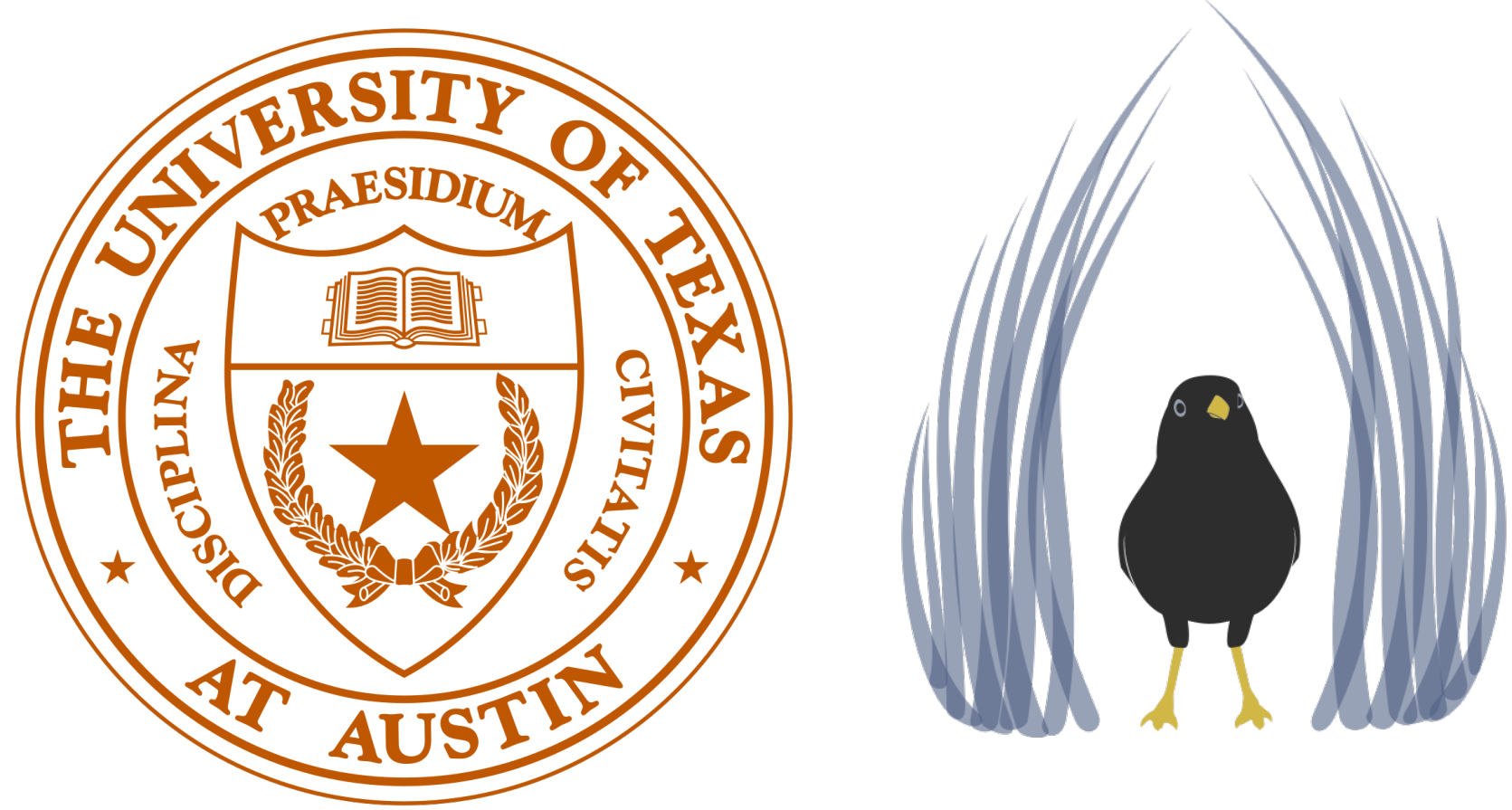


Sex Differences in Sexual Disgust: A Cross-Cultural Analysis

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INTRODUCTION

- Sexual disgust is hypothesized to aid in mate selection
- Previous research has found that women have higher levels of sexual disgust than men, and these sex differences are large and robust^{1,2,3,4}
- Recently, we discovered six factors of sexual disgust and found consistent sex differences across two studies³
- However, because varying types of context-specific input may result in cross-cultural differences in sexual disgust activation, we wanted to test these sex differences cross-culturally

AIM

To examine the universality and cultural specificity of sex differences in sexual disgust among thirty-one sexual behaviors in nine different cultures.

METHODS

- Researchers from nine cultures were invited to participate in a cross-cultural project on the psychology of sexual disgust
- Collaborators translated the questionnaire into the appropriate language for their culture in three steps:
 - Initial translation by a bilingual speaker
 - Back-translation by a second bilingual speaker
 - Discrepancies resolved by a third bilingual speaker
- Once discrepancies were resolved, an online survey was created for their use

PROCEDURE

- Participants ($N = 5,256$; 4,149 women) were recruited through online platforms and universities to participate in an online study
- Participants filled out a battery of questionnaires including the Sexual Disgust Inventory (SDI). This inventory asks participants to rate how sexually disgusting they consider 31 items on a scale of 1 (Not at all sexually disgusting) to 7 (Extremely sexually disgusting)
- Multilevel models were used to assess variation in sexual disgust at the individual and cultural level.

Figure 1: Cross-cultural Data Sites

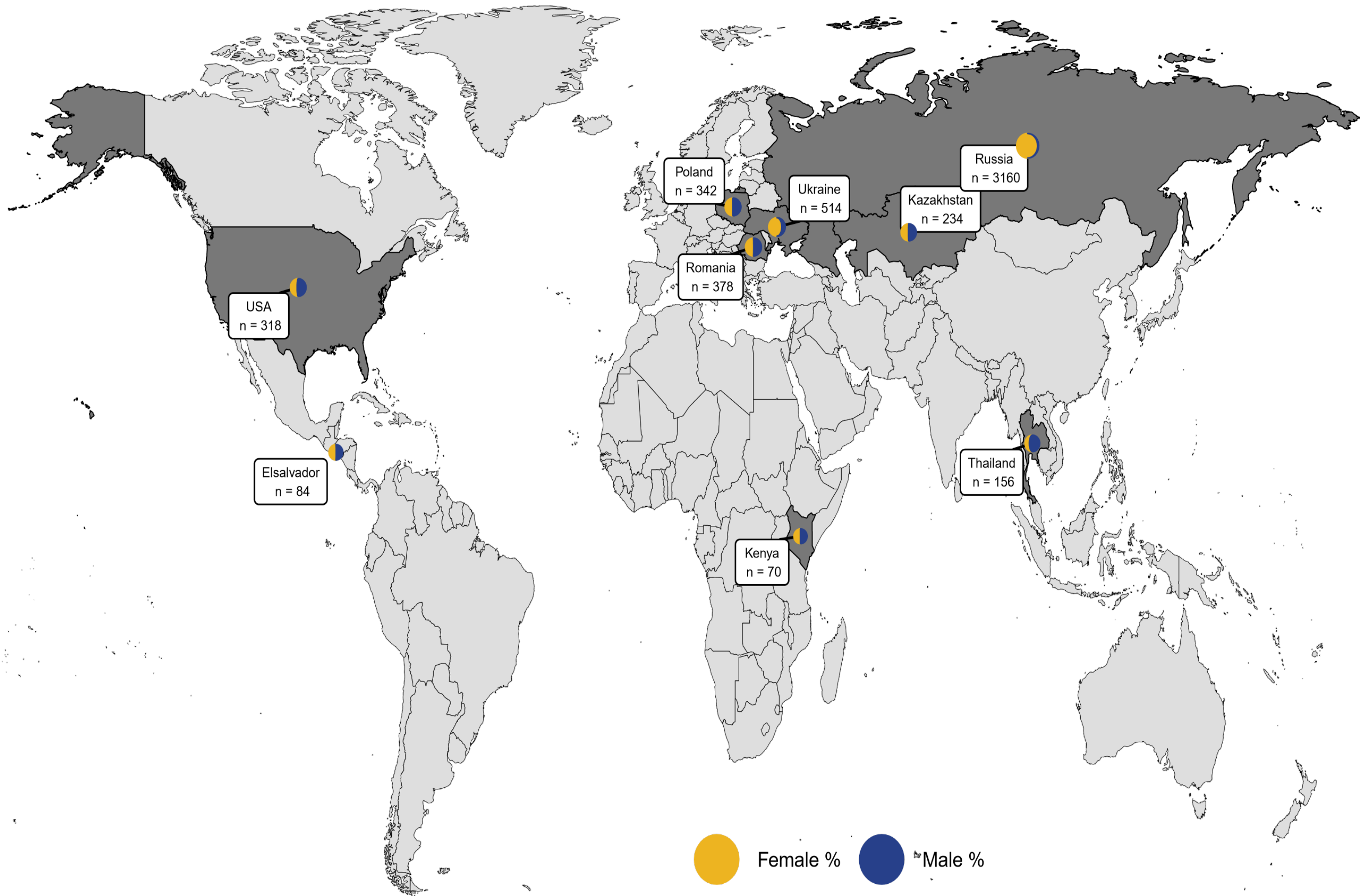


Figure 2: Intercorrelations Between Sex-Specific Item Means by Country

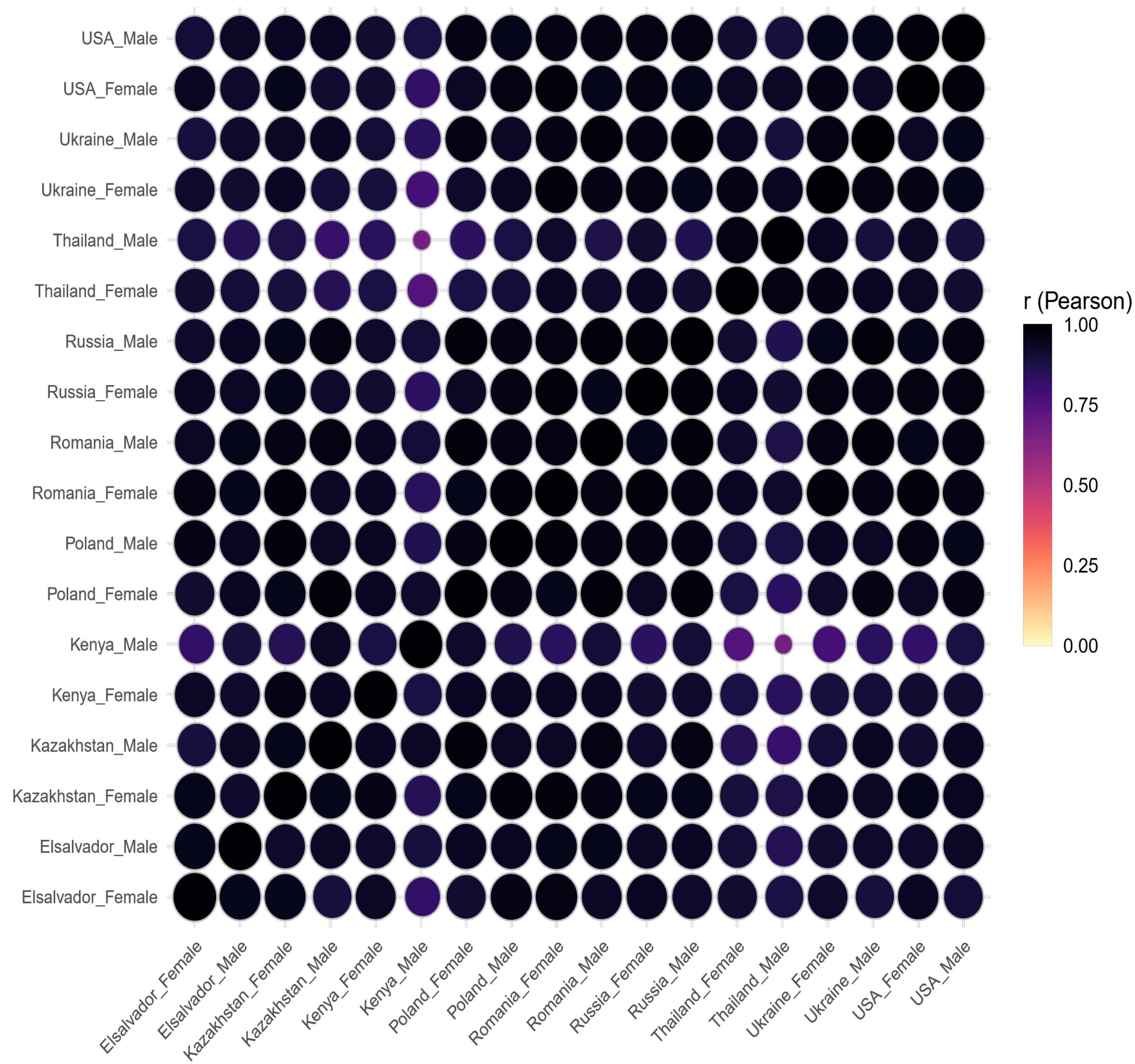
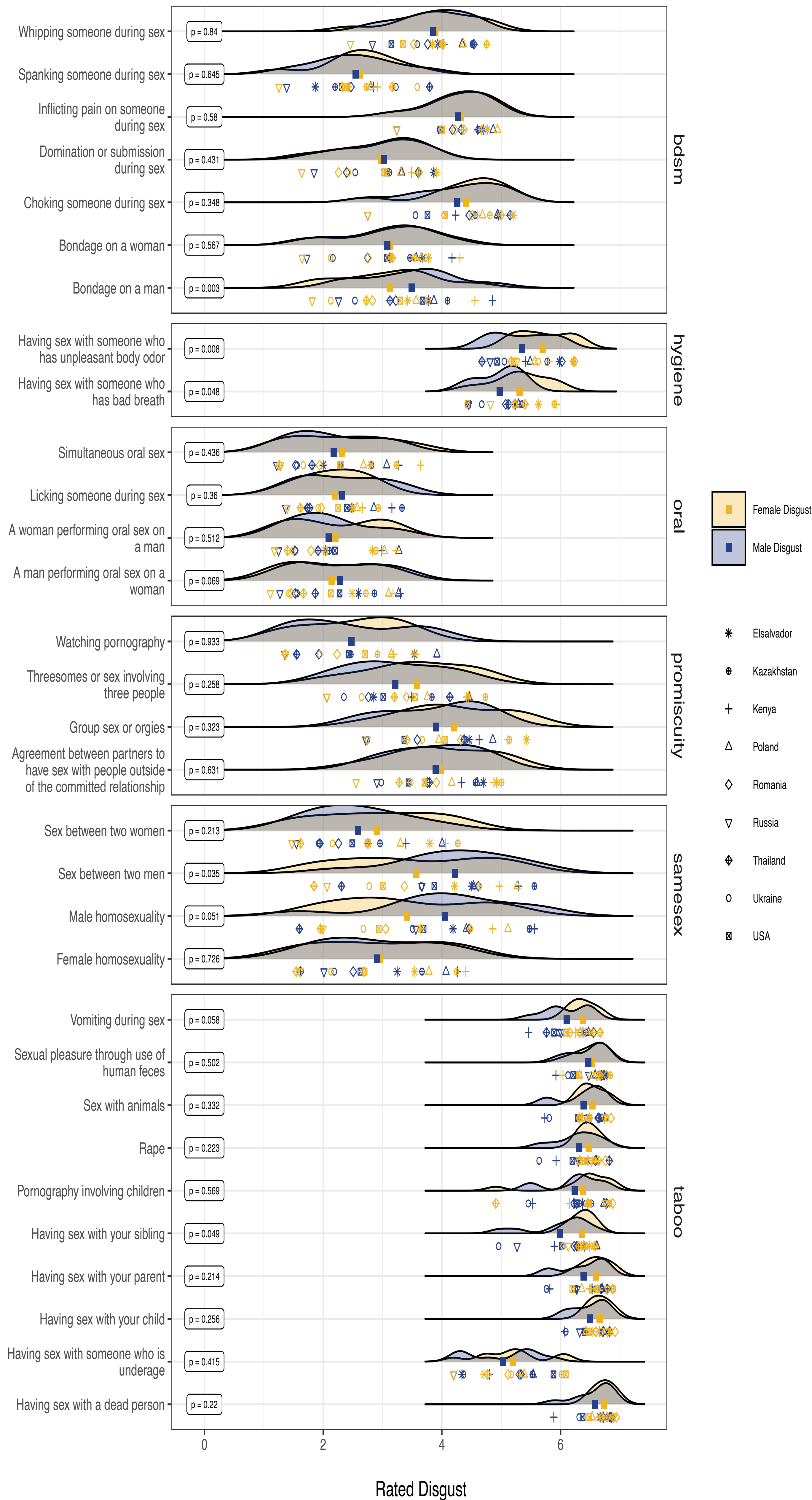


Figure 3: Item-Level and Country-Specific Sex Differences in Sexual Disgust



RESULTS

- High intercorrelations between sex-specific item means across countries, ranging from $r = 0.85$ to $r = 1.00$ (see **Figure 2**).
- Significant sex differences in 4 cultures towards having sex with your sibling ($p < .05$) and having sex with someone who has bad breath ($p < .05$) such that women were more disgusted, on average, than men towards these items (see **Figure 3**).
- Significant sex differences in 3 cultures towards having sex with someone who has unpleasant body odor ($p < .01$) such that women were more disgusted, on average, than men towards these items (see **Figure 3**).
- Significant sex differences in 5 cultures towards sex between men ($p < .05$) and male homosexuality ($p = 0.51$), such that men were more disgusted, on average, than women towards this (see **Figure 3**).
- Significant sex differences in 4 cultures towards bondage on a man ($p < .01$) such that men were more disgusted, on average, than women towards this (see **Figure 3**).

CONCLUSIONS

- Our results reveal smaller sex differences in sexual disgust than previous research suggests.
- We failed to find significant sex differences towards the majority of behaviors subsumed by the SDI.
- However, we found an interesting sex-reversed effect with men being more sexually disgusted than women towards sex between two men, male homosexuality, and bondage on a man.

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Acknowledgements: Special thanks to Sofia Price for help with the poster.