

**The Prevalence and Effect of Pornography in Pop Culture**  
**Posters and Presentations**

**Research Abstract Instructions**

Write a concise summary of the key points of your research. This abstract needs to represent your research well as it could be used as part of the judging criteria during the event. Your abstract should contain a strong literature review or introduction to your research topic, hypothesis or research questions, methods, results, and conclusions. You should also include possible implications of your research and future work you see connected with your findings. Your abstract should be a single paragraph double-spaced. Your abstract should be ***between 200 and 300 words***. The second paragraph should address how your research is informed by a Christian worldview. **In 250-500 words**, describe how your Christian worldview has informed your research design and communication of your results.

When submitting your abstract, please use the template (abstract sample) provided below.

**Abstract Sample**

**Title** - The Prevalence and Effect of Pornography in Pop Culture

**Program of Study** – History/Religious Studies

**Presentation Type** – Choose one of the following: 3MT

**Subtype** – Choose one of the following for poster or oral presentation types: Textual or Investigative

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**Abstract:** The inception of the pornographic industry was seismic. Just a year after Margaret Sanger opened Planned Parenthood, Hugh Hefner published and sold out 53,991 first-edition copies of the now-infamous Playboy magazine. Twenty years later, the industry would turn a publication of over 11 million copies from the top two magazines alone. The sexual revolution abetted cultural acceptance of this lewd content, and pornography found its way onto convenience store shelves next to previously established staples such as *TIME* and *PEOPLE* magazines. Proliferation of these pages only inoculated the American public to seeing nude or nearly nude graphics as a fact of everyday life.

Desensitized to sexual prevalence and invigorated with lust, the Overton window shattered upon the inception of the www digital system in 1990. Ten years later, over half of all Americans

were personally connected to the internet, with 60% of all searches being pornographic in nature. In 2003, the internet was supersaturated with nudity, hosting over 420 million adult web pages. With free and immediate sexual gratification just a click away, research began to surface purporting detrimental health effects of pornographic consumption. With suggestions to classify porn as addictive material and evidence to suggest it incites increased rates of violence, loneliness, and human trafficking, the industry grows all the more controversial.

Moreover, such effects are only exacerbated in neuroplastic demographics, posing a significant threat to those under 25. Additionally, such content retains an unrelenting grip on groups that would not typically be thought of as customary customers, including the aforementioned under-25 group and those within the Christian church. Unless aggressively addressed and scrutinized within local and international cultures, this industry will remain a stronghold of sorrow and torment for all involved. The information herein is a declaration of such a need to take care of this problem.

**Christian worldview integration:** In 250-500 words, describe how your Christian worldview has informed your research design and communication of your results. How is your research impactful within the culture at large?

A Christian worldview underpinned both research methodology and the understanding of resultant data. Researchers wished to remain pure themselves while conducting this analysis and hence, refused to access any materials that portrayed pornography alongside pertinent data. Fortunately, the vast majority of needed data could be gleaned from academic journals and similar sources. Both secular and religious information was gathered, as the research on both sides was not to the detriment of the other but mutually advanced comprehension of the subject.

Moreover, in communicating the garnered information, it was essential to the researchers that a simultaneous secular and Christian danger was presented, as pornography

was found to have degrading effects on relational cognition and mental health, regardless of religion or moral ground. However, further extrapolation was given to the pertinence and detriment of pornographic consumption throughout the church due to recalcitrance in discussing the subject with an appropriate measure. Due to the incessant defamation of sexual impurity, many Christians believe themselves fighting an uphill battle against both the temptation and the stigma of personal failure that accompanies many individual battles.

The research presented in this paper significantly impacts the neuroplastic rewiring of individual users and identifies the international promotion of sex trafficking that permeates the pornographic industry. As more people become aware of the dangers presented herein, researchers hope that the pornographic industry will become more rejected, with support for recovering users more prevalent. For this reason, the information presented herein stands as a warning against pursuing such material. Not only is the media likened to idolatry (Colossians 3:5), but negatively affects non-spiritual aspects of life, particularly damaging interpersonal relationships and one's approach to being in community.

**Keywords:** pornography, Playboy, Penthouse, erotica, Generation Z, Reward Deficiency Syndrome, prevalence, sexual aggression, neuroplasticity.