

**Personality**  
What makes us who we are?

**Psych 305A: Lecture 24**

**Personality and Gender**

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**Psychology Undergraduate  
Research conference**

FRIDAY, MARCH 27  
4-7:45 PM in Earth Science Building (ESB)  
1012: Keynote Faculty Address: Dr. Darko  
Odic, Student talks, Posters & faculty/student  
social

SATURDAY, MARCH 28  
9AM-4:45 PM in ESB 1012: Student talks,  
posters, working lunch

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## Exam 5

- All Multiple Choice
- Will cover:
  - Locus of control, attributions; basically, cognitive approach material from Lecture 20
  - Emotions
  - Shattered Glass movie & class discussion
  - Personality and Relationships
  - Gender (up through today's lecture)
  - Chapters 13, 15, 16

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**Are there gender differences in cognitive abilities?**



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## Gender Differences in Personality (positive effects mean men > women)

- |                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Extraversion        | <u>d</u>                        |
| – Gregariousness      | -.15                            |
| – Assertiveness       | .50                             |
| – Activity            | .09                             |
| • Agreeableness       |                                 |
| – Trust               | -.25                            |
| – Tender-mindedness   | -.97                            |
| – Aggressiveness      | .40- .86 (depending on measure) |
| • Conscientiousness   |                                 |
| – Order               | -.13                            |
| • Emotional Stability |                                 |
| – Anxiety             | -.28                            |
| – Impulsiveness       | .06                             |
| • Openness            |                                 |
| – Ideas               | .03                             |

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## Gender Differences in Emotion

- Women experience more negative emotions
  - Greater frequency
  - Greater intensity
- Women score higher on measures of empathy

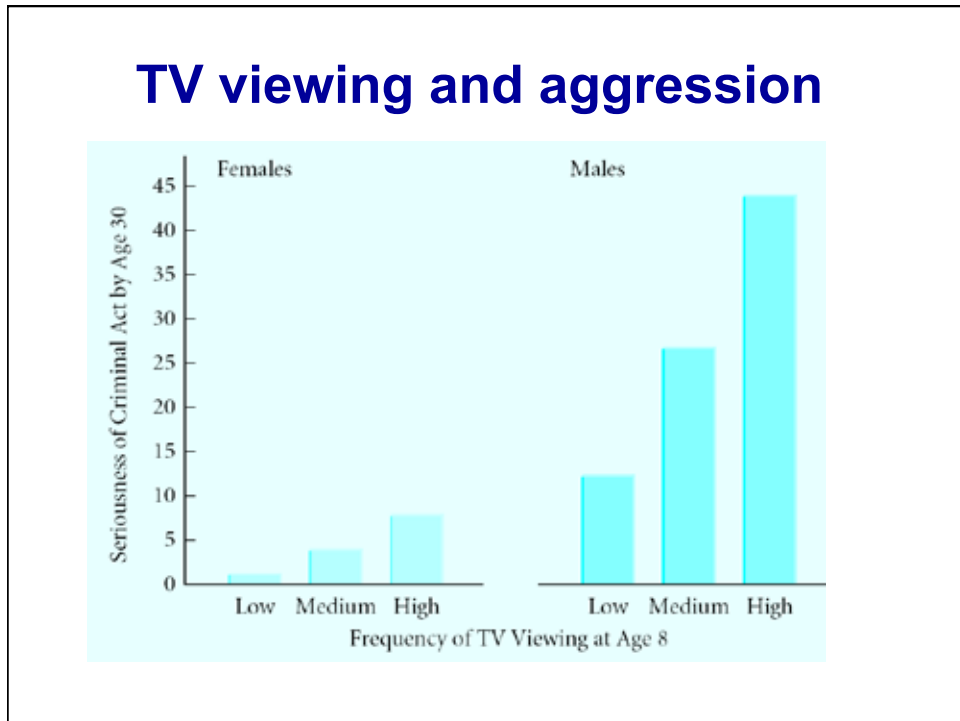
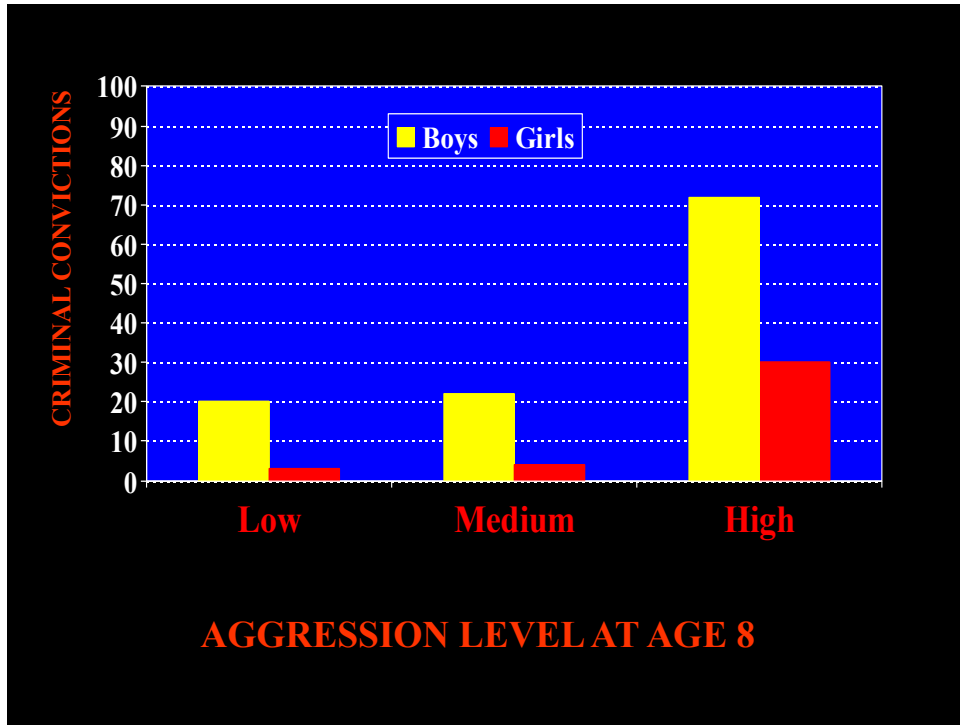
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## Is there a gender difference in aggression?

- Until age 2, No!
  - In fact, some evidence that aggression is more common in play groups dominated by girls
- By age 4 or 5, boys show higher aggression
- By adolescence, boys are much more aggressive
  - And more conduct problems, higher delinquency
- Conduct disorders are 6-10 times more common in boys
- Men commit more crime across cultures

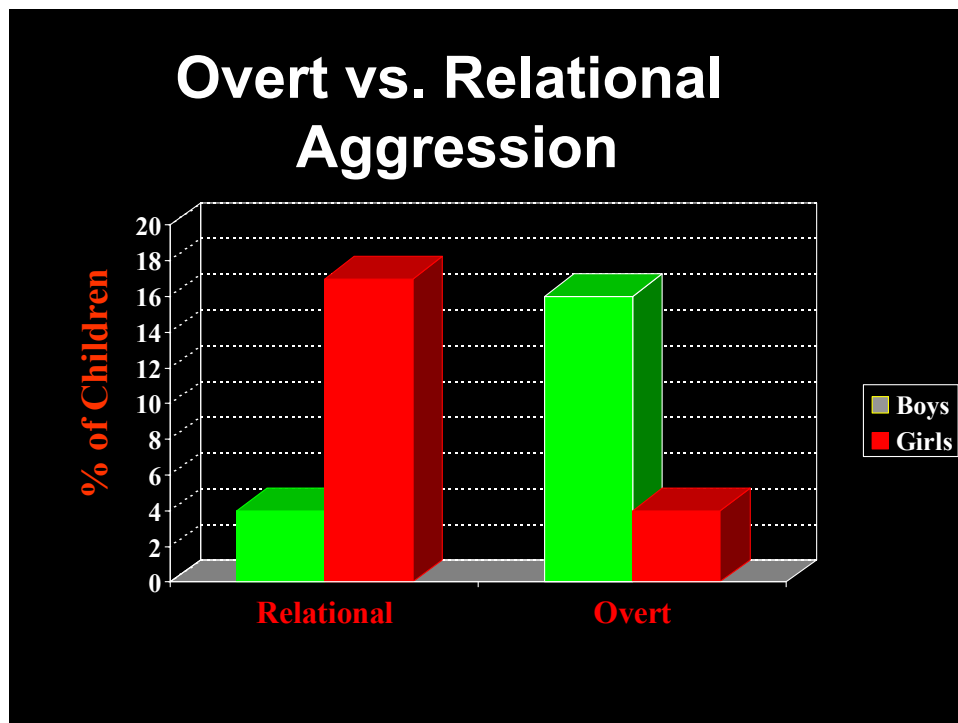
## *Homicide trends in the U.S.*

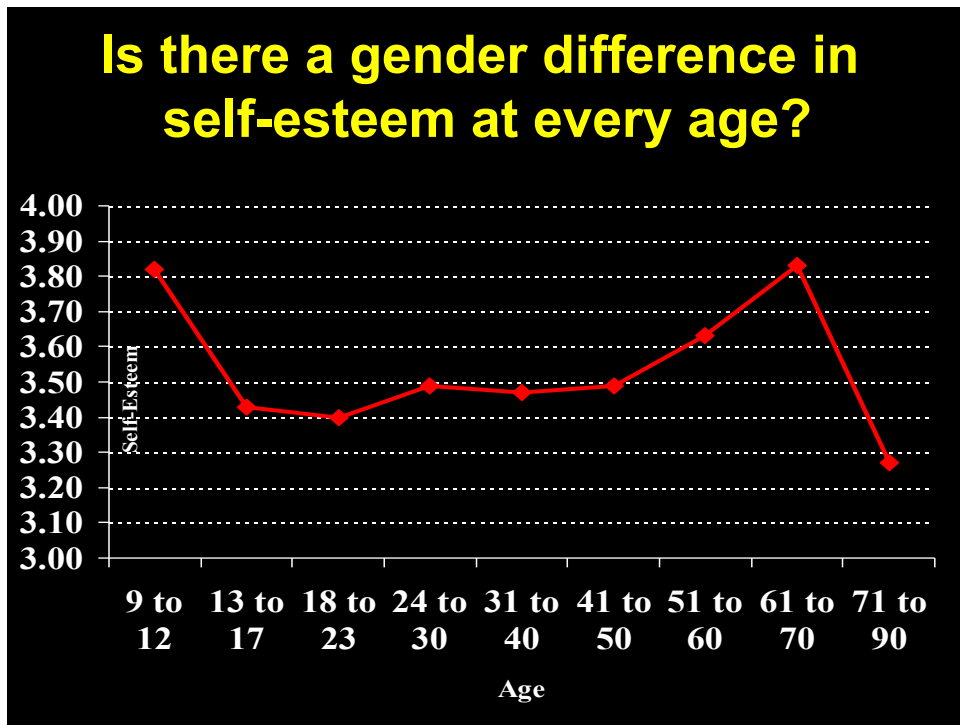
- **Males were almost 10 times more likely than females to commit murder in 2002**
- Male offender/Male victim 65.1%
- Male offender/Female victim 22.6%
- Female offender/Male victim 9.9%
- Female offender/Female victim 2.4%

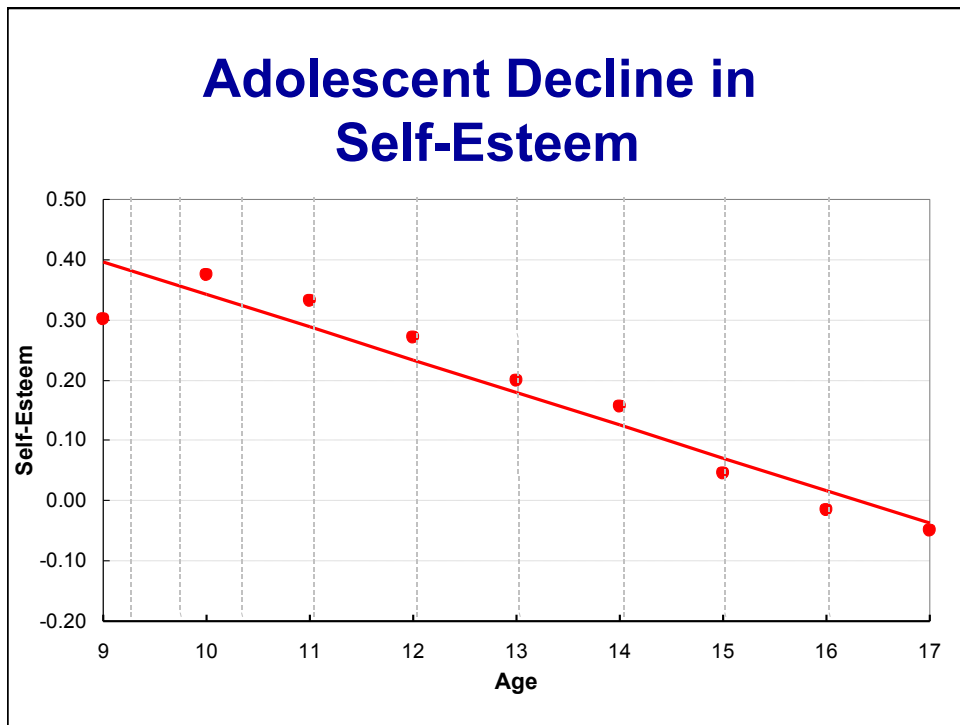
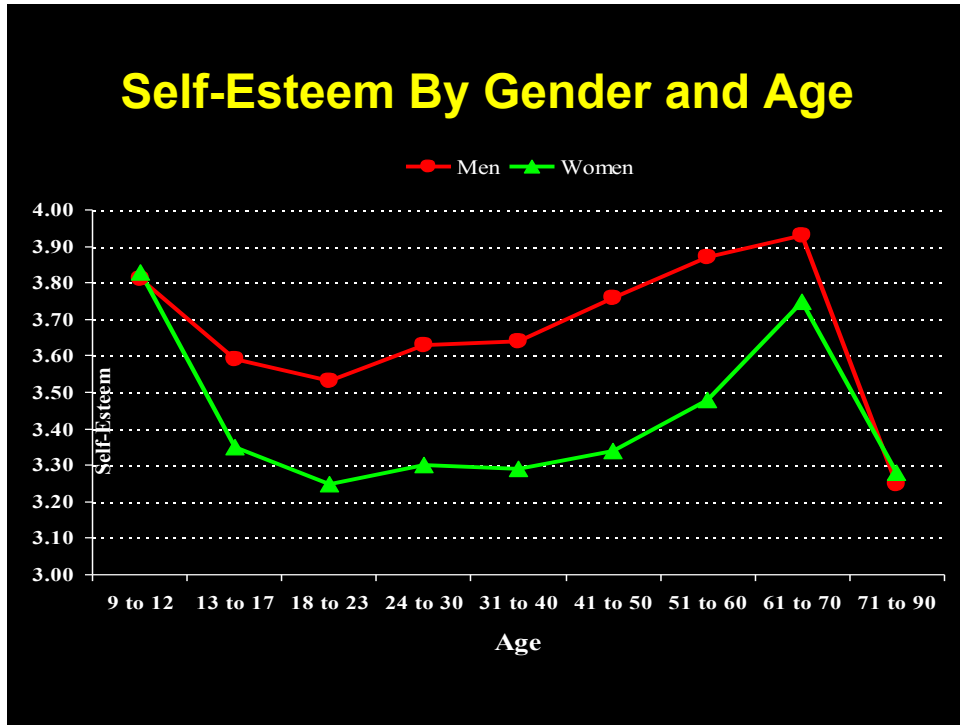


## Explaining the Gender Difference in Aggression

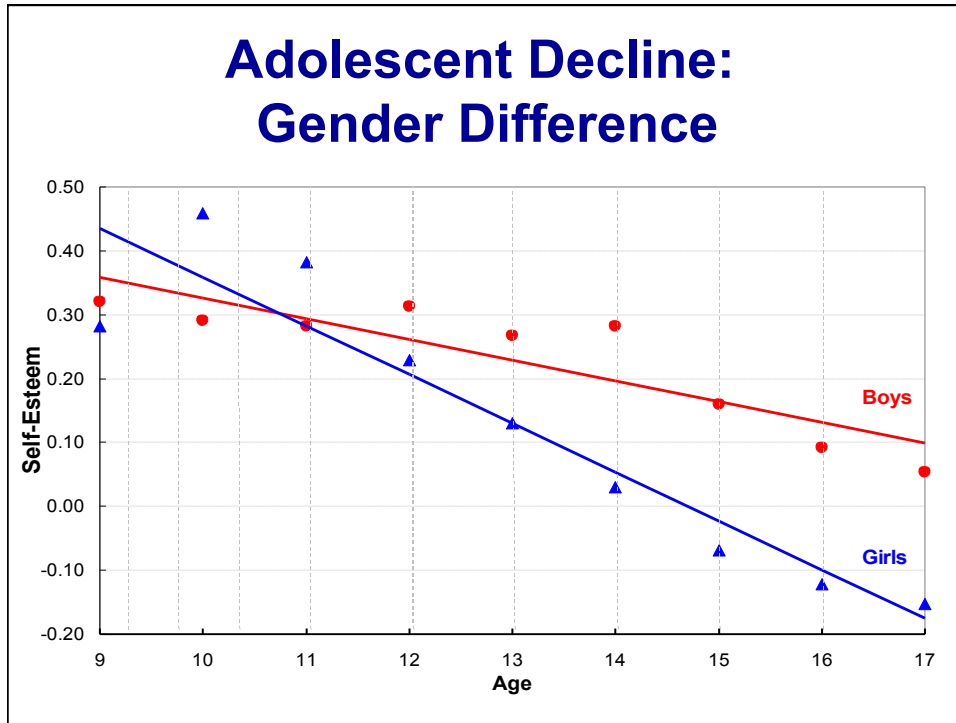
- Girls show aggression differently than boys
- Overt aggression (male)
  - Physical assaults (hitting) and verbal assaults (yelling, insulting)
- Relational aggression (female)
  - Excluding others; withdrawing acceptance; spreading false rumors
- Study of 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade children
  - Examined overt and relational aggression
  - Peer nominations of aggressive kids







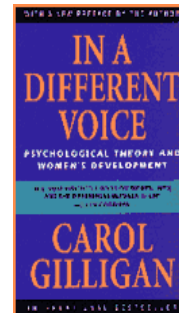




## Why Do Girls Show a Greater Self-Esteem Decline than Boys?

### What happens at adolescence?

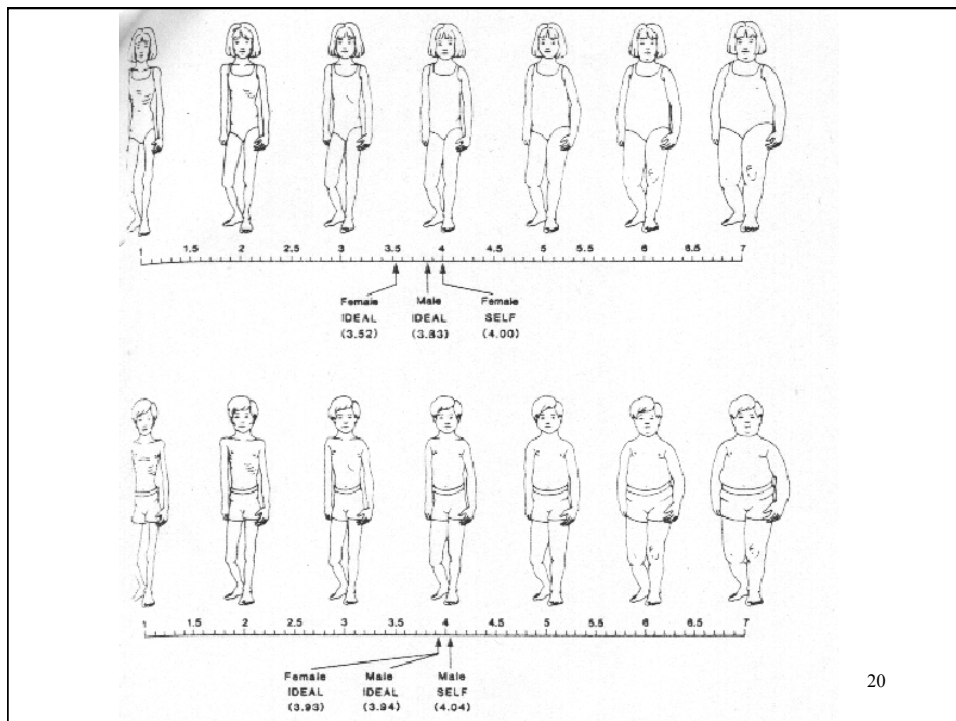
- **Girls' self-confidence fairly high until age 11 or 12**
  - Assertive about feelings
- **During adolescence**
  - Many girls accept stereotyped notions of how they should be (behavior and looks)
    - Repress true feelings
    - Adopt a “nice” and woman-like self-presentation



## Why do adolescent girls decline in self-esteem more than boys?

- Idealized standards of beauty may contribute to girls' declining self-esteem
- Girls' bodies change with puberty, making it much harder to maintain the idealized body type presented by the media

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## **Gender Difference in Body Image**

- Review of 222 studies over the past 50 years (Feingold & Mazzella, 1998)
- Findings:
  - Men have a more positive body image than women
  - Gender difference is larger for more recent studies

## **Body image and girls' self-esteem decline**

- Experimental evidence
  - Exposure to media showing thin body ideal linked to lower self-esteem
- Quasi-experimental evidence
  - Introduction of American TV in Fiji increased prevalence of eating disorders in adolescent girls, and led to more negative body image

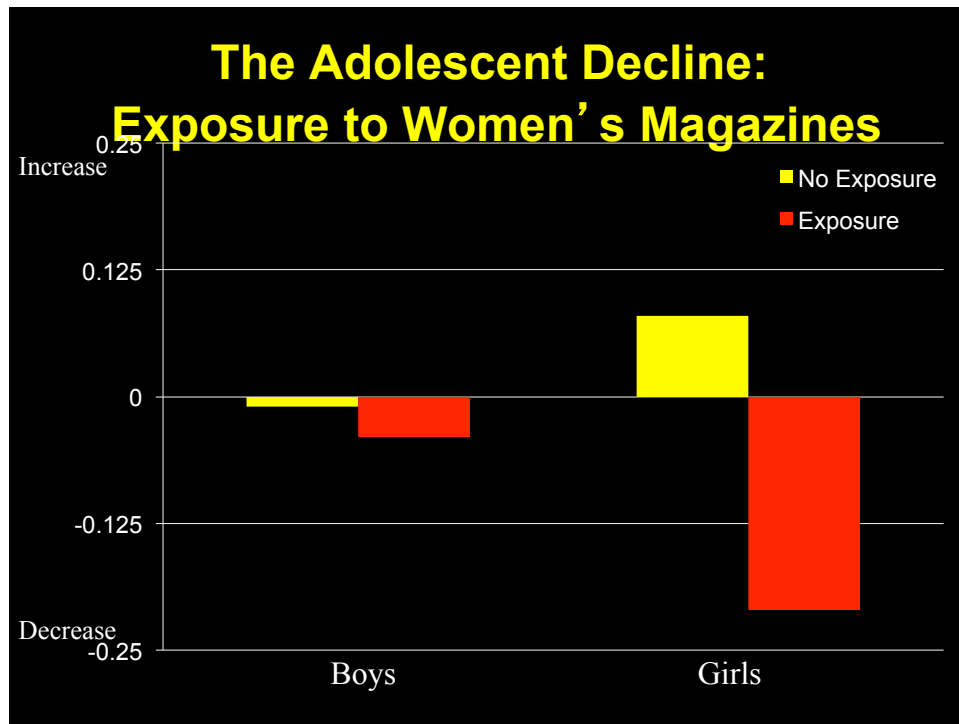
## Body Image- Self-esteem Study

- Hypothesis: Girls in countries that begin receiving magazines depicting idealized body images will show larger decline in self-esteem during adolescence

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## Methods

- Internet sample
- 34 countries
- Measured self-esteem in children (ages 9-12) and adolescents (ages 13-17)
  - Self-esteem levels drop, overall, between these two age groups
- Coded each country for availability of popular women's magazines (*Cosmopolitan*, *Glamour*, *Vogue*)
  - 11 countries have access to these magazines



### Next Class

- Friday: Exam 5
- Monday March 30: Wrap up Gender, Begin Culture
- Read Chapter 17 for Wednesday, April 1
- Looking Ahead:
  - No class Friday April 3 or Monday April 6 (Easter holiday)
  - Wed., April 8: Last lecture: wrap up culture, Course overview
  - Friday April 10: Exam 6