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Title: The K-bomb: Evolution, Anticommunism, and the 1953 Kinsey Report on Female Sexuality

In 2005, the late IU historian of science Frederick Churchill argued that Alfred C. Kinsey’s 1948 report on male sexuality was not a dispassionate, objective, neutral accounting of data, but rather reflected an “evolutionary ethics.” Kinsey, that is, sought to construct a vision of healthy sexuality and the good human society based on our common ancestry with non-human animals.  As Churchill noted, Kinsey’s efforts ran into “philosophical difficulties” created by his uses of the naturalistic fallacy and arguments *de animalibus.*  In my study of the controversy stirred by Kinsey’s 1953 report on female sexuality, I analyze how the sexologist’s continuing efforts in evolutionary ethics generated substantial political difficulties that may have sent him to an early grave. His critics harnessed explicit anticommunist arguments and implicit antievolutionary ones that painted Kinsey as an explosively dangerous immoralist.  The furor stoked by the 1953 volume (documented by clipping files at the Kinsey Institute and Congressional hearing records) tracks well with earlier (and subsequent) attempts by Christian conservatives to demonize Darwin that I have traced in *Red Dynamite: Creationism, Culture Wars, and Anticommunism in America.*