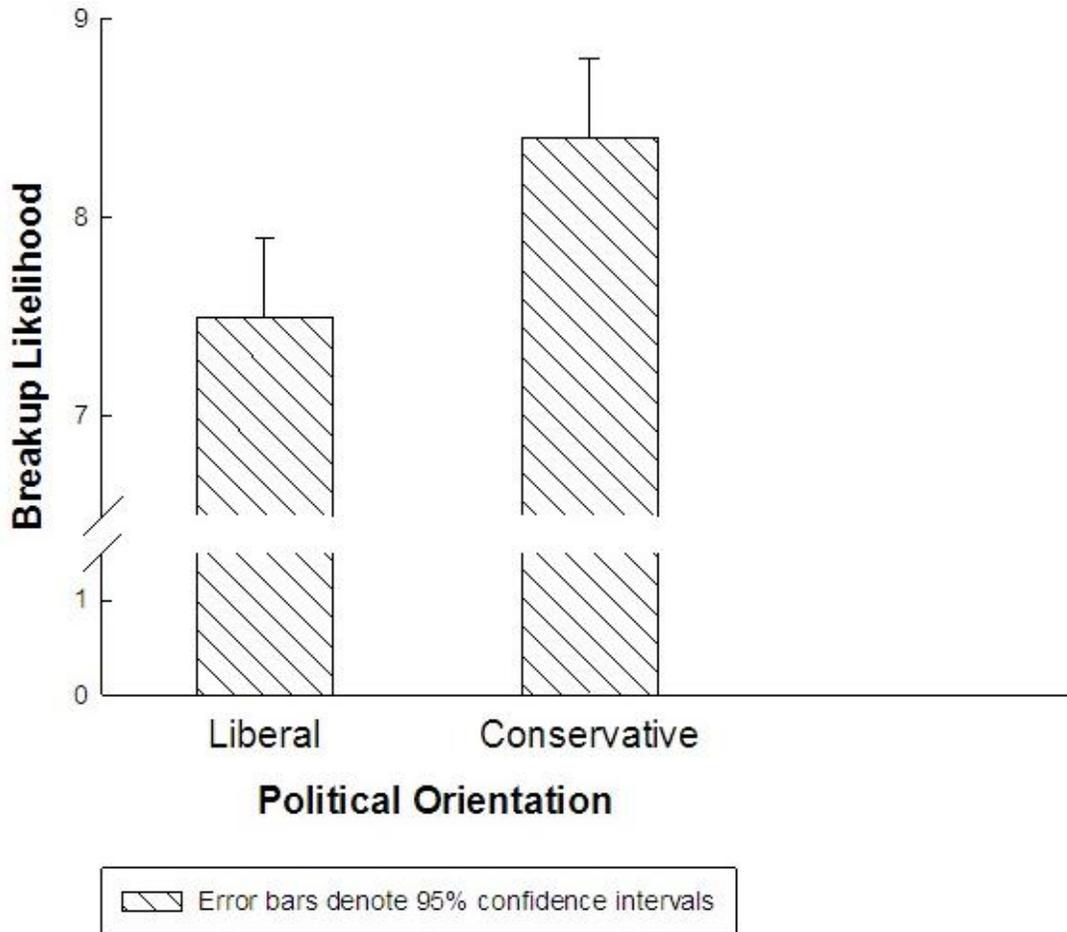


Figure 1. *Continuous Rating of Breakup Likelihood by Political Orientation.*

A regression analysis was conducted to determine which emotions, jealousy, anger, disgust, and hurt, predicted the breakup likelihood when the third party was a woman. The breakup likelihood continuous measure for infidelities committed with women was regressed onto the predictor emotions of jealousy, anger, disgust, and hurt. For the liberal participants, the four predictor emotions explained 63.2% of the variance, $R^2 = .66$, $F(4, 50) = 24.18$, $p < .001$, and it was found that jealousy, $\beta = .30$, $p = .01$, and anger $\beta = .52$, $p = .03$, were significant, whereas disgust and hurt were not (see Table 5). For the conservative participants, the four predictor emotions explained 39.8% of the variance, $R^2 = .44$, $F(4, 50) = 6.94$, $p < .001$, and it

was found that disgust was significant, $\beta = .297, p = .03$, whereas none of the other emotions were (see Table 5).

When the third sex party was a man, the results for the liberal participants indicated that the four predictor emotions explained 67.1% of the variance, $R^2 = .70, F(4, 50) = 28.54, p < .001$, and disgust was significant, $\beta = .49, p = .001$, whereas none of the other emotions were (see Table 6). The results for the conservative participants indicated that the four predictor emotions explained 59.2% of the variance, $R^2 = .62, F(4, 50) = 20.58, p < .001$, and it was found that disgust, $\beta = .62, p < .001$, and hurt, $\beta = .46, p < .001$, were significant whereas jealousy and anger were not (See Table 6).

In summary, the liberal and conservative participants were equally likely to indicate that their partners committing an infidelity with a woman would be more likely to cause a breakup than their partners committing an infidelity with a man. However, this difference was not found on continuous scales, which only revealed that the reported likelihood of breakup was higher for the conservative than for the liberal participants. The multiple regression analyses showed similarities and differences between the liberal and conservative participants. For both groups, disgust predicted the breakup likelihood when the third party sex was a man. However, for the conservative participants, disgust also predicted the breakup likelihood when the third party sex was a woman. In addition, for the liberal participants, jealousy and anger predicted the breakup likelihood when the third party sex was a woman whereas for the conservative participants, hurt predicted the breakup likelihood when the third party sex was a man.

Table 5. *Emotions Predicting Reported Breakup Likelihood when Third Party was a Woman (N=110)*

Variable	Liberals			Conservatives		
	<i>B</i>	<i>SE B</i>	β	<i>B</i>	<i>SE B</i>	β
Jealousy	0.38	0.15	.29*	-0.05	0.08	-.07
Anger	0.58	0.27	.52*	0.34	0.30	.22
Disgust	0.03	0.13	.03	0.30	0.13	.29*
Hurt	0.04	0.23	.03	0.73	0.57	.26
R^2	.66			.44		
<i>F</i>	24.18***			9.91***		

* $p < .05$. *** $p < .001$.

Table 6. *Emotions Predicting Reported Breakup Likelihood when Third Party was a Man (N=110)*

Variable	Liberals			Conservatives		
	<i>B</i>	<i>SE B</i>	β	<i>B</i>	<i>SE B</i>	β
Jealousy	-0.05	0.11	-.06*	-0.02	0.05	-.04
Anger	0.10	0.20	.10*	-0.23	0.13	-.22
Disgust	0.44	0.13	.49**	0.93	0.17	.62***
Hurt	0.37	0.21	.35	0.46	0.11	.46
R^2	.83			.79		
<i>F</i>	28.54***			20.58***		

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Jealousy

On the forced-choice item that asked participants to choose the third party sex that would cause more jealousy, 54 out of 55 (98%) liberal participants and 55 out of 55 (100%)

conservative participants responded that jealousy would be greater when their partners commit an infidelity with a woman than with a man. Binomial tests revealed that the proportion was significantly greater than the equality for the liberal participants, $z = 7.16, p < .001$, and for the conservative participants, $z = 7.46, p < .001$. A Pearson Chi square test showed that the difference between the liberals and conservative participants was non-significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 110) = 0.00, p = 1.00$.

On the continuous measures, a 2 (political orientation: liberal and conservative) x 2 (MS condition: control and mortality salience) x 2 (third party sex: man and woman) mixed-design ANOVA showed that the main effect of third party sex was significant, $F (1, 106) = 62.37, MSE = 2.85, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .37$, indicating that jealousy was reported to be greater when the third party sex was a woman ($M = 8.05, SD = 1.55$) than a man ($M = 6.25, SD = 2.57$). The main effects of MS condition, $F (1, 106) = 0.00, MSE = 6.23, p = 1.00, \eta_p^2 = .00$, and political orientation, $F (1, 106) = 0.04, MSE = 6.23, p = .83, \eta_p^2 = .00$, were non-significant. The third party sex x political orientation interaction was significant, $F (1, 106) = 4.06, MSE = 2.85, p = .05, \eta_p^2 = .04$, but tests of simple effects did not show any significant differences. No other interactions were significant: third party sex x MS condition, $F (1, 106) = 0.13, MSE = 2.85, p = .72, \eta_p^2 = .001$; political orientation x MS condition, $F (1, 106) = 0.89, MSE = 6.23, p = .35, \eta_p^2 = .01$; and third party sex x political orientation x MS condition, $F (1, 106) = 0.74, MSE = 2.85, p = .40, \eta_p^2 = .01$.

In summary, women reported much greater jealousy over infidelity when third party sex was a woman than a man.

Anger

On the forced-choice item that asked participants to choose the third sex party that would cause more anger, 45 out of 55 (82%) liberal participants and 50 out of 55 (91%) conservative participants indicated that anger would be greater when the third party sex was a woman than a man. Binomial tests revealed that for both the liberal participants, $Z = 4.78, p < .001$, and for the conservative participants, $Z = 6.12, p < .001$, the proportion was greater than the equality. A Pearson Chi square test showed that the difference between the liberal and conservative participants was non-significant, $\chi^2(1, N = 110) = 1.93, p = .16$.

On the continuous measures, a 2 (political orientation: liberal and conservative) x 2 (MS condition: control and mortality salience) x 2 (third party sex: man and woman) mixed-design ANOVA showed that the main effect of third party sex was significant, $F(1, 106) = 27.11, MSE = .80, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .206$, indicating that anger would be greater when the third party sex was a woman ($M = 8.33, SD = 1.41$) than a man ($M = 7.69, SD = 1.85$). The main effect of political orientation was also significant, $F(1, 106) = 5.35, MSE = 4.47, p = .02, \eta_p^2 = .05$, indicating that the mean rating was greater for the conservative participants ($M = 8.32, SD = 1.04$) than for the liberal participants ($M = 7.69, SD = 1.97$). The effect of MS condition was non-significant, $F(1, 106) = 1.57, MSE = 5.47, p = .21, \eta_p^2 = .02$. There were no significant interaction effects: third party sex x political orientation, $F(1, 106) = 2.43, MSE = .80, p = .62, \eta_p^2 = .002$; third party sex x MS condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.1, MSE = .80, p = .76, \eta_p^2 = .001$; political orientation x MS condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.43, MSE = 4.47, p = .51, \eta_p^2 = .004$; and third party sex x political orientation x condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.29, MSE = .80, p = .55, \eta_p^2 = .003$.

In summary, women reported greater anger over infidelity when third party sex was a woman than a man, and conservatives reported greater anger than liberals.

Disgust

On the forced-choice item that asked participants to choose the third party sex that would cause more disgust, 31 of 55 (56%) liberal participants and 39 out of 55 (71%) conservative participants indicated that disgust would be greater when the third party sex was a man than a woman. Binomial tests did not show that the proportion was significantly different from the equivalence for the liberal participants, $Z = 0.90, p = .42$; however, for the conservative participants, the proportion was significantly different from the equivalence, $Z = 3.91, p = .003$. Further, a Pearson Chi square test indicated that an infidelity with a man was more disgusting for the conservative participants than for the liberal participants, $\chi^2(1, N = 110) = 8.36, p = .004$.

On the continuous measure, a 2 (political orientation: liberal and conservative) x 2 (MS condition: control and mortality salience) x 2 (third party sex: man and woman) mixed-design ANOVA showed that the main effect of third party sex was significant, $F(1, 106) = 4.57, MSE = .793, p = .04, \eta_p^2 = .041$, indicating that disgust was greater when the third party sex was a man ($M = 7.97, SD = 1.89$) than a woman ($M = 7.72, SD = 1.75$). The main effect of political orientation was also significant, $F(1, 106) = 12.25, MSE = 5.39, p = .001, \eta_p^2 = .10$, indicating that the conservative participants ($M = 8.39, SD = 1.01$) reported higher disgust than the liberal participants ($M = 7.30, SD = 2.20$). The effect of MS condition was non-significant, $F(1, 106) = 0.26, MSE = 5.39, p = .61, \eta_p^2 = .002$. There were no significant interaction effects: third party sex x political orientation, $F(1, 106) = 0.44, MSE = 0.80, p = .51, \eta_p^2 = .004$; third party sex x MS condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.17, MSE = 0.80, p = .90, \eta_p^2 = .00$; political orientation x MS condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.15, MSE = 5.39, p = .90, \eta_p^2 = .00$; and third party sex x political orientation x MS condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.91, MSE = 0.80, p = .29, \eta_p^2 = .01$.

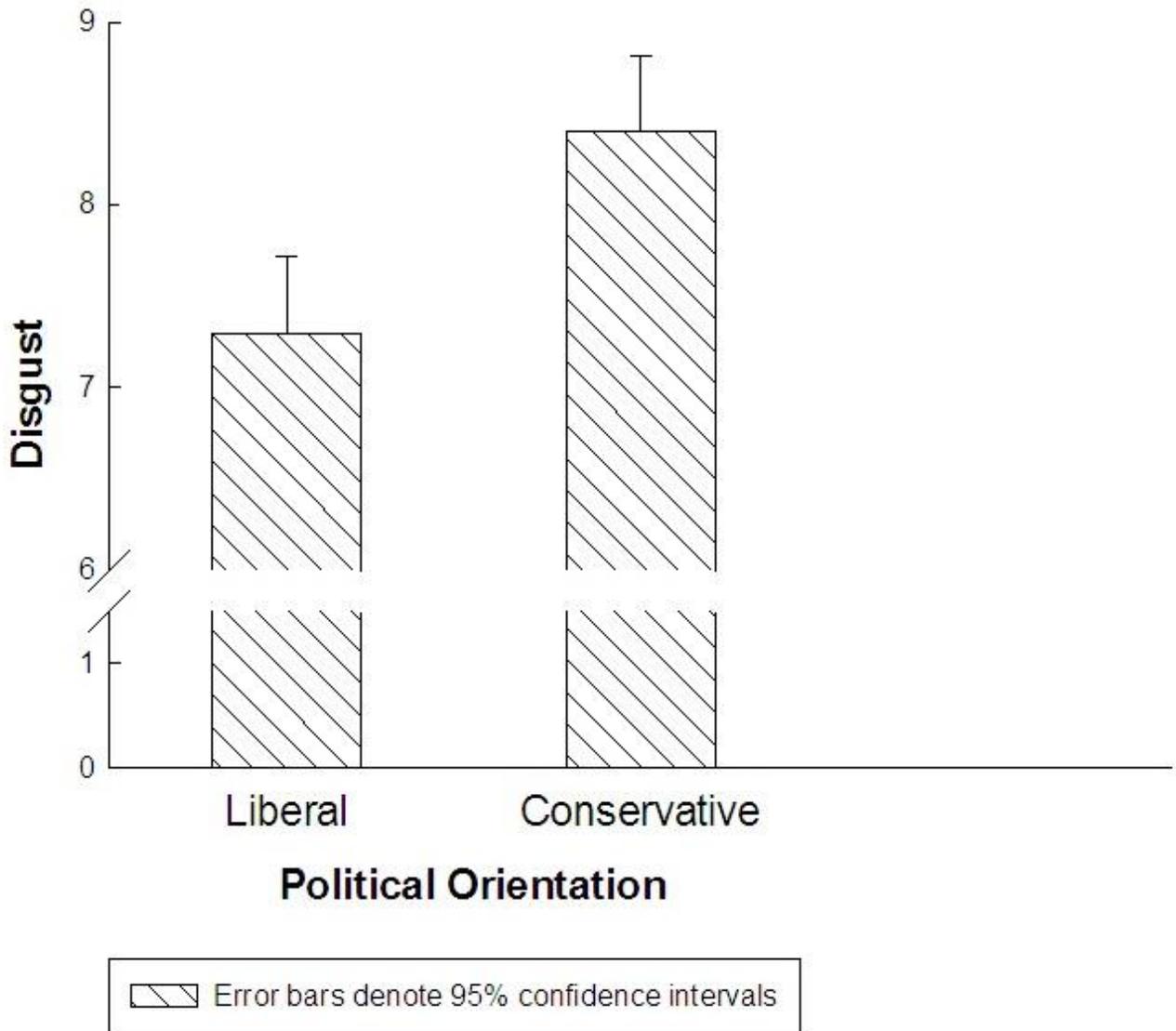


Figure 2. *Continuous Ratings of Disgust by Political Orientation.*

In summary, the disgust measure was the only dependent variable that was rated worse when the third party sex was a man than a woman for both the forced-choice and continuous measures. Further, disgust with same-sex infidelity as well as infidelity in general was greater for the conservative participants than for liberal participants, giving credence to the notion that disgust sensitivity leads to higher moral offenses and higher likelihood of breakup decisions with unfaithful partners.

Hurt

On the forced-choice item that asked participants to choose the third party sex that would cause more hurt, 45 out of 55 (82%) liberal participants and 50 out of 55 (91%) conservative participants indicated that hurt would be greater when third party sex was a woman than a man. Binomial tests revealed that significant differences from chance for liberals, $Z = 4.78, p < .001$, and for conservatives, $Z = 6.12, p < .001$. A Pearson Chi square test showed that the difference between liberals and conservatives was non-significant, $\chi^2(1, N = 110) = 1.93, p = .16$.

On the continuous measures, a 2 (political orientation: liberal and conservative) x 2 (MS condition: control and mortality salience) x 2 (third party sex: man and woman) mixed-design ANOVA showed that the main effect of third party sex was significant, $F(1, 106) = 17.24, MSE = 0.98, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .14$, indicating that hurt was greater when the third party was a woman ($M = 8.47, SD = 1.35$) than a man ($M = 7.93, SD = 1.74$). The main effect of political orientation was also significant, $F(1, 106) = 6.78, MSE = 3.66, p = .01, \eta_p^2 = .06$, indicating that the mean rating was higher for the conservative participants ($M = 8.51, SD = 0.97$) than for the liberal participants ($M = 7.88, SD = 1.89$). The main effect of MS condition was non-significant, $F(1, 106) = 2.74, MSE = 3.66, p = .10, \eta_p^2 = .03$. There were no significant interaction effects: third party sex x political orientation, $F(1, 106) = 1.44, MSE = 0.98, p = .51, \eta_p^2 = .01$; third party sex x condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.77, MSE = 0.98, p = .38, \eta_p^2 = .01$; political orientation x MS condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.92, MSE = 3.66, p = .34, \eta_p^2 = .01$; and third party sex x political orientation x MS condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.01, MSE = 0.98, p = .93, \eta_p^2 = .00$.

In summary, women reported greater hurt over infidelity when third party sex was a woman than a man, and conservatives reported feeling more hurt than liberals.

STD Likelihood

Participants rated how likely their partners would be to contract sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) from the infidelity on two scales: one, when the third party sex was a woman, and two, when the third party sex was a man. A 2 (political orientation: liberal and conservative) x 2 (MS condition: control and mortality salience) x 2 (third party sex: man and woman) mixed-design ANOVA showed that the main effect of third party sex was significant, $F(1, 106) = 4.91$, $MSE = 0.60$, $p = .03$, $\eta_p^2 = .05$, indicating that participants rated the likelihood higher when the third party sex was a man ($M = 5.95$, $SD = 2.29$) than a woman ($M = 5.72$, $SD = 2.24$). The main effect of political orientation was also significant, $F(1, 106) = 4.17$, $MSE = 9.53$, $p = .04$, $\eta_p^2 = .04$, indicating that the mean rating was higher for the conservative participants ($M = 6.25$, $SD = 2.07$) than for the liberal participants ($M = 5.41$, $SD = 2.41$). The effect of condition was not significant, $F(1, 106) = 0.07$, $MSE = 9.53$, $p = .79$, $\eta_p^2 = .001$. There were no significant interaction effects: third party sex x political orientation, $F(1, 106) = 1.26$, $MSE = 0.59$, $p = .26$, $\eta_p^2 = .01$; third party sex x condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.36$, $MSE = 0.59$, $p = .55$, $\eta_p^2 = .003$; political orientation x condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.64$, $MSE = 9.53$, $p = .42$, $\eta_p^2 = .01$; and third party sex x political orientation x condition, $F(1, 106) = 0.01$, $MSE = 0.59$, $p = .91$, $\eta_p^2 = .00$.

In summary, women thought infidelity was more likely to result in their partner contracting an STI when third party sex was a man, and conservatives thought STIs were a more likely occurrence than liberals. A summary of key findings for all dependent measures is presented in Table 7.

Table 7. *Summary of Findings for each Domain of Dependent Measures*

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Key Findings</i>
Moral Offense	Judgments by conservatives were more severe in general Judgments by conservatives were more severe for same-sex infidelity Judgments of same-sex infidelity by conservatives predicted by disgust
Breakup	More likely when participant is conservative Predicted by disgust in conservatives regardless of third party sex Predicted by different emotions in liberals depending on third party sex
Jealousy	Higher when third party sex was a woman
Anger	Higher when third party sex was a woman Higher in conservatives
Disgust	Only emotion to be stronger when third party sex was a man Higher in conservatives, especially for same-sex infidelity
Hurt	Higher when third party sex was a woman Higher in conservatives
STI	Rated as more likely to occur in same-sex infidelities Rated as more likely by conservatives

CHAPTER IV

DISCUSSION

The purpose of the present study was to reconcile the results of two previous studies examining the responses of heterosexual women to a partner's sexual infidelity committed either with a man or with a woman. The two studies were inconsistent because one found that women reported a greater likelihood of breaking up with a partner over a homosexual affair (Confer & Cloud, 2011) whereas the other study found no difference in breakup likelihood based on the sex of the third party while simultaneously finding more severe moral judgments and higher levels of jealousy and hurt in response to a heterosexual affair (Franks & Otani, 2012). In the present study, it was hypothesized that the participants in Confer and Cloud (2011) may have been high in disgust sensitivity, which lead to bias against gay men, because these participants were high in social conservativeness and/or were exposed to a MS manipulation.

It was hypothesized that the moral, behavioral, and emotional reactions of heterosexual women would become more negative towards same-sex infidelity in comparison to opposite-sex infidelity based on two factors: political orientation of the participant and whether the participant was exposed to a MS manipulation. Specifically, reactions to same-sex sexual infidelity would be more negative when participants were conservative rather than liberal and when participants were exposed to a MS manipulation rather than a control manipulation. These predictions were based on the notion that negative reactions toward sexual infidelity, particularly homosexual infidelity, stem from a feeling of disgust. Studies have shown that disgust sensitivity is higher among individuals with conservative political ideology (e.g., Inbar, et al.,2009). Further, it was found that a MS manipulation increases disgust sensitivity. The present results did not support the latter prediction; the MS manipulation did not produce any

effect on both forced-choice and continuous measures. The reason for the failure will be discussed later. In contrast, the effect of political orientation was present in almost all measures. The results showed that conservative participants reacted more negatively than liberal participants to both types of sexual infidelity on five out of seven continuous dependent measures: moral offense, breakup likelihood, disgust, hurt, and perceived risk of sexually transmitted infection (STI) from an unfaithful partner. No difference was found for jealousy or anger. Further, on forced-choice measures, conservative participants were more likely to indicate that they take greater moral offense and feel greater disgust in response to same-sex infidelity relative to opposite-sex infidelity.

The relationship between disgust, political conservatism, and stigmatization of homosexuality was also supported by regression analyses that showed that higher levels of reported disgust predicted higher degrees of moral offense and breakup likelihood for conservative participants when infidelity was with another man. Disgust was a significant predictor of breakup likelihood for both conservative and liberal participants; however, for conservative participants disgust was significant regardless of the sex of the third party infidelity and for liberal participants disgust was significant when third party sex was man.

Third party sex produced significant main effects for every continuous dependent measure except for breakup likelihood. Participants indicated greater moral offense, jealousy, anger, and hurt in response to infidelity involving another woman. However, participants indicated higher disgust and perceived risk of STI when the third party sex was man. The positive correlation between disgust and perceived STI risk is consistent with the view that stigmatization of male homosexuality is motivated, in part, by contamination concerns.

Avoidance of an unfaithful boyfriend after a homosexual encounter is a behavioral immune response to a perceived pathogen risk.

Although none of the continuous dependent measure showed a significant third party sex x political orientation interaction effect, the pattern of results suggests that both third party sex and political orientation are important factors in breakup intention. Conservative participants, previously shown to be high in disgust sensitivity, were more likely than liberal participants to indicate that a same-sex infidelity was more disgusting and more likely to precipitate a breakup than an opposite-sex infidelity. Disgust was most powerful emotional predictor of breakup likelihood for both conservative and liberal participants; however, for conservative participants, disgust predicted breakup likelihood for both orientations of infidelity and for liberal participants disgust predicted breakup likelihood for same-sex infidelity. Contamination-related concerns could lead to this stigmatization because STI concern was higher when the third party sex was man than woman. Based on these results, it is plausible that the sample in Confer and Cloud (2011) was more conservative and had higher disgust sensitivity than the sample in Franks and Otani (2012), and that these differences resulted in the former sample being more prone to breakup with an unfaithful partner who had committed a same-sex infidelity.

It is important to note that the results were correlational in nature because political orientation is an existing variable. As such, other variables that were not measured may be responsible for the difference in reactions between the conservative and liberal participants. As mentioned, the MS manipulation did not show any effects, including the MS condition x political orientation interaction effect, indicating that the cause and effect relationship between disgust and increased negative reactions toward same-sex infidelity could not be determined. Further studies will be needed to confirm that there is a causal relationship.

It is also important to note that Franks and Otani (2011, 2012) showed that women report very high likelihood of ending a relationship no matter the type (sexual or emotional) or orientation (same-sex or opposite sex) of the infidelity. For practical purposes, one should simply assume that any type of cheating will cause the average woman to end a relationship, pass severe moral judgment on her partner, and feel a battery of strong, negative emotions.

Future research should examine how emotional reactions predict other behavioral reactions to infidelity. In this study, disgust rather than jealousy was the most consistent predictor of breakup likelihood. However, would the same be true for aggression against one's romantic rival or mate guarding behaviors?

Finally, the MS manipulation did not produce any significant main or interaction effects. It is possible that the failure is based on the way MS was manipulated in this study; instead of using the standard two open-ended questions, MS was manipulated using the "Fear of Death" scale. However, using the "Fear of Death" scale, Franks and Otani (2011) were successful in producing the MS effect. It is also possible that the MS manipulation did not work because the study was conducted online. The author is not aware of any previously published studies that manipulated MS online. Perhaps, uncontrolled environmental distractions (e.g., other open web pages, music, conversations with friends or roommates) may have eliminated the effect of the MS manipulation. It is also possible that the MS effect was masked by unanalyzed variables. As stated in the introduction, reactions to hypothetical infidelity may also be related to the relationship status or real life infidelity history of the participant. Mortality salience may interact with these variables, and therefore, future studies will need to include these variables.

In conclusion, this study provided another example of how liberals and conservatives differ in the weight that they assign to purity concerns in performing intuitive moral calculus.

Furthermore, the present study indicated that both disgust and STI concerns are important variables to consider when predicting the reactions toward infidelity involving two men. This finding suggests that contamination stigma may partially mediate the relationship between degree of political conservatism and disgust based bias against male homosexuality.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

POLITICAL ORIENTATION QUESTIONS

1. When it comes to politics, do you usually think of yourself as liberal, moderate, or conservative?

- Very Liberal
- Liberal
- Slightly Liberal
- Moderate
- Slightly Conservative
- Conservative
- Very Conservative

2. In general, how liberal or conservative are you on social issues?

- Very Liberal
- Liberal
- Slightly Liberal
- Moderate
- Slightly Conservative
- Conservative
- Very Conservative

3. In general, how liberal or conservative are you on economic issues?

- Very Liberal
- Liberal
- Slightly Liberal
- Moderate
- Slightly Conservative
- Conservative
- Very Conservative

4. Please indicate all of the following political parties and movements with which you identify.

- Republican Party
- Democratic Party
- Tea Party
- Occupy Wall Street
- Libertarian Party
- Green Party

5. How much interest do you have in politics and public policy?

- Completely Uninterested
- Uninterested
- Somewhat Interested
- Interested
- Very Interested

APPENDIX B

FEAR OF DEATH SCALE (MS MANIPULATION)

1. I am very much afraid to die.
2. The thought of death seldom enters my mind.
3. The thought of death never bothers me.
4. I am often distressed by the way time flies so rapidly.
5. I fear dying a painful death.
6. The subject of life after death troubles me.
7. I often think about how short life really is.
8. The sight of a dead body is horrifying to me.
9. I feel the future holds nothing for me to fear.
10. I worry about what will happen to me when I die.
11. I am very much afraid of perpetual torture after death.
12. Death is a dark, scary, lonely thing.
13. I have nightmares about dying.
14. The idea of reincarnation frightens me.
15. When I think about death, I can't go to sleep
16. I am troubled about the purpose of life.
17. The thought of no longer existing disturbs me.
18. It bothers me that I may die before accomplishing everything I wish to accomplish.
19. I hate the thought of dying alone.

- Participants responded to all items on a four point scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree).

APPENDIX C

FEAR OF FAILURE SCALE (CONTROL MANIPULATION)

1. I am very much afraid of failure.
2. The thought of failure seldom enters my mind.
3. The thought of failure never bothers me.
4. I am often distressed by time constraints that make tasks more difficult.
5. I fear public humiliation.
6. The consequences of failure trouble me deeply.
7. I often think about how the challenges in my future could overwhelm me.
8. Witnessing someone else's public failure is horrifying to me.
9. I feel the future holds no challenges I cannot overcome.
10. When I try something new, I worry I will not succeed.
11. I am very much afraid of repeated failure.
12. Shame is a scary, lonely thing.
13. I have nightmares about public embarrassment.
14. The idea of that I might screw up something important frightens me.
15. When I think about everything I have to do the next day, I have trouble sleeping.
16. I am troubled about the possibility of failing at important pursuits.
17. The thought of not succeeding disturbs me.
18. It bothers me that I may be unable to accomplish an important goal.
19. I hate not knowing if I have the ability to achieve my goals.

- Participants responded to all items on a four point scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree).

APPENDIX D

DISTRACTOR TASK

1. Check any of the following numbers that can be divided by 3. Please spend AT LEAST 2 but NO MORE THAN 3 MINUTES on this task before continuing.

- 8
- 9
- 11
- 15
- 23
- 39
- 71
- 100
- 102
- 105
- 109
- 308
- 309
- 311
- 315
- 3000

APPENDIX E

INFIDELITY SCENARIO

You have been in a committed relationship with your partner for over a year, but the two of you now attend college in separate states. You don't get to see each other as often as you'd like. This past weekend, you were supposed to travel several hours to escort your partner to an important social engagement. Last minute work obligations prevented you from attending.

Today, your partner called you and admitted to drinking heavily at the social event and having sex with a person they had met that night. Your partner was feeling sad and vulnerable because you were not there but doesn't blame you for being absent. Your partner promises that it was a onetime thing and asks for your forgiveness.

APPENDIX F

FORCED-CHOICE DEPENDENT MEASURES

1. You would feel that your partner has committed a worse offense against you if the person your partner had sex with was...
2. You would be more likely to break up with your partner if the person your partner had sex with was...
3. You would feel more JEALOUSY if your partner cheated on you with...
4. You would feel more ANGER if your partner cheated on you with...
5. You would feel more DISGUST if your partner cheated on you with...
6. You would feel more HURT if your partner cheated on you with...

- Choices for each item were ,(1) A Woman or (2) A Man

APPENDIX G

CONTINUOUS SCALE DEPENDENT MEASURES

1. How bad of an offense did your partner commit by having sex with...
Not at All Worst Possible
an Offense Offense

A Woman? (0-9)
A Man? (0-9)

2. How likely are you to end the relationship if your partner had sex with...
Not at All 100%
Likely Likely

A Woman? (0-9)
A Man? (0-9)

3. How much JEALOUSY would you feel if your partner cheated on you with...
None Maximum Amount

A Woman? (0-9)
A Man? (0-9)

4. How much ANGER would you feel if your partner cheated on you with...
None Maximum Amount

A Woman? (0-9)
A Man? (0-9)

5. How much DISGUST would you feel if your partner cheated on you with...
None Maximum Amount

A Woman? (0-9)
A Man? (0-9)

6. How much HURT would you feel if your partner cheated on you with...
None Maximum Amount

A Woman? (0-9)
A Man? (0-9)

7. How likely do you think it is that your partner contracted a sexually transmitted disease by cheating on you with...

Not at All

100%

Likely

Likely

A Woman? (0-9)

A Man? (0-9)

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