

Experimental analyses of mental contamination: Manipulations of aspects of immorality
audio recording scripts

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Radomsky & Elliott (2009)).

Consensual Moral Condition

Narrator: Please take a moment to make yourself comfortable in your chair. Close your eyes, relax, and take a few slow deep breaths. Slowly breathe in and out. As you exhale, allow yourself to become more and more relaxed. As I describe the scenario to you, try to imagine it as clearly and in as much detail as you are able to. I will describe slowly so that you have time to fully picture it in your mind. Try to imagine that you are the woman in the scenario and that the events I am describing are happening right now. Try not to picture yourself in the scene. Instead, try to imagine you are seeing it through your own eyes. You are at a party.

[Background music and conversation murmur sounds begin].

It is a big party and there are at least 100 people there, including some of your friends.

You've come with a girlfriend who knows the host.

[Background sounds fade out].

Friend: This is going to be fun! She always throws the best parties!

[Background sounds return].

Narrator: In fact, it is a house party and you are having fun. The music is pretty loud and some people are dancing in the living room. The lights are low everywhere except in the kitchen. Around 11 o'clock, you end up alone in the hallway with a guy you met earlier in the evening.

Man: Hey. I remember you.

Narrator: You are leaning against the wall and he is standing in front of you as you both make conversation. You have never seen him before tonight, and you think he is really cute. You're having a bit of trouble concentrating on the conversation because

you're thinking of what it would be like to kiss him.

Then you realize that although you have never met this guy before, you have heard about him from some of your friends. In fact, on your way to the party tonight, the friend you came with said to you [Background sounds fade out]

Friend: There may be a guy here tonight that I hope you meet. Apparently, he's really nice, a really great guy. He never tries to pick up girls with cheap pick-up lines or made-up stories, and he never spreads rumours about his experiences with girls. He's the type of guy who would go out of his way to help other people no matter what their race is or how old they are, like helping an elderly person cross the street and then carry their groceries home for them. In fact, a friend told me that he volunteers at a homeless shelter and I think he sometimes stays home on the weekend to look after his sick mom. One time my cousin's wallet fell out of his pocket on the bus. He was sitting next to this guy who returned it to my cousin with the money still inside. He just sounds like a wonderful person.

[Background sounds return]

Narrator: As he's talking to you, you notice that he appears normal and clean-cut, and you think about how he seems to have a strong moral conscience as he never lies, cheats or steals and genuinely cares about people.

Gradually you and he move closer to each other. You start to get the feeling he would like to kiss you too. There is a brief pause in conversation and he leans towards you and begins to kiss you on the mouth. You return his kiss and your bodies press together. As he holds you in his arms, your back presses against the wall. It feels nice to have his mouth against yours and you notice what a good kisser he is. This is exactly the kiss you

wanted to share with him. You continue to kiss until someone else comes down the hallway and he stops kissing you.

[Background sounds fade out].

Before he walks away he turns to you and says

Male: That was nice. Come find me later.

Narrator: The person coming down the hallway turns out to be your friend and she asks you

Friend: How did you end up kissing that guy?

[Pause in recording]

Narrator: Please take off the headphones and complete the questionnaire inside of the envelope.

Consensual Immoral Condition

Narrator: Please take a moment to make yourself comfortable in your chair. Close your eyes, relax, and take a few slow deep breaths. Slowly breathe in and out. As you exhale, allow yourself to become more and more relaxed. As I describe the scenario to you, try to imagine it as clearly and in as much detail as you are able to. I will describe slowly so that you have time to fully picture it in your mind. Try to imagine that you are the woman in the scenario and that the events I am describing are happening right now. Try not to picture yourself in the scene. Instead, try to imagine you are seeing it through your own eyes. You are at a party.

[Background music and conversation murmur sounds begin].

It is a big party and there are at least 100 people there, including some of your friends.

You've come with a girlfriend who knows the host.

[Background sounds fade out].

Friend: This is going to be fun! She always throws the best parties!

[Background sounds return].

Narrator: In fact, it is a house party and you are having fun. The music is pretty loud and some people are dancing in the living room. The lights are low everywhere except in the kitchen. Around 11 o'clock, you end up alone in the hallway with a guy you met earlier in the evening.

Man: Hey. I remember you.

Narrator: You are leaning against the wall and he is standing in front of you as you both make conversation. You have never seen him before tonight, and you think he is really cute. You're having a bit of trouble concentrating on the conversation because

you're thinking of what it would be like to kiss him.

Then you realize that although you have never met this guy before, you have heard about him from some of your friends. In fact, on your way to the party tonight, the friend you came with said to you

[Background sounds fade out]

Friend: There may be a guy here tonight that I hope you don't meet. Apparently, he's really weird and a major jerk. He tries to pick up every girl he sees with cheap pick-up lines or made-up stories, and he spreads rumours that he has slept with girls he has never even met. He's the type of guy who would go out of his way to hurt other people, especially people of a different race. I heard a few times that he's tried to take advantage of girls while they were drunk and I think he has recently been spending a lot of time around underage girls. One time my cousin's wallet fell out of his pocket on the bus. He was sitting next to this guy who returned it to my cousin but stole the money out first. He just sounds like a horrible person.

[Background sounds return]

Narrator: As he's talking to you, you notice that he appears normal and clean-cut, but you think about how he doesn't seem to have any moral conscience; he lies, cheats and steals without any remorse and he doesn't care about other people.

Gradually you and he move closer to each other. You start to get the feeling he would like to kiss you too. There is a brief pause in conversation and he leans towards you and begins to kiss you on the mouth. You return his kiss and your bodies press together. As he holds you in his arms, your back presses against the wall. It feels nice to have his mouth against yours and you notice what a good kisser he is. This is exactly the kiss you

wanted to share with him. You continue to kiss until someone else comes down the hallway and he stops kissing you.

[Background sounds fade out].

Before he walks away he turns to you and says

Male: That was nice. Come find me later.

Narrator: The person coming down the hallway turns out to be your friend and she asks you

Friend: How did you end up kissing that guy?

[Pause in recording]

Narrator: Please take off the headphones and complete the questionnaire inside of the envelope.

Non-consensual Moral Condition

Narrator: Please take a moment to make yourself comfortable in your chair. Close your eyes, relax, and take a few slow deep breaths. Slowly breathe in and out. As you exhale, allow yourself to become more and more relaxed. As I describe the scenario to you, try to imagine it as clearly and in as much detail as you are able to. I will describe slowly so that you have time to fully picture it in your mind. Try to imagine that you are the woman in the scenario and that the events I am describing are happening right now. Try not to picture yourself in the scene. Instead, try to imagine you are seeing it through your own eyes. You are at a party.

[Background music and conversation murmur sounds begin].

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You've come with a girlfriend who knows the host.

[Background sounds fade out].

Friend: This is going to be fun! She always throws the best parties!

[Background sounds return].

Narrator: In fact, it is a house party and you are having fun. The music is pretty loud and some people are dancing in the living room. The lights are low everywhere except in the kitchen. Around 11 o'clock, you end up alone in the hallway with a guy you met earlier in the evening.

Man: Hey. I remember you.

Narrator: You are leaning against the wall and he is standing in front of you as you both make conversation. You have never seen him before tonight, and you think he is really cute. You're having a bit of trouble concentrating on the conversation because

you're thinking that, even though he's cute, you're not that interested in him.

Then you realize that although you have never met this guy before, you have heard about him from some of your friends. In fact, on your way to the party tonight, the friend you came with said to you

[Background sounds fade out]

Friend: There may be a guy here tonight that I hope you meet. Apparently, he's really nice, a really great guy. He never tries to pick up girls with cheap pick-up lines or made-up stories, and he never spreads rumours about his experiences with girls. He's the type of guy who would go out of his way to help other people no matter what their race is or how old they are, like helping an elderly person cross the street and then carry their groceries home for them. In fact, a friend told me that he volunteers at a homeless shelter and I think he sometimes stays home on the weekend to look after his sick mom. One time my cousin's wallet fell out of his pocket on the bus. He was sitting next to this guy who returned it to my cousin with the money still inside. He just sounds like a wonderful person.

[Background sounds return]

Narrator: As he's talking to you, you notice that he appears normal and clean-cut, and you think about how he seems to have a strong moral conscience as he never lies, cheats or steals and genuinely cares about people.

Gradually he moves closer to you. You get the feeling he would like to kiss you. You are not interested in him sexually, so you begin to walk away. But he grabs you and begins to kiss you on the mouth. You try to push him away, but are unable to and he presses his body against yours.

As he restrains you with his hands and arms, your back presses against the wall. You feel his tongue press against your tongue and move to the back corners of your mouth. You do not want this kiss to happen. He continues to kiss you aggressively, but you cannot push him off you. Eventually someone else comes down the hallway, and he stops forcefully kissing you and releases you from his grip.

[Background sounds fade out].

Before he walks away he turns to you and says

Male: That was nice. I'm going to find you later.

Narrator: The person coming down the hallway turns out to be your friend and she asks you

Friend: How did you end up kissing that guy?

[Pause in recording]

Narrator: Please take off the headphones and complete the questionnaire inside of the envelope.

Non-consensual Immoral Condition

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Friend: There may be a guy here tonight that I hope you don't meet. Apparently, he's really weird and a major jerk. He tries to pick up every girl he sees with cheap pick-up lines or made-up stories, and he spreads rumours that he has slept with girls he has never even met. He's the type of guy who would go out of his way to hurt other people, especially people of a different race. I heard a few times that he's tried to take advantage of girls while they were drunk and I think he has recently been spending a lot of time around underage girls. One time my cousin's wallet fell out of his pocket on the bus. He was sitting next to this guy who returned it to my cousin but stole the money out first. He just sounds like a horrible person.

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[Pause in recording]

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