

Lifestyle 201: Consent and Negotiations Intensive



“It is the primary responsibility of the slave to protect the master’s property at all times, up to and including protecting the property from their master.”

<https://www.dragonstailalc.com>

(It is a person’s primary responsibility to protect themselves at all times, up to and including protecting themselves from other people, regardless of the relationship they have with them.)

Ellis Pérez August 15 at 10:44 AM · consentacademy

Consent is about more than just sex. Consent is about safety and boundaries.

Consent is “Can I give you a hug goodbye?”

Consent is “I want to talk about something kind of heavy/triggering. Are you in a safe space for me to do that?”

Consent is “I want to talk about something that’s bothering me. Is now a good time to talk about it?”

Consent is “I know someone who might be better able to help you, can I disclose what you’ve told me to them?”

Consent is “Can I take a picture of you?”

Consent is “Can I post this picture of us on social media?”

Consent is not limited to sexual partners. Consent is about creating a space where everyone feels safe. Feeling safe breeds honesty and better communication. Ask your friends for consent. Ask kids for consent. Teach that boundaries are healthy and that stating them is essential.

Thanks for coming to my Ted talk.

Tea Consent: <https://youtu.be/oQbei5JGiT8>

What do consent-aware kinksters and vampires have in common?

The 3 “secret” rules of BDSM/kink.

- ❖ “Big Three” negotiations: relationship (including sexual), PE dynamic, play
 - ❖ “Age of consent” vs “legal adult.”
 - ❖ Legalities of BDSM/“slavery” in the US. (A lot of what we do is literally illegal.) Contracts are bullshit and dangerous.
 - ❖ Why do we negotiate? To prevent/mitigate harm. (Physical, sexual, emotional, mental, spiritual.)
 - ❖ People are not fetish dispensers. You don’t put a coin in and get what you want out of them.
 - ❖ Consent: What is consent? Lack of an explicit YES is an AUTOMATIC NO.
- ❖ True consent, enthusiastic consent, “wishy/washy” consent, microaggressions, “Yes, but...”
 - ❖ Consent can be revoked at ANY time. For ANY reason. By EITHER party.
 - ❖ Get in the habit of prefacing asks with, “No is ALWAYS an acceptable answer.” (And FUCKING MEAN IT.)
 - ❖ Anything past NO, RED, STOP —IS A CRIME. (Assault, battery, rape, kidnapping/false imprisonment.)
 - ❖ State of mind, mental health, intoxication/high/under the influence of prescription medication, psychological/emotional/mental issues, physical health, personality types.
 - ❖ Perceived power differential/imbalance, both as a giver and receiver, kink experience, age, gender, physical size.
 - ❖ Freedom of communication vs fear
 - ❖ New play partners, vs established relationships

- ❖ Hard-limit respect vs pushing boundaries (Just outside but pressed RIGHT up against the box...)
- ❖ Make sure you're speaking the same "BDSM (or relationship or PE) language."
- ❖ Communications can FUBAR depending on the "type" of Top someone is and the "type" of bottom someone else is, as well as personality types, power imbalance, etc. (see above)
- ❖ Initial negotiations CANNOT be done as anything other than equals. "Un-Domming" the Dommy partner to be equals. "Un-subbing" the subby partner to be equals. (If you don't feel you can do that, you need to NOT be doing this, period.)
- ❖ Speaking up and speaking out.
- ❖ Comfort boxes and self-made cages. (Easier to say yes than to object. Limiting beliefs, you "have" to do something a certain way.)
- ❖ Why you want enthusiastic consent.
- ❖ Physical/subtle cues. (Trying to get away or make excuses, eyes averted, not talking, trying to avoid setting a firm date, avoiding giving a phone number, avoiding calls.)
- ❖ Seek out mentors (Tops and bottoms) to learn about the lifestyle.
- ❖ Third-party negotiating buddy. (Reality checks can't be bounced...) aka the "Adulter Adult"
- ❖ Start out small/slow and work up. (Builds anticipation.)
- ❖ Beware "blanket yeses."
- ❖ Levels of acceptable risk and personal responsibility.
- ❖ You cannot be un-fingered. You cannot be un-hit. You cannot be un-raped.
- ❖ If you fuck up and are the consent violator, you can go to jail.
- ❖ Ultimate definition of a self-regulating relationship is putting two sadomasochistic switches together.

Next Step:

Watch This Before Continuing: <https://youtu.be/kTFZyl7hfBw>

And this: <https://youtu.be/b1XGPvbWn0A>

And this: <https://youtu.be/04gsXMgaGVQ>

And this: <https://youtu.be/u0NwiwAcll8>

And this: <https://youtu.be/LvNZt1T5rAQ>

Then there's this: <https://youtu.be/ud3DLjREV34>

One more: https://youtu.be/KNfE_Det2Fo

THIS is why you need "enthusiastic consent."

- ❖ Gender/identity/orientation disclaimer reminder.
- ❖ Men usually do not understand or comprehend the level of fear women CONSTANTLY experience. Especially in a public place.
- ❖ Just because YOU don't see something happening doesn't mean it doesn't happen. (Frequently doesn't happen when a perceived "alpha" male is with the woman.)
- ❖ You do NOT get to decide for a woman what is "harassing" and what is not. Just because you, as a man, don't see it as harassment doesn't mean it's not.

- ❖ Women do NOT know that “you are a good guy.” Catcallers/harassers do NOT wear white/black hats for us to tell them apart. We can’t read your mind. We do NOT “owe” you the chance for you to prove yourself to us that you are a “good” guy.
- ❖ You might be the tenth or hundredth person to say that shit to a woman that day.
- ❖ STOP TELLING WOMEN TO SMILE.
- ❖ Why don’t women just tell the men to stop it? Women frequently find telling people to stop catcalling/harassing them makes a man angrier and can escalate the situation.
- ❖ Understanding sometimes women say yes NOT because we want to but because we think we HAVE to just to SAFELY exit the situation and retreat.
- ❖ Women are raised from childhood to defaulting to placating men to avoid injury/death, and that we are “bitches” if we don’t.
- ❖ Women who are younger/less experienced will sometimes say “yes” thinking they “have” to, or it’s expected, NOT because they “want” to or are enthusiastic.
- ❖ Women: How many times have you not reported conduct because you knew nothing would happen to the perpetrator and you didn’t want to be dragged through the mud?
- ❖ DO NOT, under ANY circumstances, interrupt a woman when she’s reading/listening to music in a public space UNLESS HER SAFETY IS AT RISK. (Car about to hit her, there’s a bee on her head, Godzilla’s approaching. And even then, start with an apology for interrupting her. “I’m so sorry to interrupt you, but you might want to get out of the way of that oncoming car...”)
- ❖ **NEVER** PUT HANDS ON A WOMAN. **PERIOD**. DO NOT TOUCH HER, UNLESS IT’S TO PULL HER OUT OF THE WAY OF ABSOLUTE DANGER. Don’t touch her arm. Don’t pat her shoulder. Don’t touch her ass. Don’t touch her hair. DO NOT TOUCH HER. If you offer to shake hands and she does not immediately respond, WITHDRAW. DO NOT OFFER TO HUG PEOPLE WHO DON’T KNOW YOU. DO NOT GUILT THEM WITH, OH, I’M A HUGGER. And if someone refuses a hug? Then be gracious and not a douchenozzle.
- ❖ “Well, how do I meet women, then?” Catcalling a woman on a street, or interrupting her workout or commute is most likely NOT going to get you a date. It’s going to piss the woman off, at best, or it’s going to terrify her, at worst. THAT IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC CONSENT.
- ❖ WOMEN DO NOT OWE YOU INTERACTIONS, ESPECIALLY ONES THEY HAVE NOT INITIATED.
- ❖ Special danger for trans persons.
- ❖ No, it’s not fair you can’t just approach a woman to speak to her because she’s gun-shy—suck it the fuck up and start telling your bros to knock this shit off, and maybe one day that will change. Educate your sons to NOT do this shit. If you see a man harassing a woman on the street, STEP IN AND SHUT HIS SHIT DOWN. WOMEN DO NOT OWE YOU AN INTERACTION. PERIOD.

Consent violations aren’t just rape or sexual assault.

- ❖ Default expectations need to be backed the fuck up. Nobody OWES you ANYTHING. Just because someone is somewhere doesn’t give you the right to say

- or do whatever first pops into your head. (BDSM club, cosplay at a convention, women in bikinis at beach, walking on a street.)
- ❖ All interactions with strangers should default to basic courtesy and a neutral playing field.
 - ❖ Different standards for het interactions vs same-sex interactions. (If a straight man was hit upon by a gay man the way the straight man hits upon a woman...)
 - ❖ “Well, I’m a Dom. I don’t do that. /I’m a sub, I can’t do that.” (Then you should NOT be doing this lifestyle.)
 - ❖ Awkward is FINE. COMMUNICATE.
 - ❖ “Familiarity breeds contempt.” - We tend to forget our manners with people we “know,” especially if we’ve known them for a long time.
 - ❖ The BIG no-no’s are “obvious” (invading scene, rape).
 - ❖ Inadvertent no-no’s (sitting at a table and talking to someone, touching their elbow or shoulder, touching someone’s implements, grabbing a boob in a scene when you said you wouldn’t).
 - ❖ “Invisible no-no’s” (you’re talking to someone who’s quiet and not interacting with you but hasn’t said anything to stop you, someone’s married and you don’t secure the spouse’s consent to do something with the other partner, someone is partnered and you didn’t get the sub’s permission to play)
 - ❖ Microaggressions (Misgendering, dead-naming. Using “pet names” for a person without their consent. “Hey, baby, nice tits. Want to play?” “Don’t get upset/don’t be a bitch/I was just complimenting you.” “I came all this way out here tonight to play with you/I might not be able to get off work for a few months.” “Oh, you don’t feel like that.” “Why are you so uptight?” “Sheesh, okay, fine.”)

Red Flags:

- ❖ Listen to your gut.
- ❖ Submissive does NOT mean doormat.
- ❖ Negotiate sane & sober.
- ❖ NO is always an acceptable answer. Beware of people who say if you safeword, we won’t play again.
- ❖ Vet partners with other people as well as Google, USDOJ database, FDLE search, etc.
- ❖ Personality disorders and predators. (“Law of averages.”)
- ❖ Does someone get pissy when you question them or want references to talk to about them?
- ❖ Is someone making the same kinds of apologies over and over again?
- ❖ LISTEN to your gut.
- ❖ Beware of “well, REAL submissives...” or, “I’m a REAL Dominant, so I...”
- ❖ Beware of blanket yeses, or, “You can do anything to me and I’ll stop you if I don’t like it.”
- ❖ WTWers.
- ❖ Reasonable objections and accommodations. (Privacy due to work but fine with a witness, versus won’t play with you unless you’re completely alone.)

- ❖ LISTEN to your damn gut.
- ❖ Approach negotiations as the “end point” so you aren’t afraid to just walk away if it goes wrong. Assume play isn’t going to happen and you won’t be disappointed that it doesn’t.
- ❖ Beware NRE and “shiny object syndrome.”
- ❖ If you can’t be “friends” with them, why would you play with them?
- ❖ NO mid-scene negotiations.
- ❖ Personal responsibility vs victim blaming.
- ❖ LISTEN TO YOUR FUCKING GUT.
- ❖ A good Top defaults to protecting the bottom, even if it means stopping a scene early, or avoiding an activity/certain contact if they aren’t sure of a limit or can’t remember if it was allowed.
- ❖ Would you use a bad mechanic, a bad doctor, or a bad chef if several of your friends already warned you off that professional?

When shit gets fucked up...

- ❖ When you realize you fucked up: STOP FUCKING UP. Make sure the victim is physically safe. And LISTEN to the person who is the victim.
- ❖ The two hardest words to say are, “I’m sorry.”
- ❖ The three hardest words to say are, “I fucked up.”
- ❖ What is an apology? “I fucked up — I’m sorry.”
- ❖ What is NOT an apology? “I’m sorry you think that I... This is why I did... You just thought that... I’d like to explain myself and why I...” (Non-apologies, or apologies that start with justifications are NOT apologies.)
- ❖ The words you should *always* say when shit goes sideways: “I’m sorry. I fucked up. What do you need me to do to make this right?” or “Please tell me what you need from me/need me to do.” Do not justify, do not “explain,” do not try to convince the victim that’s not what really happened.
- ❖ Remember that the wronged party is NOT OBLIGATED to tell you that, and they are NOT OBLIGATED to “forgive” or “absolve” you.
- ❖ If YOU fucked up, YOU do not get to determine what “fixes” the fuck-up. You do NOT get to determine the timeframe for repairing the damage, either.
- ❖ How a Top handles when things go wrong speaks more to their character than how they normally conduct themselves.

Relationship Negotiations:

- ❖ No secrets. (“I’m poly, but don’t tell my wife.”)
- ❖ Uncomfortable, frank, frequent conversations.
- ❖ Talking to others involved with the person.
- ❖ Everyone must be included in the talks and consenting.
- ❖ Ethical non-monogamy.
- ❖ Includes sexual discussions/testing/fluid bonding.
- ❖ Boundaries, rules, limits.
- ❖ BDSM Relationship Worksheet

- ❖ Sex Negotiation Worksheet
- ❖ Sexy Menu

PE dynamic:

- ❖ Healthy PE vs abusive
- ❖ Temporary vs long-term. (Scene vs relationship vs D/s vs 24/7.)
- ❖ Situational.
- ❖ “bottoming” vs “submitting”, “topping” vs “dominating”
- ❖ Talking to others involved with the person. (Tops and bottoms.)
- ❖ Contracts. (Do NOT use. Different than a kink worksheet.)
- ❖ Limits.

Play negotiations:

- ❖ Kink/fetish “lists” and how they’re helpful/bullshit. (Limits and experience—YES! “You are 27.82% pervert”—NO!)

If someone is new to the lifestyle, and/or new to playing with a particular partner, then you need to go back to the basics to make sure you’re speaking the same BDSM language. Sometimes, people think they’re saying the same things, and they’re not.

“Well, I thought that...”

“Well, I saw you doing that with so-and-so, so I thought that...”

“You didn’t say you didn’t want it, so...”

NO.

You can tell a top you’re okay with them doing impact play on you because you saw them bare-handed smacking someone in another scene, but in your scene they break out some heavy-duty studded paddle to smack you with.

Uh, NO.

There is a big difference between light swats with a riding crop and heavy strokes with a cane. Different canes deliver different sensations. Different cane materials can vary from mild to holy-fuck.

But if you tell a Top, “Sure, you can use a cane on me,” and you’re going by the fact that in his last scene you saw him pull a little rattan cane out, and he instead smacks you hard with a Delrin hexrod you didn’t even know he had?

NO.

- ❖ Beware “blanket yeses.”
- ❖ Vetting a play partner. (Tops and bottoms.) - Experience, techniques, training/education, results, oopsies?
- ❖ Hard/soft limits. (pushing boundaries vs violating limits and consent)
- ❖ Health issues & STIs.

- ❖ Safewords/cues.
- ❖ Safety precautions.
- ❖ “Scenus Interruptus” versus incarceration.
- ❖ Mind fucks (knife play example) can substitute for “play.”
- ❖ Aftercare (Top and bottom).
- ❖ Follow-up with each other.
- ❖ Play Negotiation Worksheet
- ❖ Massive BDSM Checklist

Resources:

Mollena’s full Prime Directive post: <http://www.mollena.com/2013/06/prime-directive/>

The Consent Academy: <http://www.consent.academy/consent-basics.html>

NCSF Consent Counts: <https://ncsfreedom.org/key-programs/consent-counts-64083/consent-counts-44979>



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