What are so-called "pick-up artists"?

So-called "pick-up artists" systematically approach women with the implicit aim of seducing or compelling them to engage in sexual acts. "Pick-up" is based on strategies and "tricks", such as deliberate boundary crossing and targeted degradation, in order to manipulate women. The principle of "no means no" is alien to the pick-up scene. "No" always means "not yet" and is interpreted as a challenge. This is based on an image of gender and women that objectifies women and values them primarily based on attractiveness. The principles of "pick-up" go beyond attempts at self-help for shy young men or rehearsed flirts.

How do so-called "pick-up artists" operate?

- Approaching women in public spaces (canteens, university halls, campuses, etc.): Usually many women are approached one after the other with the same pick-up line or under the same pretense.
- Monologuing/intrusive enquiries: Women are asked for their contact details and invited on "dates", sometimes in written form, by handing over small pieces of paper, etc. Refusals are ignored and the women continue to be verbally harassed.
- Compliments are followed by humiliation: The method is called push & pull. First the woman is shown interest with a friendly compliment and afterwards the compliment is undercut with a cheeky insult. This is meant to create a power imbalance by making the woman feel insecure.
- Incessant small touches: Physical contact is quickly established, e.g. by touching the arm or somewhere similar. This is intended to simulate intimacy that would otherwise not occur this quickly.
- Rejection is not accepted: A "no" or "not interested" is not accepted.
- So-called "pick-up artists" can act alone, but they often operate in small groups and are supported in their approach by a second man.