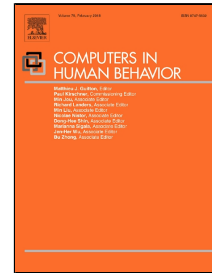


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# Do Covered Nude Photographs in the Internet Induce Sexual Cognition – A Study of Event-related Potential

Lei Han<sup>a,†</sup> Fengqiang Gao<sup>a,†</sup> Xiao Hou<sup>a,†</sup> Dianzhao Xie<sup>a</sup> Min Jou<sup>b,\*</sup> Chun-Chiang  
Huang<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Psychology, Shandong Normal University, Ji'nan, Shandong, China

<sup>b</sup> Department of Industrial Education, National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan

## Abstract

A number indecent photos depicting models whose genital areas have been censored or covered have been widely disseminated on the Internet and proved to be extremely popular. The question is whether these “incomplete nudes” on the Internet can induce sexual cognition. To answer this question, this study presented 25 male college students with 4 types of images. Results found that pictures of females induced larger positive potential (P2) amplitudes and shorter latencies than did pictures of males, and that pictures of nude females induced larger negative potential (N2) amplitudes than did pictures of nude males. Moreover, pictures of covered or nude females evoked larger P300 waves than did pictures of fully-dressed or underwear-wearing females. Pictures of nude models also evoked larger PSW than did other types of pictures. These results suggested that P2 and N2 reflect early gender processing and early sexual cognition, respectively, while P300 reflect inferential sexual cognition which meant that covered models were indeed perceived as nude models. This study revealed that censored (covered) sexual information disseminated through the Internet could still evoke inferential sexual cognition.

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\*Corresponding author Email address: [joum@ntnu.edu.tw](mailto:joum@ntnu.edu.tw)

<sup>†</sup>Lei Han, Fengqiang Gao and Xiao Hou share the first authorship

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