

No Sex Please, We're Women

November 1, 2011 By [Ronete Cohen \(Psychologist & Columnist\)](#) [Leave a Comment](#)



[+](#)
Bookmark

(Credit Image: Della Calfee) Titled "Ass Like That"

It is a well-known fact that, when it comes to sex, men and women are very different. Or are they? *Sai Gaddam* claims to have proven that in his large-scale study, and he's a neuroscientist. If you ask him, he'll tell you that "To appeal to a man, whether straight or gay, it's enough to entice his body with visual images. To appeal to a woman, you have to speak to her mind and seek approval from it." He explains homosexuality, bisexuality and transsexuality as a result of male and female sexual software being swapped around. Incidentally, he also believes that gay men have larger penises than straight men. I'm not the only one who is gobsmacked by how he presents theory as fact and uses selective data to back what he already believes. And just in case you were curious (I was, so I checked), the penis size one is based on very old data where men were asked how big their penises were, and we all know men never lie about that!

More recently, a team from the University of Michigan took a critical look at research on which we base much of what we think we know about sexuality and gender. In their paper "Women, Men, and the Bedroom: Methodological and Conceptual Insights That Narrow, Reframe, and Eliminate Gender Differences

[✉ Contact Us](#)


[💬 Join Chat](#)

we do like sex after all and we're not just shopping for good genes for our children. Who would have thought? You know the one about men wanting a partner who is sexy and women a partner with status? Not true. And the one about women wanting and having fewer sexual partners than men? A close look at the numbers from previous research showed that there is no difference in the *desired* number of partners. And what about the *actual* number of sexual partners? Well, any differences disappeared when the men and women were connected to a (fake) lie detector and were therefore forced to tell the truth. So, no gender differences in sexual appetites either. But surely men think about sex more often than women do? Well, when men were asked to think about sex, food and sleep, they did think about *all three* more than women did. So it's not sex, it's simply that men are more attentive to their own needs. Okay, then what about all the stuff we keep hearing about women having orgasms less frequently than men? Well, it depends. If their partner knows what he/she is doing, the difference disappears. And, finally, is it true that women like casual sex less than men do? Turns out that if the person offering is attractive and known to be good in bed, plus there's no danger of being stigmatised for sleeping around (because we all know that a woman who sleeps with someone who turns her on is a total slut...), then a woman is just as likely to say yes as a man is.

Just because we're women (and, yes, feel free to count me in on this one) doesn't mean we can't like sex just as much as the next guy. What's wrong with that? We can like all kinds of sex: loving, rough, smooth, casual, committed, anonymous, poly and more. We can even like porn. It has been known to happen, you know. There's loads of really hot straight, bi and (real) lesbian porn out there, and the worst kept secret in the world is that many women (including lesbians) love gay porn too. Women have really kinky fantasies too, ones they would rather not talk about. I once did a small-scale anonymous survey of fantasies among lesbian and bisexual women and what they wrote about was no different from the stuff that men get off on. Yes, even the extreme stuff. In the privacy of our own minds, we can get turned on by everything that you'd think shouldn't turn us on. And that's great.

There's a wonderful exhibition this month in San Francisco, called [Man as Object – Reversing the Gaze](#). It presents images of masculinity from female/feminist and transgender perspectives. Instead of fulfilling the traditional role of being the passive object of men's gaze, the women take on an active role, gazing on men, often lustfully (see Della Calfee's *Ass Like That*, shown above). They're not afraid to objectify men, like women do when they're turned on, when they're narrowing their focus on everything that is sexual about a man. Sex for women isn't just about pure emotion and romance. It's also about pure sex. And pure sex is about the body and lust and touch and smell and not behaving like a lady. Who invented ladies in the first place anyway? Trying to make us conform to these preconceived ideas that we don't actually like sex that much and that we're just going through the motions on our way to the fairytale romance stuff disempowers and devalues women who sleep with men. But also, if you believe that, then what are women who sleep with women all about? No wonder the myth of the inevitability of Lesbian Bed Death is such a stubborn one. Because, with no man around, how can women maintain an interest in sex when they aren't really sexual beings? Maybe we should all remember that the next time we dismiss a woman for "pretending to be bi to turn on her boyfriend". She could well be turning on her boyfriend, but maybe because seeing him helplessly turned on turns her on? Or maybe it really does turn her on? We should give her credit for being a sexual being in charge of her own pleasure.

You'd think that by 2011 people would have figured out that women like sex, get turned on by male and/or female and/or trans bodies, feel pure lust, masturbate, and even enjoy porn. Unfortunately, most have yet to learn that, but that doesn't mean that we should take the slightest bit of notice of what they say. No one knows us better than we know ourselves. We are sexual beings and there's absolutely nothing wrong with that. As Woody Allen once said, it's the best fun you can have without laughing. But if you enjoy laughing

 [Contact Us](#)

 [Join Chat](#)

Filed Under: [Bi Life with Ronete Cohen](#), [Columnists](#) Tagged With: [Bedroom: Methodological and Conceptual Insights That Narrow](#), [bi life](#), [Bi Life with Ronete Cohen](#), [bisexual](#), [bisexuality](#), [Della Calfee](#), [Eliminate Gender Differences in Sexuality](#), [gay](#), [gender](#), [homosexuality](#), [lesbian](#), [Man as Object - Reversing the Gaze](#), [men](#), [Reframe](#), [sex](#), [sexuality health](#), [trans](#), [transsexual](#), [transsexuality](#), [University of Michigan](#), [women](#)



About Ronete Cohen (Psychologist & Columnist)

Ronete Cohen MA is an experienced psychologist with a BA and MA in Psychology, and further training in Intensive Experiential Dynamic Psychotherapy and Short-Term Dynamic Psychotherapy / Affect Phobia Therapy. Her practice the [Rainbow Couch](#) provides face-to-face and online psychotherapy. She is a member of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) and the Dutch Institute of Psychologists (NIP).