

RE: Petition that Psychology Today amend its blogging ban on sex and pornography addiction

Dear Editorial Staff at Psychology Today,

Unlike some of my other SASH colleagues who are attempting to appeal to your logic (helpfully sharing the latest sex addiction research) or your ethics (heartfelt appeals) and request that you expand the breadth of your coverage on sexual compulsivity, I am writing to say I am outraged at your suppression of essential information about sex addiction and I have no faith that you will care or respond. Why am I so hopeless for change?

Because you perpetrate sexual/objectification of women on your covers almost exclusively - white women whose faces match the tired standard for "American Beauty" that so many other covers of "women's magazines" feature. To sell magazines you take those faces and write on them with a marker, put colored hand print marks on them, paint them, superimpose words over them, etc. You take women's bodies that are stereotypically attractive and cut off their heads, display them in bikinis, naked except for a fig leaf, in a pin-up outfit/pose sitting on an enlarged bomb, sitting in a trash can, etc. You take women's body parts and make covers out of them (eyes, mouths, naked back - again written on with a marker). Sexual objectification of women's bodies is harmful to women, men and children, yet you persist. You go beyond enabling the sex addiction deniers; your magazine is part of the problem.

If anyone doubts this, let them look for

themselves: <https://www.google.com/search?q=psychology+today+magazine+covers&espv=2&biw=1195&bih=802&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewi1wvvoKPPAhUH7B4KHWfeCm8QsAQIOQ>

You call this psychology? I call it exploitation. I have long since removed my therapist listing from Psychology Today, and you are utterly discredited in my mind as a source of news or enlightenment about our sacred field. You do not give fair play to the explosion of information, research and awareness about the dark side of human sexuality, sexual addiction, and instead regularly feature articles whose primary points are backed by a PhD with discredited research who has been publicly outed for harassment and cyberstalking several key leaders in the sexual recovery movement - Nicole Prause (see story: <http://yourbrainonporn.com/nicole-prauses-pdf-her-span-lab-website>).

If I am wrong and you are open to improvement, my requests to you:

Please diversify your covers and stop objectifying human beings on them. Please become open to sharing the facts about sex addiction and assume some standards of genuine credibility of whom and what you will allow to publish on the topic. Please help us help suffering people.

Sincerely,

Staci Sprout, LICSW, CSAT