

## **The Cambridge Handbook of Evolutionary Perspectives on Sexual Psychology**

### **Volume 2: Male Sexual Adaptations**

The interface of sexual behavior and evolutionary psychology is a rapidly growing domain, rich in psychological theories and data, as well as controversies and applications. With nearly eighty chapters by leading researchers from around the world, and combining theoretical and empirical perspectives, *The Cambridge Handbook of Evolutionary Perspectives on Sexual Psychology* is the most comprehensive and up-to-date reference work in the field. Providing a broad yet in-depth overview of the various evolutionary principles that influence all types of sexual behaviors, the handbook takes an inclusive approach that draws on a number of disciplines and covers nonhuman and human psychology. It is an essential resource for both established researchers and students in psychology, biology, anthropology, medicine, and criminology, among other fields. *Volume 2: Male Sexual Adaptations* addresses theory and research focused on sexual adaptations in human males.

TODD K. SHACKELFORD is Distinguished Professor and Chair in the Department of Psychology and Director of the Center for Evolutionary Psychological Science at Oakland University in Michigan, USA.

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Edited by Todd K. Shackelford  
Frontmatter  
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## **Volume 2: Male Sexual Adaptations**

Edited by

**Todd K. Shackelford**

Oakland University, Michigan



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## Preface

A few previous handbooks have addressed the interface of sexual behavior and evolutionary psychology, but none have been as comprehensive as *The Cambridge Handbook of Evolutionary Perspectives on Sexual Psychology*. These previous handbooks focused on the links between sexual psychology and behavior within a single domain of the evolutionary psychological literature, such as the *Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Perspectives on Violence, Homicide, and War* (published in 2012, edited by Shackelford and Weekes-Shackelford) and the *Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Family Psychology* (published in 2011, edited by Salmon and Shackelford). Weekes-Shackelford and Shackelford about a decade ago co-edited *Evolutionary Perspectives on Human Sexual Psychology and Behavior* (2012, published by Springer Nature). In addition to being somewhat outdated, that volume focused on humans, whereas the current volume includes work on nonhumans. Furthermore, the Weekes-Shackelford and Shackelford volume included just twenty chapters in a single volume, whereas the current volume boasts nearly eighty chapters across four volumes and, therefore, is more comprehensive.

The *Cambridge Handbook of Evolutionary Perspectives on Sexual Psychology* comprises four volumes of around twenty chapters each. Chapters in *Volume 1: Foundations* address foundational theories and methodological approaches. Chapters in *Volume 2: Male Sexual Adaptations* address theory and research focused on sexual adaptations in human males. Chapters in *Volume 3: Female Sexual Adaptations* address theory and research focused on sexual adaptations in human females. Finally, chapters in *Volume 4: Controversies, Applications, and Nonhuman Primate Extensions* address controversies and unresolved issues; applications to health, law, and pornography; and nonhuman primate evolved sexual psychology.

Evolutionary psychology is a vital area of the modern discipline of psychology and, indeed, of the social, life, and behavioral sciences. *The Cambridge Handbook of Evolutionary Perspectives on Sexual Psychology* is the most comprehensive modern handbook for the field that addresses sexual psychology and behavior. The four volumes provide a rich overview of the most important theoretical and empirical work in the field. This handbook is directed primarily to researchers and graduate students, but it will also be useful for advanced undergraduates. It provides a comprehensive overview of

the state of the art in evolutionary perspectives on sexual psychology that affords both established researchers and students a rich and current understanding of the discipline.

Unlike most previous volumes in this area, which have been relatively narrow in coverage, *The Cambridge Handbook of Evolutionary Perspectives on Sexual Psychology* is broad and inclusive. In addition to the research groups pioneering the field of evolutionary psychology in the Western world (e.g., Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States), there is rapidly growing interest in this field in other parts of the world. For example, there has been a substantial increase in the contributions of Asian and South American scholars to evolutionary psychology in recent years. *The Cambridge Handbook of Evolutionary Perspectives on Sexual Psychology* provides these new scholars with a wide-ranging summary of this exciting and ever-expanding field.

The selection of chapters and contributors for the handbook was determined by focusing on the breadth of the literature while attempting to maximize the international appeal of this work. Chapters are sufficiently lengthy to afford detailed reviews of the relevant topics, but contributors also were encouraged to avoid excessive description of individual studies. In addition, contributors were instructed to include reference to work conducted by scholars outside of North America and Europe in order to increase the breadth of coverage and to generate additional interest in the handbook and the field among scholars from other parts of the world. Where research from other countries or cultures was not available, contributors were asked to provide their professional evaluation of potential cultural influences on available empirical findings and to outline the degree to which available findings are likely to generalize cross-culturally.

I hope readers find the four volumes of *The Cambridge Handbook of Evolutionary Perspectives on Sexual Psychology* as exciting to read as it was for me to organize and edit. I am grateful to each of the several dozen contributors from around the world for their time, attention, and commitment to this unique resource, and to the editorial staff at Cambridge University Press.