

A different kind of sex tape: SFU intimacy study seeks willing couples — with their clothes on

BY IAN AUSTIN, THE PROVINCE FEBRUARY 19, 2014



SFU's Dr. Rebecca Cobb is looking for couples willing to discuss their sex lives, like the couple in the background, while being videotaped for a clinical study.

Photograph by: Mark van Manen, PROVINCE

Dr. Rebecca Cobb wants to make sex tapes — and no, we're not talking about that type of sex tape.

Cobb, an associate professor of clinical psychology at SFU, is looking for cohabiting couples to be filmed talking about having sex — not actually having sex.

"I don't think our ethics committee would allow that," Cobb laughed when asked about the sex research study, titled The Couples Communication Study.

“We’re not Peeping Toms.

“We can’t go into people’s bedrooms.”

Instead, after warming up with some non-sexual conversation — verbal foreplay, perhaps — couples will be asked to pick a sexual issue or topic and discuss it while the cameras roll.

Cobb wants to see how couples react when potential sexual conflict arises: “We want to know what happens when your partner doesn’t want to have sex, and you do. Or when one partner has an orgasm, and the other doesn’t.

“Or when couples discuss introducing fantasy and sex toys.”

Cobb has managed to find 33 suitable couples — unmarried but living together at least one year, no children, aged 19 to 45 — but is still searching for a total of 125 couples so her survey will be statistically sound.

“We’re interested in getting people in the early stages of the relationship, before they get into established patterns,” she says, noting that marriage, kids and other responsibilities often change the sexual dynamic.

“It’s certainly going to be one of the most important things for a couple to have a good sexual relationship.”

If you fit the bill and are willing to fill out four online questionnaires and attend a videotaping session at SFU — a \$125 participation honourarium is meant to cover your time spent — phone 778-782-7155 or email **couples@sfu.ca** for more information.

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