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Article Review II

Introduction to the Family

By Richie Heinlein

Schwartz, Pepper, and Rutter, Virginia (2001). Sexual Desire and Gender. In Andrew J. Cherlin (Ed.), Public and Private Families: A Reader, 2nd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Schwartz and Rutter assert that sexual desire is ruled by a variety of factors and not just one school of thought can be used to explain it all. This assertion is backed by the review of research on the subject of this desire. The authors want their readers who are fellow researchers, biologists, sociologists and psychologists to have an open mind about sex. Along with this open mind the authors want these people to listen to each other and work together to get a better grasp of sexual questions.

The authors' most convincing thought was the claim that the sociobiological views of sexual desire are flawed by the lack of the ability of empirical testing and the lack of short term evidence. This, in my viewpoint, says that any one viewpoint is flawed in this or in other ways. Thus, one needs all sides of the story to get the whole picture of this very complex issue.

I agree with the authors' thesis. Throughout this entire article, much was said about the different views of different groups. This is especially true of biology and why this viewpoint is not the only thing that molds sexual desire. The most convincing of this was the authors' comparison of the Swedish culture vs. our own. The Swedes believe that their bodies should be celebrated and sex being a part of their free-spirited package. The culture for Irish Catholics, however according to the article believe that sex before marriage isn't acceptable because it goes against the Church and their upbringing. So, because of this and other factors, there are many viewpoints to the question of sexual desire to look at for the whole picture to be seen.