

**Transgression Externalization and Pornography Users who Disapprove of their Own Use:
A Self-Fulfilling Prophecy**

Abstract

In the presence of their own transgression, pornography users that disapprove of their use are more likely to describe themselves as addicted. Evidence suggests that users self-labeling themselves as addicted results in higher levels of future pornography use. In an effort to further explore the relationship between moral disapproval, perceived addiction, and subsequent pornography use this research examined how a tendency to externalize blame would influence the relationship between moral disapproval and perceived addiction and moral disapproval and recent use. The results indicated that higher levels of tendency to blame others strengthened the relationship between moral disapproval and perceived addiction resulting in higher levels of recent pornography use. These findings suggest that users who externalize their blame are more likely to say that they are addicted to pornography, allowing them to persist in behaviors they disapprove of and fulfill their perceptions of addiction. This credibility given to a false addiction may be purposefully used to keep an appearance of victimhood that deceives outsiders and potentially the individual alike. Future research into the influence of externalizing blame should investigate other behavioral patterns that remain in spite of moral resistance. Replicating this study completely within church settings and entirely removed from religious influence should provide useful insight.