Does Objectification Explain Male Aggression Against Women?

The last decade or so has witnessed a wave of empirical studies purporting to show that men’s sexual focus on the female body leads to increased hostility and aggression against women. According to what I call "The Objectification Hypothesis," the explanation for this phenomenon has to do with the fact that, in such circumstances, men "objectify" women, that is, regard them as mere objects or as means only. The paper rejects this hypothesis and points to some difficulties in the notion of objectification. It then offers an alternative explanation for the connection between the sexual gaze of men and their aggression against women.