

Dissertation explores sex and the Internet

A dissertation from Malmo University College in Sweden posits the Internet has created a space where people can experiment with their sexuality.

Doctoral candidate Michael Ross says many heterosexual men, who have previously fantasized about it, experiment in cyber sex with other men.

The dissertation entitled "Typing, Doing and Being -- A Study of Men Who Have Sex with Men and Sexuality on the Internet" is to be defended Friday by Ross, the first public defense in the college's new research field of Health and Society.

The dissertation, based on empirical studies conducted in the United States and Sweden, claims the Internet revolution is changing people's sexuality.

"The findings show we reach people via the Internet that we would never, or only with difficulty, have reached in traditional ways," said Ross. "This makes Internet interventions an important tool in health education."

He also examines social scientific theories and sexuality in relation to the Internet.

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