This Class Is Not Yet Rated: The Power of Sexual Scripts

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Abstract
We’re good at joking about sex (think teen comedies), fear mongering (tweens sexting!) and titillating (pretty much any music video). Where we get awkward is when the conversation gets real. Social science research consistently finds that communication about sex is positively related with all kinds of desirable (pun noted) sexual health outcomes; but culturally and socially created sexual scripts tend to inhibit frank conversations. We will have an open, research-based discussion in the comfortable privacy of our micro-seminar about the disparity between these scripts and the kind of communication that can prevent misunderstandings, increase safety, and enhance relationships.

Faculty Biography
Jillian Pierson, a Clinical Associate Professor at the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, views her role in the classroom as a combination of curator, docent, and coach. In her courses in intercultural and interpersonal communication, Dr. Pierson works to engage students in an ongoing conversation about communication as a social science and to encourage them to make their own unique contributions. Her goal is to have students see the application of social science in their lives beyond the campus and to be involved in perpetual learning well beyond their undergraduate years.