In a new study, Meredith G. F. Worthen, professor of sociology at the University of Oklahoma, and Trenton M. Haltom (Ph.D. candidate, University of Nebraska and OU alumus) investigate how identifying as a member of the leather community is related to attitudes toward women.

"Because of the widespread attention and misconceptions that came about along with the Fifty Shades books and films, we wanted to better understand its inner workings, especially because there are so many false and sometimes dangerous perspectives out there," said Haltom. "More research is needed to better cultivate a culture of consent that can encourage the appropriate emotional and psychological pre-negotiations necessary in healthy BDSM relationships that may be newly forming as a result of interest in the Fifty Shades series."

Worthen and Haltom use a nationally representative sample of U.S. adult men ages 18-64 stratified by U.S. Census categories of age, race/ethnicity, and census region (N = 1474) and a subsample of leathermen (n = 65; 58% hetero-leather identified and 42% non-hetero-leather identified). The data were collected using a Faculty Investment Program grant from the OU Vice President for Research that Worthen received in 2018.

To read the full study in Deviant Behavior, visit: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01639625.2020.1762454.


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