

# Pleasure and Danger in Digital Space: Sexual Practice and 'Risk Management' in Women's Sext

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# Introduction

- Pleasure and Danger (Vance, 1983)
- Study on how women express their sexuality and manage risk on “sext” account
- Sext, combining the terms “sex” and “twitter”, refers to sexual content posted on Twitter with the hashtag “sext.” (Deviant account)
- Lack of attention to the complex interaction between pleasure and danger in women's sext account

# Background

'n번방'가해자들의 '타깃'된 트위터... '일탈' 게시물 여전

기사인  
기사주

**Twitter is targeted by 'Nth room' offenders;  
'deviant' posts are still widespread.**



미성년자 등을 협박해 성착취 영상을 촬영하고 텔레그램 방에 공유한 'n번방 사건'의 일부 가해자들은 트위터 등 SNS(사회관계망서비스)에 올라온 글을 통해 피해자들에 접근한 것으로 알려졌다. 트위터에는 자신의 신체 일부 사진을 올리고 '일탈', '섹트' 등 해시태그를 달아 관심을 끄는 일명 '일탈계' 활동이 이어지고 있는데 이들을 범행대상으로 노린 것이다.

- Digital sexual violence gained societal importance in South Korea, leading to legal amendments.
- Sext has been known as target of Sexual crimes such as Telegram sexual exploitation(Nth Room Case)
- Despite risks, women in sext accounts continue to engage in this behavior in digital spaces.

*Reportedly, some of the perpetrators of the 'N Room' case, who blackmailed adolescents and others to film sexually exploitative videos and share them in Telegram rooms, approached their victims via social media platform such as Twitter. Targeted were the so-called "deviants" who post photographs of their body parts on Twitter with hashtags such as "deviance" and "sext" to gain attention.*

(Segye Newspaper, 2020-03-28 )

# Research Method

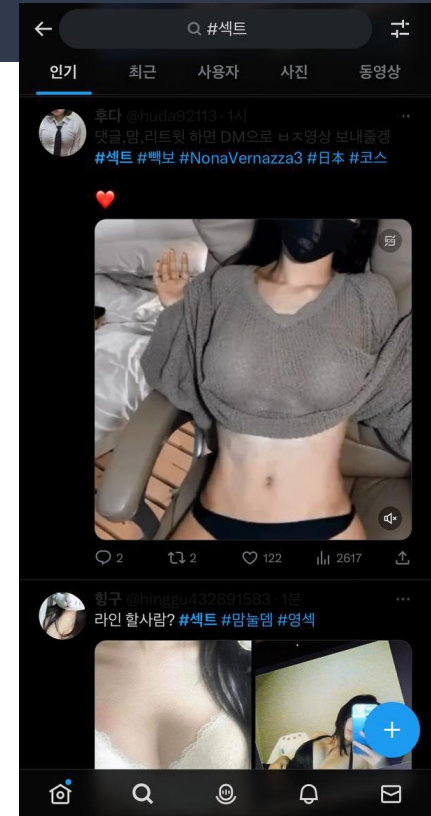
- In-depth interviews and online participant observation are the primary research methods.
- Research conducted from July 2021 to June 2022.
- Data collection involved searching Twitter for sext-related keywords, following users, and observing network flows and posts.
- In-depth interviews conducted with users in their teens and twenties who have operated sext accounts.

<Table 1> Study Participants

<i>Interviewee</i>	<i>YoB</i>	<i>Job</i>	<i>Note</i>
<i>A</i>	2003	High school Student	
<i>B</i>	2000	Workplace Employee	
<i>C</i>	1999	Undergraduate	Expatriate
<i>D</i>	2001	Undergraduate	
<i>E</i>	1999	Undergraduate	
<i>F</i>	Undisclosed	Cafe part-time job	
<i>G</i>	2003	High school Student	
<i>H</i>	1994	Tutors	Sext account and BDSM account Currently deleted sext account
<i>I</i>	Undisclosed	Freelancer	Currently deleted the disclosed sext account and running private account
<i>J</i>	Undisclosed	Undisclosed	Running "Cleaning Sext" account
<i>K</i>	1993	Office Worker	BDSM account, feminist activist

# Anonymous sexual identity for 'safety' and pleasure

- Sext involves posting erotic pictures of one's body online, often obscuring the face.
- Openly expressing sexual desires is crucial to the sexual identities of sext accounts.
- Motivations vary: some seek offline sex, while others aim to network and exchange sexual information or derive pleasure from showing their "dirty side."
- A sext account with anonymity permits the distinction between a "normal" self and a "deviant" self.



# Anonymous sexual identity for 'safety' and pleasure

## The enjoyment of being a "pseudo-celebrity"

*“So if you're a normal person and you post a picture of your body with one hashtag and it's just a modest picture of your body, you're going to get 50 to 150 hearts in the next three hours. So it's a little bit of a celebrity's celebrity's celebrity, a quarter celebrity, and I think that's about it. (Interviewee H)”*

## Expression of Marginalized Sexual Identities

- Anonymity on social media allows individuals with marginalized sexual identities to express their sexual selves.
- Adolescent females and those with BDSM orientations find sext accounts as a means to discuss and explore their sexual identities.
- For marginalized groups, the online space is perceived as a safety net compared to offline spaces (less risky compared to potential social risks offline)

# Individualized 'risk management' in order to guarantee "safety"

Manage the risk associated with "clean deviance"

Potential risks	Risk Management
Image distribution and theft	Employ watermarks, prohibit retweets, and periodically delete posts.
Theft and exfiltration of personally identifiable information	Obscuring the specificity of photos, posting fictitious and false information, utilizing "open chat room", etc.
In-person sexual assault	Managing your phone and identification, requesting assistance from people you know

# 어서와 일탈계는 처음이지?



한 눈에 알아보는 클린일탈 지침

## 속지말자 넷카마

넷카마란?

성별 상관 없이 동일한 사진으로 그 사람 행세를 하는 것을 통칭함

여자남자 할 것 없이 온플로 무도 후 신상정보를 캐내기도 하며, 온플로 사기거래를 하기도 한다.

핑크소유자, 색시안미씨  
이세아, FD, 색대생 등



## 박아줘 워터마크

워터마크란?

[디지털 파일에 저작권을 밝히기 위해 아이디를 적어넣거나 이미지를 삽입하는 것

워터마크 미삽입시 각종 도움으로부터 노출 될 수 있다.



## 오프 주의사항



위생, 피임, 성병 조심  
동일하는 콘돔재거는 스톱심 범죄



GHB 불법 조심  
낯선 사람이 주는 음료는 경계하자



플카 조심!  
합의없는 영상 및 사진촬영은 범죄

## 하지말자 온플

온플이란?

ONLINE PLAY의 줄임말로써 과거에는 SM 주종관계로서 행해졌으나 현 시점에서는 비성행위자들의 사진, 영상 교환이나 영상통화 등 온플라인을 제외한 온라인에서 행하는 행위를 통칭함

WHY?

영상통화를 녹화하는 등 신상과 직결될 수 있으며 각종 범죄에 노출될 수 있다.

## 해킹 주의보

낯선 사람이 보낸 모든 단축 URL  
(bit-<http://goo.gl>-, -[xy2](http://xy2))은 스톱 등 위험이 있으니 절대 클릭하지 말 것

트위터 전용 이메일, 비밀번호 설정 로그인 인증, 비밀번호, 계정명 보안을 설정해야 안전

언제까지  
속고만 살 것인가  
알고 즐기자  
클린일탈

계보: 자작계 @NET\_POL



자작계(이세아) 세팅해

만든이 twitter 김모복

Welcome to the world of deviant accounts.

- At a Glance: Clean Deviance Guidelines

- Don't be duped by Netkama  
\*Netkama: Pretending to be the person from whom you stole.
- Add a watermark
- Don't do it online  
(online video calls, video exchanges, etc)
- Hacking warning
- Offline Safety Measures

How long will you be fooled?

Learn about and enjoy Clean Deviance.



# Shades of Risk Management:

## Women's Victimization and Isolation Experiences 1

- Threats of sextortion, identity theft, violence, and STD (sexually transmitted disease) transmission lead users to abandon sext accounts.
- Interviewees faced stalking, personal information threats, and sexual exploitation continue to operate sext accounts despite these experiences, repeatedly deleting and creating them.
- Some users learn from negative experiences and improve risk management to stay in sext.
- Sext becomes part of users' daily life, integrating their sexual selves expressed on Twitter

*I opened a new account, and then I was like, "Okay, they were all lying; I've been played," and then I was like, "Okay, I'll hide my identity a bit better," and I wasn't fooled again, and it's been smooth sailing ever since. (Interviewee B)*

# Shades of Risk Management:

## Women's Victimization and Isolation Experiences 2

- Individualized risk management is due to a lack of resources for addressing violence and threats.
- Reluctance to report incidents due to fear of punishment, parental involvement, and stigma.
- Stigmatization and lack of legal protection discourage reporting threats to the police.
- Risk management strategies expand women's agency but highlight their isolation.

# Conclusion

- Women in sext choose to express their sexual selves in digital spaces despite the risks.
  - Women manage risks based on their knowledge of digital technologies and traditional sexual violence.
  - Individualized risk management highlights the isolated position of women in the face of violations of sexual norms.
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- Cultural norms promoting sexual subjectivity while punishing "indecent" women drive women to digital spaces.
  - The link between sexual desire and violence should be unpacked in research.
  - Legal system changes alone cannot ensure the safety of women's sexual practices due to stigmatization and condemnation.
  - Laws and policies are being enacted, but their effectiveness in providing a safety net for women needs to be questioned.