“pornography”: (1) subordination of women; they are dehumanized as sexual objects who enjoy pain or humiliation. It is a form of hate speech/literature that lies about or defames women. (2) Like rape, it is a male invention, designed to dehumanize women.

Problems: persuasive definition: what is morally objectionable is part of the definition: it becomes by definition morally unacceptable.

Effects of pornography: it sexualizes the domination and subordination of women. [in pornography and society?]. [All, some?] men define what women want and who they are [in pornography and in society?]. It justifies the abuse of women on the basis of their sexual characteristics. (2) It is explicit sexual material intended to sexually arouse the reader, listener, or viewer.

If pornography is immoral, censorship does not necessarily follow, for we (morally) must balance competing values: liberty and freedom of expression VS the harm and the disrespect (autonomy?).

It is immoral to lower people’s human status: degrade, disrespect. [Why?]

Pornography exemplifies and recommends behavior in which women are treated as mere sex objects to be exploited and manipulated (violates autonomy), and lowers their status as humans.

Some pornography conveys the message that women really want to be raped, beaten, mutilated, and that their resistance is really an invitation [Does pornography convey this, or is it its consumers who draw fallaciously these conclusions?].

Pornography thus lies about what women want and their resistance. [Does pornography lie, or do its consumers reason incorrectly?]

Even if seeing the movie does not cause anyone to imitate the behavior, the content of pornography is degrading to women because of the immoral behavior and attitude “it recommends” (231.1.1) [Degradation: an extreme form of the violation of autonomy].

“Degradation”: a rapist degrades his/her victim because s/he violate the victim’s autonomy in a very personal and private domain. But does a film of that same rape violate anyone’s autonomy, or degrade anyone? Do such a films recommend that kind of behavior and attitude toward women? Do male viewers exposed many times adopt such a view?

When can we say that a film actually recommends something to people? Movies showing men engaging in violent acts do not lead people to lose respect for men, yet movies showing women in pornography do lead people to lose respect for women [but not for men?]. Social attitude toward sex?

Thought Experiment: Suppose a world that has the same pornographic industry, but absolutely no harm results from that industry. Would we still find it degrading, and thus morally unacceptable? Suppose X behaves in a disrespectful behavior toward Y, but Y experiences absolutely no harm. Is the disrespectful behavior degrading?

If a person is viewed as a sexual object, does s/he receive less respect? When a loving egalitarian couple is passionately making love, each one views the other partly as a sexual object. So, the
questions should be: if a person is viewed *merely* as a sexual object, does s/he receive less respect, is s/he treated *merely* as means (i.e., loss of autonomy)?

Even if sex is healthy, it is morally wrong to treat someone as *only* a sex object, just as it is wrong to treat someone as *only* a teacher, only a student, only a parent, etc. **Why?**

However, (1) in our culture sex is associated with harm (233.1.3), and (2) we think of the female role in sex as that of harmed object, so (3) to treat a woman [*merely*] as sex object is automatically to treat her as less than fully human.

**Thought Experiment:** Suppose a world very similar to ours in which (1) and (2) are true, but no harm whatsoever results to women from (1) and (2). Would we infer (3)?

To be treated or viewed [???] as a sex object where one does not want to be so treated [or viewed] (e.g. in a committee) is to reduce one to a less than fully human role (233.2.4).

As long as sex is connected with harm done to women, and pornography makes domination sexually exciting, it is degrading [???] to women. Pornography is designed to appeal to male fantasies, which still run along the lines of stereotypical gender roles (and some hostility to women).

What does it reflect of people (mainly men) who get sexually aroused from the (sexual) degradation of women?

**Mill:** We may interfere with an adult’s liberty only when his her exercise of that liberty harms or risks harming others. We may not interfere with a rational adult’s liberty even when s/he harms or risks harming him/herself. Independence of each rational adult is absolute until it harms or risks harming others. For human beings have much greater to gain by allowing each other to live according to what each one believes is good for him/her, than by compelling each to live as seems good to the rest.