

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research interests are centered on adolescent gender and sexual socialization, and their relationship to sexual behavior, sexual risk-taking, and emotional well-being in adolescence and adulthood. More specifically, I am interested in how young people integrate notions from a variety of sources (e.g., parents, peers, media) about what it means to be a sexual woman or man, and how these notions relate to both normative and risky sexual exploration/ behavior in adolescence and emerging adulthood. Although sexual intercourse is of obvious interest due to the risks associated with pregnancy and STIs, I also include in my research a broader range of noncoital sexual behaviors that perhaps more accurately reflect the variety of adolescents' and young adults' sexual experiences. In addition to this interest in behavioral outcomes, I am also interested in the psychological and emotional consequences of socialization, romantic relationships, and sexual experiences. I utilize both quantitative and qualitative methodologies in my research designs.

PUBLICATIONS (listed in reverse-chronological order)

Ward, L. M., Merriwether, A., & Caruthers, A. (2006). Breasts are for men: Media use, masculinity ideology, and men's beliefs about women's bodies. *Sex Roles, 55* (9– 10), 703– 714.

Schooler, D., Ward, L. M., Merriwether, A., & Caruthers, A. (2005). Cycles of shame: Menstrual shame, body shame, and sexual decision-making. *Journal of Sex Research, 42* (4), 324– 334.

Smiler, A., Ward, L. M., Caruthers, A., & Merriwether, A. (2005). Pleasure, empowerment, and love: Factors associated with a positive first coitus. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy, 2* (3), 41– 55.

Caruthers, A. S. (2005). "Hookups" and "friends with benefits": Nonrelational sexual encounters as contexts of women's normative sexual development. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Schooler, D., Ward, L. M., Merriwether, A., & Caruthers, A. (2003). Who's that girl: Television's role in the body image development of young White and Black women. *Psychology of Women Quarterly, 28* (1), 38– 47.

Stone, E. R., Yates, A., & Caruthers, A. S. (2002). Risk taking in decision making for others versus the self. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology, 32* (9), 1797– 1824.

Caruthers, A. S. (2002). *Mixed messages: The divergent nature of sexual communication received from parents, peers, and the media*. Unpublished master's thesis, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Ward, L. M., & Caruthers, A. S. (2001). Media influences. *Encyclopedia of Women and Gender, Volume Two* (pp.687– 701). San Diego, CA: Academic Press.

Caruthers, A. S. (1999). *The emotional consequences of exposure to sexual orientation inappropriate humor on television comedies*. Unpublished master's thesis, The College of William and Mary.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW (listed in alphabetical order)

Caruthers, A., & Ward, L. M. (under revision). Mixed messages: A multi-method comparison of sexual values communicated to adolescent women by parents, peers, and the media. *Journal of Sex Research*.

Smiler, A. P., Epstein, M., Ward, L. M., Levin, D., Caruthers, A., & Merriwether, A. (under review). Clicking on stereotypes: Internet use and students' beliefs about gender and sexuality. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION (listed in alphabetical order)

Caruthers, A. *Hooking up and the developmental tasks of emerging adulthood*.

Caruthers, A. "Hookups" and "friends with benefits": Patterns of nonrelational sexual behavior and the "sexually healthy" emerging adult woman.

Caruthers, A. *Sexual socialization as predictor of patterns of relationship and hookup behavior*.

Caruthers, A. *The emotional dynamics of mother/ daughter communication about romantic relationships and sexuality*.

Merriwether, A., Ward, L. M., & Caruthers, A. *Comfort in our skin: Assessing the impact of women's reproductive attitudes on their sexual decision-making*.

Ward, L. M., & Caruthers, A. *And TV makes three: Contributions of sexual communication from parents, peers, and the media to sexual risk-taking in adolescence and emergent adulthood*.

Ward, L. M., Day, K., & Caruthers, A. *Comparing contributions of parents, peers, and the media to the sexual socialization of Black adolescents*.

Ward, L. M., Day, K., Kim, J. L., Caruthers, A., & Merriwether, A. *Reading between the lines: Associations between magazine use and young women's and men's sexual attitudes*.

Ward, L. M., Smiler, A. P., Caruthers, A., & Merriwether, A. *From beliefs to behavior: Examining contributions of sexual attitudes, gender ideologies, and self-conceptions to college students' sexual decision-making*.

Ward, L. M., Smiler, A., Caruthers, A., & Merriwether, A. *Mining for mechanisms: Linking television use and viewers' sexual belief systems*.

MEDIA ATTENTION

Baxter, S. (2004, October 10). "Hookup" gives US a cooler sex life. *The London Times*, pp. 1/29.

Cooper, C. J. (2004, December 5). Hooking up is harmless, isn't it? *The (Bergen) Record*.

Jayson, S. (2007, February 15). What's up with hookups? *USA Today*, 10D.

McGinn, D. (2004, October 4). Mating behavior 101. *Newsweek*, 144 (14), 44–45.

INVITED ADDRESSES

Caruthers, A. S. (2005, June). *"Hooking up 101: College sex with no strings attached."* Invited address. Congress on Women's Health sponsored by Journal of Women's Health and University of South Florida School of Medicine, Hilton Head, SC.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Caruthers, A., Connell, A., & Dishion, T. (2008, March). *An adaptive approach to family-centered intervention: Linking intervention engagement to reductions in risky sexual behavior.* Poster session presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, Chicago, IL.

Caruthers, A. S. (2007, February). *Why relate? Motives and meanings of women's hookups.* Paper presented at the Third Conference on Emerging Adulthood, Tucson, AZ.

Caruthers, A. S. (2005, June). *"Hooking up 101: College sex with no strings attached."* Invited address. Congress on Women's Health sponsored by Journal of Women's Health and University of South Florida School of Medicine, Hilton Head, SC.

Caruthers, A. S. (2005, February). *"Hookups" and "friends with benefits": Pattern of nonrelational sexual behavior and the "sexually healthy" emerging adult woman.* Paper presented at the Second Conference on Emerging Adulthood, Miami, FL.

Caruthers, A. S. (2004, March). *The emotional dynamics of mother/ daughter communication about romantic relationships and sexuality.* Paper presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence, Baltimore, MD.

Caruthers, A. S., & Ward, L. M. (2002, April). *Mixed messages: The divergent nature of sexual communication received from parents, peers, and the media.* Paper presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence, New Orleans, LA.

Caruthers, A. S. (2002, April). *Contributions of early sexual communication to sexual status, satisfaction, and emotional well-being.* Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, New Orleans, LA.

Caruthers, A. S., & Ward, L. M. (2001, October). *"Just be careful": Contributions of sexual communication from parents, peers, and the media to sexual risk-taking in adolescence and emergent adulthood.* Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for the Study of Human Development, Ann Arbor, MI.

Caruthers, A. S. (2000, March). *The emotional consequences of exposure to sexual orientation inappropriate humor.* Poster session presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, Chicago, IL.

Caruthers, A. S., Jenkins, W., Reid, A., & Solomon, J. (2000, March). *From titillation to sexual orientation: The changing nature of television's sexual content through the 90s.* Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, Chicago, IL.

Caruthers, A. S., & Dubas, J. S. (1998, October). *Older adolescents and television: Comprehension of implicit and explicit sexual humor.* Poster session presented at the Multidisciplinary Conference on Adolescent Health and Sexuality, Tucson, AZ.

SENIOR THESES SUPERVISED (listed in alphabetical order)

Blodgett, E. G. (2006). *Women and sexuality in the health care setting*. Senior thesis, Reed College.

Deen, M. C. (2006). *Hookups and women's social, psychological, and sexual health in college*. Senior thesis, Reed College.

Ungerecht, M. E. (2006). *Gendered power relations and condom use in heterosexual relationships: A critique of the Theory of Reasoned Action*. Senior thesis, Reed College.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Reed College

Developmental Psychology: F'05
Gender and Sexuality: F'05
Introduction to Psychology: Sp'06
Children and the Media: Sp'06

Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan

Introduction to Developmental Psychology: W'04 (L. M. Ward, instructor)
Advanced Lab in Developmental Psychology: F'02, W'03 (J. Myers, instructor)
Introduction to Psychology: W'00, W'02 (A. Merriwether, instructor)

Teaching Assistant, The College of William and Mary

Introduction to Research Methods: F'97, F'98, Sp'99 (E. Rosen, R. Harcum, instructors)
Intro. to Psychology As a Social Science: F'97, F'98, Sp'99 (E. Rosen, C. Pilkington, instructors)
Intro. to Psychology as a Natural Science: Sp'98 (J. Crystal, instructor)
Research in Developmental Psychology: Sp'98 (J. Dubas, instructor)
Behavior Modification: Su'98 (L. Ventis, instructor)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

2004–2005 **Co-Facilitator of Teen Council**, Planned Parenthood of the Columbia/ Willamette, Salem, OR

2004 **Clinic Volunteer**, Planned Parenthood of the Columbia/ Willamette, Beaverton, OR

2002–2003 **Student Representative to the Faculty**, University of Michigan

2002–2003 **Preliminary Exam Reform Committee**, University of Michigan

2001–2002 **Chair of Developmental Student Organization**, University of Michigan

2001–2002 **Graduate Curriculum Committee**, University of Michigan

2000–2001 **Co-Chair of Developmental Psychology Recruitment Committee**, University of Michigan