

Combinatorics and more

Gil Kalai's blog

Academic Degrees and Sex

Posted on [November 30, 2008](#) by [Gil Kalai](#)

“251 Mercer street” I said, “it is in the village,” “I know that” said the driver “are you going to NYU?” “Yes” I said. I was going to give a lecture at Ricky and Eli’s Tuesday evening’s Geometry Seminar and came earlier to have a chance to chat with the guys. “Let me tell you something” the driver said, “I did not finish elementary school, I left in the 6th grade and started working, and everyday I come home and have sex. My friends who finished elementary school have sex 2-3 times a week, tops. And , you know,” continued the driver “those who went on to finish high school, they have sex maybe once a week, no more.” “I see,” I said. “Some people” continued the driver “go to college and they get a degree, BA or BSc or something like this.” he paused and continued “these people have sex once a month at best!”

I could see where this was heading. “Some people go to graduate school, if they are lucky they leave after one year with a master’s degree,” (I was impressed by my taxi driver’s knowledge of the academic system), “they may still have sex a few times a year, but those who stay there longer, my friend,” the driver said in a screamy cheerful voice “I don’t even want to think about them.”

We reached NYU and before I left the driver asked, “and you mister, you look educated, what academic degree do you have?”

I looked him straight in the eyes and said “I have a B. Sc”.

Other [Taxi-and-Other-Stories](#).

Updates: Andrei Zelevinsky had a [post](#) (in russian) following this taxi-story, and Simon Litsyn [presented](#) a Russian translation! I do not understand it, but I suppose that 251 is 251 and then “Мерсер” must be “Mercer”. Is “Гиль Калай” my name? The story was picked up in several other places and gathered additional comments of various kind.

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7 Responses to *Academic Degrees and Sex*



George *says:*

November 30, 2008 at 5:58 am

All the statistics I have seen suggest people with doctoral degrees have MORE sex than the average person.

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anonymous *says:*

November 30, 2008 at 11:28 am

Does your answer B. Sc mean that you have sex once a month at best? 😊

[Reply](#)



HealingMindN says:

December 1, 2008 at 1:20 am

All these people with a low education have the sexual activity to academic career ratio completely backwards. They don't know about the main pass time with college kids and graduates because they've never been there.

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Sergei Yakovenko says:

December 1, 2008 at 5:10 pm

An unexpected opportunity to reveal advantages of mathematical culture. You **did not lie**, unlike your talkative driver whose proofs are yet to be seen 😊

[Reply](#)



Bebra Raguna says:

December 8, 2008 at 7:20 pm

I have a Ph.D amd I have sex every nighths.

[Reply](#)



SDC says:

December 22, 2008 at 5:34 am

I think the taxi driver meant with another person.

[Reply](#)



[Cecilia Digiovanni](#) says:

February 4, 2010 at 10:17 am

Really cool I adore examples of the articles which have been written, and especially the comments posted! I am going to come back!

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