

## EXERCISE 7.1

### SEX TOURISM AND THE OTHER

This exercise considers relations between different racial groups in the context of Caribbean tourism. The connections between tourism, sex and power are myriad and complex. Herold et al. (2001) suggest that we should imagine the relationships between tourism and sex as existing on a continuum between prostitution and romance (Figure 7.1). The work of Chris Ryan (2001) further tells us that identifying a practice that we can label 'sex tourism' should revolve around levels of exploitation and commerciality. Thus, sex tourism would tend towards exploitative and commercial relationships and romance towards consensual and non-commercial relations. These can be conceptualised as shown in Figure 7.2.

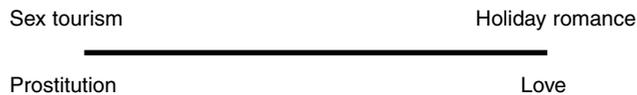


Figure 7.1



Figure 7.2

Use the lines in Figures 7.2 and 7.3 to compare and contrast different forms of activity, or the behaviours of different people. There is no absolute way of plotting particular activities of these lines, and they must be used relatively to examine the relationships between a series of cases.



Figure 7.3

#### Holiday romance or sex tourism?

Jacqueline Sanchez Taylor (2000, 2001) has detailed the relationships between local men and Western women in Caribbean resorts, and in particular has looked at the nature of their sexual relationships. Below are

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some brief biographical details about six individuals as well as some information on the kinds of encounter that may occur between them. Read the information and then position each person's activity on the 'exploitative–consensual' continuum. Do the same with the 'Commercial–Non-commercial' continuum.

**Mary, 42, UK:** Recently separated from her husband, Mary is looking for love on her first visit to Jamaica. Mary is white, 5 feet 2 inches tall and weighs 17 stone. She has been in a physical relationship with a local male (aged 21) for two weeks of her stay. Mary has gifted the local man some money and paid all the expenses relating to their time spent together in bars and sightseeing. She intends to return to Jamaica, and to keep in touch with the man in the meantime.

**Steve, 21, Jamaica:** Steve is a single man, 6 feet 3 inches tall and muscular. He works as a promoter for clubs, bars and other tourist venues in his hometown (a resort). He regularly engages in one- or two-week relationships with women from the USA, Canada and Great Britain. He speaks fluent French and English. His main source of income is from single female tourists, who cover his living costs and send him financial gifts after their holidays.

**Monique, 37, Canada:** Monique is a single woman from Quebec, 5 feet 8 inches tall and slim. She has never been married and is looking for casual sexual relationships with local men in the Dominican Republic. She is on her seventh annual visit to the republic, having previously made a number of trips to Jamaica, where she also engaged in sexual relationships with locals. She remains in contact with a series of local men between trips, and often rekindles relationships (of several days length) with them when she returns. She regularly makes financial payments to her partners.

**Maurice, 52, USA:** Maurice is a divorced man, 5 feet 11 inches tall, weighing 21 stone. He has made a visit to the Dominican Republic primarily to engage in watersports. While there, however, he used local female prostitutes three or four times (in two weeks), typically spending 30 minutes to an hour with them, and paying a sum of money agreed in advance before departing.

**Beatrice, 17, Dominican Republic:** Beatrice is a local woman, slim and attractive. She works as a prostitute, picking up clients in bars and performing agreed services at agreed prices. She speaks only Spanish and a few words of English. Her sex work supports her parents, who are both unemployed.

**Bob, 24, Dominican Republic:** Bob is from a resort in the Dominican Republic where he is employed as a waiter in a major hotel complex. Each

summer season, Bob becomes involved with two or three international female tourists. He spends much time with them and solicits payments of money from them (though never direct payment for sex).

Think about the relationships in which the above people might be involved over the course of one year. What are the power relationships that affect their behaviour? Consider each person and explain how each of the potential bases of power – age, gender, wealth, nationality and race/ethnicity – could impact on their lives.