

Exhibitionism (as a perversion) and law

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Exhibitionists seek sexual gratification without sexual intercourse. However, a public is of the utmost importance for them. They act in front of a person who does not seek an erotic experience and neither seek their permission nor have their consent. Answers to the questions why they act so, what motivates them and what response they desire from the spectator, are given by Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan and Jacques-Alain Miller. The paper addresses a series of questions: does exhibitionism occur only among males, why there is a likelihood that exhibitionists will repeat the act of exposing themselves - and may be found right where they can be easily apprehended, and why they do not usually attend analysis (or why, when they actually do, they do not continue with it). In conclusion, the paper deals with the legal consequences of an exhibitionist's behaviour and tackles some related issues. An exhibitionist also comes into conflict with the law.

Legal regulations deal with acts of exposure in various ways. Those exhibiting genitals are punished in Slovenia for a misdemeanour; except in the case of intentional exposure of genitals to a person younger than fifteen years, when it is considered a criminal offence in accordance with the 4th paragraph of Article 183 of the Criminal Code. Under the German Criminal Code an act of exhibitionism is punishable by imprisonment for not more than one year or by a fine, while French legislation specifies a sentence of imprisonment of not more than one year or a fine of 15,000 euros for sexual exposure in a place accessible to the public. In the United States this act is considered either indecent exposure or sexual assault.

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