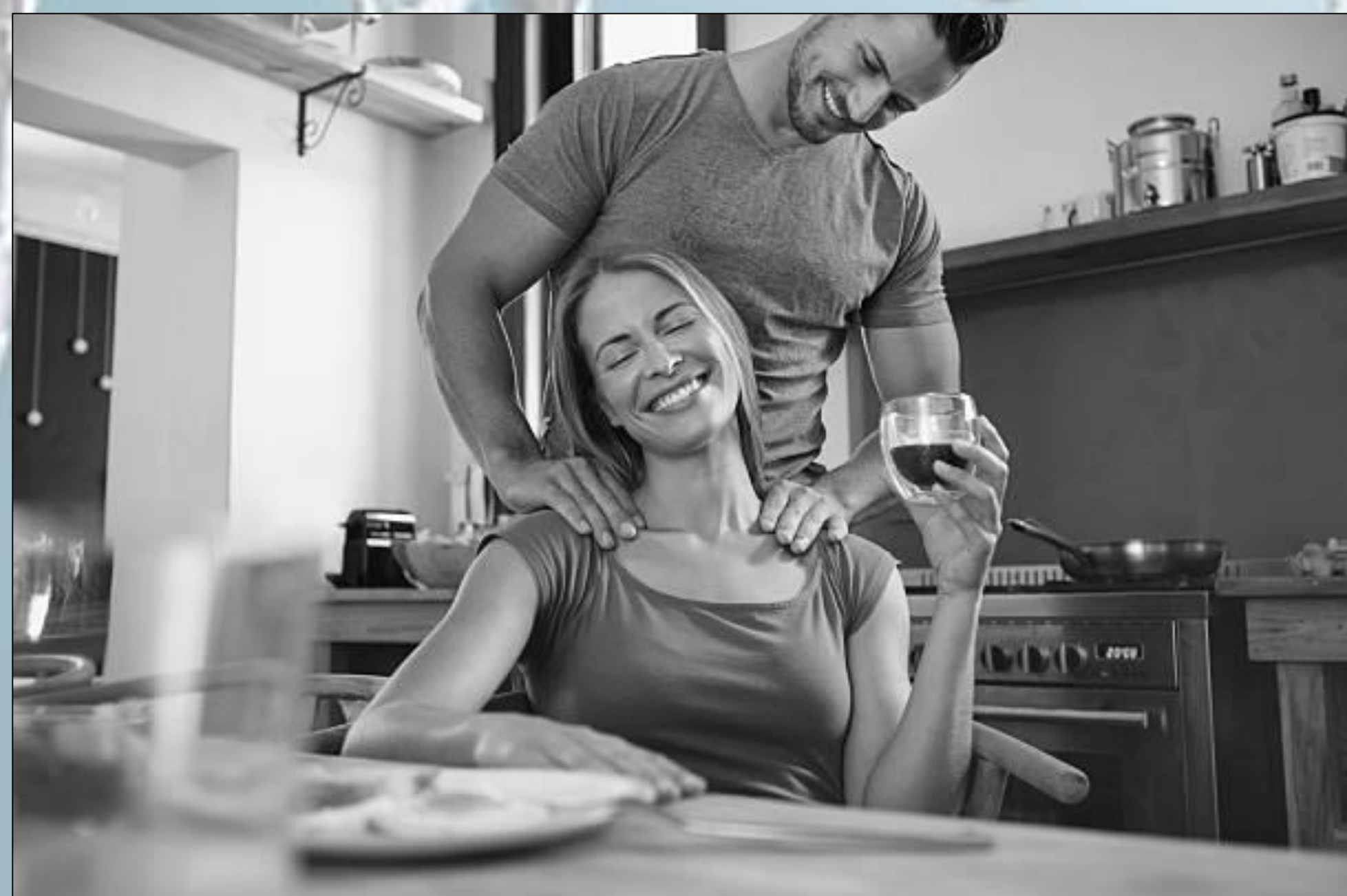


Part A



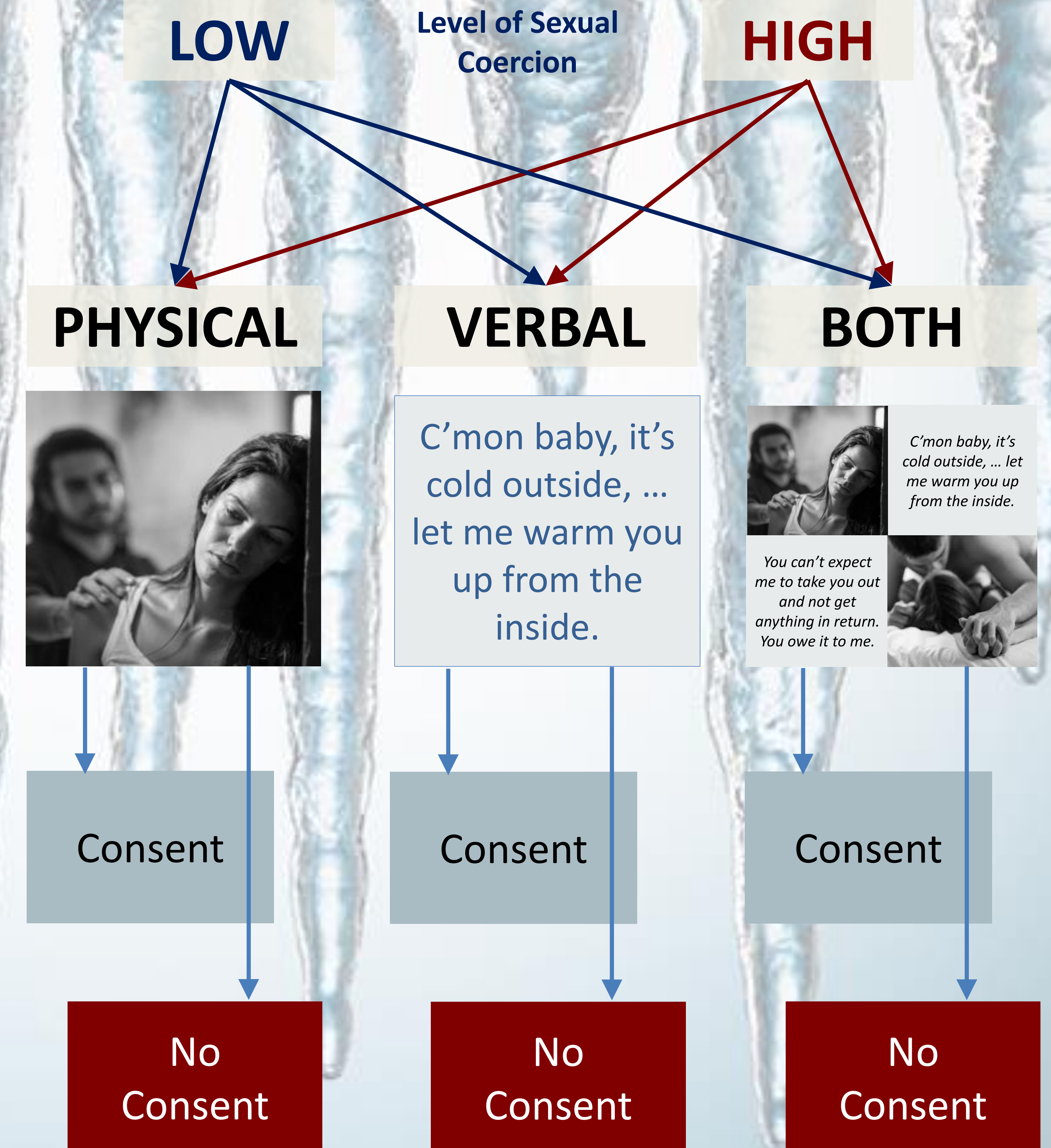
Part A of this study investigates the correlation between psychopathic traits, sexual risk, and personal use of sexual coercion strategies that involve both overt (e.g., physical force, giving drugs or alcohol) and covert (e.g., massaging, sweet talking, guilt-tripping) tactics.



Background

Research has demonstrated that psychopathic traits are associated with risk taking spread across a variety of domains. One domain concerns sexual risk-taking, usually conceptualized as unsafe sex and promiscuity. Research has shown that both factors of psychopathy are predictive of sexual risk (Kastner & Sellbom, 2012). In particular, several predictors of sexual aggression correspond to psychopathic traits: namely, manipulateness, risk seeking, and amoral behaviour (Bouffard et al., 2015). Further, psychopaths also may engage in sexual violence, including the use of coercive tactics in order to obtain sex. For example, past research has demonstrated that higher psychopathy scores may be related to greater use of physical tactics (particularly in males) as well as manipulative and verbal tactics (e.g., Khan et al., 2017; Testa et al., 2015). That said, it is yet unclear as to how individuals high in psychopathic traits interpret coercion in sexual scenarios, and whether they are more likely to minimize coercive strategies due to their personal acceptance of them. Given their inherent callousness and manipulative behaviours, it is possible that psychopathic individuals may use sexually coercive strategies more because they don't interpret them as being problematic. The present study was designed in two parts to further our understanding of the relation between psychopathic traits and both the use and interpretation of sexually coercive strategies.

Part B



Expected Results

In general, we predict that psychopathic traits will be positively correlated with higher levels of both sexual risk and sexual coercion. For the experimental design, we hypothesize that scenarios involving high levels of coercion (including physical and verbal strategies) will be interpreted as less consensual and most coercive. In addition, we predict that ratings of how consensual the experience was will vary according to physical tactics (less consensual) relative to verbal tactics (most consensual). Finally, when consent is expressed, participants may be more likely to minimize the coercive strategies used, relative to interpretations of greater coercion when consent is not given.

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