1301 Attachment: Antecedent and Consequence of Relationship Change

Adult Attachment and Accuracy and Bias of Partner Perceptions of Behavioral Indicators of Investment Model Variables in Close Relationships

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The present research investigated accuracy and bias in partner perceptions of behavioral indicators of investment model variables (i.e., relationship satisfaction, quality of alternatives, investments, and relationship commitment) in consideration of individuals’ attachment anxiety and avoidance. Participants (both partners of 100 heterosexual couples) completed a self-administered online-questionnaire that assessed the frequency of their use of behavioral indicators of the four investment model variables, individuals’ perceptions of the frequency of their partners’ use of these behavioral indicators, and individuals’ attachment anxiety and avoidance. Path analysis using Mplus were conducted to simultaneously test for women’s and men’s perception accuracy and bias and direct and indirect effects of attachment anxiety and avoidance on partner perceptions. Results reveal on the one hand, that greater attachment avoidance is significantly associated with individuals’ less frequent use of behavioral indicators of satisfaction, investments, and commitment, and that greater attachment anxiety is significantly associated with perceptions of the partner’s less frequent use of behavioral indicators of satisfaction, investments, and commitment. On the other hand, individuals’ perceptions of their partner’s use of behavioral indicators of satisfaction, alternatives, investments, and commitment are significantly predicted by their own, as well as by their partner’s use of these behaviors. Hence, attachment avoidance affects individuals partner perceptions indirectly (via its effect on individuals own behavior), whereas attachment anxiety affects partner perceptions directly. These direct and indirect effects and the simultaneous occurrence of perception accuracy and bias in romantic relationships and their theoretical and practical implications will be discussed.
Longitudinal Changes in Adolescent Attachment Relationships:  
The Movement of Attachment from Friends to Romantic Partners

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Relationship researchers argue that there is a reorientation of attachment functions from parents to friends and romantic partners over adolescence, but few studies have actually examined this premise. As part of a larger study, the movement of attachment functions across a 12-month period is investigated in both younger ($n = 53$, mean age = 13.81, $SD = .45$) and older adolescents ($n = 103$, mean age = 18.35, $SD = .65$). Self-reported attachment to mothers, fathers, friends, and romantic partners is examined using the modified Attachment Network Questionnaire across romantic status and age. Results reveal that attachment strength to romantic partners increased across the 12-month period regardless of whether the same or a different partner was reported. Attachment to friends decreased significantly only for those adolescents who report being in the same romantic relationship over the past 12 months. Across time, older adolescents used their friends significantly less for attachment needs whilst a non-significant increase in friend attachment was reported by younger adolescents. No significant change in attachment to mothers or fathers was demonstrated. Changes in attachment across time were associated with individual differences in attachment anxiety and avoidance. It is suggested that the normative process of attachment reorganization is moderated by previous experience in attachment relationships. Implications and future directions for similar research are discussed.

Predicting Change in Attachment in Committed Relationships:  
Which Perceptions of the Partner Matter?

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Attachment orientation is theorized to be rooted in interpersonal experiences, especially those that convey whether a close other is responsive to one’s needs (or not). Which specific intimate partner behaviors convey being responsive and reduce insecurity? It has been theorized that individuals will experience reduced attachment insecurities if they can infer that their partner is responsive to their needs and supports them in pursuing personal ideals and goals, but this has not been directly tested. Decreased insecurity also might occur from perceiving that a partner forgoes self-interest when his/her interests clash with one’s own interests. We thus anticipated increases in attachment security (reduced anxiety and avoidance) as a function of perceiving that the partner: (1) is responsive to one’s needs, (2) supports one’s own personal goals and ideals, and (3) accommodates during conflict. We analyzed data from two longitudinal studies (89 newlywed couples, 3 six-month lags; 187 “newly-committed” couples, 3 one-year lags). Partners provided independent self-reports of their own attachment, and their perceptions of their partner’s: responsiveness, affirmation of their ideal goals, and accommodation. Multilevel modeling predicting change in anxiety or avoidance supported most predictions: Individuals became less avoidant if they perceived their partner as responsive to their needs, and also less avoidant and less anxious if their partner supported their goals and ideals. The findings were weak for accommodation predicting decreased insecurity. This research provides the first direct evidence of specific partner behaviors that predict change in attachment, and it has implications for broader attachment and interdependence concepts.
Avoidantly attached individuals are typically reluctant to develop high levels of intimacy with their romantic partners. Two studies investigated the effect of indirect relationship priming on negative affect and feelings of connection for more avoidant individuals. In both studies, simply reminding more avoidant individuals of their relationship led such individuals to behave more like less avoidant individuals. Specifically, Study 1 revealed that more avoidant individuals asked to reflect positively on their partner and relationship reported significantly less negative affect compared to more avoidant individuals in a control condition. Study 2 revealed that more avoidant individuals asked to look briefly at their partner’s Facebook page reported less negative affect and greater feelings of connection compared to more avoidant individuals in a control condition. Implications for invisible support and other relationship processes are discussed.

Alone Again (Irrationally): The Interactive Effects of Chronic Attachment Anxiety and Acute Threats on the Belonging Regulation System

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The need to belong is a particularly powerful human motivation. When the need to belong is thwarted, individuals can behave pro-socially, trying to restore threatened needs, or can react anti-socially, withdrawing from social situations. I propose that chronic individual differences in attachment may account for these divergent responses to belonging threats. Specifically, I suggest that chronic attachment anxiety interacts with acute belonging threats to predict belonging regulatory behaviors. In a 3-cell (exclusion vs. acceptance vs. control) experimental design, participants played Cyberball (Williams et al., 2000), a computerized ball-tossing game designed to manipulate belongingness. Participants were either excluded from the game (i.e., never thrown the ball), accepted in the game, or did not play Cyberball (control condition). For the dependent measures, participants were presented with photographs of potential dating partners, and were asked to rate how dateable they found each partner. Multiple regression analyses found a significant interaction between attachment anxiety and condition, such that those high in attachment anxiety rated potential dating partners significantly less dateable following exclusion. The opposite pattern was true for the low anxious. This research suggests that low attachment anxiety may be associated with belonging regulatory behaviors, as these individuals were more interested in dating partners following exclusion. In contrast, highly anxious people perceived others as less dateable, suggesting that acute belonging threats influence their relational ambivalence by dampening their hopes of acceptance and increasing their chronic fears of abandonment.
Expectancy Violation Theory is employed as a framework for understanding Facebook unfriending as a form of relationship termination. Specifically, the extent to which being unfriended by a Facebook friend is viewed as unexpected, negatively-valenced, and relationally important is examined in relation to a number of Facebook- and relationally-related variables. Individuals (N = 547) who were (a) age 18 or older; and (b) have been defriended on Facebook participated in the study via online questionnaire. Participants were primarily female, white/Caucasian, and averaged 27 years of age. Those who were unfriended by close (as opposed to distant) relationship partners perceived the unfriending to be more negative and more relationally important, but not more unexpected. In addition, the longer individuals were Facebook friends, the more negative and more relationally important the violation, but not more unexpected. Further, the more individuals are invested in Facebook (i.e., Facebook intensity) and uses Facebook to maintain existing social contacts, the more they perceive being unfriended as unexpected, negative, and relationally important. Next, we determined which relational or Facebook variables contributed the most variance to each expectancy violation aspect of being unfriended. The use of Facebook to maintain social contacts was the best positive predictor of violation unexpectedness. Being unfriended by a close relational partner was the best predictor of both violation importance and the violation being negatively valenced. Our findings thus offer support for understanding being unfriended on Facebook through an Expectancy Violation Theory lens and extends the theory’s utility to a social media context.

Stability and Social Balance in the Era of Facebook Bonds

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The advent and widespread adoption of online social networks have changed the way people get in touch with one another. This new virtual way of communication adds a novel dimension to friendships and relationships, in which interactions are as efficient and instantaneous as writing on a friend’s online page. These electronic environments also alter the expression of romance, which now can emerge in the form of a virtual hug or expression of love through online applications. The rising question is to what extent are these online interactions as stable as those created offline? For example, do they follow the principle of balance theory, in which friends of friends become friends? The goal of this research is to examine the degree to which interactions on the internet social networking site, Facebook, exhibit similar tendencies to those evident in face-to-face interactions. For this aim we monitor three different Facebook datasets, including love exchanges among 5,376,704 users, hugs among 1,322,631 users (Nazir et.al, 2008) as well as Wallpost communications among 13,922 users (Viswanath et.al, 2009). We investigate balance and stability through the examination of network dyads and triads (ties between two and three people respectively) and their evolution over time. Samples of dyads and triads were selected through an ego-centric selection method (Doroud et.al, 2011). Reciprocity and transitivity, as well as transitions among different dyads and triads types, were examined. Findings provide evidence of support for the social
psychological assumptions of reciprocity and balance for certain types of online interactions among active
users.

Sharing and Caring on Social Network Sites:
An Actor Partner Interdependence Model Investigation of Facebook Relational Maintenance

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Peer network relationships are particularly important for young adults (Argyle & Henderson, 1984; McEwan & Guerrero, 2010; Koh, Mendelson, & Rhee, 2003; Rawlins, 1992). Relational maintenance behaviors are important communication processes connected to having high quality friendships (McEwan & Guerrero, 2010; Oswald, Clark, & Kelley, 2004). Past research has focused specifically on face-to-face maintenance behaviors. However, there is evidence that a considerable amount of maintenance behaviors in friendships occur online via social network sites such as Facebook (Bryant & Marmo, 2010). This study examined young adult friendship dyads (N = 222) to determine how Facebook maintenance behaviors affect relational quality indicators. A previously established scale (Bryant &Marmo, 2010) was evaluated revealing two factors, Facebook Sharing Behaviors, and Facebook Caring Behaviors. An Actor-Partner Interdependence Model analysis was conducted to determine actor and partner effects of Facebook Sharing and Facebook Caring on relational quality indicators of satisfaction, liking, and closeness. For friendship satisfaction and closeness, significant actor and partner effects for Facebook Sharing and significant actor, partner, and interaction effects for Facebook Caring emerged. For liking one’s friend, significant Facebook Sharing partner effects and significant Facebook Caring actor, partner, and interaction effects emerged. Results and potential theoretical implications regarding friendship maintenance via social network sites are discussed.

In Close Relationships, It’s Both Online and Face-to-Face Communication
—Not Online versus Face-to-Face Communication

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Research on mediated communication in relationships typically has focused on the use of specific media (e.g., Facebook) or how mediated communication compares with face-to-face interaction. Yet, a number of theories would suggest that in close relationships, the use of different media would be interconnected, with relational partners integrating mediated communication with face-to-face communication. To explore this issue, we conducted two studies. The first study (N = 17) involved a series of focus groups designed to uncover the ways that college students use multiple modes of communication in various stages of relationship development. The results suggested that there was a relational trajectory to the use of new media in personal relationships. In the second study (N = 317), we developed measures of the interconnectedness of media and hypothesized that, as relationships develop, technologies and face-to-face communication would become more integrated. As expected, the constellation of communication media differed according to relationship stage and closeness, but the connections between media and relational development were complex. Texting, for example, was the most preferred method for people in the initial stages of a relationship, but rather than being supplanted by other media, texting continued to increase as the relationship progressed, while the use of face-to-face communication and other communication media were added to the relational repertoire. Also as hypothesized, the ease of transitioning among different communication modes was positively associated with both closeness and satisfaction. Results were discussed in terms of the implications for a relationally focused perspective on the use of communication technologies.
Too Friendly on Facebook?
An Investment Model Analysis of Alternatives and Social Networking

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With the burgheoning of online social networking, researchers have begun to examine how these contexts affect romantic relationships (e.g., Muise, Christofides, & Desmarais, 2009). We investigated perception of alternatives to one’s current relationship on Facebook using the framework of the Investment Model (Rusbult 1980, 1983). Although alternatives have received much empirical attention (e.g., Johnson & Rusbult, 1989), they have typically not been studied in specific social contexts. We suggest that alternatives on Facebook are conceptually distinct from global alternatives; thinking about alternatives on Facebook likely evokes specific people, whereas global alternatives reflect confidence that, generally, alternatives exist. Consistent with hypotheses, we found that the perception of alternatives on Facebook accounted for unique variance in commitment, above and beyond global alternatives (Rusbult, Martz, & Agnew, 1998) and dispositional attentiveness to alternatives (Miller, 1997). Perceiving alternatives on Facebook negatively predicted relationship maintenance in the form of willingness to sacrifice (Van Lange et al., 1997). In addition, posting a profile picture with one’s partner was associated with higher commitment, greater investments, increased willingness to sacrifice globally, and enhanced willingness to sacrifice on Facebook specifically. Moreover, anxiously attached individuals were more likely to be Facebook friends with former partners. Finally, we explored the role of Facebook alternatives in a mediated model and found that alternatives on Facebook partially mediated the association between avoidant attachment and commitment. This research highlights the importance of considering environmental influences on close relationship processes: the context of Facebook appears to have important implications for understanding relationship functioning.

Partner Effects of Compulsive Internet Use: A Self-control Account

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People in close relationships are dependent on one another, and therefore need to be able to trust each other. To be a trustworthy partner, people need self-control. Research has shown that people infer others’ level of self-control from behavioral cues, and that this perception of self-control influences how much they trust others (Righetti & Finkenauer, 2011). One behavior that might provide cues about self-control is compulsive Internet use (CIU). CIU is characterized by unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back, or stop Internet use when intended. Because the Internet becomes increasingly important in daily life, more people display CIU related behaviors. This research examined whether and how CIU affects the perception of self-control and trust in a partner. In an experimental study, we manipulated CIU in descriptions of strangers, and found that participants in the CIU condition judged the other to have lower self-control than in the two control conditions, and that they trusted the other less. In a prospective study among newlyweds, we extended these results to close relationships. Consistent with our hypotheses, results showed that perceiving CIU in a partner affected people’s perception of their partner’s self-control and trust. Additionally, we found that low trait self-control makes people more prone to CIU, providing support for the notion that using CIU is a good strategy to gauge others’ level of self-control. Taken together, these results illuminate how and why CIU may be harmful for relationships.
1303 Personality and Relationship Satisfaction

Attachment and Satisfaction in Romantic Relationships: A Meta-Analysis

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Gregory Webster (University of Florida)

Since Hazan and Shaver (1987) created the first measure of adult attachment, Attachment Theory has become one of the most important theories in describing intimate relationships. Since then, the association between attachment styles and relationship outcomes (e.g., satisfaction, commitment) has been examined in nearly 60 published articles and has been the basis of numerous dissertations. We conducted a meta-analytic review of the literature connecting attachment orientations and relationship satisfaction to provide a clearer picture of attachment in romantic relationships across various samples (e.g., community, college) and scales that have been used to measure attachment over the years. Our analyses examined 57 independent effect sizes with an overall sample of 14,340 participants. Using random-effects meta-analytic techniques, we found that relationship satisfaction was positively related to secure styles ($r = .41, 95\% CI [.32, .49]$) and negatively related with avoidant styles ($r = -.43 [-.50, -.36]$) and anxious styles ($r = -.29 [-.34, -.23]$). Gender moderated these relationships; women had stronger, more positive secure–satisfaction associations than men, and women had stronger, more negative avoidant–satisfaction associations than men. Relationship length significantly moderated both the anxious–satisfaction and avoidant–satisfaction associations; as relationship length increased, both associations grew more negative. Year of publication was not a significant moderator, suggesting that the examined associations were stable over time. Overall, these results help unify the existing literature on attachment styles and relationship outcomes, and highlight the importance of attachment to relationship functioning.

Power as Predictor of Marital Satisfaction

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The marital satisfaction or subjective perception that spouses have of their partner and their relationship (Cortés et al, 1994; Díaz-Loving, 1990) is related to several variables such as communication, power, and transactional patterns. This study aimed to determine whether styles and strategies of power are predictors of marital satisfaction in adults. A sample of 221 participants (90 men and 131 women) from Mérida, Yucatán with an average age of 37.56 (SD=10.93) was selected through non-probability sampling; all of them had a partner and two children on average. Participants completed the Escala de Estilos de Poder (Power Styles Scale) (Rivera & Díaz-Loving, 2002), the Escala de Estrategias de Poder (Power Strategies Scale) (Rivera & Díaz-Loving, 2002), and the Inventario Multifacético de Satisfacción Marital (Multifaceted Inventory of Marital Satisfaction) (Cortés, Monjarraz, & Díaz-Loving, 1994). Multiple regression analysis revealed that, for men, marital satisfaction is predicted firstly by the power of disqualifying strategy ($β = -.41$) and the positive sexual affection strategy ($β = .34$); and for women, marital satisfaction is predicted by the equity-reciprocity power strategy ($β = .32$), the laissez faire power style ($β = .28$), the passive aggression power strategy ($β = -.25$), and the authoritarian power style ($β = -.16$). These findings are discussed from gender differences, as well as the importance of positive management of power and its impact on marital satisfaction in a collectivistic culture like that of Mexicans.
Personality Similarities Predict Relationship Satisfaction in 23 Countries

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Studies show that similarity between couples is positively related to relationship quality. The purpose of the current study is to fully investigate personality similarity in close relationships using 3 types of similarity (couple similarity – similarity between partners only, cultural similarity – similarity between others only, and shared similarity – similarity with both partners and others). Being uniquely similar to one’s partner was expected to increase satisfaction especially in countries valuing similarity amongst ingroup members (e.g., collectivistic countries); while being similar to one’s partner and others in society was thought to ease relationship functioning across all countries. To fully investigate these types of similarity, we studied 16,393 heterosexual, romantic couples across 23 countries. Similarities were estimated using profile correlations. Then principle components analysis and residuals were computed as percentages of variance explained by the three similarity types. Across all countries, positive assortment was found with couples being more similar to one another than to other people. Three-level HLM analyses revealed, as expected, that couple similarity predicted relationship satisfaction more powerfully in countries that were collectivistic. Additionally, cultural similarity predicted relationship satisfaction better in more individualistic countries. Shared similarity was equally important in predicting satisfaction independent of individualism/collectivism. This study lends further support for personality similarity as a predictor of relationship satisfaction showing that similarity has far reaching but differential impact for couples around the world. It also demonstrates that multiple components of similarity benefit relationships. The methodological and psychological impacts of these results are discussed.

Do I Care about Me or Us?
The Link between Romantic Relationship Goals, Need Fulfillment, and Relationship Satisfaction

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Research by Crocker and Canevello (2008) has investigated two types of relationship goals – compassionate goals to support others and self-image goals to construct and maintain desired images of the self. In their examination of roommate pairs, actors’ high self-image goals were associated with partners’ perceiving less support in the relationship, while actors’ compassionate goals predicted partners’ increased perceptions of support. The current study examines how these goals function in romantic relationships. Participants were 45 heterosexual romantic couples. At Time 1, participants completed measures of romantic compassionate and self-image goals as well as measures of relationship satisfaction, commitment, relationship need satisfaction. At Time 2 (4 weeks later), participants completed measures of satisfaction and commitment. Given the interdependence of the data (Kenny, 1995), a series of multilevel random coefficient modeling analyses revealed that both self and partner compassionate goals were predictive of Time 1 satisfaction and commitment. Relationship need satisfaction was predicted by actors’ compassionate goals and, to a lesser extent, partner’s compassionate goals. Relationship goals were also found to be predictive over time, as Time 2 satisfaction was related to partner compassionate goals even when Time 1 satisfaction was controlled. A similar pattern was found for need fulfillment.
Self-image goals predicted lower relationship autonomy. These results suggest that people’s compassionate and self-image goals for their relationships have implications not only for their own relationship quality but for their partner’s relationship quality as well. In addition, people’s goals may continue to affect relationship functioning over time.

**Relationship Satisfaction as an Embodied Existential Feeling**

Matthew Colahan (The University of East London)  
Aneta Tunariu (The University of East London)

Intimate relationships entail a rich inter-subjective context within which partners co-construct, experience and act-out meanings. Subjective assessments of these meanings also serve as a discursive scaffold for knowing ‘relationship dis/satisfaction’. Current psychological research on the notion of relationship satisfaction tends to investigate it as a fairly static variable about which potential correlates or predictors can be mapped out. Whilst this is a worthy project in its one right, we wish to argue that by embracing the notion of relationship satisfaction as part of the fluidity and dialectics of Self-Other relating, we can begin to capture its inherently dynamic and transactional nature. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with seven women and five men who self-identified as being in long-term, heterosexual relationships. The interview transcripts were analysed using the principles of Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA). A section of the analysis is presented here. This section contains IPA themes where participants’ meanings are articulated through phenomenologically grounded metaphors. For instance, relationship satisfaction is expressed in terms of feelings of lightness, energy, warmth and balance, whilst relationship dissatisfaction is described in terms of feeling trapped, weighed-down and uncomfortable in one’s own skin. Whilst feelings of relationship satisfaction and dissatisfaction may be about something external to the body, they are experienced primarily as bodily feelings that structure individual’s relationships with the world as a whole. Drawing on Ratcliffe’s (2005; 2010) theoretical work on “Existential Feelings”, relationship satisfaction and dissatisfaction are interpreted as ways of ‘finding oneself in world’ that communicate, shape and individualise the experiential possibilities available to that individual.

**Communication, Relational Quality, and Identity:**  
A Holistic Understanding of Women’s Sexuality over a Lifespan

Deborah DeCloedt Pinçon (University of Wisconsin Milwaukee)

This research obtains a more holistic understanding of how women’s sexuality evolves over a lifespan, how communication influences women’s ability to adapt, and how women feel about the changes experienced. Findings enhance understanding of the interconnectedness of women’s sexuality and the interpersonal relationships in which sexuality is expressed. Drawing on grounded theory methodology, data was coded using a process of open and axial coding until theoretical saturation was achieved (Glaser & Strauss, 1967). Coding and analysis of data based on identification of recurring patterns and concepts led to discovery of three themes: (a) developing an integrated sense of self, (b) focus on relational quality, and (c) mixed feelings and adaptations. Findings of this research indicate the quality of interpersonal communication and relational satisfaction experienced with partners has a significant influence on women’s sexuality over a lifespan. Further research exploring whether quality communication with one’s partner is predictive of greater sexual and relational satisfaction and physical well-being for women is merited. A study comparing the experiences of women in multiple cultures may shed light on the extent to which biology and culture affect women’s sexuality over a lifespan.
1304 Changes in Relationships, Changes in Personality: Cross-Sectional, Longitudinal, and Dyadic Perspectives on Relationship Development and Change

Convener: Robin Edelstein (University of Michigan)

From the Cradle to the Grave: Adult Attachment across the Lifespan

William J. Chopik (University of Michigan)
Robin S. Edelstein (University of Michigan)
R. Chris Fraley (University of Illinois)

Although attachment dynamics are thought to be important across the lifespan, relatively few studies have examined attachment processes beyond young adulthood. Extant research on age differences in attachment orientation has yielded conflicting results and interpretations. The current study provides a more complete picture of age-related differences in attachment anxiety and avoidance by examining attachment orientations in 86,555 Internet respondents ranging in age from 18 to 70. We found that attachment anxiety was highest among younger adults and lowest among middle-aged and older adults. Attachment avoidance showed less change overall but was highest among middle-aged adults and lower among young and older adults. In addition, partnered individuals reported lower levels of attachment anxiety and avoidance compared to single individuals, particularly in younger and older adulthood. Women also reported slightly higher anxiety and avoidance compared to men, especially in young adulthood. The magnitude of cohort effects in self-reported attachment orientations is also considered. Findings are discussed in the context of lifespan changes in social roles, normative personality development, and emotion regulation throughout adulthood.

The Dynamics of Stability and Change in Adult Attachment

R. Chris Fraley (University of Illinois)

One of the core assumptions of attachment theory is that attachment representations are stable over time. Unfortunately, the data on attachment stability have been ambiguous, and as a result, alternative theoretical perspectives have evolved to explain them. The objective of the present research was to evaluate alternative models of stability by studying adults in 2 intensive longitudinal investigations. Specifically, we assessed attachment representations in 1 sample (N = 203) daily over a 30-day period and in the other sample (N = 388) weekly over a year. Analyses showed that the patterns of stability that exist in adult attachment are most consistent with a prototype model—a model assuming that there is a stable factor underlying temporary variations in attachment.

The Long-term Effects of Your Own and Your Romantic Partner’s Personality on Relationship Satisfaction and Dissolution

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Attaining a romantic relationship is an important goal for most adults, with significant implications, given that romantic relationships are associated with wellbeing and physical health (Reis, Collins, & Berscheid, 2000). Consequentially, it is important to know what sustains healthy and satisfied relationships and the factors that lead to relationship dissolution. An important predictor of relationship satisfaction is the personality traits of each person in the relationship (Dyrenforth, Kashy, Donnellan, & Lucas, 2010). In other words, beyond a person’s own personality, his/her partner’s personality also influences their relationship satisfaction. However, little is known about the long-term effects of partner personality, as most research is cross-sectional. In the current study we used data collected over 4 years from a sample of 3,198 married (or defacto) couples (6,396 individuals) to investigate several questions. For instance, we find that actor and partner personality traits predict relationship satisfaction across four years. Moreover, actor and partner personality were also used to predict relationship dissolution. In addition we examined how changes in personality across four years may influence relationship satisfaction and if these changes in personality preceed a break up. Overall, we found evidence that one’s own personality and their partner’s personality play a significant role in relationship satisfaction and dissolution. Interestingly, these findings suggest that both stability and change in personality traits influence important relationship outcomes. Further investigation of personality and relationship satisfaction over time may shed more light on the extent to which these dyadic factors influence long-term life outcomes (e.g., wellbeing and physical health).

Adult Attachment Predicts Psychological and Neuroendocrine Changes during the Transition to Parenthood

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Emily L. Kean (University of Michigan)
Amy C. Moors (University of Michigan)
Britney M. Wardecker (University of Michigan)

The transition to parenthood can be a source of excitement, anticipation, and joy, but it is nevertheless a unique stressor that results in significant changes for expectant parents and their intimate relationships. Many of the changes that occur during pregnancy also have important implications for the developing child. Yet much remains to be understood about this life transition, including why some couples have more difficulty than others and how biological changes affect (and are affected by) psychological changes. This study examined the influence of adult attachment on psychological and neuroendocrine changes in a sample of couples expecting their first child. Both partners completed multiple assessments from the first through the third trimester of pregnancy. We found that expectant fathers showed increases in depression and perceived stress and decreases in relationship satisfaction and commitment; these changes were generally less pronounced among expectant mothers. Moreover, many changes were moderated by individual differences in attachment. For instance, among expectant fathers, attachment anxiety predicted increases in depression and decreases in satisfaction. Among expectant mothers, avoidance predicted decreases in commitment. Men with avoidant partners also showed increases in stress. Further, hormone levels and changes in hormones (i.e., testosterone, cortisol, and estradiol) were associated in meaningful ways with individual differences in attachment and with psychological changes. Our findings contribute to the literature on adult attachment, pregnancy, and parenthood and suggest potentially gender-specific influences of attachment. We also take this work one step further by incorporating biological markers into research on adjustment during important life transitions.
Compassionate Love: First Looks at an Emerging Construct

Conveners: Harry Reis (University of Rochester)
Susan Sprecher (Illinois State University)
Sponsor: Fetzer Institute

Compassionate Love in a Close Relationship Context

Beverly Fehr (University of Winnipeg)
Cheryl Harasymchuk (Carleton University)

Berscheid (2006) proposed that there are four fundamental kinds of love: romantic or passionate love, companionate love, attachment love, and compassionate love. The purpose of this research was to validate this typology, using two samples of participants in romantic relationships. The results indicated that these four kinds of love are moderately to highly inter-related. Regression analyses revealed that romantic love was most strongly correlated with variables such as fascination with other, jealousy, and sexual intimacy. Companionate love was most strongly correlated with enjoyment of other. Attachment love was most highly correlated with dependency. Compassionate love was highly correlated with willingness to sacrifice for the other, provision of social support, partner responsiveness, and negatively correlated with jealousy. However, these variables also were correlated with companionate love. Overall, the variables examined in this research were most successful in differentiating romantic love from the others. It was concluded that despite substantial overlap, each of these kinds of love has unique correlates. Directions for future research aimed at further disentangling these kinds of love are discussed.

The Expression of Compassionate Love in Newlyweds' Everyday Interaction

Harry Reis (University of Rochester)
Michael Maniaci (University of Rochester)
Ronald Rogge (University of Rochester)

Most studies operationalize compassionate love as an attitude, motive, or intention. Yet for compassionate love to be beneficial for intimate relationships, it must be expressed behaviorally – that is, it must be reflected in behaviors that have positive effects on the partner. To investigate this possibility, we are conducting a short-term longitudinal daily diary study, examining behavioral manifestations of compassionate love in newlywed couples' everyday interactions. In the first wave of this study, for two weeks, 175 couples completed a daily diary reporting on a variety of behaviors thought to embody compassionate love. This presentation will report findings for analyses in which compassionate love for one's partner is used to predict enacted behaviors and perceptions of the partner's behavior. There was broad support for the idea that compassionate love would be reflected in everyday behaviors. For example, compassionate love predicted more frequent expressions of expressed tenderness and more often doing things to show one's partner that he/she was valued. Compassionate love was also reflected in perceptions of the partner's behaviors; for example, persons higher in compassionate love reported that their partners had more often "put my goals ahead of his/her own goals" and more often felt that their partners had expressed tenderness. Furthermore, mediation analyses suggested that self-reported feelings of compassionate love predict daily relationship satisfaction through their effects on daily behavior. These analyses indicate that the benefits of compassionate love for a partner often reflect specific everyday behaviors.
Security Priming Overcomes Psychological Barriers to Responsiveness in Couple Relationships

Mario Mikulincer (Interdisciplinary Center)
Phillip Shaver (University of California, Davis)
Baljinder Sahdra (University of California, Davis)
Naama Bar-On (Interdisciplinary Center)

Recent studies have shown that both dispositional and experimentally enhanced attachment security facilitate compassion and altruism. Here we report findings from laboratory experiments, replicated in two countries (Israel and the United States), testing the hypotheses that (a) increased security (accomplished through subliminal priming) fosters caregiving behavior toward a romantic partner who discloses a personal problem, and (b) this increased security overcomes barriers to responsiveness induced by mental depletion (Study 1) or a self-relevant threat (Study 2). We gathered data on participants’ attachment insecurities and randomly assigned them to one of two priming conditions (security, neutral) while inducing mental depletion (yes, no) or a self-relevant threat (yes, no). We then coded their behavior in an interaction with their romantic partner who was disclosing a personal problem. Dispositional attachment insecurities and inductions of mental depletion or self-relevant threats adversely affected caregiving, but security priming overrode the detrimental effects of mental depletion, self-relevant threats, and attachment insecurity.

Physiological Underpinnings of Compassionate Support in Couples

Nancy Collins (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Cynthia Khan (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Molly Metz (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Social support is essential to health and well-being, but people differ in their willingness and ability to provide compassionate support to others in need. What cognitive, affective, and physiological factors promote or impede effective support behavior in close relationships? Based on attachment theory, we suggest that support processes in close relationships are regulated by a caregiving behavioral system that evolved to protect the welfare of offspring and other communal partners. Accordingly, psychological and physiological regulatory systems that are activated in response to self-threats should be extended to close others, enabling people to monitor threats to significant others and mobilize protective action. Just as different patterns of reactivity are associated with more or less adaptive responses to personal stressors, they may also be linked to more or less effective responses when helping others. To examine these processes in couples, we measured psychological, cardiovascular, and neuroendocrine (cortisol) responses of one partner (support-providers) while the other partner performed a stressful task (N=86). We also measured emotional responses (empathy, personal distress) and support behavior (written support messages, focus of attention). Analysis of cortisol and cardiovascular data is currently underway. We predict that support-providers with higher cortisol levels and cardiovascular threat will show more personal distress, more self-focus, and less effective support behavior. In contrast, we predict that those with lower cortisol levels and cardiovascular challenge will report more compassion and partner focus, and will provide more caring support to their partner. Individual differences in attachment, compassionate love, and communal strength will also be reported.
Building Compassionate Love for Members of Other Racial Groups

Richard Slatcher (Wayne State University)
Keith Welker (Wayne State University)
Lynzey Baker (Wayne State University)
Arthur Aron (Stony Brook University)

It is now well known that intergroup contact is one of the most effective ways of reducing race bias (e.g., Allport, 1954; Dovidio, Gaertner, Kawakami, 2003). The current study advances basic knowledge of the link between a friendship with a member of another group and compassionate love for members of that group. Further, we examine the role of intimacy processes—specifically perceived partner responsiveness (Reis & Shaver, 1988)—in building compassionate love for members of other groups. Twenty-eight couples and 76 individuals came to the lab and interacted with another same-race or other race couple or individual (either African-American or Caucasian) in “Fast Friends” tasks designed to rapidly create interpersonal closeness (Aron, Melinat, Aron, Vallone, & Bator, 1997; Slatcher, 2010). Those who interacted an individual/couple of another race felt more compassionate love for members of that other individual’s/couple’s race compared to those who interacted with members of their own race. Most importantly, this effect was moderated by the extent to which people felt as though the other-race participants they interacted with were responsive (e.g., caring, understanding, validating) during the interaction. Specifically, among those in the other-race condition, the more they reported that the other person/couple was responsive to them, the more compassionate love they felt toward that other person’s/couple’s racial group. This work goes significantly beyond previous work by examining effects specifically on compassionate love (vs. just on improved attitudes). Further, this work indicates that perceived responsiveness may play a key role in influencing a person’s feelings about racial out-groups.

1306 Where is Sexuality in Relationships Research? Where are the Relationships in Sexuality Research?: Continuing the Conversation

Convener: Jimmie Manning (Northern Kentucky University)
Discussant: Jimmie Manning (Northern Kentucky University)

Appoaching Sexual and Relational Benefits:
How Sexual Goals are Associated with Desire and Satisfaction in Established Couples

Amy Muise (University of Toronto)
Emily Impett (University of Toronto)
Serge Desmarais (University of Guelph)

Why do some couples maintain sexual desire and satisfaction and others do not? In the current research, I apply motivational theory to the study of sexual desire in romantic relationships. My aim is to examine how a motivational perspective can inform differences in couples’ level of desire in the context of established relationships, and how this impacts relationship satisfaction and positive experiences. This theoretical perspective distinguishes between approach motives, focused on pursuing positive outcomes (e.g., to feel closer to my partner), and avoidance motives, focused on avoiding negative outcomes (e.g., to avoid disappointing my partner). Previous research with college students in dating relationships demonstrates that having sex for approach motives is associated with positive relational and emotional outcomes, and having sex for avoidance motives is associated with negative outcomes and more breakups over time (Impett et al., 2008). In a 21-day daily experience study of 44 established couples, I
demonstrate that approach-motivated sex is associated with higher levels of desire and increased relationship satisfaction, whereas avoidance-motivated is associated with lower levels desire and decreased relationships satisfaction. Even on days when individuals report low desire, approach-motivated sex is associated with having more pleasurable and enjoyable sexual experiences, feeling more satisfied with the relationship, and experiencing more positive emotions. I also explore the individual differences, such as attachment orientation and sexual communal strength, that buffer against the negative impact of avoidance motives. The findings demonstrate the utility of applying motivational theory to sexual aspects of relationships.

Hyperpersonal Computer-Mediated Communication and Sexual Relationship Development

Jimmie Manning (Northern Kentucky University)

Media accounts of sexting (sending sexual or sexually suggestive messages via digital devices) often sensationalize or stigmatize the act. The majority of academic research on sexting places it into a negative frame, frequently exploring inappropriate adolescent behaviors (e.g., Lenhart, 2009) or legal implications related to sharing sexts (e.g., Humbach, 2010). This study seeks to explore a fuller understanding of sexting by qualitatively examining how adults make use of the practice. Particularly, the study uses Walther’s theorizing on hyperpersonal computer-mediated communication (2004) to examine participant narratives that demonstrate that using computer-mediated or transmobile-mediated communication allowed them to reveal sexual frustrations, desires, or intimacies to their partners that they did not feel comfortable revealing face-to-face; and how participants felt these instances enhanced (or, in some cases, diminished) their sex lives. Implications include possibilities for digitally-mediated communication to serve as intervention for couples who are facing sex woes and the potential for counselors or therapists to use digitally-mediated communication in their work.

Methodological Considerations for Integrating Sex into Relationship Research

Kristen Mark (Indiana University – Bloomington)

Researchers have consistently shown that sexual and relationship satisfactions are heavily intertwined. Therefore, when examining romantic relationships, it is an oversight to ignore the sexual component of the relationship. Methodological and statistical considerations are necessary when studying sensitive topics such as sexual behavior, particularly when such constructs are studied in the context of an interdependent dyad. Social science has been dependent on studies that have been largely retrospective. However, the methods that allow for understanding situational and relational influences during a specific event provide an important perspective. Event-level data and analysis facilitates the ability to understand those situational and relational influences in the moment. This requires sophistication in the design and analysis of longitudinal and nested data. Additionally, using innovative methods requires the use of psychometrically sound measures. This area has been under attended to in many social and behavioral sciences, but particularly in the area of sexuality. The benefits and drawbacks of using scales versus responses to one-question to assess sexual and relationship satisfaction are important considerations. Using results from three separate samples of couples, this presentation will address and provide specific examples of event-level dyadic data, considerations for dyadic longitudinal data collection and analysis, and provide psychometric considerations for measuring sexual and relationship satisfaction. A key component of this presentation will focus on understanding sexual health behaviors within the context of the dyad with which the behavior occurs.
Panel Sessions

1307  Evolving Sexual Trends: Online and Offline

A Double Standard for "Hooking Up": How Far Have We Come Toward Gender Equality?

Barbara Risman (University of Illinois at Chicago)
Rachel Allison (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Is the sexual double standard alive and well, or a well deserved fatality of gender revolution? We question whether a double standard towards casual sex remains. We analyze relative weight of individual characteristics that students bring with them to college versus the sub-cultures and peer pressure they experience once they get to campus on attitudes towards “hooking up”. We use the Online College Social Life Survey to investigate these questions. Our results show that the majority of men do not endorse a double standard for what might once have been labeled promiscuous behavior, e.g. frequent casual sex. This does not mean they have joined the sexual revolution. The majority of all students lose respect for women who hook up too much, and most women lose respect for men who do so. Slightly more than one in five men do hold a double standard, but a sizable minority of men are critical of highly sexually active men. Overall, we found that a student’s background characteristics, including age, race, religion, social class and ethnicity were frequently related to sexual attitudes. But we also found that Greek affiliation associated with sexual attitudes in interesting and opposite ways for women and men. Sorority women are more likely than other women to evaluate men negatively for “too much” casual sex, while Greek men are less likely than other men to evaluate each other negatively for too much casual sex. Male varsity athletes were more likely to hold sexual double standards than other men. Our results suggest that men’s casual sexual behaviors are a current site of attitudinal contestation.

Hookups to Romantic Relationships: Expanding the Sexual Script for Various Partnerships

Jennifer A. Shukusky (Rutgers University)

There is much evidence that supports a sexual script which guides intimate behavior between heterosexual individuals. People, however, engage in many different types of relationships including hookups, one-night stands, friends with benefits, short-term relationships, and long-term relationships. People differentiate between their romantic and non-romantic partners and few recently published studies show that some partnerships are considered more emotional than others. Therefore, the sexual script may not apply equally to each kind of relationship. My hypothesis is that people engage in different sexual activities with various partners, specifically with hookups, friends with benefits, dating partners, and serious romantic partners. Participants are asked about their experiences participating in and their desires to participate in items from a list of 27 sexual activities including kissing, oral sex, sexual intercourse in 5 positions, anal intercourse, mild S&M like being tied up/spanked, using sex toys for stimulation, role playing, and watching pornography. A scale of erotophobia-erotophilia is also included to explore individual differences. Sexual behaviors are expected to vary in different partnerships based on which partner is being stimulated. Because of the biological and evolutionary differences between men and women, men are expected to be more likely to want to engage in sexual intercourse with casual partners.
than women are. Additionally, because men are more erotophilic overall, they are also expected to want to engage in a greater number of sexual activities.

Diversity among High School Friends with Benefits Relationships

Kendra Knight (Arizona State University)
Benjamin Wiedmaier (Arizona State University)
Paul A. Mongeau (Arizona State University)
Jen Eden (Northern Illinois University)
Anthony Roberto (Arizona State University)

This investigation focuses on friends with benefits relationships (i.e., FWBRs), where individuals who are not in a romantic relationship engage in sexual activity on multiple occasions. Recent scholarship indicated that FWBRs encompass seven relationship types: true friends (sexual activity between close friends), network opportunism (friends serve as a mutual sexual failsafe), just sex (serial hookups), successful transition in (where FWBRs are used to initiate a romantic relationship), unintentional transition in (where FWBRs unexpectedly spark a romantic relationship), failed transition in (where one partner unsuccessfully tried to use a FWBR to initiate a romantic relationship), and transition out (sex between former romantic partners). Given that previous research focused primarily on college experiences, this study investigated first-semester college students’ reports of their high school FWBR experiences. Specifically, we investigated the frequency and correlates of FWBR types among 333 students attending a large Southwestern US public university. True friends represented the most frequent FWBR type, but represented less than one-quarter of responses, although there were also sex differences in these reports (see Table 1 for frequencies). Results also indicated that FWBR types differ in terms of romantic relationship history, friendship strength at the point of first sex, and nonsexual interaction. Our results reinforce the notion that FWBRs are more complex than is represented in the extant literature, at a minimum in how well partners know each other and their romantic interest. Thus, FWBRs are not an entity in and of themselves, but rather emerge from shifting, amorphous, relational conditions that partners experience over time.

Sexual Communication, Satisfaction, and Condom Use: A Comparison of Friends with Benefits and Romantic Partners

Justin J. Lehmiller (Harvard University)
Laura E. VanderDrift (Purdue University)
Janice R. Kelly (Purdue University)

“Friends with benefits” relationships (FWBRs) are commonly defined as relationships in which two friends are sexually, but not romantically involved (Lehmiller, VanderDrift, & Kelly, 2011). Although FWBRs are increasingly prevalent and have become the subject of significant media and research attention, relatively little is known about them, especially in terms of how they differ from other types of sexual relationships. The goal of the present research was to compare the sexual lives of a sample of adult individuals involved in FWBRs (N=190) with a separate sample of adults involved in traditional romances (N=186). Both samples were recruited over the Internet and did not differ in terms of their demographic composition (i.e., gender, race, age, sexual orientation). Results indicated that FWBR partners were less likely to be sexually exclusive, had a lower frequency of sexual interaction, were less sexually satisfied, and generally communicated less often about sex than romantic partners. However, compared to romantic partners, FWBR partners devoted relatively more of their time spent together to sexual activity, practiced safe sex more frequently (but by no means perfectly), and communicated more
often about extradyadic sexual experiences. These findings indicate that the sexual lives of partners in FWBRs and romantic relationships are quite distinct, with FWBRs providing less frequent and less satisfying “benefits” than traditional romances. Moreover, with FWBRs lacking in exclusivity and reporting far from perfect condom use, these results provide further evidence of the potential public health costs associated with casual sexual relationships.

Texts from Last Night: Screen Time, Porn Use, Sexting, and Chat as Predictors of Sexual Intercourse Experience among Canadian Adolescents

Lucia O'Sullivan (University of New Brunswick)
Justine Gibbings (University of New Brunswick)
Sarah Vannier (University of New Brunswick)

Adolescents have shown a rapid uptake of new forms of communication technologies (Statistics Canada, 2010), which are having a profound impact on their relationships, including the ways in which they become sexually intimate relationships. We assessed technology use and links to sexual experience among 265 male and female adolescents (15-19 yrs) recruited into a longitudinal study from high schools in Eastern Canada. A substantial minority reported talking to someone about sex online (44%). Fewer (11%) reported talking about sex to a stranger online. Approximately 15% reported sending someone a semi/nude photograph of themselves over the Internet (“sexting”). Only one gender difference emerged: More adolescent girls than boys reported never having viewed Internet porn (58% versus 17%), and more boys than girls reported viewing porn 50+ times, $X^2(2) = 79.20, p < .0001$. SPSS classification tree techniques were used to analyze their online survey responses. This technique utilizes binary tree algorithms to partition the data by examining all possible splits in pair-wise combinations on each categorical dependent variable to predict a particular outcome (Kass, 1980) and identify the smallest set of markers that contribute maximally to the outcome. Only those who reported no intercourse experience two years earlier were included (ns= 74 male and 144 female participants). Predictors of intercourse experience were age, age of first period (girls only), computer use (hours prior week), phone use (hours prior week), video gaming (hours prior week), TV viewing (hours prior week), occasions of Internet porn use, ever “sexed,” ever talked about sex online, and ever talked about sex online to a stranger. For females, the best predictor of sexual intercourse experience was whether they had ever talked about sex with someone online. Of those that had (39%), 70% reported intercourse experience. Among those that had not talked online about sex, hours spent on the phone, more porn viewing, and age best predicted intercourse experience. For males, only age, and none of the technology variables predicted intercourse experience. Thus, surprisingly different profiles emerged for male and female adolescents suggesting that the sexual lives of girls may be more susceptible to the influence of new technologies. The findings emphasize the importance of attending to the differential socialization of adolescent boys and girls.

The Implications of Online Sexual Activity for Relationship Well-Being and Sexual Satisfaction: A Comparison across Gender and Sexual Orientation

Karen Blair (Queen's University)
Caroline Pukall (Queen's University)

The existing research on Online Sexual Activities (OSAs) has focused predominantly on the links between OSAs and sexually compulsive behaviour (Delmonico & Miller, 2003), the impact of OSAs on sexual development in youth, and the overall demographic characteristics of those who participate in OSAs (Cooper et al., 2002). Very little research has examined the role that OSAs may play in real-life relationships beyond the potential for the disruption of relationships due to infidelity or sexual addiction.
The present study recruited individuals for an online survey on Internet Communication and Relationships. Participants completed questionnaires concerning their demographics, relationship satisfaction, sexual satisfaction, mental health, and their participation in OSAs. Participants were asked to select from a list of OSAs all those activities which they had EVER engaged in, and were then asked to indicate the frequency with which they had engaged in these activities; alone, with their partner, or with someone other than their partner. Significant group differences were found in the overall experiences of OSAs as well as the association between OSA experiences and relationship/sexual satisfaction. In particular, the context in which an individual participates in OSAs plays an important role in the valence of relationship outcomes. The results of this study demonstrate the importance of examining OSAs within the context of intimate relationships. Distinguishing between OSAs engaged in with one’s own partner versus those engaged in with someone other than their partner or alone appears to be relevant for understanding the associations between OSAs and relationship and sexual satisfaction.

1308 Technology

Does This App Make My Butt Look Big? M2M Smartphone Application Users

DeAnne Priddis (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)
Karina Willes (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)
Mike Allen (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

This study investigates the male-to-male smartphone applications (M2M smartphone apps), such as Grindr, Scruff, and Growlr, for gay and bisexual men to meet each other. Ninety-one people responded to email and Facebook requests to complete an online survey. The survey screened the respondents to a group of sixty-six men who are gay or bisexual and with previous personal experience using M2M applications. The survey explores the reasons for using M2M applications and the deception occurring when using technology to meet others. Although several reasons exist for using M2M apps, the primary use was for meeting other gay men for sexual interactions. The results indicate that participants typically create honest profiles and remain honest with partners when using these tools. This study supports previous reports indicating that gay males place less value on monogamy compared to heterosexual or lesbian couples. Gay male couples practicing nonmonogamy use M2M smartphone applications to find extradyadic sexual interactions.

Theorizing Technology Use in College Courtship

Kiley Larson (University of California – Irvine)

As relationships become increasing multi-modal, successfully negotiating romantic relationships relies, in part, on the ability to determine the proper channel through which to contact potential partners (Larson, 2011). However, little theorizing has been done about how individuals are incorporating PCTs into their courtship practices. This paper, through the analysis of 37 in-depth interviews, will provide a theoretical grounding for young adults’ communication technology use during courtship. Results revealed that when students were in less developed relationships they had more relational and partner uncertainty. Because of this they often worried about appearing “desperate” or doing something embarrassing when in contact with their partner. To preserve positive face, when possible they negotiated potentially face-threatening situations by strategically employing technologies that allow them more control over their impression management. They relied on the affordances of lean media, especially texting, in order to remain strategically ambiguous. This ambiguity allowed participants to save face and avoid embarrassment if their partner did not reciprocate their feelings. Furthermore, in the early parts of romantic relationships,
message characteristics and media choice conveyed as much, if not more, relational meaning than the message content itself. The combination of interpersonal communication theories - uncertainty reduction (Berger & Calabrese, 1975; Knobloch et al., 2010; Knobloch & Solomon, 1999) and facework (Brown & Levinson, 1987; Goffman, 1967) – with theories of media use - technological affordances (Hutchby, 2001) and media symbolism (Fulk, 1992) - enables a more full understanding of CT use in courtship.

Who ya gonna call?:
Examining "Drunk Dialing" from a Communication Perspective

Curtis Livesay (University of Iowa)

Past research has examined both college drinking behavior and cell phone use among college students independently of one another; however, only one study to date has examined these two concepts in conjunction (Ferris & Kleman, 2008). In the modern vernacular the phenomenon in which an individual becomes intoxicated and calls someone is known as “drunk dialing.” This inherently communicative phenomenon is important for several reasons, not the least of which is the potentially negative relational consequences of statements made while an individual is intoxicated. Using a framework of Alcohol Myopia Theory (Steele & Josephs, 1990), this study explores college students’ experiences both making and receiving drunk dials, finding that recipients were significantly more likely to receive drunk dialing calls from former romantic partners than from siblings and opposite-sex friends. We also found that those who identified themselves as casually dating were significantly more likely to receive drunk dialing calls than were those who self-identified as single, and participants reported that receiving drunk calls from former romantic partners had a significantly more negative relational effect than calls received from siblings, same-sex friends, and opposite-sex friends. There were no significant differences in reported relational effects on the basis of one’s relationship with the drunk dialer or the sex of the participant. There was also no significant difference in the number of calls that participants reported making based on their relationship with the intended recipient. Neither participants’ sex nor their relationship status affected their proclivity to drunk dial.

Let's Chat: Examining Mediated Relational Maintenance in Various Relationship Types

Jen Eden (Northern Illinois University)
Alice Veksler (University of Connecticut)

The rise of the digital era brought with it the “profoundly social medium” (Walther & Parks, 2002, p. 529) called Internet communication and while early scholars focused on internet channels such as chat rooms, bulletin board posts, and instant messaging, the rapid pace with which technology has evolved has brought with it new means of communication which are ripe for new research into how relationships are negotiated. In fact, Uses and Gratifications Theory (Katz, Blumler, & Gurevitch, 1974) asserts that individuals use media to satisfy a particular need or accomplish a specific goal. With that in mind, the current study extends Uses and Gratifications Theory and examines individuals’ motivates for media channel preference and avoidance when maintaining various types of interpersonal relationships. Specifically, we examined the media choices individuals make when maintaining a romantic relationship, a best friendship or an acquaintance. Data from 819 participants indicate that medium choice varies by relationship type. Major themes suggest that individuals’ media choices are based largely on avoiding awkwardness or strategically escalating or deescalating relational intimacy. A second but equally important theme is that of convenience and a third focuses on response latency from both a sender’s and receiver’s perspective. In spite of CMC’s ease of use participants still trend toward a preference for face to face communication when available, and preferences for channel rich and channel lean media use
depend on the nature of the relationship being maintained. General implications for mediated relational maintenance are discussed.

How Deep is the Relationship you Seek?
A Comparison of Mainstream and Cougar Dating Websites

Jennifer Jackl (University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee)

A comparison of dating profiles was made between mainstream dating websites, and dating sites that target cougars. For the purpose of this study, a mainstream dating website was defined as any dating website that targets the heterosexual dating community between the ages of 18 and 45. Cougar dating websites are sites that target 35+ year old females on the "hunt" for a much younger, energetic, willing-to-do-anything male (otherwise known as a cub). Uncertainty reduction theory was used as a lens through which to analyze the site contents. Overall, a difference between user profiles on mainstream and cougar dating websites did exist. These differences seem linked to the relational goals of finding a life partner or true love, when compared to finding a short-term, casual relationship. In order to find true love online, it seems natural that one would provide more profile information in order to make the process of finding a match more efficient and effective. By comparison, the cougar dating site profiles were shorter, contained less information about the profile owner, as well as less about the desired partner. Given the difference in messages between the two types of dating sites, the findings of this study may suggest the desired outcome for a cougar dating site participant is more focused on casual sex, rather than finding a serious relationship or life-long love. Additionally, the expression of more traditional sex roles was found to exist in the profiles on mainstream sites and cougar websites reversed the traditional sex roles.

1309 Commitment: Change and Variability

Charting Changes in Commitment: Trajectories of On-Again/Off-Again Relationships

Rene Dailey (University of Texas at Austin)
Nicholas Brody (University of Texas at Austin)
Leah LeFebvre (University of Texas at Austin)
Brittani Crook (University of Texas at Austin)

Because research has shown on-again/off-again (on-off) relationships vary in structure and dynamics, this study identified different trajectories of on-off relationships. We employed turning points (TPs), and specifically changes in commitment across the relationship, to categorize on-off relationships. Using an on-line version of the Retrospective Interview Technique (RIT), 309 participants ($M = 28.2$ years of age) described up to 10 TPs. To maximize similarity to the RIT, an interactive program graphed the changes in commitment as participants reported each TP. We identified 15 categories of TPs with some unique to on-off relationships (e.g., serendipitous events leading to renewals) and others augmenting extant literature (e.g., pregnancy). The graphs revealed three overarching trajectories, with two having two subtypes. The first type represents relationships with a dip in commitment at one point in the relationship; the subtypes reflect the dip occurring earlier or later in the relationship. The second represented relatively stable trajectories with two subtypes reflecting a high or low level of stable commitment. The final category represented oscillating commitment levels. To explicate the types, we assessed differences among them regarding characteristics associated with relational stability or quality including closeness, trust, and network support. Analyses showed the stable, low commitment type reported significantly less relational quality, whereas the stable, high commitment type reported the greatest relational quality. Interestingly,
the oscillating type showed moderate quality, yet not significantly different from other types. Overall, identifying on-off types will yield greater explanatory power regarding the stability of on-off relationships and more refined practical applications.

Exploring the Role of Sliding and Uncertainty in Young Adult Cyclical and Non-Cyclical Relationships

Amber Vennum (Kansas State University)
Kay Pasley (Florida State University)
Frank D. Fincham (Florida State University)

The study of cyclical (on again/off again) relationships during young adulthood is relatively new. Recent research suggests that about two-thirds of young adult college students have experienced a cyclical relationship and that each renewal is associated with decreases in satisfaction and commitment and increases in ineffective conflict and uncertainty (Dailey, Pfiester, Jin, Beck, & Clark, 2009). Given the importance of early relationships to later relationship quality (Overbeek, Stattin, Vermulst, Ha, & Engles, 2007) and the prevalence of cyclical relationships among young adults, it is important to further understand cyclical relationships. To replicate and extend previous findings, the characteristics of exclusive cyclical (n = 149) and non-cyclical (n = 215) relationships were compared. Individuals in exclusive cyclical relationships reported longer relationships, more uncertainty about the future of the relationship, and less conscious relationship decision making, constructive communication, and relationship satisfaction than those in exclusive non-cyclical relationships. We then tested a commitment model of relationship satisfaction based on Stanley, Rhoades, and Markman (2006), and found both direct and indirect effects for dedication, lack of conscious decision making (sliding), uncertainty, and constructive communication on relationship satisfaction for both groups. As expected, the indirect effect of sliding on satisfaction through uncertainty and constructive communication was greater for those in cyclical relationships, largely due to the stronger negative relationship between uncertainty and constructive communication for this group. Findings provide more information on the role of decision making in relationships and the mechanisms leading to lower relationship quality in cyclical relationships.

Daily Experiences and Decreased Commitment: The Buffering Effects of Identified Motives

Emilie Auger (McGill University)
Danielle Menzies-Toman (McGill University)
John E. Lydon (McGill University)

Fluctuations in relationship experiences can undermine relationship outcomes (Arriaga, 2001). The current research examined the conditions under which relationship experiences thwart intimates’ level of commitment. Building upon self-determination theory, identification, which pertains to the extent to which a romantic relationship becomes part of the self (Deci & Ryan, 2000), is expected to be a key factor in commitment stability. Specifically, we argue that when individuals develop a strong sense of identification, commitment becomes rooted in the self. Therefore, daily relationship experiences are of less importance in diagnosing and determining the level of commitment. Alternatively, individuals low on identification are expected to be more reactive to specific relationship experiences, resulting in a lowered level of commitment when few romantic positive interactions are perceived. In order to test this hypothesis, a total of 80 couples participated in a 2-week daily diary study. Concretely, we examined whether the participants’ level of identification moderate the relation between the frequencies of positive interactions reported over the two-weeks period and commitment. Multilevel analysis confirmed our hypothesis: individuals, whose identification level was low, experienced decreased levels of commitment
if few positive interactions were perceived. High identified individuals however, maintained a more stable level of commitment, independent of positive interaction frequency. Interestingly, the effect was specific to identification, and did not extent to other autonomous motives (intrinsic motives). These findings underline the relevance of relationship motives in understanding adaptive relationship functioning.

Let's Go Steady: Predictors of Transitioning from Casual to Exclusive Relationships

Sara E. Branch (Purdue University)
Laura E. VanderDrift (Purdue University)
Christopher R. Agnew (Purdue University)
S. Marie Harvey (Oregon State University)

Past research has found that exclusive relationships are most likely to become casual or non-existent when commitment to, satisfaction with, and investments in the relationship are low, and the perceived quality of alternatives to the relationship is high. In the current study we examined if these predictors also account for relationship change in a positive direction, leading casual relationships to become exclusive. Specifically, we predicted that casual relationships characterized by high commitment, satisfaction, and investment, and poor quality alternatives would transition to exclusive relationships over time. To test this hypothesis, as part of a larger longitudinal study of relationship dynamics and sexual risk behaviors, individuals involved in self-defined casual sexual relationships \( n = 153 \) reported their commitment to, satisfaction with, investments in, and alternatives to their relationship. Approximately four months later, we assessed the status of these relationships (i.e., causal vs. exclusive). As expected, commitment and investment were significantly and positively associated with an increased likelihood of being in an exclusive relationship four months later, \( t = 2.71, p = .01 \) and \( t = 2.54, p < .05 \), respectively), whereas alternatives were significantly and negatively associated with an increased likelihood of being in an exclusive relationship \( t = -3.25, p < .01 \). Contrary to expectations, satisfaction was not significantly associated with the likelihood of the relationship becoming exclusive over time \( t = -0.39, p = \text{ns} \). Results are discussed in terms of predicting relationship change over time, specifically with regard to increased exclusivity.

Predicting Variability in Relationship Commitment:
A New Type of Relational Outcome

Ben Porter (University of Houston)
Robert E. Wickham (University of Houston)
Benjamin W. Hadden (University of Houston)
C. Raymond Knee (University of Houston)

The current study examines variability of commitment in relationships as its own outcome. Prior research with relationship commitment has largely focused either on predicting ‘general’ commitment within cross sectional designs or predicting fluctuations within longitudinal designs. However, little attention has been paid to examining why one participant has more or fewer fluctuations of relationship commitment than another participant. This is an important aspect of relationships because it defines the stability of commitment within relationships. One may have high commitment, but it may be unstable which could have ramifications for one’s relationship. Authentic individuals should display lower levels of variability in their relationship because they will interact truthfully with their partner about their own needs and wants and so will experience fewer positive and negative surprises in their relationship. Forty-five couples completed a baseline packet then completed a diary record nightly for two weeks. Commitment variability was determined by computing the standard deviation for each participant across this two week
period. Multilevel modeling was used to control for nonindependence between dating partners. There was no difference in gender for the amount of variability participants displayed in commitment over the study. However, baseline authenticity predicted less variability in commitment ($b = -0.37, p < .001$) even when controlling for baseline levels of commitment. Furthermore, there was not a gender difference in this effect. Implications for the current model as well as implications for using item variability as an outcome are discussed.

Symposium

1310  It May “Take Two,” but How So? How Studying Dyadic Effects can Illuminate Close Relationships

Convener: Maryhope Rutherford (University of Minnesota)

Anxious Attachment and Reactivity to Aggressive Humor

Maryhope Rutherford (University of Minnesota)
Jeffry A. Simpson (University of Minnesota)

Research on humor suggests that it can be an effective personal coping strategy and can promote beneficial outcomes in individuals (Martin, Kuiper, Olinger, & Dance, 1993). It is also a desirable characteristic of in a mate (Sprecher & Regan, 2002). However we know little about how humor can function in the context of dyadic coping or social support. How does our partners’ use of humor enhance or diminish any support they provide to us? In this behavioral observation study of 84 adult couples, we first examined partner effects of humor, that is how affiliative and aggressive humor displayed by romantic partners affected the moods of their support-receiving partners during a support task. As predicted, providers’ use of affiliative humor (rated by observers) was associated with larger pre-to-post discussion decreases in negative mood for recipients. Providers’ use of more aggressive humor was associated with larger increases in negative mood for recipients. We also examined these effects at the dyadic level by testing whether a characteristic of the recipient—attachment anxiety—moderated the humor effects. The negative effects of aggressive humor were exacerbated for support recipients high in attachment anxiety.

Dyadic Perspectives on Commitment in Adult Romantic Relationships

M. Minda Orina (St. Olaf College)
Jeffry A. Simpson (University of Minnesota)

Theory and research suggests that the partner in a relationship who has less to lose if the relationship ends, or the weak-link partner, should be in a stronger position to dictate important relationship outcomes. We proposed that relationship functioning should be contingent on the weak-link partner’s level of commitment and the relative commitment levels of both partners. We examined 78 target participants who have been studied since birth and were involved in a romantic relationship when they were 20-21 years old. Our findings suggest that the lower the weak-link partner was in commitment, coupled with greater discrepancy in commitment between partners, the greater the likelihood that romantic couples displayed hostility during a videotaped task when they were 20-21 years old and their relationships were also more likely to dissolve when they were 26 years old. These findings are discussed from dyadic perspectives.
Trust across Relationship Contexts:
When the High Trust of One Can (and Cannot) Buffer the Low Trust of the Other

John Kim (University of Minnesota)
Yanna J. Weisberg (Linfield College)
Jeffry A. Simpson (University of Minnesota)

Individuals often approach a romantic relationship with discrepant levels of trust (Simpson, 2007). At the beginning, Jack may be highly trusting of Jill, while Jill has comparatively little trust in Jack. Then, will Jack’s high trust pull Jill up, or will Jill’s low trust inevitably weigh Jack down? In two studies designed to address this question, we asked romantic couples to discuss key relationship issues, and then measured change in relationship attitudes pre-to-post discussion. 1) Capitalization discussions involve sharing of positive life events and are non-threatening (Gable, Gonzaga, & Strachman, 2006). Accordingly, low-trust individuals felt more positively about their partners post-discussion as long as partners were high in trust. 2) Conflict discussions are inherently more threatening (Gottman, 1994). Consequently, low-trust individuals felt more negatively about their partners even if partners were high in trust. Essentially, high-trust partners buffered low-trust partners in innocuous relationship contexts, but not in threatening relationship contexts.

Don’t Push My Buttons!
The Value of “If-Then” Personality Knowledge in Close Relationships

Lara K. Kammrath (Wake Forest University)
Charity A. Friesen (Wilfrid Laurier University)

It seems intuitive that an individual should benefit from having close relationship partners that really “get” his or her personality. Despite the intuitive appeal of this notion, research has often failed to find significant partner effects when it comes to the benefits of personality accuracy in close relationships. Past research, however, has examined personality knowledge solely in terms of traits. We hypothesized that in close relationships, accurate personality knowledge about “if-then” profiles – a person’s characteristic pattern of responses to situations - may be particularly beneficial to one’s partner. We developed the If-Then Trigger Profile Questionnaire, which assesses how “triggered” a person is by each of 72 potentially bothersome interpersonal behaviors. A study of close friendships revealed significant partner effects for if-then trigger profile knowledge: when a person accurately perceived his/her friend’s if-then triggers, the friend reported less conflict in the relationship.

Modeling Dyadic Data: Implications of Emphasizing Individuals vs. Couples in Analysis

Patrick E. Shrout (New York University)
Gwendolyn Seidman (Albright College)

When do dyads function as higher order units of analysis versus as two individuals? A flip-side of this question concerns differences: When are differences in perspectives of dyad members couple-level phenomena and when are they just reflections of two individual perspectives? Two conceptually distinct statistical approaches often fit dyadic rating data equally well, but lead to different conclusions: 1) A regression-based model that treats ratings by each partner as separate explanatory variables, 2) An approach that transforms the ratings to represent a dyadic average and a dyadic difference score and then uses the transformed variables as explanatory variables. The first emphasizes the unique contribution of the dyad members while the second emphasizes the communality of the two reports. We show that both
approaches can be represented in structural equation models, and we discuss special designs manipulating either couple-level or individual-level constructs. We present numerical examples illustrating the models and designs.

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Panel Sessions

1311 Disclosure: The Mundane and the Difficult


Benjamin Garner (University of Kansas)

Food and drink have the power to affect interpersonal relationships and social interactions by providing physiological and psychological stimulation. Food studies, ritual theory (Bell, 1997), and the concept of “mindlessness” (Ashforth & Fried, 1988) are useful for understanding how structure and food can aid interaction by reducing potential uncertainty (Berger & Calabrese, 1975), anxiety, or discomfort. Using ethnographic methods, I interviewed 41 participants in coffee shops in Lawrence, Kansas about how getting coffee can foster and stimulate personal relationships and enact social support (Goldsmith, 2004). Results indicate that getting coffee is a ritual that facilitates interpersonal conversations by providing: warmth of the beverage, stimulation from caffeine, ability to use coffee nonverbally during conversation to control interaction, and pleasure. Second, the coffee shop environment was perceived as being physically and psychologically comforting environment in several ways, likened to one’s home, and ironically provided privacy despite being in a public place. This environment was associated with more practical types of relational conversations and advice giving—not emotionally expressive ones. Third, the “coffee script” is an unspoken script that implies a certain conversational path, time commitment, and relational purpose. The combination of these comforts aids interaction, encourages conversation, and potentially increases self-disclosure.

The Emotional Broadcaster Theory of Social Sharing

Kent Harber (Rutgers University at Newark)

Emotional disclosure typically requires the collaboration between an emotionally aroused communicator and a receptive listener. The benefits to communicators range from emotional relief to improved health. How their audiences benefit is less clear. Emotional Broadcaster Theory (EBT) proposes that the compulsion to share transforms disclosers into broadcasters whose stories inform others of important news. An initial study (Harber & Cohen, 2005) showed that following a hospital morgue field trip, the stories of those who were more upset “traveled” furthest. Thus, tellers’ upset predicted how many people they told, how many people their friends told, and how many people their friends’ friends told. Within a few days, an event experienced by only 33 students was transmitted to nearly 900 others. According to EBT story transfer follows a key condition of emotional arousal—the violation of expectations and beliefs. An initial study supplied subjects with vignettes that varied actor distress and misfortune unusualness. As expected, event unusualness rather than actor’s distress predicted subjects’ propensity to
disclose. EBT also predicts that highly negative events will be disclosed less by people for whom such events are common, because such events concord with their expectations. This was confirmed in two studies where subjects first reported on their own history of violence (HOV), and then rated their reactions to violent and non-violent unusual events. As expected, people with high HOV were both less disturbed by violent events and less likely to share them. These studies confirm the linkage between schema violation, emotional generation, and emotional disclosure.

Topics of Disclosure and Taboo Topics in the Work Spouse Relationship

M. Chad McBride (Creighton University)
Karla M. Bergen (College of Saint Mary)
Molly Wernli (College of Saint Mary)

Topics of disclosure and avoidance within relationships are a fundamental component of defining and understanding relational types. Work spouse relationships, empirically defined as a “special, platonic friendship with a work colleague characterized by a close emotional bond, high levels of disclosure and support, and mutual trust, honesty, loyalty, and respect,” (Authors, 2011) have garnered great attention in the popular press over the last several years, but only recently have relational scholars empirically examined this form of workplace relationship. The purpose of this project was to examine the disclosures between work spouses to determine what topics of conversation were deemed appropriate, and which, if any, were considered taboo. Using both open ended responses and responses to an established topic avoidance scale as part of an online survey, the authors analyzed the responses of 321 participants who called themselves or were referred to by others as "work spouses." Participants were from 40 different states within the US and from 5 different countries. Their relationships ranged from a few months old to 30 years \(M = 6.10, SD = 5.67\) and they had worked together for up to 26 years \(M = 5.12, SD = 4.55\). Situated within the framework of Communication Privacy Management (Petronio, 2002) and previous findings on topic disclosure and avoidance (e.g. Baxter, 1982 and Afifi & Burgoon, 2005), analysis reveals a typology of topics that work spouses do and do not discuss. Authors discuss the implications for further understanding and clarifying the work spouse relationship.

The Effects of Self-Disclosure and Stereotype Disconfirming Information on Prejudice toward New Friends with Schizophrenia or Major Depressive Disorder

Nicole Meyer (Universtity of Louisville)
Michael Cunningham (Universtity of Louisville)

Can self-disclosure from a friend with a severe mental illness (SMI) reduce stigma against such individuals more than can factual information alone? The current study used an experimental scenario design in which the respondent imagined making a new friend of the same gender, and receiving information from him or her. In one condition, the friend provided factual information to disconfirm stereotypes either about schizophrenia or major depression. In a second condition, the friend disclosed suffering from the SMI, which was being controlled by therapy and medication. In other conditions, participants either received either both types of information, or neither one. As predicted, the combination of stereotype disconfirming information and of self-disclosure provided the strongest increase in pity and the strongest reduction in stereotype endorsement, negative emotional reactions, and the desire for social distance toward individuals with either disorder. In addition, both self-disclosure and stereotype disconfirming information alone provided comparable increases in pity and decreases in SMI stereotype endorsement compared to the control. Both strategies, however, were ineffective in reducing fear and anger toward individuals with major depressive disorders, due to a persistent tendency to attribute controllability to that condition. Such results suggest that the effects of individual stigma reducing
strategies differ depending on the disorder in question. More importantly, individuals with schizophrenia and major depressive disorder can benefit from providing stereotype disconfirming information before disclosing their disorder to their interaction partners. The implication of these results, study limitations, and directions for future research will be discussed.

HIV Disclosure Dynamics

David C. Bell (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis)
Sandra Petronio (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis)
Aron E. DiBacco (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis)

Disclosure is a critical factor in preventing the spread of disease in HIV+/HIV- (serodiscordant) sexual partnerships. Research has shown that HIV+ partners have unprotected vaginal or anal sex without disclosing their status in 13% of these serodiscordant relationships (Ciccarone et al, 2003). We use Communication Privacy Management (CPM) theory to understand disclosure practices as sexual partners decide to withhold or provide HIV status information (Greene, Derlega, Yep, & Petronio, 2003; Petronio, 2002). CPM rule-based theory is used to chart the decision-making of revealing or concealing and explores motivations in conjunction with estimates of risk-benefits used as the basis for implementations of privacy rules guiding their choices. Data were collected from 120 HIV-discordant couples. HIV-positive individuals and their partners were recruited from HIV care coordination sites through flyers and treatment provider referrals, pharmacies serving the HIV+ community, and targeted mailings using state as well as county case databases. HIV-negative individuals and their partners were recruited from testing sites and from advertisements and flyers posted in city locations. Discordant couples were recruited together and interviewed separately. All participants were 18 years of age or older, English speaking, and sexually active together in the previous three months. Data from both partners are analyzed to examine how each describes the disclosure of HIV+ status and management of this information. Results show that the HIV+ partner has a stronger belief that they have openly communicated their status and communicated their rules for managing their HIV+ status information than does the HIV- partner.

The Effect of Relational Uncertainty of a “Central” Relationship on HIV+ Individuals’ Perceptions of HIV Disclosure

Danielle Catona (Rutgers University)
Kate Magsamen-Conrad (Rutgers University)
Kathryn Greene (Rutgers University)
Amanda Carpenter (Rutgers University)
Jennifer Theiss (Rutgers University)

Over one million people in the US alone are living with HIV/AIDS. The potential benefits of disclosing HIV+ status are well-documented. Stable, supportive relationships are a crucial factor in the healthy development of individuals and communities. Elements of Relational Turbulence may have implications for the disclosure process. Using a prospective design, we recruited and interviewed 47 HIV+ individuals from a large ASO in a northeastern US state; 34 people returned six months later and completed a second structured interview. Participants were 73% African American, 51% female, aged 20-64 years, 37% high school/GED. After Time1 interviews, researcher generated a list of individuals central to each participant’s life (based on information shared at T1). Later, participants described doubts, questions, or problems in their relationships with these specific (central) individuals. Independent sample t-tests showed that individuals who reported uncertainty in one of their central relationships were more likely (than those who reported no problems) to be worried about telling other people their HIV+ status, worried
about other people finding out their HIV+ status, to report that HIV stigma was a worry in their lives, to have less confidence in their ability to tell others about their HIV+ status, and finally to report that the person they reported having relational issues with had made it more difficult to manage having HIV. Relationship uncertainty may affect PLWHAs’ ability to manage elements of HIV disclosure. This project explores the underpinnings of the Relational Turbulence Model in this context.

Symposia

1312 What Makes You Hot: Understanding the Determinants of Feeling and Expressing Sexual Desire in Initial Encounters and Ongoing Relationships

Convener: Gurit Birnbaum (Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya)
Discussant: Harry Reis (University of Rochester)

Strange Attraction: An Attachment-Theoretical Perspective on Responsiveness and Sexual Desire in Initial Acquaintanceships

Gurit Birnbaum (Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya)
Harry Reis (University of Rochester)

Sexual desire plays a major role not only in attracting potential partners to each other, but also in providing a context for promoting intimacy and attachment. It is therefore reasonable to expect that intimacy-related processes contribute to the desire for sex with a partner. Nevertheless, past research has focused almost exclusively on the association between intimacy and desire in established couples. Thus, it is not known whether findings about intimacy and desire based on established relationships apply to the early stages of romantic relationships, given that the underlying function of sex likely changes across different stages of relationship development. The present research attempted to fill this void by examining the contribution of perceived partner responsiveness, the linchpin of intimacy, to sexual desire in the initial stage of potential romantic relationships. In three studies, participants discussed a negative event with an unfamiliar, opposite-sex partner and then rated how responsive this partner had been during the interaction and their desire for sex with him or her. Study 1 examined the responsiveness-desire linkage in randomly paired strangers. Studies 2 and 3 experimentally manipulated partner responsiveness by standardized Instant Messages and a confederate’s responsive or unresponsive reactions during face-to-face interviews. Results indicated that perceiving a partner as responsive was associated with heightened interest in sex with this partner, primarily among less avoidant people. These results are consistent with research showing that secure individuals see sex as a means of becoming close to relationship partners, whereas avoidant individuals tend to approach sex in distancing ways.

Concealing Negative Evaluations of a Romantic Partner’s Physical Attractiveness

Edward Lemay (University of New Hampshire)
Margrite Bechis (University of New Hampshire)
Jessamine Martin (University of New Hampshire)

Most people want to be seen as physically attractive in the context of romantic relationships. What happens when physical realities are not accommodating? Do people express negative views of their partner’s attractiveness or do they feign attraction? In two studies, the authors found evidence that people hide negative views of their romantic partner’s attractiveness and express misleadingly positive evaluations. In Study 1, participants with negative evaluations of their partner’s attractiveness reported a
tendency to conceal these negative evaluations and exaggerate their views. In Study 2, this tendency was corroborated using a behavioral observation measure. Participants with negative views of their partner’s attractiveness expressed more positive evaluations of their partner’s attractiveness on a video recording when they believed their partner was observing their behavior relative to when they believed the video was private. Participants who engaged in this deception also exhibited elevated speech disfluencies, a linguistic deception cue suggesting cognitive load and arousal. Moderators of concealment were examined. Concealment was especially pronounced for participants high in care for the partner’s welfare (Studies 1 and 2), low in commitment (Studies 1 and 2), and high in attractiveness ideals (Study 2). Care and commitment exhibited mutually suppressing moderating effects on concealment, as they were positively associated but had countervailing moderating effects. Results suggest that people use deception to regulate their romantic partner’s feelings and assist the partner in creating a desired relationship-specific identity. However, long-term orientation or desire to maintain intimacy may curtail use of deception to regulate the partner’s sense of attractiveness.

Relative Body Attractiveness and Marital Satisfaction: Marriages are More Satisfying When Wives are Thinner than Their Husbands

Andrea Meltzer (University of Tennessee)  
James McNulty (University of Tennessee)  
Sarah Novak (University of Arizona)  
Emily Butler (University of Arizona)  
Benjamin Karney (University of California, Los Angeles)

Individual attractiveness plays a significant role in the formation of romantic relationships. For example, both men and women prefer partners with thinner, more-attractive bodies. Nevertheless, consistent with interdependence theory, normative resource theories, and evolutionary perspectives, other research indicates that the difference between partners’ attractiveness shapes the outcomes of established relationships like marriage. Accordingly, the current 4-year longitudinal study of 169 newlywed couples attempted to predict the trajectory of relationship satisfaction using the difference between husbands and wives’ body mass index (BMI)—one indicator of attractiveness. In contrast to findings from studies of initial attraction and mate selection, own and partner’s individual BMI did not demonstrate consistent effects on the trajectory of satisfaction. Instead, consistent with predictions, husbands were more satisfied at the time of marriage and remained more satisfied over time to the extent that wives had a lower BMI than their husbands. Furthermore, although relative BMI was unrelated to wives’ satisfaction at the time of marriage, wives also remained more satisfied over time to the extent that they had a lower BMI than their husbands. Both effects held controlling for depression, income, education, and whether the relationship ended in divorce. These findings join previous research examining the effects of spouses’ relative facial attractiveness on behavioral outcomes to suggest that findings from studies of partner preferences and dating relationships may not always provide the best insights into the processes that characterize more established relationships. Rather, a dyadic perspective may be more appropriate for understanding how partners’ qualities shape such relationships.
Sex Differences in Succumbing to Sexual Temptations: A Function of Impulse or Control?

Natasha Tidwell (Texas A&M University)  
Paul Eastwick (Texas A&M University)  
Eli Finkel (Northwestern University)

Men succumb to sexual temptations (e.g., infidelity, mate poaching) more than women. Although this finding is consistent with a variety of explanatory accounts, including evolutionary and social structural theories of sex differences, there exists no strong process-oriented explanation of how this sex difference emerges. Two studies draw from the self-regulation tradition to address this gap in the literature, specifically examining whether this sex difference emerges because the sexes differ in the strength of their sexual impulses or their ability to exert self-control in the sexual domain. In Study 1, participants performed a reaction-time task that required them to accept or reject potential romantic partners, and we used process dissociation to separate the effects of impulse strength and control on these decisions. Study 2 required participants to report on their impulses and control exertion in an actual experience in which they were confronted with a sexual temptation that they knew they should not pursue. In both studies, men succumbed to the sexual temptations more than women, and this sex difference emerged because men experienced stronger impulses, not because they exerted less self-control. In fact, the Study 2 results suggested that the sex difference primarily emerges at low levels of self-control; at high levels of self-control exertion, the strength of sexual impulse fails to predict whether participants (both men and women) acted on the temptation. The self-regulation perspective can complement evolutionary and social structural accounts of sexual behavior in tempting but forbidden situations.

1313 Push Me Pull You: Understanding (and Integrating?) Approach/Avoidance, Promotion/Prevention, and Reward/Threat in Relationships

Convener: Geoff MacDonald (University of Toronto)  
Discussant: John Holmes (University of Waterloo)

Don’t Get Your Hopes Up: Avoidantly Attached Individuals Defensively Derogate Opportunities for Social Reward

Geoff MacDonald (University of Toronto)  
Stephanie Spielmann (University of Toronto)  
Patricia Baratta (University of Toronto)

According to Reinforcement Sensitivity Theory (Gray & McNaughton, 2000), the failure to obtain expected reward is a source of punishment. Avoidantly attached individuals, who strive to maintain attachment system deactivation, may thus defensively minimize expectations of social reward to reduce their exposure to the pain of frustration, disappointment, and loss. If motivated by defensiveness, one would expect to find a negative relation between avoidance and expectations of social reward only with respect to targets who might realistically elicit approach behavior. In two correlational studies, avoidant attachment was negatively associated with perceived opportunity for intimacy (but not higher risk of rejection) in relationships that were likely to involve approach of closeness: current or future romantic partners. This pattern was not evident with relationships less likely to involve approach of closeness, those with ex-partners. A third study experimentally manipulated the potential for intimacy among dating prospects. Avoidant attachment was negatively associated with romantic interest in targets with high intimacy potential but not targets with low intimacy potential. This effect was accounted for by a negative
association between avoidant attachment and evaluations of perceived responsiveness in the high intimacy target (but not the low intimacy target). Together the results suggest that avoidant individuals circumvent the pain of frustration, disappointment, and loss (and subsequent attachment system activation) by defensively derogating the intimacy potential of partners who might otherwise tempt them to draw close.

**Approach and Avoidance Forms of "The Chills" Have Opposite Effects on Interpersonal Closeness**

Todd Thrash (College of William and Mary)  
Laura Maruskin (College of William and Mary)  
Andrew Elliot (College of William and Mary)

“The chills” refers to a set of bodily sensations, such as goosebumps and shivers, that accompany strong emotion. Theorists’ predictions about the interpersonal implications of the chills have been difficult to reconcile to date. For instance, some theorists have proposed that chills are associated with attachment threat, whereas others have proposed that goosebumps are associated with closeness. We suspected that this and other inconsistencies in the literature are a result of a failure to distinguish distinct approach- and avoidance-related forms of the chills. In Study 1, a cluster analysis indicated that “the chills” encompasses four distinct lower-order concepts (goosebumps, tingling, coldness, and shivers) and two higher-order concepts (“goosetingles” and “coldshivers”). In Study 2, confirmatory factor analysis of questionnaire data supported a model with lower- and higher-order factors that corresponded to the Study 1 clusters. Goosetingles and coldshivers were associated with approach- and avoidance-related traits, respectively. In Study 3, goosetingles experiences in daily life were associated with reward elicitors and positive affect, whereas coldshivers experiences were associated with threat elicitors and negative affect. In Study 4, manipulation of exposure to self-actualization and self-annihilation elicited goosetingles and coldshivers, respectively. Goosetingles predicted greater closeness to an attachment figure, whereas coldshivers predicted greater distance. In sum, “the chills” encompasses distinct constructs that align with approach and avoidance systems and that have opposite implications for interpersonal relations. Broader implications regarding the fundamental dimensions of social motivation, as well as the thermoregulatory bases of social motivations, are also discussed.

**How Motivations for Growth Hurt and Motivations for Security Benefit Relationships: Distinguishing Regulatory Focus from Approach vs. Avoidance**

Daniel Molden (Northwestern University)

People motivated by growth (i.e., promotion) are often assumed to solely focus on approaching positive outcomes. Similarly, people motivated by security (i.e., prevention) are often assumed to solely focus on avoiding negative outcomes. Therefore, based on much research showing that approach social goals benefit and avoidance social goals hurt relationships, so too are motivations for promotion or prevention further assumed to have the same positive and negative effects, respectively. This talk will correct these assumptions and discuss how promotion motivations involve concerns with both approaching rewards and avoiding missed opportunities, whereas prevention motivations involve concerns with both approaching security and avoiding threats. In support of this perspective, one program of research will be reviewed that shows how greater worries about missed opportunities can undermine promotion-focused individuals’ committed relationships and increase their attention to attractive alternatives whereas greater desires for security sustain committed relationships and support derogation of attractive alternatives. A second program of research will then be reviewed that shows how perceptions that spouses support and
aid in the fulfillment of security concerns increases both relationship and personal well-being among married couples. Together these findings demonstrate that motivations for promotion or prevention do not simply produce approach or avoidance social goals, and larger considerations about when such motivations are beneficial for or detrimental to relationships will be discussed.

1314 The Seeds of Self-Growth: How Relationships Benefit the Self

Convener: Jennifer M. Tomlinson (Carnegie Mellon University)
Discussant: Brooke C. Feeney (Carnegie Mellon University)

How Compassionate Goals Promote Growth Beliefs about Relationships

Amy Canevello (University of North Carolina, Charlotte)
Jennifer Crocker (Ohio State University)

Beliefs that relationship problems and difficulties are opportunities for learning and growth (i.e., relationship growth belief; Knee, 1998) are beneficial when problems arise. But to date, little is known about how people acquire growth beliefs and how they change naturally over time. We suggest that compassionate goals to support others promote growth belief, in part because these goals foster need satisfaction. We also hypothesize that people’s own compassionate goals predict their relationship partners’ increased growth beliefs, through a process of goal contagion, whereby one person’s compassionate goals lead to partners’ increased compassionate goals. In Study 1, 199 college freshmen reported their compassionate goals for friendships for 10 weeks and growth belief at pretest and posttest. In Study 2, 65 roommate pairs reported their compassionate goals for their roommate relationship for 21 days, and their growth belief, need satisfaction, and compassionate goals at pretest and posttest. Compassionate goals predicted increased growth belief, but not vice versa. Compassionate goals worked through increased mutual need satisfaction to predict increased growth belief. Additionally, roommates’ compassionate goals indirectly contributed to students’ increased growth belief though the contagion of compassionate goals. Results suggest that beliefs about growth in relationships are shaped by goals – own and others’.

Personal Concerns vs. Relational Concerns: Importance of Goal Synchronization for Facilitating Personal Growth

Madoka Kumashiro (Goldsmiths University of London)
Michael K. Coolsen (Shippensburg University)

In romantic relationships, individuals invariably confront the choice between engaging in behaviors that promote personal versus relationship interests, often resulting in making sacrifices or adjusting one’s personal goals for the sake of the relationship. Yet, research on the Michelangelo phenomenon (Drigotas et al., 1998) also has shown that romantic partners play a crucial role in facilitating progress toward each partner’s most important goals and aspirations in life through affirmation of each other’s ideal self. We propose that both congruence and active synchronization of goal pursuit activities promote partner affirmation and movement toward the ideal self. As predicted, results of multilevel lagged analyses on a diary study of 87 dating couples showed that individuals reported higher levels of partner affirmation and top-6 goal importance to the extent that over the 10-day period, they devoted time to their relational concerns which posed low interference with their personal concerns. Similarly, analyses on a 5-wave longitudinal study of 187 couples showed that individuals reported higher levels of partner affirmation, personal growth, and couple well-being 6 months later when: 1) neither partner’s ideal-relevant goals
posed considerable problems for the other, and 2) individuals devoted time to their relational concerns without neglecting their personal concerns. Additional analyses on the second study also suggest that such goal congruence can occur through individuals choosing to pursue their problematic goals in a considerate manner toward the partner without necessarily giving up on these cherished goals. Broader implications of the findings will be discussed.

Perceived and Enacted Support during a Goal Discussion Promote Long-Term Self-Growth

Jennifer M. Tomlinson (Carnegie Mellon University)
Brooke C. Feeney (Carnegie Mellon University)

There has been considerable debate in the social support literature about the relative importance of perceived and received support from a relationship partner. One of the most widely reported findings is that perceived support (i.e., the relatively stable belief that help will be available if needed), as opposed to received (or enacted) support (i.e., help that is actually received), is the aspect of social support that is most strongly related to outcomes. However, no work has considered the effects of perceived and received support during a specific interaction or compared those ratings to those of independent observers and more general perceptions of available support. We sought to understand the long-term effects of general perceptions of available support and specific self, partner, and observer ratings of perceived and enacted support during a goal discussion in a sample of 229 newlywed couples. Results of SEM analyses revealed that observer ratings of enacted support predicted perceived support (reported by the support recipient), which predicted feelings of capability following the goal discussion and in turn predicted self-growth and goal accomplishment 1 year later. General perceptions of available support and support provider’s self-reports of enacted support were not as consistently related to feelings of capability following the discussion. These results suggest that (a) specific perceptions of partner support matter above and beyond general perceptions of available support, and (b) it does matter what the partner actually does during an interaction, but perhaps self-reports of enacted support are inaccurate due to intentions that were not well-communicated.

A Comparison of Long-Term Consequences Afforded by Safe Haven and Secure Base Support among Newlywed Couples

Meredith Van Vleet (Carnegie Mellon University)
Brooke C. Feeney (Carnegie Mellon University)

The provision of a secure base is theorized to be an important function relationships serve across the lifespan. However, little research has examined this type of support and no research has tested the long-term implications of the presence or absence of secure base support in adult relationships. Theory proposes that the goal of secure base support is distinct from that of support provided during times of adversity (safe haven support). This investigation followed newlywed couples over their first year of marriage to identify important outcomes of secure base and safe haven support. Exploration, self-perceptions, personal growth, relationship quality, attachment, and health outcomes were assessed at Year 2, as a function of safe haven and secure base support provision at Year 1. Results indicated both forms of support predicted benefits in all areas. The unique effects of each type of support, implications, and directions for future research will be discussed.
Roundtable

1315 Taking Relationship Education to the Internet: Practices, Promises and Pitfalls

Organizers: Linda Roberts (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Denise Bartell (University of Wisconsin-Green Bay)
Brady Dill (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Abra Bankendorf Vigna (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

The internet is increasingly becoming the first source consulted for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of physical as well as psychological and emotional suffering. The relationship arena is no exception. The internet is a primary source for educational information on love and sex. Traditional clinical models as well as grassroots educational models (e.g., “Marriage Encounter”) compete with a Google search as an essential resource for resolving relationship issues. Internet based dissemination of relationship information includes static internet sites, as well as blogs and discussion groups. It is not only information and advice on relationship success that is disseminated via the internet—the interactive characteristic of the internet provides opportunities for what are often considered “high impact” processes such as group discussion (social networking, blogging, discussion groups), tailored activities, the integration of knowledge and application, and even skill acquisition and practice. What roles can relationship researchers play in disseminating high quality information and high impact practices to the public via internet technologies? How do we “translate” relationship research for the public good? The goal of this roundtable is to stimulate discussion and dialogue about the promises, pitfalls and “best practices” for effective translation of relationship science for public consumption on the internet. The conveners and participants will together explore ways in which relationship science can be translated and disseminated to promote healthy relationships. While recent insights from relationship science and innovations in web technologies offer great promise for supporting relationship health, the roundtable dialogue will also focus on the potential for unintended consequences and the need for research on effectiveness.

2:15-3:30

Panel Sessions

1316 Transgressions

How We Lie: An Exploration of Deception in Intimate Dating Relationships

Arrington L. Stoll (University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee)
Katherine A. Becker (University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee)
Semra J. Schneider (University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee)

Past research on deception has examined how to detect deception, identify characteristics that are associated with different types of lies, and seeks to understand nonverbal communication that occurs during acts of deception. Impression management theory attempts to explain deception and why partner’s lie. Previous research has primary studied impression management theory in the context of organizations and businesses; however, the extension of applying this theory in intimate relationships needs to be explored. People perceive themselves in different ways; the pressure to maintain the image of yourself upheld by your partner can lead to different types of lying and behavioral responses that either help or
hinder the relationship. Using Bryant’s (2008) classification of real lies, white lies, and gray lies, the paper advances that the liar’s impressions of self and the perception the liar wants to portray, may have a stronger impact than what has been previously realized. The behavior of participants, college students aged 18-28 who have been or are currently involved in an intimate relationship, will be evaluated using a web-based survey. Sample selection procedures, web survey design, and analysis will be discussed. Subsequently, respondent lies will be classified by type, examined to the motivation and congruence with the liar’s impression of self, and finally related to verbal and nonverbal communication traits. The main focus of our research will illustrate what types of lies are commonly used in intimate relationships and the behavioral responses associated with different types of lies. Our results have implications for better communication between partners and improved conflict resolution methods. Furthermore, this research provides a new perspective on exploring impression management theory in intimate relationships.

Sweet Little Lies: Deception in Romantic Relationships

Jennifer Guthrie (University of Kansas)
Adrianne Kunkel (University of Kansas)

Deception undoubtedly plays a complex role in romantic relationships. This study investigated the use of deception by examining 67 participants’ diary-based, qualitative responses for their use of, and reasons for, deception within their romantic relationships. Following DePaulo, Kashy, Kirkendol, Wyer, and Epstein’s (1996) methods, participants recorded their use of deception as these speech patterns occurred during a seven-day period. This study sought to gain a richer understanding of the extent to which deception is used in romantic relationships, as well as common motives for deceiving romantic partners. Moreover, the current study sought to examine how deception functions within romantic relationships. Results revealed the nuanced and sometimes contradictory nature of deception in romantic relationships as participants reported multiple reasons for deceiving their romantic partners in various ways, including both self-centered and other-centered forms of deception. In addition, participants reported that deception can function in both positive and negative ways in their romantic relationships, and it can be used to support or protect either partner’s face needs. Finally, results suggested that deception may even be considered a form of relational maintenance and a means for coping with dialectical tensions.

"What Would You Do Next?": A Scenario Study of Initiated and Reactive Accommodation Following Relational Transgressions

Andy Merolla (Colorado State University)
Jennifer Harman (Colorado State University)

This study examined accommodation following conflict in dating relationships. Participants (N = 146) read six distinct hypothetical conflict scenarios and provided initial and secondary responses to the events. Initial responses (i.e., initiated accommodation) reflected participants’ immediate reaction to the conflict, whereas secondary responses (i.e., reactive accommodation) followed a randomized partner account for the transgressive behavior (i.e., concession, excuse, justification, or denial). Based on Rusbult and colleagues’ (1991) 2x2 framework of constructive/destructive and active/passive accommodation, initiated and reactive responses were categorized as exit, voice, loyalty, or neglect. Analyses examined (a) which theoretically-relevant relational variables predicted accommodation type across scenarios and (b) how initiated and reactive accommodation predicted the relational impact of the events within each scenario. Across scenarios, active accommodation was positively predicted by relationship satisfaction, and negatively predicted by perceived relational power and size of relational investment. Constructive accommodation was negatively predicted by perceived power and quality of partner alternatives. Constructive initiated accommodation positively predicted constructive reactive accommodation in three
of the six scenarios, and constructive initiated accommodation reduced the perceived negative impact of
the offense on the relationship in two of the six scenarios. Finally, constructive reactive accommodation
reduced the perceived negative relational impact of the transgression in three of six scenarios. In sum, this
study demonstrates a new approach to studying accommodation processes in personal relationships and
suggests the utility of bifurcating accommodation responses as initiated and reactive.

Betrayal Trauma and Close Relationships:
Exploring the Impact of Past Experiences on Current Interpersonal Functioning

Amber Douglas (Mount Holyoke College)
Jennifer Lewis (Mount Holyoke College)
Charu Tuladhar (Mount Holyoke College)
Jacqueline Kajos (Mount Holyoke College)
Erika Theel (Mount Holyoke College)

Social cognitions play a critical role in the processing of traumatic events; these frameworks of self and
other determine how information is organized, processed, and remembered. Traditionally, research has
focused on the intrapychic outcomes related to trauma and failed to examine the interpersonal effects of
traumatic sequelae. The current investigation evaluates the role of past “betrayal trauma” (Freyd, 1996)
experiences as they related and predict interpersonal functioning. An undergraduate sample of women
(N=238) were assessed for histories of betrayal trauma and randomly assigned to one of 5 experimental
conditions describing a fictional interaction between two close friends; the vignettes varied in degree of
betrayal (more or less) and conflict outcome (positive, negative, or ambiguous). Relational Health Index
(RHI; Liang et al., 2002), a measure of interdependence based on the principles of the Relational Cultural
Theory, posits that mental health and functioning stem from growth fostering relationships (Jordan et al.,
1991) was the dependent measure. It was expected that individuals with high levels of betrayal trauma
would be more reactive to interpersonal conflict and report lower levels of relational health. As
anticipated by Betrayal Trauma Theory, we predicted an inverse relationship between relational health
and betrayal trauma and women who reported more betrayal trauma would be significantly more
impaired by exposure to conflict scenarios. Differences were observed as a function of traumatic stress
history, betrayal type and outcome scenario providing partial support for our hypotheses. Findings have
implications for our understanding of relationally based stress on relationship functioning.

Family Background and Propensity to Engage in Infidelity

Dana A. Weiser (University of Nevada, Reno)
Camille B. Lalasz (University of Nevada, Reno)
Daniel J. Weigel (University of Nevada, Reno)
William P. Evans (University of Nevada, Reno)

A clearer understanding of why certain individuals are more likely to engage in infidelity allows
clinicians and relationship educators to better treat couples who experienced an infidelity and prevent
future infidelities. The current study represents a first step in exploring how the experience of parental
infidelity and other family variables relate to offspring’s own infidelity behaviors. Participants were 298
college students (113 males, 185 females). Among participants, 87 individuals reported they had
committed infidelity, 42 reported a maternal infidelity, and 68 reported a paternal infidelity. No gender
differences were found for any variables of interest. Utilizing logistic regression, offspring who reported a
parental infidelity were significantly more likely to have engaged in infidelity. Among individuals who
reported a maternal infidelity, 48.8% of participants had engaged in infidelity whereas among individuals
who reported no maternal infidelity, only 26.6% of participants had cheated. Similarly, among individuals who reported a paternal infidelity, 43.3% of participants had cheated in their own romantic relationships but only 24.3% of individuals with no knowledge of a paternal infidelity had engaged in infidelity. Participants who reported that their parents were not currently married were more likely to have engaged in infidelity. Furthermore, participants who indicated they have cheated in a romantic relationship reported lower levels of happiness and satisfaction and higher levels of conflict in their parents’ relationship. These results suggest that family background is linked to individuals’ propensity to engage in infidelity. Interactions among variables, characteristics of the parental infidelity, and future research directions will be discussed.

1317 Abuse and Violence in Close Relationships

Factors Influencing Reasons for Staying: Confirming Victims’ Communication of Messages for Not Leaving Abusive Relationships

Jessica J. Eckstein (Western Connecticut State University)

Research on why people remain with abusive partners is typically based on professionals’ and clinicians’ reports of their experiences with victims. This method, while helpful, is limited to reports of those who access victim support services. As a result, reasons for staying in intimate partner violence (IPV) relationships need to be examined systematically (i.e., community sample, comparative analyses) and from victims’ perspectives (i.e., reflecting on specific messages communicated). To address this dearth in the violence and relationships literatures, a quantitative analysis further confirmed (tied to previous data) the nature of messages men and women in IPV relationships gave for having stayed with their abusive partner. Self-report data from 454 diverse individuals (n = 310 women, 144 men) reporting IPV victimization revealed consistencies and differences in the types of messages reported as used in varying types of IPV relationships. Specifically, duration of the IPV relationship, time before abuse incident onset in that relationship, amount of time stayed after abuse began, age of victim, and (in some cases) sex differences were each factors distinguishing among the types of messages reported being used by victims. Reasons were further distinguished by the victims’ intended target for each reason – to themselves (e.g., theorized as identity-maintenance, coping, reassurance) and/or others (e.g., theorized as rationalization, stigma management) – in that different reasons were used for self-purposes than were reported for interactions with other people. This empirical report concludes with an application to both theoretical and applied research perspectives on communication regarding stay/leave decisions in IPV relationships.

Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence and the Association with Individual and Relational Health Outcomes

Sabine Hellemans (Ghent University)
Ann Buysse (Ghent University)

Background: Intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence are many-faceted and complex issues. Clinical and population studies have evaluated the negative consequences of IPV and sexual violence on victims’ individual physical, mental, and sexual health. In contrast, very few population based studies have assessed the potential detrimental effects of IPV and sexual violence on relationship outcomes such as relationship quality and sexual satisfaction with an intimate partner. The present study estimates the prevalence of IPV and different forms of sexual violence and examines its associations with both individual and relational health outcomes
among women and men. Method: This study analyzes the data from SEXPERT – a population study measuring the sexual health in Flanders using a representative sample of 2000 Flemish women and men aged 14 to 80. The standardized face to face interviews included questions about different forms of sexual victimization, physical and psychological intimate partner violence and individual and relational health correlates. Results and Conclusions will be discussed.

**Dating Violence Victimization within Casual Relationships and Experiences**

Shannon E. Claxton (Kent State University)
Katherine M. Klipfel (Kent State University)
Manfred H.M. van Dulmen (Kent State University)

A large body of research has focused on intimate partner violence within committed relationships during adolescence and early adulthood. However, many individuals experience intimacy and/or sexuality outside of committed relationships. The purpose of the current study was to describe the prevalence of dating violence victimization (DV victimization) in casual relationships and experiences (CREs) and explore potential risk factors for DV victimization across different relationships/experiences. Data were derived from a sample of college students (N=84, 71.4% female, 84.5% Caucasian, M age = 20.04). The majority (92.9%) self-identified as heterosexual. Measures included the externalizing and internalizing subscales of the Achenbach Self-Report (Achenbach & Rescorla, 2003), Experiences in Close Relationships (Fraley et al., 2000), and a study-specific sexual behaviors questionnaire examining presence of DV victimization (verbal, physical, and sexual) across different forms of relationships and sexual experiences (friends-with-benefits, booty-call, casual dating, one-night stands, committed relationships). Experiences of DV victimization did not significantly (paired sample t-tests) differ across CREs. Dating violence victimization levels were significantly higher in committed relationships compared to other types of relationships (all p’s < .01). Results of logistic regression analyses indicated that externalizing behavior problems increased risk of DV victimization in committed relationships (p = .05) and friend-with-benefits (p = .08; after removing internalizing behavior problems from the model p = .04). Anxious attachment was associated with risk for DVV in one-night stands (p = .03). Together, these findings indicate that DV victimization profiles are similar across CREs, but risk factors for DV victimization may differ across committed relationships and various types of CREs.

**Losing My Identity?: Applying Stigma Theorizing to Abused Parents’ Socially Constructed Identifications in the Context of Adolescent-to-Parent Abuse**

Nancy Brule (Bethel University)
Jessica Eckstein (Western Connecticut State University)

This paper explicates the construct of parental stigma through applications of existing research on the phenomenon of adolescent-to-parent abuse (AtPA). We account for the ways these parents (who are physically, emotionally, and verbally abused by their adolescents) understand uncertainties related to their parenting practices in an AtPA context by discussing abused parental identity as it relates to cultural norms; applying a theory of stigma to this phenomenon; and finally, comparing/contrasting the Stigma Management Communication (SMC) typology (Meisenbach, 2010) as a means to explain and identify the coping strategies stigmatized parents use when dealing with AtPA; based on the SMC model, four main categories of stigma management emerge with specific communication strategies used by abused parents for each dimension. By exploring the findings of AtPA researchers (drawing from published and unpublished reports from parents abused by their adolescents), this theoretical explication and clinical and
Family Violence Victimization and Mental Health Outcomes in a Sample of Primary Care Patients from Chile: Assessing the Mediating Role of Romantic Relationship Satisfaction

Nicole Capezza (University of Massachusetts Medical School)
Caron Zlotnick (Brown University)
Robert Kohn (University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio)
Benjamin Vicente (University of Concepción)
Sandra Saldivia (University of Concepción)

There is a well-established link between lifetime family violence victimization and mental health disorders (e.g., major depressive disorder (MDD), posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), problem drinking). The goal of this study was to examine whether the relationship between family violence and mental health disorders is mediated by romantic relationship satisfaction in a sample of 1953 primary care patients in Chile. Structured diagnostic assessments were administered to assess for a range of mental health disorders including, MDD, PTSD, dysthymia, phobias, etc. using relevant modules from the Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI). The AUDIT was used to assess hazardous alcohol use. Additional measures captured lifetime family violence and relationship satisfaction in the past six months. Measures were administered to individuals aged 15 to 98 in primary care centers in the Chilean cities of Concepcion and Talcahuano. As hypothesized, we found that romantic relationship satisfaction mediated the link between family violence and several disorders including, MDD, dysthymia, specific phobia, any DSM disorder, and hazardous alcohol use. This study highlights the importance of considering relationship satisfaction as a potential contributing factor to mental health outcomes among family abuse victims.

1318 Third Party and Network Influences on Relationships

Whose Got the Love?: Examining Relational Interdependent Self-Construal as a Buffer to Social Network Disapproval

Chelsea Ellithorpe (Mississippi State University)
H. Colleen Sinclair (Mississippi State University)

Social network opinions have been shown to make or break a romantic relationship according to previous research. Recent studies have shown that individual difference variables can buffer a romantic relationship against the harmful effects of social network disapproval. In this study, we examined whether individual differences in Relational Interdependent Self-Construal (RISC) could act as this type of buffer. Individuals (N = 1,048) in romantic relationships completed surveys asking about the level of friend and parent (dis)approval, their individual level of RISC, and their romantic relationship quality. Relationship quality was measured through different items including the Sternberg Triangular Theory of Love scales and Davis and Todd Relationship Rating forms. The results showed that individuals who are high on RISC remain high in relationship quality, regardless of (dis)approval of parents or friends. However, the relationship quality of individuals low in RISC is strongly influenced by parents and friends. When
individuals are low in RISC and experience approval from parents and friends, relationship quality remains high. However, when individuals are low in RISC and face disapproval from friends and parents, relationship quality suffers. Therefore, Relational Interdependent Self-Construal does seem to act as a buffer against social network disapproval, such that when individuals are high in RISC, their relationship quality does not seem to be negatively affected by social network disapproval as it is when individuals are low in RISC. Possible reasons why Relational Interdependent Self-Construal seems to act as a buffer and protect relationships from social network disapproval will be addressed.

Asserting Independence: Examining How Reactance Moderates the Effects of Social Network Opinions on Romantic Relationship Initiation

Benjamin Walker (Mississippi State University)
H. Colleen Sinclair (Mississippi State University)

The Romeo and Juliet effect has been characterized by some as a reactive response to social network disapproval which—rather than pulling the couple apart—pulls them together (Driscoll et al., 1972; Sprecher & Felmlee, 1992). The goal of this study was to examine whether individual differences in reactance predicted people’s tendency to disregard their social network’s opinion during relationship initiation. In part 1, participants completed a screening survey which assessed their level of reactance. In part 2, we used a virtual dating game paradigm in which participants spoke online to two potential romantic partners and received positive and/or negative feedback from their friend and parent about one of the partners. This study used a 2 x 2 x 2 (Parent Opinion: approve, disapprove) x 2 (Friend Opinion: approve, disapprove) x 2 (Interaction Partner: Evaluated Target, Control Target – within-subjects) mixed factorial design. The dependent variable was how much participants reported liking their chosen partner. Results of the study revealed that greater social network approval led to higher ratings of liking towards participants’ chosen partner, particularly friend approval. However, it was found that reactance moderated the impact of friend and parent opinion such that higher levels of independent reactance reduced the impact of both friend and parent opinion on participants’ ratings of their chosen partner. This study suggests that contrary to the type of network defiance that is characteristic of the Romeo and Juliet effect (i.e., like the disapproved, dislike the approved), individuals who are high in independent reactance are unaffected by network opinions.

Third-Party Influence on a Close Friend’s Romantic Relationship: A Scenario Study on the Role of Social Network Influence

Matthew Donovan (Illinois State University)

The present study explored the expected behaviors of social network members toward a hypothetical close friend’s new romantic relationship. Guided by literature on the role close social networks play on romantic relationships, this study examined how approval and disapproval toward the relationship, frequency of interfering in past relationships, real-life relationship status, and sex of the friend influenced an individual’s propensity to engage in positive facilitating or negative interfering behaviors. Results indicated that individuals likely engage in negative behaviors when they disapprove of a relationship and positive behaviors when they approve of a relationship. Results also indicated that frequency of interfering was positively associated with expectations for engagement in future relationships, while relationship status was negatively correlated with interference. Differences in same-sex and opposite-sex friendships were preliminarily explored and discussed as well.
Peer Influences on Mate Choice: The Effectiveness of Recommendations from Former Partners and Classmates on Dating Interest and Impression Formation

Michael Cunningham (University of Louisville)
Perri Druen (York College)
Anita Barbee (University of Louisville)

Receiving an introduction to another person containing a brief background statement and some flattering comments is a common way of meeting a new dating partner. Indeed, one on-line dating service provides people in search of partners with recommendations of potential mates provided by their previous partners and friends (www.greatboyfriends.com; www.greatgirlfriends.com). Yet, what determines the willingness of people to accept such recommendations? This study used an experimental scenario design to examine the impact of three variables pertaining to the recommender’s characteristics and behaviors. A sample of n = 174 respondents, who were not currently in a romantic relationship, volunteered for a study on impression formation to answer that question. Respondents were told that the experimenters recruited people from local colleges and universities to give their descriptions of target people whom they know, and then the experimenters would ask for the respondents' impression of the target, and what the targets would be like as a dating partner. Characteristics of the recommender were randomly assigned, including the age of the peer (typical-college-age (20-21), or as having graduated previously and currently were age 25), the peer’s relationship with the target (a past romantic or a classmate), and the level of peer regard for the target (high = 7.8/9 and moderate = 5.8/9, based on the peer’s rating of the target on sixteen bipolar characteristics). A pattern emerged of theoretically meaningful results, with intriguing gender differences, which will be presented at the IARR conference in Chicago.

Sharing Forgiveness: Exploring How Social Network Members Process Hurtful Experiences

Joshua Pederson (University of Iowa)
Rachel McLaren (University of Iowa)

Social network members often play a significant role in supporting and encouraging individuals who have experienced a hurtful event, such as a betrayal from a friend, a disparaging comment from a co-worker, or an upsetting conflict with a family member (e.g., Burleson, 1994, Connop & Petrak, 2004). Unfortunately, we know little about how individuals and their social network members share and manage information related to processing a hurtful experience. The present study explores an understudied phenomenon in which individuals who experienced a hurtful event share and negotiate information related to processing the hurtful experience with a member of their social network. Specifically, this study focuses on information related to forgiveness behaviors following a hurtful incident. Recent research in psychology demonstrates people have the ability to feel hurt and weigh forgiveness decisions an event that did not happen to them personally (Green, Burnette, & Davis, 2008). However, conceptualizing one’s processing of another’s hurtful experience as entirely psychological overlooks the communicative behaviors victims and their social network members perform to understand information related to the processing of a hurtful experience. Using Communication Privacy Management (CPM) (Petronio, 1991, 2002) as a theoretical framework, the researchers conducted a thematic analysis of 190 participants’ responses to an online survey to explore how victims of hurtful events and social network members co-own forgiveness related information, establish privacy rules, negotiate boundaries, and manage turbulence. The study discusses theoretical implications for information management and communicating forgiveness while illuminating potential practical applications for individuals and social networks experiencing hurt.
Relationships between Militant Racists and the Average American: A Study of Friendship Networks through MySpace.com

Shaun Geer (UC Davis, Sociology)

This study examines the friendship networks of Americans identifying ideologically as Ku Klux Klan or Neo-Nazi members, henceforth described as militant racists, on the social networking website “Myspace.com”. The friendship networks of these militant racists are compared to friendship networks in a control group of other white Americans. The study shows that this group of militant racists tend to have diverse, heterogeneous social networks, in many respects similar to the control group. Significant differences between the experimental and control groups include that the militant racists friendship networks tend to be slightly more male, with about two thirds of their network being male as opposed to roughly 58% of the control groups network being male. These militant racists tend to be older, and the people in their social networks also tend to be older. However, the social networks of these militant racists do not differ significantly from the control group in terms of religion, education, or sexual identity. Surprisingly, the militant racists tend to have a higher prevalence of black people in their social network then the control group. Also surprisingly, militant racists tend to have significantly less dense social networks, suggesting more weak ties. These findings show that militant racists tend to exist in a highly heterogeneous social network, providing evidence for theories that suggest racism exists because of interaction between races, and against such theories of racism that rely on structured ignorance of the oppressed group.

4:30-7:30 Rock Bottom: Poster Sessions

4:30 - 5:30 Poster session 2: Abstracts on pp. 213-223
5:30 - 6:30 Poster session 3: Abstracts on pp. 224-234
6:30 - 7:30 Poster session 4: Abstracts on pp. 235-243

SATURDAY, JULY 14

8:30-9:45 am Panel Sessions

1401 Social Support in Times of Stress

The Dynamics of Social Support in Message Boards for New Parents: Receiving and Providing Informational, Emotional, and Companionate Support

Roi Estlein (Rutgers University)

The transition to parenthood brings challenges for first-time parents and is often fraught with uncertainty that promotes stress. One common strategy to cope with such stress is to seek supportive communication which facilitates adaptive uncertainty management. The Internet provides a variety of resources that new parents can turn to for support. The current study delves into the online discourse of new parents to examine how they use the Internet to receive and to provide social support. To explore the dynamics of supportive communication in a new parents’ online discussion group, this study employs Bambina’s
(2007) online social support model which identifies three categories of support: emotional, informational, and companionship, and five characteristics of participants: star actors, prime givers, serious members, moderate users, and takers. Analysis of entries from a parenting discussion board (N = 207) showed that new parents sought primarily emotional support (e.g. understanding and affirming), followed by companionship (e.g. belonging), and then by informational support (e.g. referrals). These findings suggest that new parents attempt to reduce uncertainty primarily by reassuring that they act and feel “like everyone else.” Informational support is sought minimally, suggesting new parents get information about parenting through different channels. A further analysis of social network roles revealed specific patterns of supportive communication (e.g. stars provided the most emotional support to serious members; prime givers showed most companionship toward other prime givers). These findings demonstrate the model’s ability to predict a match between electronic network characteristics and online support functions.

"Abnormally Normal:"
Ethnographic Case Studies of Stepfather-Stepson Emotional Support

Jonathan Pettigrew (Penn State University)

Research on stepfamilies consistently demonstrates that some children in stepfamily households are at a risk for academic, psychological, and behavioural problems, and that supportive stepfather-stepchild relationships help counteract these negative outcomes for youth. Yet, little is known about how support is communicated and perceived in stepfather-stepchild relationships. Based on a relational view of communication, this paper details how emotional support is transacted between stepfathers and their stepsons within purposefully selected stepfamilies. Six rural, middle-class, Caucasian stepfamilies including a stepfather, a 10-14 year old stepson, and his biological mother were recruited from social groups in central Pennsylvania to be part of an in-depth investigation into the communication of support in stepfather-stepson pairs. Data were collected across a minimum of four weeks with each family through qualitative field work involving in-depth interviews with stepfathers, youth, and mothers; eight, two-hour observational visits of family interaction in naturalistic settings; and, online questionnaires completed by stepfathers, youth, and mothers. Analysis involved cross case analyses of interview transcripts, observation fieldnotes, and questionnaire responses to identify strategies used by stepfather-stepson pairs to communicate emotional support. Communication strategies included verbal and nonverbal affection, spending time together one-on-one and as a family, and through stepfathers “claiming” stepsons and stepsons using the “Dad” label. Distinct from other family types, stepfather-stepson support is influenced by contextual factors such as stepfathers’ biological children, visitation schedules between step- and non-resident households, and comparisons between stepfathers and biological fathers. This study contributes a descriptive base to the study of emotional support in stepfather-stepson relationships by examining how supportive relationships are developed and maintained through everyday interactions.

Stress and Support Seeking in a Sample of Low-Income Women

Sean Rife (Kent State University)
Kristin Mickelson (Kent State University)

Lower-income populations exhibit higher levels of mental disorders than their middle- and upper-class counterparts. This may be due in part to the high levels of stress experienced by individuals in this population. Among low-income women in particular, the presence of stress among members of a woman’s social network may discourage her from seeking social support in an effort to avoid further burdening her friends and family. Thus, in the present study we tested whether network stress moderates
the relationship between stress, social support, and mental health in low-income women through a multisample structural path analysis. Results indicate that the mediating roles of willingness to seek support and actual support seeking vary according to the presence of network stress: for women who reported the presence of network stress, personal stress was associated with depression primarily by way of less willingness to seek support and greater fear of rejection, but not actual support seeking. For women who did not report network stress, fear of rejection was the only mediator of the relationship between personal stress and depression. These results may indicate that women are sensitive to stress in the lives of members of their social network, or that low income women are reluctant to seek support for fear that they will be unable to return favors in the future.

Observed Social Support Behaviors and Cancer-Related Cognitive Processing in Couples Coping with Head and Neck Cancer

Kathrin Milbury (University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center)
Hoda Badr (Mt Sinai School of Medicine)

Given the disfiguring and debilitating nature of head and neck cancer (HNC) and its treatment, patients and their spouses are at risk of experiencing trauma symptoms including cognitive intrusion and avoidance exacerbating psychological distress. Even though the Social Cognitive Processing Model posits that social support facilitates adaptive cognitive processing, recent literature has pointed to harmful effects of received support. Yet, most studies use self-report measures of perceived rather than actual received support only focusing on the patient as the recipient of support. The purpose of this research was to examine the association between actual observed support behaviors and cognitive intrusion and avoidance in 60 newly diagnosed HNC patients (87% male) and their spouses. Couples completed questionnaires including an explicit measure of cognitive intrusion and avoidance (IES) and a problem-solving discussion task in the laboratory immediately followed by an implicit assessment of cognitive intrusion (cancer Stroop task (CST)). We used the Social Support Interaction Coding System to code the video-recorded discussions. Dyadic analyses using multi-level modeling revealed that when patients and spouses received more (compared to less) positive support behaviors, they demonstrated slower reaction times on the CST (p<.01) indicating greater cognitive intrusion. No role differences (patients vs. spouses) were found. The results were similar using the self-report method (IES; p<.05). The current findings map on to recent work suggesting that receiving support may be initially distressing in the acute phase of the traumatic event because it may elicit negative emotional responses, which are yet necessary to facilitate successful long-term adjustment.

Chinese Immigrant Breast Cancer Survivors: Stressors and Social Support

Furjen Deng (Sam Houston State University)
Lih-jiuan Fann (National Dong-Hwa University)
Shuangyue Zhang (Sam Houston State University)
Andy Merolla (Colorado State University)

Immigrant cancer patients face numerous medical, personal, relational, and cultural challenges in the management of their illness. Stressors include linguistic barriers, limited access to medical care, and culture-based tensions concerning family communication (Galvan, Buki, & Garces, 2009; Lee & Bell, 2011). This study examined the challenges faced by Chinese women who immigrated to the U.S. and were diagnosed with breast cancer. This study also examined the ways in which the women managed stressors through social support. Data originated from in-depth interviews of 21 Chinese-American breast cancer survivors (CABCS) in the Greater Houston area. Among the most significant challenges identified
by the women were their (a) changing roles from a care-taker to care recipient, (b) difficult interaction with physicians, (c) coping with financial and emotional problems, and (d) management of tensions between traditional Chinese (e.g., herbal therapy) and Western (e.g., surgery and chemo-therapy) treatments. The major sources of social support for CABCSs were family and friends, church members, co-workers, and online support groups. Consistent with social support perspectives, such as the Optimal Matching Model (Cutrona & Russell, 1990), matches between the needs of CABCSs and the resources/abilities of support providers enhanced spousal and family relationships and contributed to positive recovery experiences. Insufficient or mismatched support, however, produced frustration and negative relational outcomes. This work has implications for scholars of social support, health care professionals, and practitioners interested in the development of social support interventions for immigrant breast cancer patients/survivors.

Social Support Workplace Relationships: Effects on Secondary Trauma

Anita Barbee (University of Louisville)

Social support buffers people from stress (Cohen & Wills, 1985). Little research, however, has focused on the effects of social support in workplace relationships, particularly in the field of child welfare. This paper focuses on a third study in a series of studies on the effects of supervisor and co-worker support on worker stress and turnover. The first two studies found that supervisor support as measured with Cutrona and Russell’s scale (1987), in the form of attachment (emotional closeness and sense of security), guidance (advice and information), reliable alliance (assurance that one can be relied upon for emotional support), as well as competent supervision and having a positive relationship with the supervisor was associated with job retention (Barbee, et al., 2009, Yankeelov, Barbee, Sullivan & Antle, 2009), but co-worker support was negatively correlated with job satisfaction. The present study examined the effects of 20 dimensions of organizational culture and climate including supervisor and co-worker support on stress, secondary trauma and exit, voice, loyalty and neglect in an urban child welfare office. A survey was given to 157 front line workers and supervisors, or 70% of the workforce. Preliminary analyses found that the rate of the workforce experiencing clinical levels of PTSD (Bride, 2007) was 3 times larger than other social worker samples. Interestingly, those who perceived higher levels of supervisory support reported lower levels of secondary trauma symptoms, but those who perceived higher levels of co-worker support reported higher levels of secondary trauma. More results and implications will be discussed.

1402 Attachment and Affect

Security of Attachment as a Basis for the Grateful Disposition

Ross Wilkinson (The Australian National University)

A grateful disposition has been argued to be a prosocial behavioural tendency that is linked to better psychological health and wellbeing. The origins of gratefulness, however, have not been well established. Two studies were undertaken to explore the hypothesis that security of attachment underlies dispositional gratitude. Study One (N = 70) employed established procedures to prime either security of attachment, positive mood, or a neutral condition. Using a word versus non-word decision paradigm participants responded to gratitude words, secure attachment words or neutral words. With reaction time as the dependent variable, participants responded more quickly to both attachment and gratitude words, but not neutral words, in the positive and secure attachment priming conditions. A significant interaction indicated that RTs for gratitude words were significantly slower than either neutral or attachment words in the neutral priming condition. Study two presents a SEM mediation analysis of cross-sectional
questionnaire data (N = 150). A model is supported where the relationship of attachment anxiety and avoidance to dispositional gratitude is fully mediated by positive and negative affect. Together the two studies indicate that secure attachment is associated with a tendency to be grateful but that this relationship is mediated by mood. The implications for research on the interpersonal basis of gratitude and its antecedents are discussed.

Promoting Generosity through Attachment Security

Omri Gillath (University of Kansas)
Ruthann Atchley (University of Kansas)
Mohamed El-Hodiri (University of Kansas)
Keith Young (University of Kansas)
Ali Imran (University of Kansas)
John Sakaluk (University of Kansas)
Juwon Lee (University of Kansas)

Generosity and generous behavior are highly important for close relationships and society in general. In the current set of studies we examined the underpinnings of generosity and its associations with attachment security – an individual difference known to play a central role in close relationships. Study 1 focused on the associations between attachment style and generosity. As expected, attachment avoidance was negatively associated with feeling and behaving generously; unexpectedly, attachment anxiety was positively associated with behaving generously. Study 2 focused on the effects of security priming on behavioral generosity. Participants played an online decision-making game with other students. Before playing the game they were exposed to a priming procedure in one of three conditions (secure, insecure, and neural). Results showed that security priming increased generous behavior. A third study using ERP found attachment primes to moderate the emotional negative reaction to unreciprocated generous behavior. The implications for close relationships are discussed.

Long-term Effects of Compliment Reframing among Insecurely Attached Individuals

Denise Marigold (Renison University College, University of Waterloo)

Although some insecurity in romantic relationships is to be expected, excessive and unwarranted insecurity in one partner becomes problematic for both partners over time. In previous work, a short writing exercise (the ARI: Abstract Reframing Intervention) was developed to increase feelings of relationship security in chronically insecure individuals. After thinking of a specific compliment from their partner, participants were asked to “explain why your partner admired you. Describe what it meant to you and its significance for your relationship.” This led low self-esteem individuals to feel more positive about their relationship, to refrain from derogating their partner after a relationship threat, and to behave better towards their partners in the two weeks following this exercise (Marigold, Holmes, & Ross, 2007, 2010). To extend this research, in the current study both members of the couple participated in a diary format, and a relationship-specific measure of attachment style formed the index of chronic insecurity (separating anxious and avoidant types of insecurity). In the first session, one member of the couple (the “target”) received either ARI or control materials. Both members of the couple filled out various questionnaires every 3 days over a two-week period. Results from the final session showed that the ARI boosted trait self-esteem for preoccupied targets over two weeks. The partners of dismissive avoidant targets who had received the ARI reported worse behavior from those targets and lower relationship quality after two weeks. Discussion focuses on the function of the ARI in participants with different types of insecure attachment.
Attachment Style Predicts Changes in Well-Being after Entering or Exiting a Relationship: A Prospective Longitudinal Study

Kimberly R. Johnson (Heriot-Watt University)
Bjarne M. Holmes (Champlain College)

Using prospective longitudinal design, the research is the first to compare changes in well-being across attachment styles, comparing participants’ subjective well-being measured before either entering or exiting a relationship to their well-being measured during subsequent months. 7,446 participants completed online measures for 24 consecutive weeks. Each week, participants were asked about relationship changes and filled out surveys on adult attachment (RQ; Bartholomew & Horowitz, 1991), life satisfaction (SWLS; Diener et al., 1985), self-esteem (RSE; Rosenberg, 1965), and mood (PANAS; Watson, Clark, & Tellegen, 1988). For the analyses, two subsamples were created based on those who either entered a new relationship (N=380; mean age 29.7, SD 9.9; 72% female) or ended a current relationship (N = 342, mean age 29.8, SD 10.4); 72% female) during the study. All measures had Alpha of .92 or higher. In order to examine changes in well-being over time subsequent to relationship change, multi-level modeling (MLM) was used with L1 submodel comprising within-person changes in well-being, nested within a L2 submodel of between-person differences in attachment anxiety, avoidance, and their interaction. Secure individuals showed the greatest well-being before and after break-up or entering a relationship, with little change in subsequent months. Fearful-avoidants had the lowest well-being and showed yet further decline following break-up, with little change in subsequent months. Fearful-avoidants entering a relationship showed little positive well-being change in subsequent months. Preoccupied individuals showed sharp declines in well-being after break-up, but well-being improved over subsequent months. Preoccupied individuals entering a relationship showed gains in well-being over subsequent months. Dismissing-avoidants showed substantial improvements in well-being in months subsequent to break-up. Conversely, dismissing-avoidants entering a relationship showed declines in well-being in subsequent months.

The Desire for Parenthood as a Terror Management Mechanism: The Moderating Role of Attachment Orientations

Erez Yaakobi (Ono Academic College)

Terror Management Theory accounts for the ways individuals cope with the terror of death awareness (self-esteem enhancement, cultural worldview validation, relational closeness). The current set of four studies explored desire for parenthood as a death anxiety buffer and the moderating role of attachment orientations. Findings indicated that (a) mortality salience led to higher reports of desire for parenthood than control conditions, (b) activating participants' desire for parenthood after mortality salience reduced death-thoughts accessibility (as measured in a word completion task) and the search for relational closeness (another terror management defence), and (c) activating thoughts about obstacles to parenthood heightened death-thought accessibility. All these effects were moderated by attachment orientations and were mainly found among participants scoring relatively low in attachment anxiety and avoidance (more secure attached participants). Results are discussed from both terror management and attachment perspectives.
Attachment and Emotion Perception: Relationship Status as a Moderator

Konstantinos Kafetsios (University of Crete)
Aspasia Papachiou (University of Crete)

Emotion perception is important for the regulation of personal relationships specifically and for social functioning more broadly. In three studies we examined the interaction of attachment orientations and relationships status in the emotion perception process. In study 1, 151 community participants (of whom 30% were single) completed the Appraisal of Others’ Emotion Scale of the Wong and Law Emotion Intelligence Test (Wong & Law, 2002; a scale that assesses emotion perception self-efficacy). In study 2, 406 participants of whom 50% were single completed the emotion perception branch of Mayer Salovey & Caruso’s Emotional Intelligence Test (MSCEIT; Mayer, Salovey & Caruso, 2002). In study 3, 76 University students of whom 47% were single participated in the Affect Accuracy in the Non-verbal Communication Procedure (Kafetsios & Campbell, 2009). In all three studies, participants also completed the Experiences in Close Relationships Questionnaire-Revised. Results from multivariate analyses showed that avoidant and anxious attachment were associated with lower emotion perception self-efficacy (study 1), and avoidant attachment was associated with emotion perception ability and affect perception accuracy (studies 2 & 3). Importantly, in all three studies highly avoidant participants who were single exhibited higher emotion perception self-efficacy and abilities than their non-single counterparts. Interactions between attachment anxiety and relationship status were not evidenced with regards to emotion perception efficacy or ability. These findings support a dynamic understanding of socio-cognitive processes of adult attachment organization and also provide support for functional accounts of emotion perception that have recently gained considerable attention.

1403 Sexual Paradoxes: Good/Bad, Too Much/Too Little

Sex, Humor, and Intimacy: An Examination of Sexual Humor Use in Close Relationships

Betty La France (Northern Illinois University)
Jeff Hall (University of Kansas)

Although the use of humor in close relationships has received considerable attention (e.g., Bippus, 2000; De Koning & Weiss, 2002; Hall, 2010; Hall & Sereno, 2010; Ziv, 1988; Ziv & Gadish, 1989), the humor couples use in their sexual relationship has not enjoyed such extensive coverage. The dearth of research in this relational domain is particularly interesting given that people acknowledge incorporating humor into their sexual relationships (Buerkel-Rothfuss, & Gore, 1987; Hopper, Knapp, & Scott, 1981; Ziv, 1988). This paper works toward addressing this void by determining the correlates of sexual humor use within close relationships and assessing the relationship between sexual humor use and sexual communication satisfaction. It was predicted that interpersonal solidarity and predicted outcome values would jointly and positively predict positive sexual humor use and expressive sexual humor use; it was also anticipated that interpersonal solidarity and predicted outcome values would negatively predict negative sexual humor use. Results generated from 488 survey participants revealed that individuals used positive and expressive sexual humor—and avoided engaging in negative sexual humor—to the extent that they felt relational intimacy and forecasted positive outcomes for their future sexual relationship. Furthermore, individuals who were happy and content with the communication in their close relationships engaged in positive sexual humor use, expressive humor use, and refrained from engaging in negative sexual humor. General attitudes toward sexual humor use were also positively correlated with sexual communication satisfaction. How these results contribute substantially to theoretical and applied aspects of research examining sexual communication is discussed.
Sexual Healing: Can Sex Repair Attachment Insecurities?

Moran Mizrahi (Bar-Ilan University)
Gilad Hirschberger (Interdisciplinary Center (IDC))
Gurit Birnbaum (Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya)
Mario Mikulincer (Interdisciplinary Center)
Ohad Szepsenwol (Interdisciplinary Center)

Adult romantic love can be conceptualized in terms of three distinct behavioural systems: attachment, caregiving, and sex. Indeed, romantic partners typically function simultaneously as attachment figures, caregivers, and sexual partners. Although past research has provided substantial evidence on the role of attachment orientations in shaping sexual attitudes and behaviours, there is a gap in the literature on the possible contribution of sexual activity to the formation of attachment bonds. In the present research, we examined whether sexual functioning (i.e., frequency of sex, sexual desire) can reduce levels of attachment insecurity over time during the formation stage of romantic relationships. In an 8-month longitudinal study we followed 61 newly dating couples across three measurement waves. At each wave, participants completed measures of sexual desire, frequency of sexual intercourse, and relationship-specific attachment avoidance and anxiety. Results indicated that both relationship-specific attachment avoidance and relationship-specific attachment anxiety declined over time. However, among both men and women, this decline was moderated by men's reported sexual desire and frequency of sexual intercourse. Namely, relationship-specific avoidance significantly declined only among men who reported high sexual desire. Similarly, relationship-specific anxiety significantly declined only among men who reported a high frequency of sexual intercourse. Moreover, relationship-specific anxiety significantly declined only among women whose partners reported high sexual desire. These findings suggest that sexual activity plays an important role in the formation of close relationships. Specifically, men’s sexual functioning may repair both their own and their partners' attachment insecurities, and thereby contribute to the development of emotional bonds.

What Constitutes Sexual Consent? An Exploration of Conceptualizations of Consent and its Relationship to Gender, Narcissism, and Rape Myth Acceptance

Kelly Morrison (West Virginia University)
Jacqueline Weber (Michigan State University)
Maria Pintar (Michigan State University)

Sexual assault is a pervasive problem on many college campuses. Data from national surveys indicate that between 20 to 25% of college women report they have been the victim of a completed or attempted rape while in college (Fisher, Cullen, & Turner, 2000). A multitude of factors contribute to this problem, and previous research has established linkages between narcissism, rape myth acceptance, gender roles and sexual assault (Bohner, Siebler & Schmelcher, 2010; Murnen, Wright & Kaluzny, 2002; Voller & Long, 2010). Often overlooked in this research is individual understanding of consent for sexual intercourse. Indeed, previous research has called for further examination of how individuals conceptualize consent (Peterson & Muehlenhard, 2007) in order to better understand and prevent sexual assault. This research reports the results of a study that explored knowledge and understanding of consent for sexual intercourse, as well as its relationship to a variety of attitudinal issues. College students completed an anonymous online survey in which they were asked to describe their definitions of consent for sexual intercourse, as well as their attitudes and intentions regarding sexual consent, and their attitudes regarding gender roles, narcissism and rape myth acceptance. The open-ended data were coded by two independent coders. Several categories emerged from the data, including whether consent is: verbal,
nonverbal, ambiguous, revocable, mutual, determined by intimacy, mental capacity, or physical or emotional coercion. Implications for enhancing sexual communication to facilitate sexual consent and reduce sexual assault are discussed.

Fatal Suppression:
The Detrimental Effect of Sexual Deactivation within Romantic Relationships

Ohad Szepsenwol (Interdisciplinary Center)
Moran Mizrahi (Bar-Ilan University)
Gurit Birnbaum (Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya)

Previous studies have highlighted the importance of satisfying sex within romantic relationships. Although the quality of sex is inherently dependent on dyadic processes, individual characteristics of dyad members may also contribute to sexual and romantic satisfaction. The behavioral systems approach (Shaver & Mikulincer, 2006) conceptualizes individual differences in the sexuality domain as variations in the functioning of an innate motivational system, whose goal upon activation is to engage in sexual intercourse. Over time, failure to achieve this goal can result in the development of one of two secondary strategies: hyperactivation or deactivation. Sexual hyperactivation involves an increase of sexual attempts, accompanied by heightened alertness and anxiety. Sexual deactivation involves suppression of sexual behavior and thoughts. In an 8-month longitudinal study, we followed 61 newly dating couples across three measurement waves. At each wave, both dyad members completed measures of sexual hyperactivation and deactivation, relationship satisfaction, and orgasmic frequency. APIM analyses indicated that, as expected, sexual deactivation was associated with fewer orgasms in each of the partners. Moreover, women whose partners were high in sexual deactivation reported fewer orgasms. Sexual hyperactivation was similarly associated with fewer orgasms among women, especially among women whose partners were high in sexual deactivation. Expectedly, sexual deactivation was also associated with lower relationship satisfaction in both partners. Moreover, men whose partners were high in sexual deactivation reported lower relationship satisfaction. These findings suggest that high sexual deactivation of one dyad member may have detrimental effects on sexual and romantic satisfaction of both dyad members.

Validation of a New Questionnaire Assessing Adult Hypersexualization Among Emerging Adults

Audrey Brassard (University of Sherbrooke)
Fanie Houde (University of Sherbrooke)
Caroline Caouette (University of Sherbrooke)

Parents, government, and practitioners are concerned with the emerging sexualisation of children’s behaviors (Lamb & Brown, 2006). According to APA (2007), sexualisation is an important phenomenon affecting both girls and boys. Current definitions of hypersexualisation in the literature focus mainly on children or teens. Emerging adulthood, however, would be a critical developmental period for the study of hypersexualisation given young adults’ exploration of their identity, intimacy, and sexuality (Arnett, 2000). Existing measures of hypersexualisation are either too narrowly focused (e.g., objectification; Frederickson & Robert, 1997), gender-specific, or do not have adequate psychometric properties. The goals of the current study were to propose an integrative definition and to develop a broad and psychometrically sound measure of adult hypersexualisation. In study 1, 23 emerging adults and 6
practitioners agreed to participate in a two-hour semi-structured focus group aimed at formulating a conceptual definition of adult hypersexualisation. In Study 2, 581 undergraduate students at a French-Canadian University were surveyed to gather reliability and validity information on the Adult Hypersexualisation Questionnaire (AHQ), an instrument based on this new definition. Exploratory Factor Analysis revealed a six-factor structure. The AHQ subscales were found to be reliable (internal consistency and stability over a two-week period) and to present good convergent validity with measures of self-esteem, objectification, and sexual awareness. In Study 3, CFA confirmed the AHQ structure among 872 French-Canadian adults aged between 18 and 29 who completed an online survey. The AHQ offers a promising and valid measure for investigating and understanding hypersexualisation among emerging adults.

1404 Aggression and Unwanted Pursuit

Beyond Couple Functioning: The Unique Association of Partner Aggression with Depression and Anxiety

Ximena Arriaga (Purdue University)
Maayan Dvir (Purdue University)
Kaleigh Sands (Purdue University)

Is having an aggressive partner worse than simply having a bad relationship? Being the target of partner aggression has been associated with negative psychological consequences among women with severely abusive partners, but these studies generally have not controlled for the effects of poor couple functioning. Common non-physical forms of partner aggression (e.g., verbal intimidation, humiliation) may not cause negative consequences beyond the effects of poor couple functioning. We examined whether verbal aggression by a partner would be uniquely associated with psychological distress and low well-being. We did this with dating individuals, as they have few constraints to leaving and thus may not tolerate damaging partner behaviors. We conducted a cross-sectional study of 174 individuals who provided self-reports of their relationship status (dating/single), well-being (stress, happiness), psychological distress (depression, anxiety), couple functioning (Dyadic Adjustment Scale), and their partner’s aggression (Conflict Tactics Scale). We retained those who reported aggression by a current partner (n=77) in multiple regression models, testing the unique associations of verbal aggression, physical aggression, and couple functioning with happiness, stress, depression, and anxiety. Only verbal aggression by a current partner was associated with more depression and more anxiety, above and beyond couple functioning and physical partner aggression, supporting documented negative consequences of psychological aggression. Only poor couple functioning was associated with less happiness and more stress, above and beyond verbal or physical aggression. Thus, common forms of partner aggression may not affect immediate happiness or stress beyond poor couple functioning, but nonetheless correlate with psychological dysfunction.
Understanding the Expression of Aggression in Personal Relationships:
Characteristics of Aggressive Communicators

Lindsey Aloia (The Pennsylvania State University)
Denise Solomon (The Pennsylvania State University)

Verbal aggressiveness is defined as “the tendency to attack the self-concepts of individuals instead of, or in addition to, their positions on topics of communication” (Infante, 1987, p. 164). Aggressive messages represent a prominent form of human communication with as many as 90% of men and women self-reporting that they have engaged in verbal aggression against their intimate partners (Murphy & Hoover, 2001; Malik, Sorensen, & Aneshensel, 1997; Stemmler & Meinhardt, 1990). Besides being damaging in its own right, verbal aggression can serve as an important predictor of subsequent physical abuse or other more severe forms of physical violence (Coleman, 1980; Infante, Chandler, & Rudd, 1989; Infante, Chandler, Rudd, & Shannon, 1990). Although researchers have devoted substantial attention to understanding the negative outcomes of receiving verbal aggression, less is understood about the outcomes that accrue for individuals who communicate aggressively to others. This study seeks to identify the individual qualities and relationship characteristics associated with high, rather than low, aggressive communicators. Using online survey methodology, participants will complete self-report measures of happiness, attachment patterns, susceptibility to depression and stress, mental health, social activity, relationship satisfaction and other variables. The results will seek to identify the personal and relational profile of individuals who are inclined to engage in verbal aggression within a romantic relationship. This study provides a foundation for understanding how the characteristics of aggressive communicators can lead to the perpetuation of verbal aggression within close relationships.

Adding Insult to Injury: Effects of Interpersonal Rejection Types, Rejection Sensitivity, and Self-Regulation on Obsessive Relational Intrusion

Amy Lyndon (East Carolina University)
H. Colleen Sinclair (Mississippi State University)
Roshni Ladny (Mississippi State University)

This study tested the I3 model (Finkel, 2007; 2008) of intimate partner violence as applied to obsessive relational intrusion (ORI) to assess the relation among self-regulation, rejection, rejection sensitivity, and stalking-related aggression. In Study 1, participants (N = 221) read one of three vignettes: no relationship termination, an “internal” rejection (an internal attribution to the rejected as cause of relationship ending), or an “external” rejection (external attributions for relationship demise). Next, participants experienced one of two conditions manipulating self-regulation (no depletion vs. depletion). Finally, participants rated their likelihood of engaging in ORI (e.g., unwanted pursuit or aggression). Consistent with predictions, participants receiving an internal rejection reported higher aggression than participants experiencing an external rejection, especially when depleted of self-regulation. Study 2 extended the design of Study 1 by adding in a screening survey of rejection-sensitivity. Internal rejections still yielded more aggression than other conditions, but this was especially so when rejection-sensitive persons were depleted of self-regulation. In addition to providing support for the I3 model of intimate partner violence, this research shows that not all types of rejection are created equal. Participants who were sensitive to rejection, who role-played being rejected with an internal attribution, and who were depleted of self-regulation resources reported the highest probability of engaging in aggressive ORI. These results contradict common advice to stalking victims to be direct and harsh in their rejection of their pursuer, as this actually increased potential perpetration.
Unwanted pursuit behavior (UPB) refers to a wide range of unwanted, privacy-violating intrusive activities that are most often observed when former partners end their romantic entanglements. As result of a growing relational view on UPB, several researchers examined characteristics of the pre-breakup relationship to explain the presence and severity of post-breakup UPB in samples of individual ex-partners. The present study’s aim was to adopt a truly interpersonal perspective on UPB perpetration by applying the Actor Partner Interdependence Model (APIM) on data from 46 heterosexual ex-couples. Guided by the APIM, we explored whether the perpetration of post-breakup UPB was affected by the person’s own level of anxious attachment, satisfaction, quality of alternatives, investment size, and conflict in the pre-breakup relationship (i.e., actor effects) and by his or her partner’s degree of anxious attachment, satisfaction, quality of alternatives, investment size, and conflict in the pre-breakup relationship (i.e., partner effects). Generalized estimating equation models were used to accommodate the correlated count outcome and resulted in a significant (a) main actor effect of anxious attachment and investment size, (b) main partner effect of relational conflict, (c) actor x gender interaction of quality of alternatives, (d) partner x gender interaction of satisfaction and anxious attachment, and (e) actor x partner interaction of anxious attachment and quality of alternatives. Especially the significant partner effects enrich the current knowledge on the underlying dynamics of UPB perpetration as they demonstrate the presence of more complex interpersonal effects that go beyond the mere intra-individual psychological explanations for UPB perpetration.

What Love Has to Do with It: Love Styles and Stalking Behavior

Amanda Howell (Mississippi State University)
H. Colleen Sinclair (Mississippi State University)
Lawrence Perko (Mississippi State University)

In the present study, we applied the \textit{I}^{3} model (Finkel, 2007, 2008) to examine effects of rejection (instigating factor) and love styles (impelling factor: mania; inhibiting factor: eros) on self-reports of likelihood to engage in stalking behavior. 238 participants completed a mass online screening survey that contained the Love Attitudes scale - short form (Hendrick, et al., 1998). Participants then read one of three vignettes that manipulated type of rejection (consistent with Sinclair et al., 2011). Next participants identified which, of any, stalking behaviors (as measured by Spitzburg & Cupach’s Obsessive Relational Intrusion scale, ORI) they might commit in response to being rejected. Overall, the harsher rejection provoked more aggressive responses. However, we found a significant three-way interaction between rejection, mania and eros love styles on aggressive ORI. As predicted, those receiving a harsher rejection who scored higher on levels of mania also scored higher on the aggressive ORI sub-scale. High levels of eros predicted the lowest scores on the aggressive ORI sub-scale when levels of mania were low even when rejected harshly. The present study provides support for the \textit{I}^{3} model (Finkel, 2007, 2008) and also gives some insight as to how types of love might propel or restrain a spurned lover.
Symposia

1405  Gender and the Expression of Love in Marriage: A Cross-Cultural Collaboration

Convener: Zeljka Kamenov (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb)

Do Men and Women Show Love Differently in Marriage?
A Look at the United States, Croatia, and Serbia

Elizabeth Schoenfeld (University of Texas at Austin)
Carrie Bredow (University of Texas at Austin)
Ted Huston (University of Texas at Austin)

In Western societies, women are considered more adept than men at expressing love in romantic relationships. Although scholars have argued that this view of love gives short shrift to men’s ways of showing love (e.g., Cancian, 1986; Noller, 1996), the widely embraced premise that men and women “love differently” has rarely been examined empirically. Using data gathered in three different countries—the United States, Croatia, and Serbia—we examined whether love is associated with different behaviors for husbands and wives. In total, 926 couples contributed data to the current investigation (168 American, 302 Croatian, and 456 Serbian couples). Although love and overt affectionate behaviors are popularly believed to be more closely connected for women than men (Cancian, 1986), multilevel analyses indicated that men and women were equally likely to express love through affection in all three countries. However, the tendency for men and women to show love by enacting fewer negative or antagonistic behaviors, sharing leisure activities, or performing more household tasks varied across cultures. For instance, although Western stereotypes suggest that men express love by helping out around the house (Cancian, 1986; Wood & Inman, 1993), this was not the case in either the United States or Serbia. In Croatia, however, men who were more in love performed a greater number of household tasks on a day-to-day basis. Taken together, our findings highlight the importance of considering cross-cultural variation in the ways men and women express love.

Gender Differences in Expressing Love in Marriage: Stability across Generations and Cultures

Aleksandra Huic (University of Zagreb)
Zeljka Kamenov (University of Zagreb)
Ivana Mihic (University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Philosophy)

Although love has been tied to different behaviors for men and women, it is unclear whether individuals intend to express their love through such behaviors. In order to identify the ways in which men and women report showing love, we developed the 40-item Ways of Showing Love Scale. The specific ways of showing love fell into six broad categories: (1) communal and sacrificial behaviors, (2) physical affection, (3) verbal affection, (4) domestic instrumentality, (5) emotional openness and support, and (6) chivalry. Upon identifying the classes of behavior individuals report using to express love, we examined: (a) gender differences in the ways spouses report showing love; (b) the stability of these differences across three generations of couples; and (c) whether feelings of love predicted the ways spouses report showing love. To do so, we gathered data from 302 Croatian and 456 Serbian married couples, who came from a wide range of education and employment backgrounds. In order to test for generational differences, couples were divided into three age brackets (20–35, 36–54, and 55–87 years). Lending support to the validity of our scale, spouses’ feelings of love predicted all six ways of showing love. Both
husbands and wives reported expressing love through affection and by respecting each other’s needs. Whereas women indicated they show love by being open and supportive, as well as by doing housework, men indicated they show love through physical affection and acts of chivalry. Results were stable across generations and cultures.

Can’t you see I love you?

Recognizing Displays of Love and the Implications for Marital Satisfaction

Margareta Jelic (University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)
Ivana Mihic (University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Philosophy)
Vladimir Mihic (University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Philosophy)

Although an individual may report showing love to his or her spouse in a particular way, there is no guarantee the partner will notice the behavior, much less recognize it as a display of love. In the current study, we investigated whether husbands and wives see their partner expressing love in the ways partners indicate they show it, and if feelings of marital satisfaction are higher among spouses whose reported displays of love are better recognized as such by their partners. To accomplish this objective, we asked 302 married couples from Croatia and 456 married couples from Serbia to indicate the ways they show love to their partner, the ways their partner shows love to them. All analyses controlled for spouses’ feelings of marital love. Overall, results showed concordance between spousal pairs in perceptions of each other’s propensity to show their love in particular ways. Partners showed the most agreement for displays of love through physical and verbal affection. Interestingly, husbands were better than wives at recognizing their spouses’ reported displays of love. For both husbands and wives, reporting that one’s partner expressed love was tied to higher levels of marital satisfaction.

Gender Identity and Manifestations of Love in Marriage

Zeljka Kamenov (University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)
Ivana Jugovic (Institute for Social Research, Centre for Educational Research and Development)
Vladimir Mihic (University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Philosophy)

Sociostructural theorists suggest that, due to differences in socialization, men and women are predisposed to express love differently. The current study builds on the assumptions of sociostructural theory and examines whether trait expressiveness, trait instrumentality, and gender-related attributes and attitudes—in addition to gender—predict the ways men and women report showing love (e.g., emotional openness, physical affection, domestic instrumentality, chivalry). We surveyed 302 married couples from Croatia and 456 married couples from Serbia who ranged in age from 20 to 82, and who came from both urban and rural backgrounds. Consistent with prior research, results indicated that women were more expressive, less instrumental, and held more egalitarian attitudes than men. Importantly, gender accounted for only a small amount of variance for these variables. We also examined the extent to which individuals’ trait expressiveness, trait instrumentality, and attitudes toward gender roles (versus gender) predicted their tendency to report showing love to one’s partner in various ways. Slightly different patterns emerged among Croatian and Serbian spouses. Although trait expressiveness was tied to the different ways individuals report showing love across both cultures, trait instrumentality and gender attitudes surfaced as important predictors in the Serbian and Croatian samples, respectively. Additionally, results indicated that gender itself explained more variance in domestic instrumentality and chivalrous displays of love, whereas emotional openness and physical affection were better explained by gender-related attributes and attitudes.
Many relationship scientists assume that in their relationships, as in the rest of their lives, people are fundamentally self-centered and self-serving. In this view, people want to be in relationships to promote their own ends, they use relationship partners to satisfy their own needs, and they sacrifice and compromise in relationships to keep their relationship partners happy, so they can continue to reap benefits the relationship brings them. People strive to be desired, idealized, and accepted by relationship partners, avoid being unwanted, criticized, or rejected. Consequently, they have self-image goals to manage the impressions their relationship partners have of them. In this presentation, we contrast the principles of relationships according to this self-centered view with principles of relationships according to an emerging alternate view, in which people have the capacity to transcend self-interest and care deeply about the well-being of their relationship partners. Drawing on data from two longitudinal studies of roommates, a lab study of married couples, and a cross-sectional study of friendship dyads, we show that people in close relationships may have either self-image or compassionate goals, and that depending on their goals, their relationships may be guided by different principles. We describe findings regarding which set of principles will best describe a particular relationship at a particular moment. Finally, we consider how the stages of relationships, from initial attraction to commitment to dissolution might differ according which set of principles characterize a relationship.

**Love without Limits: Communally-Oriented Individuals Experience Rewards for the Self, in Close Relationships, and Beyond**

Bonnie Le (University of Toronto)  
Emily Impett (University of Toronto)

Within communal relationships, benefits are not expected to be directly reciprocated; instead, each partner expects reciprocal care based on whosever need arises in a particular situation (Clark & Mills, 2012). Individuals with a communal orientation are dispositionally inclined to adopt communal norms towards interaction partners both within close relationships and beyond, such as with strangers (Clark et al., 1987). Thus, there are many instances in which they behave prosocially without the expectation of direct reciprocation. Although they do not receive immediate benefits for their actions, we posited that they are rewarded both personally and socially as a function of the heightened positive emotions that they feel from caring for others. In a four-week daily experience study of 232 participants, we found that communally-oriented individuals experience numerous rewards in daily life, including greater psychological well-being, greater satisfaction and love within their close relationships, and greater love for humanity as a whole. The rewards that communally-oriented individuals experience were mediated by the experience of positive emotions in their daily lives. Implications for well-being, prosociality, and benevolence in close relationships and beyond are discussed.
The Vicarious Sunk Cost Effect: Romantic Investment as a Reciprocal Process

Samantha Joel (University of Toronto)

Although a great deal of attention has been paid to the role of one’s own investment in relationship perseverance (Rusbult, 1983), researchers have yet to consider the role of the partner’s investments. One longitudinal study (Study 1) and two experiments (Studies 2 and 3) provided support for the “vicarious sunk cost effect” in relationships in which the investments made by one romantic partner prosocially motivate continued relationship perseverance from the other partner. In Study 1, individuals who felt that their romantic partners were highly invested in their relationships were more likely to report an increased amount of investment themselves over a 3-month period, compared to individuals with less invested partners. In Study 2, participants were more willing to persevere with a hypothetical failing relationship if their partner had invested into the relationship than if the partner had not. In Study 3, participants who were randomly assigned to recall their partner’s investments reported higher levels of gratitude toward the partner, which in turn predicted higher intentions to invest in the relationship themselves, relative to participants in the control condition. Together, these results suggest that a relationship partner’s investments may prosocially motivate people to persist through difficult times in their relationships.

To Have and To Hold:
The Role of Gratitude in the Maintenance of Romantic Relationships

Amie M. Gordon (University of California, Berkeley)
Emily A. Impett (University of Toronto Mississauga)
Dacher Keltner (University of California, Berkeley)

Most gratitude theorists consider gratitude to be particularly important in the formation of new relationships (Bar-Tal, Bar-Zohar, Greenberg, & Hermon, 1977; McCullough et al., 2008). In this talk, we join other recent scholars in suggesting that gratitude is also vital for the maintenance of existing interpersonal bonds, such as romantic relationships. Across three studies we merge the literatures on gratitude and risk regulation to test a new process model of gratitude and relationship maintenance. We show that people who feel more appreciated by their romantic partners report being more appreciative of their partners. In turn, people who are more appreciative of their partners report being more responsive to their partners’ needs (Study 1), and are more committed and more likely to remain in their relationships over time (Study 2). Appreciative partners are also rated by outside observers as relatively more responsive and committed during dyadic interactions in the laboratory, and these behavioral displays are one way in which appreciation is transmitted from one partner to the other (Study 3). These findings provide evidence that gratitude is important for the successful maintenance of intimate bonds.
Panel Sessions

1407 Interdependence and Comparison: Two Becoming One, Sometimes

Study of Couples’ Communication throughout the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model

Carolina Armenta-Hurtarte (Autonomus National University of Mexico)
Rozzana Sánchez-Aragón (Autonomus National University of Mexico)
Rolando Díaz-Loving (Autonomus National University of Mexico)

The communication is an essential element as it works as a mediator in the relationship and facilitates its conformation and interaction (Roche, 2006). The communication has various functions, elements and dimensions, such as deepness of understanding between the partners, sharing personal ideas and feelings considered deep, being receiver and provider of the emotional support, reaching the personal development through the relationship and promoting partner’s personal development, making him feel needed and need from the partner, as well as give and get affection in the relationship (Sánchez Aragón, Rivera Aragón & Díaz Loving, 2001). All of these components are important because the couple evaluate them to rate their marital satisfaction. However, each member of the relationship has a unique insight of the way in which they communicate with their partner and their partner to them; this can be seen as two realities of the same relationship. This study aims identify this phenomenon of communication on 100 Mexican couples throughout the actor-partner interdependence model. All participants completed Marital Satisfaction Scale (Oropeza, et al. 2010) and short versions of Marital Communication Scale (Nina, 1991) to evaluate self-disclosure and Communication Style Inventory (Roca, 2001); these scales assess both their own behavior and their perception of their partner’s behavior. Using structural equation model, the results indicate that every member of the relationship has a different perception of what and how they communicate and their partner perceives. As well, the results show that the perceived communication (couples disclosure and couples communication styles) moderates their marital satisfaction.

The Relational Quid Pro Quo: A Meta-Analysis of Reciprocity of Affect and Reciprocal Liking in Personal and Social Relationships

C. Arthur VanLear (University of Connecticut)
Mark Hamilton (University of Connecticut)
Alice Veksler (University of Connecticut)
Kyle Hull (University of Connecticut)

Since Leary (1955) postulated the “interpersonal reflex,” the phenomenon of reciprocity of affect has been a well researched relationship principle. The tendency for people to be nice to those who are nice to them, and to be negative toward those that are negative toward them has been reported in a number of studies (e.g., Gottman, Markman & Notarious, 1977). This pattern of interaction is closely related to the phenomenon of reciprocal liking, such that person A is more likely to like person B if she/he perceives that person B likes him/her (Beckman, & Secord, 1959). Reciprocity of affect is the tendency toward reciprocation of behavioral affective displays, while reciprocity of liking refers to reciprocity of interpersonal judgments and is typically assessed through self-reports. Both of these phenomena are theoretically important as they form the basis of a number of interpersonal outcomes. Though a number of studies support both reciprocity of affect and liking, there have been a lack of systematic meta-analyses of
these phenomena. However, it is likely that there are moderating variables that influence the probability or extent that reciprocity will occur. The type and nature of relationship could well influence or be influenced by the principle of reciprocity. Methodological choices (e.g., sequentially coded behaviors vs. reported perceptions of behaviors; lag sequential analyses vs. social relations model analyses) will also be contrasted for their ability to show reciprocity.

It must be the Money: Two Remaining as Two

Kathleen Vohs (University of Minnesota)
Jia Liu (University of Groningen)
Dirk Smeesters (Erasmus University)

Money plays a significant role in people’s lives and yet only recently has experimental attention been given to the psychological underpinnings of money. We systematically varied what degree the concept of money was activated in participants’ minds. Reminders of money rendered people interpersonally insensitive to others. For instance, prior work has found that people reminded of money were less helpful than others and feel no different being socially included or excluded. Recent work found that striving for autonomy underlies these effects, in that people reminded of money show reactance when they detect others are trying to influence them. In three experiments, we found that people reminded of money chose in the opposite fashion to that which an authority preferred, rated a new sports drink as more or less tasty if a passerby said that it was not or very tasty, respectively, and disliked an interaction partner who mimicked them (a rare case of mimicry backfiring). In short, the mere concept of money seems to have robust, and mostly negative, effects on interpersonal functioning.

"I’m Experienced at This, So You Can Do It":
Own Experience and Perceived Risk for Self and Romantic Partner

Nancy Frye (Long Island University)

How do people estimate risk for a romantic partner? For instance, if a romantic partner is about to embark in a risky activity, how do people estimate the risk to their partner? One possibility is that people may take into account their partner’s level of experience and skill. People may estimate a lower level of risk for their partner if their partner has a higher level of experience engaging in the activity. On the other hand, following ideas from inclusion of other in the self, people may rely on their own level of experience as they estimate their partner’s risk. To address this issue, data were collected from 128 skydivers who were romantically involved with another skydiver. Participants rated the likelihood of themselves, their partner, and an average skydiver experiencing 12 adverse events (e.g., colliding with another skydiver), as well the severity of each event. Participants with more skydiving experience rated themselves as less likely to experience the events. Controlling for partner’s level of experience, participants with more skydiving experience were marginally likely to rate their partner as less likely to experience the events. Additionally, controlling for partner’s level of experience, people based their estimate of their partner’s risk on their perception of their own risk. This tendency was especially pronounced among participants with a higher level of inclusion of other in the self.
Romantic Partners, Body Image, and Weight Concerns: Evidence for Partner Comparison

Charlotte N. Markey (Rutgers University)
Patrick M. Markey (Villanova University)

Romantic partners’ influences on health have been well documented (House et al., 1988). However, only recently have eating behaviors and concerns about body image been examined in the context of romantic relationships (Markey & Markey, 2008; 2011). Given the growing global concern about obesity and the importance of social influences in determining obesity risk (Umberson et al., 2009), understanding romantic partners’ contributions to individuals’ attitudes and behaviors concerning eating and weight is critical. In this presentation, we will describe a series of studies examining both heterosexual (n = 106) and lesbian (n = 72) couples’ weight status (i.e., body mass index; BMI) in relation to their own and their partners’ body image and weight concerns. Weight status was assessed by researchers during lab visits, body image was assessed using a pictorial instrument (Thompson & Grey, 1995), and participants completed the Weight Concerns Scale (Killen et al., 1994). Using Actor-Partner Interdependence Models, we are able to examine actor effects (BMI as a predictor of individuals’ own body image or weight concerns), partner effects (BMI as a predictor of partners’ body image or weight concerns), and interaction effects (how the difference between partners’ BMIs predicts body image and weight concerns). Our results consistently indicate that individuals in relationships with partners who are thinner than they are experience heightened concern about their bodies and weight. These findings point to the seeming importance of social comparison processes, which we will discuss in terms of evidence for a new theory of partner comparison.

1408 Attachment and Sex

Attachment and Sexual Initiation Rejection in Established Romantic Relationships

Jennifer Pink (University of Western Ontario)
Lorne Campbell (University of Western Ontario)

Although previous research has identified highly avoidant individuals' motives for having sex (e.g., Davis et al., 2004), and for consenting to unwanted sex (e.g., Impett & Peplau, 2002), no known research to date has examined the association between avoidant attachment and the rejection of sexual initiation. Two studies investigated the relationship between avoidant attachment and the experience of rejecting a partner’s sexual initiation in the context of an established relationship. Study 1 found that relative to less avoidant individuals, highly avoidant individuals were more likely to report that if they rejected their partners’ sexual advance, it would be due to something about the partner or relationship rather than outside circumstances (e.g., fatigue, stress). Highly avoidant individuals were also more likely to report that they would reject an advance as a way of sending the partner the message that they were unhappy with him or her, or due to dwindling interest in the relationship. Study 2 had individuals imagine a hypothetical situation in which they rejected their partners’ sexual initiation. Relative to less avoidant people, highly avoidant people were more likely to report that rejecting their partners’ advance would pose a threat to the relationship and result in conflict. Further, they were more likely to report that they would experience negative emotions, including frustration and resentment, as a result of the rejection. These results suggest that highly avoidant individuals may be less able to separate love and relationship quality from sex than the attachment and sex literature suggests.
Sex and Attachment:  
An Investigation of Romantic Relationships of Adult Males and Females

Christina Stefanou (Deakin University)  
Marita McCabe (Deakin University)

The current study examined the association between adult romantic attachment and sexual functioning (satisfaction, dysfunction, and behaviors). One hundred and twenty-seven individuals (97 females, 30 males; $M = 28.41$ years, $SD = 7.86$ years) who were in a current romantic relationship, or had experienced a past romantic relationship for 3 or more months, were recruited from the general community. Participants completed a series of self-report measures that included the Experiences in Close Relationship Scale-Short Form, the International Index of Erectile Dysfunction, the Female Sexual Function Index, and questions regarding sexual frequency. The preliminary analysis showed a number of significant associations between sexual functioning and adult attachment. Specifically, anxious attachment was negatively related to sexual arousal, lubrication, orgasm, and sexual satisfaction in females, and negatively related to erectile function, orgasm, intercourse satisfaction, and overall sexual satisfaction in males. Furthermore, avoidant attachment was negatively associated with sexual desire, arousal, lubrication, orgasm, and sexual satisfaction in females, although no significant associations were found with male dysfunction. These findings demonstrate the strong interrelationship between insecure attachment and sexual function and dysfunction in both males and females. The clinical implications of these findings are discussed. In particular, rather than simply treating the symptoms of sexual dysfunction, treatment strategies may be more efficacious if they considered the extent to which anxious or avoidant attachment orientations are employed within relationships.

Variability of Attachment Insecurity among Individuals in Simultaneous Partnerships

Kaleigh J. Sands (Purdue University)  
Laura E. VanderDrift (Purdue University)  
Christopher R. Agnew (Purdue University)  
S. Marie Harvey (Oregon State University)

Attachment theory maintains that attachment insecurity is a stable individual-level characteristic that influences how people approach and react to relational situations. Researchers have begun to challenge this idea, exploring whether attachment insecurity is variable within-person across relationships of the same type at different times. In the current study, we investigated whether either or both of the dimensions of attachment insecurity (i.e., avoidance and anxiety) differed within individuals who had multiple relationships of the same type simultaneously. Specifically, we examined whether individuals with multiple concurrent sexual partnerships evidenced different levels of attachment insecurity toward those partners. As part of a larger longitudinal study of relationship dynamics and sexual risk behaviors, participants who reported that they were currently maintaining at least two simultaneous sexual partnerships ($N = 83$) completed the Experiences in Close Relationships-Relationship Structures questionnaire (Fraley et al., 2011) for each of their current sexual partners (we randomly selected two partnerships from among those possible for participants reporting greater than two concurrent partners). Paired t-tests revealed that attachment anxiety was not significantly different across partnerships within-individual ($t(82) = -0.11, p > .90$), whereas attachment avoidance did significantly differ across partnerships ($t(82) = -2.03, p < .05$). These results provide a starting point for examining the variability of attachment across relationships of the same type at the same time. This study capitalizes on a sample of
concurrently involved individuals to show that in at least one relational situation, one attachment dimension (i.e. avoidance) does not appear to reside at the individual level.

Does Parent-Child Attachment Affect Attitudes toward and Engagement in Hookup Culture?

Jennifer A. Shukusky (Rutgers University)

This study assessed the association between one’s relationships with his/her opposite sex parent and his/her attitudes toward and engagement in hookup culture on a university campus. While the increasing popularity of hookup culture is evident in recent studies, no study has yet examined the relationships between these highly sexual encounters and previous relationships established by individuals with other people. Few studies have considered the effects of parent-child attachment on one’s attachment to long-term romantic partners, but none have looked at the effects of strong parent-child relationships on hookup culture. It was hypothesized that heterosexual participants, especially women, who do not perceive themselves as having a strong, close, positive relationships with their opposite-sex parent would be more likely to engage in or attempt to engage in casual sexual behavior. A study of over 400 college students revealed that good parent-child relationships were only significantly related to men’s disagreement with the casual sexual behavior of their peers and for women’s overall satisfaction with their hookup encounters. Level of engagement in hookup culture on campus was most strongly positively correlated with university status, reflecting the amount of time a student has been on campus. Results are explained from developmental, social, and evolutionary perspectives.

Safe and (in)Secure Sex: Attachment and Attitudes towards Condom Use and Non-use

John Sakaluk (University of Kansas)
Omri Gillath (University of Kansas)

Condom use is essential for preventing unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Recent national samples have shown, however, that among single adults, condoms are used in less than half of all sexual intercourse incidents (Reece, et al., 2010). Frequently used reasoned action approaches to understanding condom use (e.g., Ajzen, 1991) leave much unexplained and do not accommodate implicit/automatic attitudes towards condom use (e.g., Czopp et al., 2004). Attachment theory (Bowlby, 1973) has proven a useful framework for understanding human sexual behavior (Mikulincer & Shaver, 2007), and can accommodate exploration of both implicit and explicit attitudes towards condom use. Research on the association of attachment and condom use, however, has yielded contradictory findings. The present research uses a rigorously developed measure of attitudes, and SEM to negate the influence of measurement error in analyses. Furthermore, it focuses on attitudes towards condom use and non-use as distinct attitudinal targets. Participants (n = 120; 60 women) completed an adult attachment measure (ECR; Brennan, Clark, & Shaver, 1998) and the Bipolar Attitudes towards Consistent Condom Use and Condom Non-Use Scales (Sakaluk & Muehlenhard, 2011). Results from SEM support conceptualization of condom use and non-use as two distinct attitudinal targets. Although attachment did not predict attitudes towards condom use, attachment avoidance was negatively associated with evaluations of condom non-use. Broadening previous research, current findings highlight the role of avoidance in condom use (Feeney et al., 1999, 2000), and lay the foundation for hypotheses regarding the causal role of attachment insecurity in determining safe sex behaviour.
Symposia

1409  Theoretical Approaches to Understanding Relational Phenomena: Bridging the Gap between Theory and Research

Convener: Jennifer Theiss (Rutgers University)
Discussant: Jennifer Theiss (Rutgers University)

Parenting Styles through an Interpersonal Communication Lens: Applying Constructivism and Relational Framing Theory to Understand Parent-Child Communication

Roi Estlein (Rutgers University)

Baumrind (1967, 1971) developed a taxonomy of parenting styles that addresses how parents balance responsiveness and demandingness when communicating with their children. Parental responsiveness refers to the extent to which parents encourage individuality and self-regulation by being attuned to their children, and parental demandingness refers to parents’ behavioral and psychological control over their children. Combinations of responsiveness and demandingness create four parenting styles: authoritative, permissive, authoritarian, and rejecting-neglecting. These styles predict child well-being in social, academic, emotional, and psychological domains. Though studies have looked at consequences for children, no research has examined possible antecedents of parenting styles. This paper applies Constructivism (Delia, 1977) and Relational Framing Theory (Dillard, Solomon, & Samp, 1996) to explain different preferences for parenting styles. Constructivism explains individual differences in message production by suggesting that people with high levels of cognitive complexity are more skilled at interpersonal communication. Cognitively complex people employ more person-centered messages that show responsiveness to recipients. Constructivism can explain why some parents produce more responsive messages when interacting with their children and others produce more demanding messages. Relational Framing Theory (RFT) argues that people make sense of relational messages by interpreting them as indicators of either dominance-submissiveness or affiliation-disaffiliation. RFT can shed light on parent-child communication behaviors by explaining how responsive parent-child communication strategies are interpreted as affiliative, whereas parents who are more demanding in interactions with their children interpret more dominance in the relationship.

Relational Implications of the Provision of Support for Individuals Diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease

Danielle Catona (Rutgers University)

Alzheimer’s disease (AD) is a progressive disorder characterized by the onset of cognitive difficulties, ranging from minor confusion in its early stages toward severe dementia in its later stages, and ultimately leading to death (Harwood, 2007). As AD progresses, individuals will require assistance performing activities of daily living and will be cared for by one or more of their family members (Schulz & Martire, 2004; Stephens & Franks, 2009). The spouse of the individual with AD is most likely to assume the role of primary caregiver (Bourgeois, Schulz, & Burgio, 1996; Davey, 2000). This paper integrates Greene’s (2009) health disclosure decision-making model (DD-MM) and Solomon and Knobloch’s (2001, 2004) relational turbulence model (RTM) in an effort to understand patterns of disclosure during times of transition from interdependence to dependence in marital relationships. More specifically, this paper explores the relationship between AD prognosis uncertainty, AD symptom uncertainty, AD stigma, relational uncertainty, and partner interference, on disclosure efficacy and breadth, depth, and frequency.
of disclosure in marital relationships. This paper provides two theoretical implications. First, it extends the DD-MM by examining health disclosures beyond the initial diagnosis. AD provides an appropriate context to examine repeated disclosure and/or topic avoidance due to its progressive nature and lack of cure. Second, the RTM’s relational uncertainty and partner interference replaces DD-MM’s relational quality. Relational uncertainty and partner inference are better suited to explain a relationship that has shifted from husband and wife to caregiver and care recipient.

Using Interpersonal Communication Theory to Understand Human- and Computer-Generated Feedback for the Maintenance of Personal Health Behaviors

Rannie Teodoro (Rutgers University)

In the past 20 years, obesity trends have increased such that one-third of U.S. adults (33.8%) and 17% (12.5 million) of children and adolescents are obese (CDC, 2010). The combination of climbing obesity rates and today’s digital environment are legitimate areas of concern, where sedentary activities (e.g., computer-mediated communication, video game playing, television) dominate both at-home and away-from-home activities. This paper looks at healthy behavior maintenance through an interpersonal communication lens. Specifically, I examine how human- and computer-generated feedback systems encourage health behaviors like fitness and healthy eating. To understand the phenomenon of feedback within online contexts, this paper draws on the insights of two interpersonal communication perspectives: (1) disclosure theories and (2) interaction adaptation theory (IAT). These theories clarify the scope and contextual elements involved in the creation, facilitation, and outcomes of effective and ineffective feedback. Disclosure theories consider personalization, intensity, and reward values of disclosures and IAT considers the requirements, expectations, and desires within a given interaction. As such, these theories help explain how online feedback and its interpersonal communication mechanisms can encourage a consequential series of events that lead to offline healthy behaviors.

Golden Age?: Examining the Marital Relationship during the Post-Retirement Phase

Kyungwon Kang (Rutgers University)

In contrast to cultural expectations of retirement as the “Golden age,” retirees often struggle with financial, health, or psychological uncertainties during their retirement. In particular, marital relationships may experience substantial upheaval during this transition, which can be problematic since marital quality is one of key factors for retirement satisfaction. Retirement requires several adjustments to the marital relationship and the general structure of a lifestyle without work, which can be a stressful process. Fretz et al. (1989) assert that uncertainty about retirement is related to increased depression and anxiety. Although many scholars have investigated retirement uncertainties from an organizational perspective, limited research has focused on the relational impact of retirement. The current study applies the Relational Turbulence Model (RTM; Knobloch & Solomon, 2004) and the Theory of Uncertainty Management (TUM; Brashers, 2001) to better understand how retirees cope with uncertainty during this transition. The RTM identifies two relational mechanisms that may be heightened in relationships during the transition to retirement, namely relational uncertainty and interference from partners. The TUM explains why some retirees are motivated to seek information to reduce their uncertainty in this life transition and why others prefer to avoid information in this context. Understanding how relationship partners cope with uncertainty during the retirement transition can be helpful for strengthening marital bonds during this stage of life.
Partner Influence Following Diagnosis of Generalized Anxiety Disorder:
Theoretical Applications

Amanda Carpenter (Rutgers University)

Generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) affects 6.8 million adults in the United States (NIMH, 2009). Diagnosis can occur at any point in life, but the highest risk for GAD is between childhood and middle age (NIMH, 2009). Understanding of the role that relational influence plays in a diagnosis of GAD can help people communicate more effectively and influence a partner’s attitudes and behaviors in a positive way. This paper applies two interpersonal communication theories to better understand the influence that relationship partners have following the diagnosis of GAD. Specifically, this paper applies social penetration theory (SPT; Taylor & Altman, 1987) and the relational turbulence model (RTM; Knobloch & Solomon, 2001). SPT highlights how relationship partners can exert influence via the breadth and depth of topics discussed and the stages of relationship development. Certain topics may be taboo for individuals coping with GAD, which may limit the extent to which partners can disclose and increase intimacy in their relationship. RTM suggests that a GAD diagnosis may have implications for increasing relational uncertainty or interference from partners. Thus, RTM demonstrates the ways that relationships may be more broadly impacted by a diagnosis of GAD.

Theoretical Foundations for Examining the Communication Behaviors of Adult Children of Alcoholics

Marie Haverfield (Rutgers University)

Children of alcoholics often find themselves in a family system that challenges their emotional, cognitive, and communicative development. Research suggests that children of alcoholics produce lower test-scores, exhibit depression, struggle with addiction, and have unhealthy intimate relationships (Drejer, Theikjaard, Teasedale, Schulsinger, & Goodwin, 1985). Although the literature has highlighted a number of deleterious effects of growing up in a household afflicted by alcoholism, most studies lack a theoretical mechanism that explains why children of alcoholics may struggle to adjust to their family circumstances. Two theoretical perspectives are particularly useful for explaining the communication behaviors of children of alcoholics. First, Relational Framing Theory suggests that individuals frame their interactions with relationship partners in terms of either affiliation or dominance. These frames provide an important motive for behavior to communicate in ways that uphold the prevailing expectations for that relationship. In families coping with alcoholism, children may oscillate between having a parent who demonstrates love and affection in some situations and exerting dominance and control in others. The inconsistency in this salient relationship may have implications for the way children of alcoholics communicate in their family and in other relationships. Second, Interaction Adaptation Theory suggests that people adjust their communication behavior to complement or match the behaviors demonstrated by an interaction partner. For children of alcoholics, one of the defining characteristics of their family experience may be adapting their communication to accommodate an alcoholic parent. Thus, this theory provides important insight for understanding why children of alcoholics may struggle to communicate.
Gender and Close Friendships in Childhood, Adolescence, and Early Adulthood: New Discoveries and Advances in Assessment

Conveners: Steven Asher (Duke University) and Molly Stroud Weeks (Duke University)

Observations of Girls' and Boys' Talking About Problems with Friends: Implications for Perceptions of Friendships

Amanda J. Rose (University of Missouri)
Rhiannon L. Smith (University of Connecticut)
Rebecca A. Schwartz-Mette (University of Missouri)
Gary Glick (University of Missouri)

Although girls’ tendency to disclose about problems more than boys is well documented (Rose & Rudolph, 2006), whether disclosure impacts friendships similarly for girls and boys unclear. For example, disclosure may have less impact on boys’ friendships if boys value disclosure less. Adolescent friends (321 dyads) were given 16 minutes to discuss problems (personal problems, not problems with the friend). They were asked to discuss each youth’s problems but were not required to discuss problems for all 16 minutes. Adolescents then responded to items assessing provisions received in the conversation (feeling understood, supported, validated). Earlier adolescents responded to the friendship satisfaction scale (Parker & Asher, 1993). Multilevel models (adolescents nested in dyads) were tested. Compared to boys, girls produced more thought units overall, about their own problems, and about their friend’s problems. The number of thought units: (a) youth produced about their own problems and (b) the friend produced about the youths’ problems predicted youths’ reports of provisions. The number of thought units produced overall and about the friends’ problems were unrelated to provisions. Receiving provisions during problem talk also predicted friendship satisfaction. The relations were not moderated by gender. Given that girls engaged in greater problem talk and problem talk was similarly important across genders, girls might have been expected to more satisfied with friends than boys. However, like past research (e.g., Parker & Asher, 1993), boys reported as much satisfaction as girls. Competencies other than problem talk that boys may bring to their friendships will be discussed.

Friendship Imbalances in Physical Attractiveness and Romantic Attention: Gender Differences and the Role of Perceptions of Fairness

Jeffrey G. Parker (University of Alabama)
Jessica E. McGuire (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Philosophers have long emphasized the importance of equality as an essential basis of successful friendships. Adolescents also endorse this view by stressing equality in their conceptions of ideal friendships. In reality, adolescents and their friends are rarely equal in specific competencies or in social success with peers and romantic partners. Although imbalances are normally present in friendship pairs, very little data exist on adolescents' recognition of such differences, whether these differences upset them, which adolescents are most upset, and how this affects conflict, competition, and support between friends. 132 late adolescents reported the degree to which their best friend was regarded by their social group as relatively more physically attractive and received more attention from the opposite sex. They also indicated whether they agreed with the group's perceptions of their friend's advantage or disadvantage. Regardless of whether they agreed, when females recognized that their best friends were seen as more physically attractive and successful with the opposite sex, they were less satisfied with their friendships,
and their friendships were characterized by greater competition, aggression, and conflict. Disparities in attractiveness and opposite sex attention did not create problems for male friendships unless the friend's reputed advantage was considered to be inaccurate. Overall, both sexes who had lower body esteem were more likely to disagree that their best friend had an advantage in attractiveness or opposite sex interest. Results suggest that friendship problems are partly determined by friendship imbalances in important areas. For men, the disagreement with public perception was particularly important.

Measuring Beliefs about Friendship in Men and Women: Linkages with Friendship Quality and Loneliness

Steven R. Asher (Duke University)
Molly Stroud Weeks (Duke University)
Kristina L. McDonald (University of Alabama)

This research was designed to learn whether college students’ beliefs about friendship are associated with higher friendship quality and less loneliness, and whether males and females hold similar beliefs about friendship. A new measure of friendship beliefs was developed and administered to an ethnically-diverse sample of first- through fourth-year undergraduates (N = 2275). The measure was designed to assess the following seven beliefs about friendship: whether friendships require hard work (adapted from Knee, 1998), whether each friendship is unique and special or whether friends are like replaceable parts, whether friends should spend more time together than with other people, whether friendships last, whether conflict leads to growth in a friendship, whether friends should forgive one another if someone does something wrong, and whether the success of a potential friendship is destined from the beginning (adapted from Knee, 1998). Results indicated that these beliefs are stable over a one-year period, that they are predictive of friendship quality and loneliness, and that friendship quality plays a mediational role in the linkage between friendship beliefs and loneliness. There were significant gender differences for five of the seven beliefs, with the largest difference occurring for the uniqueness/dispensability belief—women more strongly endorsed the belief that each friendship is unique and special. Regression analyses revealed that gender moderated how some beliefs related to friendship quality and loneliness. The results from this study suggest that beliefs about friendship constitute important parts of people’s mental representations (working models) of relationships.

Evidence for a Suppression Effect on the Link between Gender and Loneliness

Molly Stroud Weeks (Duke University)
Steven R. Asher (Duke University)

Loneliness is a “sad or aching sense of isolation” (Parkhurst & Hopmeyer, 1999) that is thought to arise from perceived deficiencies in the quantity or quality of one’s social relationships (e.g., Peplau & Perlman, 1982). The proposed paper is addressed to an intriguing mystery in the literature on gender differences in loneliness (for reviews see Borys & Perlman, 1985; Koenig & Abrams, 1999). Although some studies find that females are more lonely, the majority of research with children, adolescents, and young adults finds that males and females tend to be equally lonely (see Weeks & Asher, in press). This tendency for males and females to be similar in their feelings of loneliness is surprising given that there are consistent gender differences in the factors that influence loneliness—most notably friendship quality, which is an index of the degree to which individuals receive various relationship provisions in their friendships (e.g., companionship and recreation, help and guidance, validation and caring, intimate exchange; Parker & Asher, 1993). Our study with an ethnically-diverse sample of college students (N = 4225) provides evidence for a statistical suppression effect in the link between loneliness and gender,
such that gender differences in loneliness emerge when friendship quality is controlled. That is, at comparable levels of friendship quality, women report higher levels of loneliness than do men. One possible explanation to be tested in future research is that the higher expectations that women hold for relationships lead them to be more lonely at comparable levels of friendship quality.

Girls May Have Higher Friendship Expectations Than Boys Do, But Is That Necessarily a Bad Thing?

Julie Paquette MacEvoy (Boston College)
Shea E. Kelly (Boston College)
Sarah E. Ash (Boston College)

Increasingly, research suggests that girls expect more from their friends than boys do (Hall, 2011) and that girls have a particularly hard time coping when one of their friendship expectations is violated (MacEvoy & Asher, 2011). Given that friends are unlikely to always live up to one another’s expectations, having high friendship expectations could put girls at risk for poor outcomes, such as loneliness. The purpose of the present research was to examine whether having high expectations of one’s friends is associated with maladjustment. A total of 501 children in the third through fifth grades (52% girls) completed a new measure of the extent to which youth expect their friends to be enjoyable companions and to be reliable and trustworthy. Participants also completed measures of loneliness, anxiety, friendship satisfaction, and friendship effort. Girls reported having significantly higher expectations of their friends than did boys. Interestingly, though, hierarchical regression analyses revealed that the more children expect of their friends, the better adjusted they are along a number of dimensions. For example, across gender, higher friendship expectations were associated with less loneliness. However, several significant interactions with gender also emerged. For example, the more boys expected of their friends, the more satisfied they were with their friendships and the more effort they put into their friendships. These findings suggest that having high expectations of one’s friends is not necessarily maladaptive for girls and that, in fact, it may be beneficial to encourage boys to hold their friends to a higher standard.

11:30-12:45

Panel Sessions

1411 Friendship: Challenges and Rewards

With a Little Help from my Unhelpful Friends: Thinking about How a Friend Undermines One's Goals Actually Bolsters One's Goal Commitment

Kathleen Carswell (Northwestern University)
Eli Finkel (Northwestern University)

A longitudinal study investigated the impact of perceiving friends as undermining to an important goal on goal commitment. Although supportive significant others have traditionally been seen as beneficial toward goal pursuit and unsupportive significant others as detrimental (Brunstein, Dangelmayer, & Schultheiss, 1996; Feeney, 2004), the current research tested the counterintuitive hypothesis that significant others who are unsupportive may sometimes have a positive influence on goal pursuit. In particular, we suggest that perceptions of a close other as undermining to an important goal may result in goal shielding efforts and a buffering against declines in goal commitment over time. Over three weeks,
participants were asked to write about how a close friend was either undermining or instrumental to an important academic goal once every three days, or did not complete a writing task in a control condition. Although participants in both the goal-instrumental and control conditions exhibited significant declines in goal commitment over time, participants in the goal-undermining condition did not. The results of this study are discussed as part of a broader integrative framework of the sometimes-counterintuitive self-regulatory influences of significant others on goal-pursuit.

Paradigm Shifting and Postmodern Cross-Gender Friendships: An Exploratory Essay

Mike Monsour (University of Colorado, Denver)
Bill Rawlins (Ohio University)

Scholars use the labels “females” and “males” to indicate biological sex, and “masculinity” and “femininity” to denote the rich range of gender identities. Even so, compelling cultural/historical evidence and emerging practices strongly suggest that researchers should avoid such “sexual dimorphism” (Herdt, 1993) and embrace a gender paradigm reflecting the protean and permeable nature of postmodern gender identities (Harper, 2007). With clear implications for the study of all gendered relationships, the present critique addresses friendships between individuals who self-identify as members of different genders and/or biological sexes. Cross-gender friendship researchers typically have presumed dichotomous biological sex and gender. This essay contends that cross-gender friendship researchers, and by extension, all scholars investigating gendered relationships, should conceptualize gender and biological sex as occurring on continuums rather than treating them as dichotomous constructs. Accordingly, we cross-examine fundamental concepts pertinent to the study of adult non-romantic cross-gender friendships. First, we peruse five key constructs: gender, biological sex, transgenderism, transsexualism, and cross-gender friendships. Next, we consider shortcomings and offer a reconceptualization of the reigning gender paradigm. Third, we review documented challenges and unique benefits of cross-gender friendships and discuss how they may be refigured in light of negotiated and/or transsexual gender identities. We then describe conceptual and investigative orientations that might prove useful in future studies of friendships in which one or both individuals are members of the transsexual community. We close with directions for future research.

An Exploration of the Motivations to Remain Friends after a Confession of Unrequited Love

Katheryn Blankmeyer (Saint Louis University)
Michelle Hasan (Saint Louis University)
Jana Hackathorn (Murray State University)
Dan Weidler (Northern Arizona University)
Anna Pope (Saint Louis University)
Eddie M. Clark (Saint Louis University)

Unrequited attraction is a common phenomenon, experienced by approximately 80% of people (Motley, Reeder, & Faulkner, 2008), and defined as a passionate love felt by one person toward another, who does not desire romantic involvement with the former (Bratslavsky, Baumeister, & Sommer, 1998). Although it is not prerequisite, it is common for unrequited love to take place between two platonic friends. The eventual fate of the friendship is largely a result of the target and pursuer’s behaviors (Motley, et al., 2008). Although previous research has examined a number of aspects regarding unrequited love, there seems to be little to no research inquiring about the motivations to remain friends after a confession of unrequited love. Specifically, five types of motivations to remain friends (i.e., relational interdependence, shared tangible interests, shared social networks, ease of remaining friends, and personal agenda) were
examined and predicted using the relationship variables of relational investment, distress over rejection, coping of the rejection, relationship classification, inclusion of the other in self, and desire to remain friends through regression analyses. As predicted, there were differences in pre-existing relationship variables and motivations to remain friends, such as those who were interested in remaining friends because of interdependence had much investment in the relationship and were highly motivated to remain friends before the confession, whereas those who were interested in remaining friends because of personal agenda did not report positive relationship variables and were highly distressed by the rejection.

Friendship and Competition in Emerging Adults

Mahzad Hojjat (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth)  
Brian Ayotte (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth)  
Clare Mehta (Emmanuel College)  
Evan Ames (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth)  
Elizabeth Lozano (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth)  
Nicole Silva (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth)

Research has indicated that men are more competitive in their same-sex friendships than are women (Singleton & Vacca, 2007). However, competition in opposite-sex friendships is not widely investigated. This study examined sex differences in competitive behaviors/cognitions within same/opposite-sex friendships of young adults. Participants were 83 friend pairs (same and opposite-sex pairs) between the ages of 18 and 26. Pairs were randomly assigned to one of the two experimental conditions. In both conditions participants completed a series of anagrams. However, in the competitive condition participants competed to win a candy bar and the chance to win $50. Later, participants completed a series of questionnaires including The Revised Competitiveness Index (Houston, 2002). As predicted, preliminary analyses indicated stronger competitive behaviors/cognitions for men. It was more important for males, than for females, to do better than their friends regardless of condition and dyad make-up. Also, among same-sex friends, males thought that male friends were more competitive than females thought females friends were, regardless of condition. Interestingly however, a three-way interaction of sex by condition by same/other sex dyad indicated significantly higher competitive tendencies for men than for women in mixed-sex dyads, but only in the non-competitive condition. There was no sex difference between males and females in the competitiveness condition in mixed-sex dyads. One way to interpret this finding is that men may feel more comfortable to compete with female friends in a situation that is not explicitly competitive. In same-sex friendships however, men competed significantly more than women did, regardless of the competitive condition.

The Impact of Relational Health on Processing of Conflict and Betrayal in Close Female Relationships

Amber Douglas (Mount Holyoke College)  
Katherine Binder (Mount Holyoke College)  
Jacqueline Kajos (Mount Holyoke College)  
Jacquelyn Hyde (Mount Holyoke College)  
Yujia Li (Mount Holyoke College)  
Melissa Yanovitch (Mount Holyoke College)
Women are socialized to develop and maintain close friendships; college students are equally likely to identify a close friendship as a romantic relationship when asked to name an important relationship (Cross, Bacon & Morris, 2000). As such, we know that close relationships are vitally important for psychological well-being. The current investigation examined differences in relational health, a new measure of relational expectations as measured by the Relational Health Index (RHI; Liang et al., 2002), and its impact on the information processing and appraisal of interpersonal conflict and betrayal in close female relationships. Undergraduate female participants (N=245) were classified into higher or lower relational health groups and randomly assigned to read an experimental vignette describing a relationship of two female friends. The vignettes varied in severity of betrayal and friendship outcome; recall of vignette, reading time, self-report of intimacy and conflict resolutions were dependent measures. The results provide support for individual differences in relational health as a determinant of attention biases. The findings also suggest that specific contextual variables of betrayal and ultimate outcome mediate the processing and recall of interpersonal vignettes. In addition, differences in reports of intimacy and conflict resolution as a function of relational health. These findings contribute to the existing literature on schematic biases; they indicated that processing of relationally salient information is shaped by preexisting relationship expectations and that these biases impact experience of interpersonal intimacy and conflict styles.

Playing by the Rules: Supportiveness, Loyalty, and Tolerance in Adult Friendships

Emily Langan (Wheaton College)
Angela Bae (University of Southern California)
Grace Cannell (Wheaton College)
Joy Fabry (Wheaton College)
Maggie McNamara (Wheaton College)
Caitlin Nielsen (Wheaton College)

Friendship is a marginalized relationship in American life. It is a union between autonomous partners who must simultaneously negotiate private definitions, values, and values while minding social customs, constraints, and perceptions (Rawlins, 1992). Yet even the most personal of bonds are rule-bound (Argyle & Henderson, 1984). Rules are followable, prescriptive, and contextual (Shimanoff, 1980). They help achieve a number of desirable outcomes including satisfaction, respect for one’s privacy, and reduction of conflict. These rules are both personal and social in their nature; they reflect an individual’s own cognitive beliefs and guide behavior while simultaneously, they are socially determined by shared context and culture norms (Baxter, Dun, & Sahlstein, 2001; Duck, 2011). Based on the voluntary and, at times, ambiguous nature of friendship, an appropriate understanding and application of relational rules is highly necessary both in same- and cross-sex bonds. Rule adherence may have additional salience during adulthood when friends of various age categories and relational statuses try to navigate their relationships. In a questionnaire-based study of 451 adults, participants rated their adherence to 20 friendship rules (Argyle & Henderson, 1984; Baxter et al., 2001). Exploratory factor analysis suggested a 3- factor solution (supportiveness, loyalty, and tolerance) for both same- and cross-sex friendships. Main effects were found for sex, type of relationship (same- vs. opposite-sex), and relationship status (single vs. married) but were not found between various age categories. Discussion and implications focuses on both the nature of the underlying factor structure as well as possible interpretation of the significant findings.
Lifespan Transitions

Parents’ Use of Topic Avoidance as an Uncertainty Management Strategy during the Transition to Adult Children’s Marriage

Sylvia Mikucki-Enyart (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

The present investigation employed uncertainty management theory (UMT; Brashers, 2001) to examine the links among parents’ uncertainty, topic avoidance, and satisfaction within the parent-adult child dyad during the transition to adult children’s marriage. Parents (N = 104) of engaged or newly married adult children completed a self-administered, online questionnaire to report on their experience of uncertainty, topic avoidance, and satisfaction within the parent-adult child relationship. An exploratory confirmatory analysis revealed that parents experienced three forms of uncertainty during their child’s transition to marriage: relational, family, and individual. Results indicated that parents of adult sons experienced greater uncertainty than parents of adult daughters. In addition, parents’ doubts were linked to their communication. More specifically, family uncertainty and two sources of relational uncertainty (i.e., self-uncertainty and relationship uncertainty) were the strongest predictors of parents’ topic avoidance. Finally, parents’ uncertainty and topic avoidance were inversely associated with parents’ satisfaction within the parent-adult child dyad. Broadly, results suggest that the transition to marriage is consequential for other relational constellations within the family system, not just the new marital dyad. In addition, using UMT as a theoretical lens, these results suggest that parents may strategically avoid discussions regarding their doubts as a way to maintain optimism and hope as well as protect the parent-adult child relationship during this critical family transition. Unfortunately, the use of topic avoidance appears to be linked to negative relational outcomes. Theoretical and practical implications of these findings are discussed.

Applying the Relational Turbulence Model to Predict Stress and Turmoil in Empty-Nest Relationships

Mary Nagy (Rutgers University)
Jennifer Theiss (Rutgers University)

Couples transitioning to the empty-nest phase of marriage may experience renewed commitment and a newfound sense of freedom, but for some it can be a period of increased stress and turmoil. Prior research suggests relational transitions are ripe for ambiguity and frequent interruptions from partners, which may contribute to upheaval in the relationship. This study applies the relational turbulence model to identify relationship characteristics that contribute to stress and turmoil during the transition to the empty-nest phase of marriage. The relational turbulence model highlights relational uncertainty and interference from partners as two mechanisms that make people more reactive to their relational circumstances. We hypothesized that relational uncertainty and interference from partners are positively associated with perceived turmoil and self-reported stress, and that relational turmoil is positively associated with stress. Survey data was collected from 50 couples (N = 100) who had entered the empty-nest phase of their marriage within the previous 18 months. Data were analyzed using multi-level modeling to account for nonindependence between husbands and wives. Results supported the predicted associations. The findings extend the relational turbulence model to understand transitions in more established romantic relationships and highlight the importance of managing relational turbulence during the empty-nest transition to prevent increased stress among an aging population.
Growing Old Together: Compassionate Love and Caregiving in Older Adulthood

Amy Rauer (Auburn University)
Jakob Jensen (The University of Utah)
Allen Sabey (Auburn University)
Ashlyn McCrorie (Auburn University)

The negative health effects associated with being unmarried are felt disproportionately among older adults. Research suggests this is due in part to the unique and powerful role individuals play in promoting the well-being of their partners. Impressive as the literature has been in documenting the forms and burdens of this kind of caregiving, what remains unclear is what motivates people to tend to their partner’s health. Accordingly, the current study collected data from 35 high-functioning older couples (ages 56 – 93) to examine how individual, spousal, and relational factors might be associated with attitudes towards caregiving. Most spouses provided care because they enjoyed helping their partners, not because they felt obligated. As to their underlying motivations, husbands’ compassionate love emerged as the most powerful predictor of his positive views of caregiving, suggesting that husbands who are the most affected by their wives’ well-being are also the ones most invested in their care. Interestingly, no factor emerged to explain wives’ views of caregiving. Perhaps because women are more uniformly socialized to provide care, there may be less variability in their caregiving attitudes due to individual motivations. Given the unprecedented growth in the number of older adults in the U.S. coupled with the rising costs of their care, we have a vested interest in understanding why spouses take care of one another before their health circumstances in effect remove their choice in the matter. Understanding the nature of compassionate love in long-term marriages may represent an important and necessary step towards this endeavor.

Grandparent-Grandchild Communication:
Frequency of Contact and Chosen Communication Medium

Nicholas Koberstein (University of Connecticut)
Shannon Weaver (University of Connecticut)

Intergenerational communication serves to continue traditions and carry on family stories. However, little research has been investigated how grandparents and grandchildren communicate through modern communication media (SMS, phone, e-mail, etc.). The purpose of this study is to identify how technology influences the communication between grandparents and their grandchildren. In the past, long distance relationships were limited to communication over the phone. Due to the lack of nonverbal communication present in this media, children often experienced difficulty staying engaged (Ballagas et. al., 2010). With a surge of readily available social-based technology, the intergenerational communication patterns are now shifting to a morevisual and accessible form (Harwood, 2000). The goal of our study is to investigate the effect of new technology on intergenerational communication. While some studies have found that new technologies will assist in communication, others find that older generations are baffled by new technologies and may not receive its benefits (Quadrello et. al., 2005; Harwood, 2000; Ling, 2008).
Symposium

1413 Recent Advances in Loneliness Research

Convener: Michael Maniaci (University of Rochester)
Louise Hawkley (University of Chicago)

Discussant: Daniel Perlman (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)

Perceived Social Isolation Moderates the Relationship between Early Childhood Trauma and Pulse Pressure in Older Adults

Greg J. Norman (University of Chicago)
Louise Hawkley (University of Chicago)
Aaron Ball (University of Chicago)
Gary G. Berntson (Ohio State University)
John T. Cacioppo (University of Chicago)

Over a million children are subjected to some form of trauma in the United States every year (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2001). Early trauma has been shown to dramatically influence physiological processes in adulthood including hypertension as a result of alteration in arterial stiffness. One psychological mediator of this relationship is perceived social isolation. Perceived isolation is highly positively correlated with both early trauma and blood pressure. The goal of the present study was to determine whether perceived social isolation moderates the relationship between early trauma and blood pressure and arterial stiffness. Results revealed that individuals with low social isolation displayed no significant relationship between early trauma and blood pressure. However, highly lonely individuals showed a significant positive association between early trauma and blood pressure. Therefore, the detrimental effects of early trauma may be partially dependent upon the quality of social relationships as an adult.

Beyond a Static View of Loneliness: Daily Experiences of Loneliness, Social Interaction, and Well-Being

Michael R. Maniaci (University of Rochester)
Harry T. Reis (University of Rochester)
Jennifer M. Tomlinson (Carnegie Mellon University)

Feelings of loneliness can represent both relatively stable dispositions and transient social experiences. Despite a wealth of research examining individual differences in loneliness, surprisingly little research has explored how daily fluctuations in loneliness are associated with social interaction and well-being. The current study examined day-to-day experiences of loneliness using a daily diary design, with 226 undergraduate participants completing daily diary surveys every morning and evening for 14 days. Results indicate that loneliness tends to increase more from morning to night on days during which social interactions are characterized by rejection and feeling judged. In contrast, loneliness tends to decrease on days during which social interactions involve meaningful discussion and feeling understood and appreciated by others. These effects carried over to the next day, such that participants who were rejected and lacked meaningful interaction tended to experience greater loneliness the next morning, along with decreased positive mood, increased negative mood, more physical health symptoms, and poorer sleep quality the following night. Bootstrapping analyses reveal that the effects of social interaction quality on
next day well-being are mediated by feelings of loneliness. These results demonstrate that daily fluctuations in loneliness are affected more by the quality rather than quantity of social interaction, and that daily fluctuations in loneliness account for the associations between social interaction quality and well-being.

Loneliness during the Retirement Transition: A Longitudinal Study

Maike Luhmann (The University of Chicago)
Louise C. Hawkley (The University of Chicago)
Greg J. Norman (The University of Chicago)
John T. Cacioppo (The University of Chicago)

Using longitudinal data from a nationally representative study from Australia (N = 375), we examined how loneliness changes over the retirement transition. On average, levels of loneliness did not differ between the preretirement period, the transition period, and the postretirement period. However, there were significant individual differences in the mean levels of loneliness as well as in the loneliness trajectories over the retirement transition. Across all years, higher loneliness was associated with male gender, lower level of education, lower age at retirement, less income, worse self-rated health, less social contacts, and lower relationship satisfaction. Preretirement levels of social contacts and changes in social contacts also accounted for individual differences in the loneliness trajectories. Specifically, people tended to become more lonely after retirement if they had little contact with friends before retirement as well as if the contact frequency decreased over the retirement transition. Ancillary analyses indicated that these effects could not be attributed to age-related changes. In sum, these findings underscore the importance of frequent contact with friends for the well-being of retirees.

Mental Representations of Social Connections: In China as in the U.S.

Louise C. Hawkley (The University of Chicago)
Yuanyan Gu (Beijing Normal University)
Yuejia Luo (Beijing Normal University)
John T. Cacioppo (The University of Chicago)

Humans are capable of duplicity and changing alliances, so being with others is not sufficient to ensure one is embedded in a safe social surrounding. Accordingly, research has shown that it is the quality, not the quantity of one’s social connections that predicts perceived social isolation (loneliness) across a lifetime. Two studies were conducted to determine whether the mental representation of people’s social connections previously observed in U.S. samples extends to the collectivist culture of China. Young adults (Study 1) and older adults (Study 2) in Beijing, China, completed the revised UCLA Loneliness Scale and demographic and social activity questionnaires. Confirmatory factor analyses revealed adequate fit of the model to data from a young and an older adult Chinese sample. Social activity variables that discriminated among the three facets in the Chinese samples corresponded well with variables that discriminated among the three facets in the American samples, indicating cultural commonalities in the factors predicting dimensions of people’s representations of their social connections. Together, these data raise the possibility for a universal mental representation of people’s social connections.
Interest Group Meeting

1415 Interdisciplinary Research on Post-Divorce and Stepfamily Relationships

Organizer: Dawn Braithwaite (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

This interdisciplinary interest group of Post-Divorce and Stepfamily Relationship scholars will come together to focus on a discussion of questions regarding current and future research and practice. The interest group will be compiling and exchanging bibliographies prior to the conference to inform colleagues across the disciplines concerning our work. Our goal is to inform one another as a community of scholars, along with those who attend this session, and inspire interdisciplinary research initiatives. The discussions will center around four questions: (1) What are important trends in post-divorce and stepfamily scholarship?, (2) What are important needs in post-divorce and stepfamily scholarship?, (3) What research questions regarding post-divorce and stepfamily relationships would benefit from interdisciplinary research efforts of IARR members?, and (4) In what specific ways can IARR post-divorce and stepfamily scholars contribute more directly to practitioners and stepfamily members?

12:45-2:00

Panel Sessions

1416 Loss and Grief

The Development and Validation of the Final Conversations Scale

Maureen Keeley (Texas State University-San Marcos)
Mark Generous (Texas State University- San Marcos)
Austen Adair (Texas State University- San Marcos)
Kerri Stewart (Texas State University- San Marcos)

Communication at the end of life is one of the most difficult, important, and final things that people will be asked to do in their close relationships (Author, 2007). Over a decade of research exploring final conversations (FCs) with adults (Phase I), and children (Phase II), has identified and described five FCs themes (e.g., love, identity, spirituality, everyday talk, and difficult relationship talk) from the perspective of those that must go on living. An important question emerged from the prior research: Are these FCs themes consistent with the experiences most people (the Living) have had with their loved ones (the Dying) at the end of life? Thus the current study seeks to operationalize the FCs themes in the creation of the Final Conversations Scale (Phase III). The FCs Scale was created based on the messages identified from the Living in prior interviews. A snow ball technique was used to recruit participants nationally, who then completed the scale on an on-line survey hosting site. A confirmatory factor analysis was conducted to validate the five dimensions of FCs previously established through qualitative analyses. In quantifying the dimensions of FCs, personal outcomes of final conversations are identified that potentially affect current and future close, personal relationships at the end-of-life.
Romantic Mourning: Exploring its Stages and Reasons

Rozzana Sanchez-Aragon (National Autonomous University of Mexico)

Mourning, bereavement or grief, are terms used to refer to the loss of someone loved (Carpenito, 1987). Sometimes the reason is death, but there is another kind of motives, one of them is the break with a romantic partner, which is known as romantic mourning (Raphael, 1983; Tizon, 2004). While the death of a partner follows a lineal mourning process, during the dissolution of the relationship the course is cyclical because it allows possible new contacts with the ex-partner, eliciting the reactivation of painful emotions and hinders the emotional adjustment (Ibarra & Emery, 2005). Respecting to this kind of loss, there is not enough research that reveals the stages or characteristics of this experience (Valencia-Toledano & Sanchez-Aragon, 2009). As a step, Sanchez-Aragon, Miranda-Hernandez & Jimenez-Rodriguez (2011) developed a measure for the main emotions, thoughts or behaviors belonged to the romantic mourning. This data show, how difficult could be (or is) to cope with romantic mourning, for this, the purpose of this research was to: a) identify the stages of this experience based on Sanchez-Aragon et al (2011) contributions, and b) explore if the reasons for the break are related to the live through stages obtained in 833 persons from Mexico City. Among the main findings we found four stages for romantic mourning: negotiation, hostility, hopelessness and pseudo-acceptance and some interesting differences in their experience depending of the 10 key reasons for break up. About to this, data shows that people who broke up because infidelity are more hostile, feel more hopelessness and pseudo-acceptance than those people whose relationship finished for fights, need for time to share, jealousy and disgust.

Divorce and Death: A Meta-analysis and Review of Mechanisms

David Sbarra (University of Arizona)
Rita Law (University of Arizona)
Robert Portley (University of Arizona)

Divorce is a relatively common stressful life event that is purported to increase risk for all-cause mortality. One problem in the literature on divorce and health is that it is fragmented and spread across many disciplines; most prospective studies of mortality are based in epidemiology and sociology, whereas most mechanistic studies are based in psychology. This paper integrates research on divorce and death via meta-analysis and outlines a research agenda for better understanding the potential mechanisms linking marital dissolution and risk for all-cause mortality. Random effects meta-analysis with a sample of 32 prospective studies (involving more than 6.5 million people, 160,000 deaths, and over 755,000 divorces in 11 different countries) revealed that compared to their married counterparts, separated/divorced adults evidenced a significant increase in risk for early death. Compared to women and older adults, men and younger adults evidenced significantly greater risk for early death following marital separation/divorce. Quantification of the overall effect size linking marital separation/divorce to risk for early death reveals a number of important research questions, and the paper discusses what remains to be learned about four plausible mechanisms of action: social selection, resource disruptions, changes in health behaviors, and chronic psychological distress.
After a miscarriage, bereaved parents cope with the experience by engaging with friends and family for support. The quality of the support that is provided within these interactions varies in quality. This study provides an *a priori* model that begins to explain factors that influence the support provider’s motivation to provide support and the quality of the message produced. The model developed was tested with SEM procedures using full-information maximum likelihood estimators and latent variables. Data was collected from college students (N = 1031) who wrote comforting messages for a (hypothetical) bereaved sibling and completed measures assessing theoretically relevant factors. The results showed that the support provider’s understanding of miscarriage predicts their motivation to provide support. However, the relationship between understanding of miscarriage and motivation was mediated by two factors: the support provider’s negative arousal and the support provider’s perception that the distress of the target was legitimate. A greater understanding of miscarriage increased perceived legitimacy of distress and suppressed negative arousal resulting in increased levels of motivation and subsequent message quality. The findings provide a more comprehensive, theoretically-based explanation of support provision in this context than has been provided previously in the literature. The results also provide insight for improving the interactions between support providers and parents bereaved by miscarriage.

1417 Technology: Support and Connection

Making Meaning of Domestic Adoption Reunion in Online Narratives: A Dialogic Perspective

Kristina Scharp (The University of Iowa)

This qualitative study, from the domestic adoptee perspective, reflects the analysis of thirty-seven stories of adoptee-birth mother/family reunions. Specifically, the present study uniquely contributes to existing literature on reunion outcomes and extends the understanding of the adoption reconnection phenomenon by focusing on the constitution of its meaning. Ultimately, studies privileging meaning-making help to unravel why certain outcomes may emerge and emphasize the importance of communication in studying relationships. Framed by Relational Dialectics Theory and examined using Baxter’s newly developed contrapuntal analysis, a dominant discursive struggle of romanticized versus pragmatic reconnection emerged. The discourse of *romanticized reconnection* was comprised of three themes: (1) birth mother as fairy-godmother, (2) desire for physical resemblance, and (3) immediate connection. The following three themes constituted the discourse of *pragmatic reconnection* (1) birth family as strangers, (2) desire for health information, and (3) connection not guaranteed. In addition, some participants simultaneously gave voice to both discourses resulting in a hybrid that provides evidence of a phenomenon where new meanings are likely to emerge. As it happens, this study suggests that the reason many adoptees experience “unfixed” relationships with their birth mother/family may be that competing conceptions of reunion violate their expectations of the relationship and consequently complicate how they negotiate an unfolding family dynamic.
A Theme Analysis of Stressors and Support Strategies in Online Support Groups for Adult Children of Alcoholics

Marie C. Haverfield (Rutgers University)  
Jennifer A. Theiss (Rutgers University)

Alcoholism can have a significant impact on family systems and communication between family members. Children of alcoholics are particularly vulnerable to the stressors that alcoholism places on the family and often struggle with psychological and social problems, such as lowered self-esteem, depression, inability to express emotions, and diminished social skills. This study investigated the stressors reported in online support groups for adult children of alcoholics and the communicative strategies that members employ to provide social support. Three online support groups of adult children of alcoholics were selected to provide the data for this investigation. All discussion threads from a 5-day period were downloaded for each of the three online support groups. Individual posts on a thread were the unit of analysis, resulting in 1,256 units. The data were coded by a team of trained research assistants to identify common themes in the experiences of adult children of alcoholics. Resulting themes included (a) trust issues, (b) feelings of inadequacy, (c) conflict, (d) growth and awareness, (e) interference, and (f) uncertainty. The data were also coded to evaluate the degree of person-centeredness in people’s supportive messages to other group members. The results of this study highlight the psychological, emotional, and relational stressors that are pervasive among adult children of alcoholics and the communication strategies that are employed to support individuals struggling with the aftermath of alcoholism.

Loneliness and Online Activities among Adolescents with Chronic Conditions

Theo van Tilburg (VU University Amsterdam)

Background. Loneliness is a potential problem in adolescence. With the rising use of internet and social networking sites such as Facebook there are concerns that virtual contacts replace face-to-face contacts contributing to increased loneliness. However, people – in particular when they are in poor health and have physical limitations – might actually profit from increased possibilities to stay in contact with friends. The following questions were answered: (1) What is the prevalence of loneliness among adolescents, and specifically among those with chronic conditions? (2) Do adolescents with chronic conditions differ from other adolescents with respect to involvement in online activities? (3) Do adolescents, and in particular those with chronic conditions, consider online activities to be helpful in prevention or alleviation of loneliness? Design. Data were collected in 2011 among 1536 adolescents aged 12 to 18 years. The sample is representative for the Dutch population with oversampling of adolescents with chronic conditions. Results. One out of five adolescents is lonely. Loneliness is highest among adolescents with chronic conditions, in particular among those with physical limitations in functioning, or with mental or (mild) cognitive problems. On average adolescents, both with and without chronic conditions, are intensive users of internet and social networking sites (e.g. information seeking and web searching, gaming, participating in social networking), and are positive about various internet and social networking possibilities to cope with loneliness. Discussion. Adolescents with chronic conditions seem to underestimate the extent to which social media can be utilized to prevent or alleviate loneliness.
Utilizing Facebook for Social Support: 
An Exploration of Facebook Friends, Disclosures, and Perceived Satisfaction

Veronica Hefner (Chapman University)  
Laura Miller (University of Tennessee)

Seeking social support on the Internet has become a common phenomenon (Wright, 2006). In particular, Facebook is a commonly used tool to disclose personal information (Christofides, Muise, & Desmarais, 2009) and to seek social support (Junghyun & Jong-Eun Roselyn, 2011). Due to the high frequency of personal disclosures on Facebook, it is important to better understand the consequences of disclosure using an online medium (i.e., Facebook) versus face-to-face. The present study seeks to specifically investigate the ways in which people disclose health information as a means of seeking support from Facebook friends. Little research has specifically examined the relationship between seeking and providing social support in the context of Facebook. Utilizing theories of stress and coping (Lazarus & Folkman 1984, 1991) and computer mediated communication (Walther, 1996), the present study will offer a preliminary understanding of Facebook as a facilitative means of social support. To gather information, Facebook users will be surveyed about their perceived social support on Facebook and face to face (Junghyun & Jong-Eun Roselyn, 2011), satisfaction with friends (Vaux, Phillips, Holly, Thomson, Williams, & Stewart, 1986), mental and physical health (Ware & Sherbourne, 1992), and likelihood of disclosure (Junghyun & Jong-Eun Roselyn, 2011). In addition, participants will be asked open ended responses about exemplar disclosures from themselves or their Facebook friends. Greater knowledge of how users utilize Facebook to disclose health information, seek and receive social support will have important implications for relational satisfaction and response to life’s stressors and, thus, merits further exploration.

Symposia

1418 The Heart’s Hidden Agenda: Unlocking the Contextual and Chronic Factors that Influence Unconscious Relationship Processes

Conveners: Tracy DeHart (Loyola University Chicago)  
Julie Longua Peterson (University of New England)

Discussant: Margaret Clark (Yale University)

Regulating Connection: Implicit Self-Esteem Predicts Positive Nonverbal Behavior during Romantic Conflict

Tracy DeHart (Loyola University Chicago)  
Julie Longua Peterson (University of New England)

The effects of implicit (unconscious) self-evaluations on behavioral responses to relationship-threat have been largely overlooked in the literature on self-esteem and relationship functioning. Previous research highlights the importance of explicit self-evaluations for regulating the risk of rejection in close relationships (e.g., Murray, Derrick, Leder, & Holmes, 2008). However, this work suggests that explicit self-esteem influences the relatively controlled end of this risk-regulation process. In the current research we propose that the more automatic process of connection is regulated by the more automatic, implicit self. We suggest implicit self-esteem regulates connection, and this process is moderated by perceptions of a partner’s commitment to the relationship. We used both experimental and observational methodologies to explore this possibility. Study 1 indicated that, in the relationship-threat condition,
Participants high (vs. low) in implicit self-esteem reported engaging in more positive nonverbal behaviors during a previous conflict when they perceived their partner as more committed to their relationship. Participants high and low in implicit self-esteem did not differ in reported behavior when partner commitment was low. This pattern was not evident in the control condition. Study 2 similarly revealed that participants high (vs. low) in implicit self-esteem were observed engaging in more positive nonverbal behavior during conflict when they perceived their partner as more committed to their relationship. Participants high and low in implicit self-esteem did not differ in behavior when perceived partner commitment was low. The results imply that implicit self-esteem predicts connection and may be particularly sensitive to evidence of a partner’s availability.

Narcissism, Love, and Implicit Evaluations of Romantic Partners after Rejection

Jennifer Smith (Loyola University, Chicago)
Tracy DeHart (Loyola University, Chicago)
Constantine Sedikides (University of Southampton)

Narcissism has been associated with negative relationship outcomes, such as lower levels of commitment and increased game-playing love styles (Campbell, Foster, & Finkel, 2002). However, some studies have failed to find an association between narcissism and negative relationship outcomes (Finkel, Campbell, Buffardi, Kumashiro, & Rusbult, 2009). This suggests that other factors may be moderating the relation between narcissism and relationship functioning. The current study examined feelings of love as a moderator of the relation between narcissism and implicit partner evaluations after participants recalled a time when they were accepted or rejected by their romantic partner. 191 undergraduate students completed measures of narcissism and felt love for their romantic partner. Participants were randomly assigned to a romantic relationship-rejection, romantic relationship-acceptance, or non-threat control condition. Following the experimental manipulation, participants completed an implicit measure of their evaluations of their romantic partners (Murray et al., 2011). The measure assessed how quickly participants associated positive traits, negative traits, and acceptance words with their romantic partners. Multiple regression analyses revealed that in the rejection condition, narcissists with high felt love displayed increased implicit association of positive trait words with their romantic partner. Narcissists with low felt love displayed stronger implicit associations of negative trait words with their romantic partner as well as weaker implicit associations of acceptance words with their romantic partner. There were no significant effects in the control condition. These findings suggest that feelings of love may protect narcissists from some of the negative consequences of romantic rejection.

When Acceptance Turns Threatening: People with a Low Relational Self-Construal Decrease Implicit Evaluations of Self and Other following Acceptance

Julie Longua Peterson (University of New England)

This research explored whether acceptance in close relationships influences how people regulate implicit (unconscious) evaluations of the self and others, and whether this effect is moderated by differences in relational self-construal. Previous research suggests that, for people with a highly relational self-construal, close relationships provide an important resource for self-enhancement. Surprisingly, however, close relationships can negatively affect the well-being of people who do not define the self in relational terms (Cross & Morris, 2003; Gabriel, Renaud, & Tippin, 2006). The current studies explored whether such findings would generalize to implicit indicators of self and relationship well-being. In Studies 1 and 2, participants were randomly assigned to an acceptance or control condition. In the acceptance condition participants were asked to reflect on a time they felt loved and accepted by a close other (Study 1) or romantic partner (Study 2). Study 1 revealed that people with a low (vs. high) relational self-construal
decreased implicit self-esteem following the acceptance manipulation. This pattern was not evident in the control condition. Study 2 revealed that that people with a low (vs. high) relational self-construal decreased implicit evaluations of romantic partners following the acceptance manipulation. This pattern was not evident in the control condition. The findings suggest that activating feelings of acceptance in close relationships may be threatening for those people who do not construe the self relationally. As a result, people with a low relational self-construal devalue implicit evaluations of self and romantic partners as a way to self-protect after increases in relationship acceptance.

1419 What Does Attachment Theory have to Offer Cognitive Therapies?

Convener: Abigail Millings (Ultrasis UK)
Discussant: David Bowles (Sheffield Hallam University)

Adult attachment, Self-Help and Computerized Therapy in Primary Care

Abigail Millings (Ultrasis UK)
Kate Cavanagh (University of Sussex)
Katherine Carnelley (University of Southampton)
Angela Rowe (University of Bristol)

Attachment orientation is related to engagement with therapy. In traditional face-to-face therapy, attachment style has been identified as a predictor of initial help seeking (Riggs, Jacobvitz, & Hazen, 2002) and a moderator of therapy effectiveness (Tasca et al. 2006; McBride et al., 2006). Self-help therapy including e-health technologies such as Computerised Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CCBT) are currently being deployed worldwide in order to broaden the reach and access to psychological therapies. However the relationship between attachment and attitudes towards, and engagement with, self-help materials and computerised therapy is yet to be explored. In three studies we examine the relationship between attachment orientation and attitudes and intentions regarding self-help materials and computerised therapy. Avoidance was associated with negative attitudes, but not negative behavioural intentions. Anxiety was associated with both positive and negative attitudes but the relationship with behavioural intentions was unclear. In a fourth study we tackle the issue of whether patients using a CCBT program engage to such an extent that they explore their own attachment issues in the a-relational context of the program. We examine qualitative data gathered by a CCBT program (‘Beating the Blues’) from 2074 psychologically distressed program users completing an exercise on core beliefs. Core beliefs were coded and counted according to theme. Attachment (and other) themes were present. Gender differences were found in theme frequencies. Findings are discussed with relevance to the future development and deployment of self-help materials broadly, such as increasing personalisation and engagement through better integration of attachment theory and CBT specifically.

Attachment and Willingness to Engage in a Therapeutic Task

Katherine Carnelley (University of Southampton)
Abigail Millings (Ultrasis UK)
Angela Rowe (University of Bristol)
Kate Cavanagh (University of Sussex)

Research shows that those high in avoidance are less likely to seek therapy (Riggs et al., 2002), more likely to drop out of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT; Tasca et al., 2006), yet show the most improvement (Fonagy et al., 1996). In contrast, secure individuals typically have a positive alliance with
therapists (Slade, 2008). We aimed to extend this research by examining how attachment orientation at Time 1 influenced participants’ attitudes toward, and engagement with, a CBT task (thought challenge). We expected those high (versus low) in avoidance to be less motivated and willing to complete the task, to have more negative attitudes and feelings toward the task and to engage less with it. Furthermore, we investigated possible mediators of this link, including experiential avoidance (behavioural avoidance, distress aversion, distraction and suppression, distress endurance and repression and denial; Multidimensional Experiential Avoidance Questionnaire; Gamez, Chmielewski, Kotov, Ruggero, & Watson, 2011), psychological flexibility (Acceptance and Action II; Bond et al., 2011), and curiosity and openness to one’s thoughts and emotions. Session 1: Attachment and mediators will be assessed. The experimenter will describe common cognitive thinking errors and instruct participants to notice when they display these (homework). Session 2: We will tell participants that they will take part in the therapeutic exercise which they may find psychologically challenging but insightful. Participants will report attitudes toward the task, then complete the task, and finally report engagement with and feelings toward the task. This study has clinical implications for understanding individual differences in engagement with therapy.

Comparing the Therapeutic Benefits of Attachment Security Priming and Self-Compassion Priming Delivered Prior to Engagement in Mindfulness Meditation

Angela Rowe (University of Bristol)
Laura Shepstone (University of Bristol)
Abigail Millings (Ultrasis UK)
Katherine Carnelley (University of Southampton)
Kate Cavanagh (University of Sussex)

Research suggests that self-compassion priming, delivered prior to cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) can increase the likelihood of positive post-therapy outcomes and lower relapse (Gilbert, 2005). The activation of thoughts and feelings of self-compassion would appear to induce individuals to be gentler and kinder towards the self and thus facilitates engagement with CBT tasks. A further potential candidate intervention that may also increase the efficacy of CBT if delivered prior to therapy is attachment security priming. Priming a state of security increases individuals’ positive feelings about the self and others (Carnelley & Rowe, 2007), leads to felt-security, positive emotion, positive care, as well as a sense of merging with another and communion (Carnelley & Rowe, 2010). Our research compares the efficacy of attachment security priming versus self-compassion priming (plus a neutral relaxation condition) on post-therapy outcomes for two CBT techniques: negative automatic thoughts and downward arrow technique. Our sample comprises clinically diagnosed affect disorder patients engaged in computerised CBT (cCBT) (Beating the Blues). cCBT is widely used to treat depression and anxiety and is effective, cost-effective, and We expect that the self-compassion prime and the security prime will improve cCBT efficacy, relative to the control prime, in terms of self-reported benefits and engagement with the CBT tasks. Importantly we also expect that the security prime will produce more benefits than the self-compassion prime. The data have clinical implications and speak to the importance of using additional interventions to maximize the positive outcomes of CBT.

Change through Attachment Based Family Therapy: A Cognitive Schema Perspective

Guy Bosmans (Catholic University Leuven)
Guy Diamond (University of Pennsylvania)

The efficacy of Attachment based family therapist has now been demonstrated in several clinical trials targeting adolescent depression and suicide. ABFT emerges from interpersonal theories
that suggest adolescent suicide can be precipitated, exacerbated, or buffered against by the quality of interpersonal relationships in families. From an attachment perspective, treatment focus on revising adolescent’s negative expectations regarding maternal care and through reshaping the parent’s beliefs and behaviors regarding the adolescent care giving needs. Treatment targets both the adolescent’s parents’ internal working models in ways that encourage attachment promoting behavior. This presentation will provide a theoretical model regarding specific processes involved in this transformation of relationships. To accomplish this, the proposed presentation has two goals. Firstly, the different components of the ABFT treatment model will be introduced and the outcome of previous intervention studies will be briefly reviewed. Secondly, mechanisms of how ABFT aims to change Internal Working Model-related will be theoretically explored. Specifically, Internal Working Models will be conceptualized as a cognitive schema and change will be conceptualized in terms of a cognitive schema theory perspective.

Roundtable

1420 Qualitative Studies of Relationships: A Dialogic Roundtable Exploring Method

Organizers: Jimmie Manning (Northern Kentucky University)
Adrianne Kunkel (University of Kansas)

As social and personal relationships scholars continue to call for a plurality of methods to be used in generating academic research (e.g., Baxter, 2011; Foster, 2008), it is clear that understanding and utilizing methods of qualitative inquiry will be key to many scholars’ research programs. As Manning (2010) recently noted, “Undoubtedly, one of the largest explosions of rich and fruitful research findings will come from increased and diversified use of qualitative methods. Relationships researchers are sorely in need of research guides and strong educative materials to aid them in finding and using qualitative approaches that allow for deeper understandings of interpersonal interaction and how relationships are constituted through communication” (p. 4). To that end, this roundtable will serve as an outlet for qualitative researchers (or those who are interested in engaging qualitative research) to discuss current issues facing qualitative studies of relationships. After a brief (five minute) introductory talk from the facilitators explaining philosophies and traditions associated with interpretivist-theoretical perspectives, four topics/questions will be used to guide discussion: How is qualitative research valuable to understanding relationships? What are some of the key differences between qualitative/interpretivist research and quantitative/post-positivist research? What are some good exemplars or methodological tools for doing our best qualitative work? How can qualitative work be best presented? What are some of the challenges involved with publishing or disseminating qualitative work? Participants will be encouraged to offer their own questions or topics, too, as time allows.
An increasing number of newly married women report experiencing a major depressive episode or disorder in the months following their wedding. We adopted a normative theoretical framework to explore decision making during the wedding planning process as one explanation for the experience of post-wedding blues. We conducted in-depth face-to-face interviews with 27 newly married women (mean age: 26 years, range: 20-33 years; average time since wedding: 7 months, range: 2-16 months). Participants also completed the Brief Symptom Inventory measure of depression. We analyzed the interview transcripts using a grounded theory approach and found that participants’ experience of postnuptial depression was related to how they made decisions in planning the wedding. First, women who described being more depressed tended to frame their wedding as “my day” and described their basis for making wedding decisions in terms of getting their way, whereas brides who reported less depression framed their wedding as “our day” (with the collective pronoun including the groom, family members, and friends) and made wedding decisions based on the goal of making everyone feel included in the process. Second, many participants reported that their goals in planning the wedding conflicted with the goals of others involved, and women who reported post-wedding depression reported that these conflicting goals were resolved in more identity- and relationally-threatening ways, whereas brides who experienced less post-wedding depression reported more satisfying resolution of conflicting goals. These results demonstrate that how decisions are made during wedding planning can affect a bride’s mental health after the wedding.

U.S. Women's Marital Surname Change by Bride's Age and State

Melanie MacEacheron (University of Western Ontario)

Hawaii, unlike any Canadian or other US jurisdiction, requires a bride to state whether she will take her husband's surname, retain her premarital surname, or hyphenate the two. Women marrying in Hawaii must also provide their date of birth and current jurisdiction of residence (state or country). Because it is popular to marry at resort destinations such as Hawaii, these marriage records include many in which the newlyweds reside elsewhere: A unique research opportunity is thus afforded. Retention or hyphenation of premarital surname among brides marrying in Hawaii in 2006 was significantly correlated with bride's home-state level of (1) average income of women and, (2) average income of men: only (1), however, was marginally-significant where both were used as regression predictors of retention or hyphenation. In the same dataset, older brides were statistically-significantly more likely to hyphenate or retain their premarital surnames. Implications for marital relationships to be discussed.
Financial Strain and Stressful Events Predict Newlyweds' Negative Communication
Independent of Relationship Satisfaction

Hannah Williamson (University of California- Los Angeles)
Benjamin Karney (University of California- Los Angeles)
Thomas Bradbury (University of California- Los Angeles)

Social-learning perspectives on intimate relationships implicate changes in communication, especially negative communication, as the primary route for improving dyadic functioning. Because recent controlled studies of therapeutic and preventive interventions have failed to produce enduring changes in couple communication, we tested the possibility that communication covaries with potent individual and contextual factors likely to constrain behavior change efforts. 414 ethnically-diverse newlywed couples were observed in their homes as they engaged in standardized social support and conflict resolution tasks. Resulting behavioral codes were examined simultaneously in relation to childhood and family-of-origin experiences, financial strain and stressful life events, depressive symptoms, and relationship satisfaction. The latent factor representing financial strain and stressful life events was the strongest predictor of observed negativity, with higher levels of stress predicting more negativity. Relationship satisfaction was the strongest correlate of observed positivity, with higher levels of satisfaction predicting more positivity. Depressive symptoms accounted for unique variability in observed negativity and positivity, often in ways that accommodated the symptoms; e.g., higher levels of wives’ depressive symptoms were associated with less husband and wife negativity. Childhood and family experiences were unrelated to behaviors. Independent of relationship satisfaction, between-couple variability in newlyweds’ negative behaviors is reliably predicted by the stresses and strains that couples experience. Recognizing the possible influence of contextual influences on relationship processes may improve relationship functioning.

Of Money and Love: Joint Banking, Engagement, and Relationship Quality in Cohabitation

Keli Steuber (University of Iowa)
Anthony Paik (University of Iowa)

This research examines whether being engaged and having a joint banking account influence relationship quality in cohabiters. Drawing on interviews with 936 young cohabiters from Wave III of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, we estimated ordinary least squares regression of relationship quality on joint banking and engagement. The main effects of joint banking and engagement on relationship quality were both significant and positive, but their interaction was negative. These results indicated that non-engaged cohabiters with joint banking have levels of relationship quality similar to engaged cohabiters, but are advantaged relative to those who are neither engaged nor share a joint bank account. The results suggest the need for increased attention to joint-banking arrangements in cohabitation.

Contextual Factors Shaping Levels and Rates of Change of Marital Warmth and Hostility in the Newlywed Years

Allen Barton (University of Georgia)
Chalandra Bryant (University of Georgia)

The present study merges two growing areas in marital research – multi-level modeling of change over time and identifying contextual factors that contribute to marital functioning. These two areas have
largely remained separate, with few growth curve studies utilizing contextual variables to predict levels and rates of change in marital functioning, and most contextual studies being cross-sectional in design. Using a sample of 245 African-American couples followed over the first three years of marriage, this study addresses this gap by examining average levels and slopes of marital warmth and hostility as well as utilizing contextual variables (neighborhood disorder, financial distress) as predictors of these growth curve parameters. Interlocking unconditional growth curves (analyses taking into account the dyadic nature of the data, without any predictors) revealed significant decreases in marital warmth and increases in marital hostility for both husbands and wives. For both spouses as well, initial levels of warmth and hostility showed significant variability between individuals; with respect to slopes, variability only significantly appeared concerning wives’ warmth. Interlocking conditional growth curves (analyses with contextual predictors) notably revealed that, for both husbands and wives, initial levels of marital warmth were significantly predicted by couple financial distress. Further, results also suggested that rates of change of wives’ marital warmth were influenced by neighborhood disorder, but not financial distress. Overall, these findings suggest different contextual variables impinge upon marriages and spouses in different ways; while some are more predictive of initial severity, others are more influential in shaping the degree of change over time.

**1422 Social Support: Motivation, Process, and Outcome**

*Social Support from an Attachment Functions Perspective*

Rebecca Bale (Deakin University)
Gery Karantzas (Deakin University)

Social support has been widely studied in the area of relationships research. Despite this, attachment theory has, in recent years, provided new insights into the role of social support during times of stress. Specifically, the extent to which individuals provide and receive safe-haven support (comfort and reassurance) and secure-base support (encouragement, communication of availability, and non-interference) during times of stress is thought to influence individual outcomes, such as distress reduction and perceptions of self-worth. However, few studies have examined the role of these different types of support in close relationships. In study 1, 63 romantically-involved participants \(M\) age = 32 years) completed an online questionnaire which included measures of attachment style and safe-haven and secure-base support provision. In study 2, 59 romantically-involved participants \(M\) age = 31.62 years) completed online self-report measures of attachment style and the receipt of safe-haven and secure-base support. In study 1, findings revealed that the provision of encouragement mediated the association between attachment anxiety and self-worth and satisfaction with the support provided; while interference mediated the association between attachment avoidance and distress reduction. Safe-haven support, on the other hand, mediated the association between attachment avoidance and self-worth and satisfaction with the support provided. In study 2, findings revealed that the receipt of encouragement, availability, and safe-haven support mediated the association between attachment anxiety and distress reduction, self-worth, and satisfaction with the support received. The implications of the role of attachment and social support in fostering positive individual outcomes will be discussed.

*A Downside to Competence? How Skilled Communicators may be Under-Benefitted in the Realm of Social Support*

Margaret Rooney (Ohio State University)
To date, little work has examined circumstances where it may be disadvantageous to be a competent communicator. One area where competent communicators may be under-benefitted is the realm of social support. Though research suggests that highly competent communicators are skilled at providing social support, perhaps there is a downside to this skill. Using Attribution Theory as a framework, this paper hypothesizes that competent communicators may be less likely to receive social support from friends because their friends do not perceive them as being in need of support, since they are skilled at providing it. Stated simply, a skilled communicator’s friends may make an ability attribution about them, and as a result do not offer as much social support. This study (in progress) utilizes a questionnaire to categorize college students as high or low in communication competence, followed by a questionnaire to understand participants’ experiences in both providing and receiving social support from friends. If responses suggest a link between high levels of competence and a lack of social support offers, further work will be done to better understand the connection. Past research on social support has found that it is important for both physical and mental well-being. If competent communicators do not receive as much support because friends assume they do not need it, they may miss out on its benefits. Additionally, less social support may result in relational dissatisfaction in friendships. This work can contribute to a better understanding of the experience of being a competent communicator.

Personal and Community Support Predicting Loneliness: Relations between Growth Curves

Jiong Yang (Iowa State University)
W. Todd Abraham (Iowa State University)
Daniel W. Russell (Iowa State University)
Carolyn E. Cutrona (Iowa State University)

Studies have consistently found an association between social support and loneliness. However, few studies have examined whether residing in a supportive neighborhood or community reduces individuals’ loneliness, especially within ethnic minority populations. Using data from the Family and Community Health Study (FACHS), we examined the impact of personal support and community support on initial level and change in loneliness over time using growth curve modeling analyses. The sample consisted of 656 African American women who were the primary caregivers of a child between the ages of 10 and 12 years when the study began in 1997. Results indicated that loneliness generally declined over the 5-year period although the slope was not significantly different from zero. Importantly, however, there was significant variability between participants in the change in loneliness, indicating that some participants tended to decrease in loneliness over time whereas others did not. Subsequent analyses showed that, after controlling for age, education and negative affect, both community and personal support significantly and negatively predicted the initial level and change in loneliness over time. Therefore, having more supportive personal networks and living in more supportive neighborhoods reduce individuals’ current loneliness and speed the decrease, or slow the increase, of loneliness over time. These results indicate that both supportive neighborhoods and desirable personal relationships serve to reduce individuals’ feelings of loneliness.

The Paradox of Support Seeking and Support Response among Sexual Minorities

Stacey Williams (East Tennessee State University)
Sheri Chandler (East Tennessee State University)

Sexual minorities report experiencing public (actual/anticipated unfair treatment) and self (internalization of negative public attitudes) stigma. In 2008, Williams and Mickelson reported that those who perceive stigma may be at risk for unsupportive behaviors from their support network. Specifically, indirect support seeking is linked with unsupportive network response (a relationship Barbee and colleagues have
outlined and tested; Cunningham and Barbee, 1995; Derlega, Winstead, Oldfield, & Barbee, 2003). And, due to fear of support rejection, those who perceived stigma use indirect rather than direct strategies when seeking support from friends and family. The present study applies this paradox to a sample of 335 sexual minorities (those who self-identify as gay or lesbian (n=220) or bisexual (n=115)) who participated in an online survey, the majority of participants were college students (60.3%) with a mean age of 29.42 (range= 18-71). Results of multiple regression analyses testing the paradox revealed that self (not public) stigma was significantly related to increased fear of support rejection (b=.16, se=.08, p<.05). In addition, fear of rejection was significantly related to increased indirect support seeking (b=.09, se=.04, p<.05) from friends and family. Finally, indirect support seeking was significantly related to increased unsupportive response from friends and family (b=.32, se=.07, p<.001). Findings highlight the relevance of the support seeking paradox for sexual minorities and the importance of self-stigma perceptions in the process. Regardless of whether sexual minorities actually experience unfair treatment from others, if they internalize negative societal attitudes, they may fear support rejection and inadvertently experience unsupportive responses.

**Autonomous and Controlled Motivations to Provide Support to the Romantic Partner**

Juan Wilson (Universidad de Chile)
María Luisa Contreras (Universidad de Chile)

Self-Determination Theory (SDT) posits that when autonomous motives for engaging an activity predominate over controlled motives, enhanced performance and personal wellbeing are expected. The present study applied SDT to identify autonomous and controlled motivations for providing support to the romantic partner. In a sample of 207 Chileans involved in a dating relationship, three autonomous and four controlled motivations were identified through theoretical reasoning and factorial analysis. Autonomous motives were the desire to benefit the relationship, the desire to benefit the partner, and the intrinsic pleasure experienced in providing support. Controlled motives were avoiding feeling guilty, complying with a moral duty, avoiding criticism from the partner, and obtaining his/her approval. Regression analysis (controlling for sex, age, and relationship duration) showed that autonomous motives were positively associated with relational commitment, satisfaction, and comforting and providing help to the partner in a non-domineering way. Controlled motivations were generally unrelated to commitment, but were negatively associated with satisfaction and positively associated with feeling overwhelmed by the partner’s needs. Autonomous and controlled motivations did not predict romantic dissolution one year later, but the stronger the autonomous motivation, the longer the relationship lasted, and the stronger the controlled motivation, the larger the incongruence between wanting the dissolution and actually acting upon that desire. These results suggest that autonomy should not be equated with an individualistic, egotistic orientation (rather, it seems the opposite), and that examining the degree of autonomy underlying the support provided to the romantic partner may enlighten our understanding of this bond.

**Responding to the Needs of Others: The Psychological, Behavioral, and Physiological Manifestations of Communal Strength**

Cynthia Khan (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Nancy Collins (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Molly Metz (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Why are some people more willing or better able to provide caring support to others in need? We suggest that one potential reason is differences in communal strength. Communal strength (CS) reflects a sense of felt responsibility for the welfare of others and a willingness to sacrifice for their benefit (Mills, Clark, Ford, & Johnson, 2004). We posited that CS could be manifested emotionally, cognitively, behaviorally,
and physiologically. In a laboratory study of couples ($N = 84$) in which we manipulated the stress condition (easy vs. difficult serial-subtraction task) for one member while the other member observed, we hypothesized that relative to observers with low CS, observers with high CS would (1) be more concerned about their partner, experience more distraction from their own task, and exhibit stronger cardiovascular and neuroendocrine responses during their partner’s stress task, and (2) provide more emotional support and feel better about providing support after their partner’s stress task. In addition, we expected these differences between observers to be amplified in the difficult (versus easy) stress condition, when their partner was presumably in greater need of support. Preliminary findings from self-report measures indicate that observers with high CS experienced greater distraction, provided more emotional support, and felt more positively about providing support regardless of stress condition. Scoring of physiological data is currently underway. Overall, our preliminary findings suggest that CS manifests itself in different ways to mobilize and shape responsiveness to the needs of close others.

Symposia

1423 New Developments in the Actor Partner Interdependence Model

Convener: David Kenny (University of Connecticut)

Mediation Effects in the Actor Partner Interdependence Model

Thomas Lederman (University of Basel)
David Kenny (University of Connecticut)

Using an extended version of the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model, the estimation and testing of mediation is complex, especially when dyad members are distinguishable (e.g., heterosexual couples). That complexity of the model can be reduced by assuming specific dyadic patterns. Using Structural Equation Modeling, and it is shown how specific mediating effects and contrasts among effects can be tested by phantom models that permit point and bootstrap interval estimates.

Moderation Effects in the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model

Randi Garcia (University of Connecticut)
Thomas Ledermann (University of Basel)
David Kenny (University of Connecticut)

Moderators of the actor and partner effects of the Actor Partner Interdependence Model (APIM) include variables that are within-dyads, between-dyads, and mixed. Moreover, dyads can be indistinguishable as well as distinguishable. For each, moderator effects that can be estimated (up to eight), and their interpretation and how they can be tested are presented. Also discussed are submodels, based on patterns of moderation of the actor and partner effects, which are simpler, more conceptually meaningful, and more powerful tests.

Hidden Distinguishability and the APIM

David Kenny (University of Connecticut)
Thomas Ledermann (University of Basel)
Normally in dyadic research when dyad members are distinguishable (e.g., husband and wife or patient and caregiver), the variable that distinguishes them is measured. However, it is possible to conceptualize that there is a distinguishing variable, but that variable is unmeasured. For instance, one of the two members may have more influence and so the partner effect from that person to the other might be stronger than the partner effect that goes the other way. A method for estimating hidden distinguishability is presented as well as an example. Also discussed are ways of making theoretical sense of the hidden distinguishing variable.

Overtime Data with the Actor Partner Interdependence Model

Deborah Kashy (Michigan State University)

Modeling over-time effects using the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (APIM) can be complex. Growth models and lagged models can both be estimated from an APIM framework, and both have important methodological and statistical challenges. This talk briefly introduces these two types of over-time models for distinguishable data and considers estimation and testing of fixed and random effects using multilevel modeling.

1424 Attachment and the Development of Emotional Disturbances from Middle Childhood to Late Adolescence

Convener: Guy Bosmans (Catholic University Leuven)

Attachment Anxiety Mediates the Link between Attachment-related Attributions and Depression in Middle Childhood

Eva Vandevivere (Ghent University)
Guy Bosmans (KU Leuven)
Caroline Braet (Ghent University)

Attachment is linked with depression; however the mechanism behind this relationship is unclear. Children confronted with distress are assumed to make a first appraisal of the availability of attachment figures. Expected unavailability forces a decision about the viability of proximity seeking as a means of coping with distress. This decision results in two different possible secondary attachment strategies, namely attachment anxiety and avoidance. These secondary strategies in turn affect the coping with distressing events and make children more at risk for developing depression. Research has shown that children’s expectations regarding their mother’s availability are characterized by negative interpretations of her behavior. We want to investigate if less secure interpretations of mother’s behavior are linked with depressive symptoms and if this relation is mediated by attachment anxiety and avoidance using a non-parametric resampling approach. In this presentation, data of 122 adolescents (Mean age=12 years, SD=.4; 56%female) will be presented. Children filled out the Child Depression Inventory, the Expectations of Close Relationships-Revised Child version and a new measure to investigate children’s attributions of potentially insensitive maternal behavior. Results confirm that less secure interpretations are associated with increased depression. Moreover, these interpretations are linked with attachment anxiety and avoidance and both attachment scales are linked with depressive symptoms. Finally, the association between less secure interpretations and depressive symptoms is fully mediated by the insecure attachment scales. To conclude, children who interpret mother’s behavior as more insecure are more at risk to develop depressive symptoms and this association is explained by insecure attachment dimensions.
Insecure Attachment and Fear Acquisition in Middle Childhood

Adinda Dujardin (KU Leuven)
Guy Bosmans (KU Leuven)
Elske Salemink (University of Amsterdam)
Andy Field (University of Sussex)

Parents exert influence on the acquisition of fear in their children. Previous research demonstrates that one way in which parents affect childhood fear is through verbal transmission of threatening information. However, it is less clear why some children are more susceptible for verbal threat learning than others. Therefore, the current study aims at investigating the role of attachment in explaining fear acquisition in children, by studying the influence of verbal threat information for novel stimuli on both fear cognitions and avoidance behavior. For this purpose, 60 general population children (aged 10-13) first completed the Experience of Close Relationship Questionnaire – Revised Child version (ECR-RC), and the Fear Beliefs Questionnaire (FBQ) regarding two unknown animals. Next, mother was asked to give the child threatening information about one of these animals. After this, the child completed the FBQ and the Search for Additional Information Scale (SAIS) for both animals. Finally, children’s behavioral avoidance of both animals was measures using a Touch Box Task: children were told it contained the actual animal and were asked to put their hand in the box to touch the animal. Results revealed that negative information provided by mother influenced fear beliefs and information seeking strategies about the animal. But more importantly, while attachment did not correlate with changes in these cognitive measures, more anxiously attached children were less inclined to put their hand in the box of the threatening animal. This supports the idea that attachment plays a role in fear acquisition through verbal learning.

Attachment Anxiety, Attachment Avoidance, and the Regulation of Different Types of Emotions throughout Adolescence

Katrijn Brenning (Ghent University)
Caroline Braet (Ghent University)

According to Shaver and Mikulincer’s Emotion Regulation (ER) model of attachment, attachment representations are closely intertwined with individuals’ ER and subsequent adjustment. Specifically, the model predicts that attachment anxiety and avoidance are related to hyperactivation and deactivation of emotions, respectively. In our research, we attempt to add to research on this model in three ways, that is, (a) by examining perceived parental responsivenes and autonomy-support as antecedents of attachment and subsequent ER, (b) by examining whether ER strategies mediate between attachment representations and depressive symptoms, (c) by examining whether the hypothesized associations between attachment and ER strategies apply across different types of emotions (sadness and anger in particular). Two cross-sectional studies (N = 339 and N = 197) and one longitudinal study (N = 746 on Time 1) with early adolescents provided evidence for the ER model of attachment. Attachment anxiety and avoidance were specifically related to hyperactivation and deactivation, respectively, which in turn mediated at least partly associations between attachment and depressive symptoms. Some associations differed by type of emotion, however, such that attachment avoidance for instance was related to deactivation of sadness, yet to hyperactivation of anger. The dimensions of perceived parenting were differentially related to the two attachment dimensions, with responsiveness being particularly related to avoidance and with autonomy-support being particularly related to anxiety. Cross-lagged longitudinal analyses showed that both associations between parenting and attachment and associations between attachment and ER strategies are reciprocal in nature, although attachment representations appear to drive most of the effects.
Behavioral Inhibition Partially Mediates the Link between Attachment Anxiety and Depression in Young Adults

David Bowles (Sheffield Hallam University)

It has been well established that attachment anxiety is linked with depression, with empirical evidence provided in data from samples of children, adolescents and adults. Attachment anxiety has also been shown to explain the link between depression and maladaptive behaviours, such as excessive reassurance seeking. Most explanations have focused on socio-cognitive factors including negative relationship models of self, such as the belief that the self is unlovable, self-criticism, more general low self-esteem, and a negatively biased social information processing tendency. Few, if any, studies to date have attempted to investigate temperamental explanations for the link between depression and attachment anxiety. Behavioral inhibition is a useful temperamental candidate as it is both linked with vulnerability to the onset of depression, and is particularly heightened in individuals with attachment anxiety. It leads individuals to be especially sensitive to threat, and has been shown to predict emotional sensitivity to relationship threat. Conceivably, then, individual differences in temperamental behavioural inhibition might at least partially explain the shared variance between attachment anxiety and depression. The current study investigated just such a hypothesis in a sample of 83 17-20 yr-olds. Bootstrapped multiple mediation analysis showed that there was a significant indirect effect of attachment anxiety on depression via behavioural inhibition. The direct relationship between attachment anxiety and depression remained significant, however, indicating that behavioural inhibition and attachment anxiety are not redundant predictors of depression. The implications for considering temperamental vulnerabilities in addition to socio-cognitive factors in depression among anxiously attached individuals will be discussed.

3:45-5:00

Poster Session 5: Abstracts on pp. 244-264

Panel Sessions

1425 Emotion in Close Relationships

Daily Emotion Suppression and Over-expression in Romantic Relationships

Courtney Gosnell (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Shelly Gable (University of California, Santa Barbara)

In a daily experience study of forty-four couples (N=88), we examined the effects of two emotion regulation strategies—suppression (showing less emotion than one feels) and overexpression (showing more emotion than one feels). We assessed felt and expressed positive and negative emotions in romantic couples’ daily interactions. We found the more often individuals reported expressing the same level of emotions to their partners that they felt (positive or negative), the more they and their partners reported higher relationship satisfaction, life satisfaction, and self-esteem. In contrast, the use of overexpression and suppression of either positive or negative emotions was associated with poorer relationship and personal outcomes for the individual and partner. Also, the magnitude of suppression was significantly associated with poorer outcomes. Overall, displaying felt emotions to a romantic partner seems optimal, whereas suppression and overexpression of emotions is associated with negative consequences for the self and partner.
Responsive Touch as an Interpersonal Emotion Regulation Process in the Daily Life of Couples: The Mediating Role of Intimacy

Anik Debrot (University of Zuerich)
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Interpersonal touch has great importance in interactions throughout the life-span. It has a particular significance for couples. Recently, it has been shown to be associated with better health. Holt-Lunstad and colleagues (2008) showed that a “warm touch” couple intervention positively influences physiological stress-sensitive parameters. However, little is known about the psychological mechanisms that could explain the association between touch and health. The present study investigates the effect of nonsexual touch (hug, caress, etc.) on the mood of romantic partners in their daily life, postulating that displaying responsive, caring touch to the partner has a mood enhancing effect. As responsive touch signalize care and affection to the partner, its effect on mood is expected to occur because touch strengthens the bonds between the partners. Both partners of 102 dating heterosexual couples completed simultaneously an electronic diary questionnaire four times a day during one week. Multilevel analysis revealed that showing responsive touch is associated with concurrent or directly following enhanced partner’s mood. This effect is mediated by increased touch receiver’s intimacy toward the partner. This indicates that the benefits of touch can not be reduced to its mere physiological effects but that quality of the relationship is determinant. Additional analyses showed that the total amount of daily touch at Time 1 was associated with enhanced partner’s psychological well-being six months later. Physical closeness leading to psychological closeness and in turn to positive affect and well-being could be an additional explanation of the association between positive relationships and health.

The Way You Make Me Feel: Relationship Goal Orientation and Daily Emotional Experiences in Romantic Relationships

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Research by Crocker and Canevello (2008) has investigated two types of relationship goals, compassionate goals and self-image goals. Compassionate goals lead to behavior motivated by a desire to support those around one’s self, whereas self-image goals produce behavior with an intent to enhance one’s image. The current study examines how these goals relate to the daily experience of emotion in romantic relationships. Participants were 40 heterosexual romantic couples who completed one-time measures of romantic compassionate and self-image goals and a daily diary over a 14-day period. Participants recorded how their relationships made them feel as well as their general relationship and need satisfaction (as proposed by Self-Determination Theory). Given the interdependence of the data (Kenny, 1995), a series of multilevel random coefficient modeling analyses revealed that participants had more positive emotions to the extent that they and their partner had higher compassionate goals but more negative emotions (e.g., uncertainty, ineffectiveness) to the extent that they had higher self-image goals. Further, the relationship between daily emotions and relationship and need satisfaction was moderated by both self and partner compassionate and self-image goals. The results of the study suggest that the goals one has in their intimate relationships have implications not only for their daily emotional experiences but also for the effect that these emotions have on daily indicators of relationship well-being.
“Because I Want a Response from Him”: Jealousy Expression and Reasons for Use of Particular CRJs

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The current investigation examines specific instances of romantic jealousy expression via retrospective self-report. The study offers a unique look at jealousy expression and its connection to a wide variety of relationship variables, sampling from a range of ages and relationship types, and utilizing both qualitative and quantitative analysis. Participants (N = 654) ranged in age from 18 to 77 years (mean age = 26.5) and had been in their current relationship for an average of 6 years (ranging from 1 month to 52 years). The sample was comprised of married (32%), engaged (5%), and dating (63%) individuals in an attempt to examine potentially important relationship factors such as investment, commitment, and relationship length. In addition, 22% of the sample reported being in a long-distance relationship. Respondents were asked to describe an actual jealousy event in their current relationship via a series of open-ended questions, focusing on any relevant background information, their specific communicative response to the event, and their reasoning for their own behavior. Data were then coded for type(s) of jealousy expression (based on Guerrero & Andersen’s (1998) Communicative Responses to Jealousy typology). Participants’ reasons were also coded, and then analyzed for recurring themes and connections to specific CRJs. Results revealed five categories of reasons, and a myriad of connections between reasons and specific CRJs. Furthermore, reasons and CRJs were associated with relationship factors including satisfaction, commitment, and investment, as well as with relationship length and relationship status.

Positive and Negative Emotions in Interaction among Close Friends

Intan Hashim (Universiti Sains Malaysia)
Norzarina Mohd Zaharim (Universiti Sains Malaysia)

Thirty pairs of self-identified close friends took part in the study. They were university students from Malaysia. Participants were presented with 15 descriptions of emotional states (e.g., cheerfulness, thankfulness, sadness, frustration) and were asked to report how frequently their friend invoked these feelings in them. They were also asked to describe the events or situations leading to the emotions, their reactions to these events or emotions and how the emotional states ended. The main objective of the study was to examine the occurrence of emotionally-discharged events in day-to-day interactions among close friends. Positive emotions (e.g., happiness, appreciated, loved) invoked by positive events were reported to occur more frequently compared to negative emotions (e.g., hurt, frustration) and negative events. Negative emotions were not resolved openly but rather were left alone until things turned back to normal. Culture may play an important role in how emotions were expressed and resolved in close relationships.

1426 Aspects of Marital and Family Functioning

The Moderating Role of Family Communication Standards on the Relationship Between Family Communication Patterns and Family Satisfaction

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Ryan Hansen (The University of Texas at Austin)
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While a large body of research explores how patterns of communication in families are related to information-processing, behavioral, and psychosocial outcomes, little is known about the communication-based constructs that link family communication patterns to individuals’ mental well-being or evaluations of their families. Thus, this study explored how holding certain family communication standards and having those standards unmet or exceeded influences the relationship between family communication patterns and family satisfaction. The moderating effect of family communication patterns was tested with two models; the first posited that simply endorsing certain standards is related to satisfaction (distressful ideals hypothesis), whereas the second model posited that the degree to which standards are met (or not) influences satisfaction (unmet ideals hypothesis). Results provided some support for the unmet ideals hypothesis, but did not provide any support for the distressful ideals hypothesis. Simply endorsing a standard neither impacted the positive association between conversation orientation and satisfaction, nor influenced the negative association between conformity orientation and satisfaction. Specifically, the discrepancies in the standards of openness, regular routine interaction, mindreading, dominance, and politeness moderated the positive relationship between conversation orientation and family satisfaction; individuals who reported their standards were exceeded were more satisfied than were those who felt their standards were met or unmet. The mindreading standard moderated the negative association between conversation orientation and family satisfaction, though the relationship between conformity orientation and family satisfaction was positive when families exceeded individuals’ mindreading ideals. Theoretical implications are discussed.

Perceptions of Responsiveness and Control in Husbands' and Wives' Marital and Parental Communication

Roi Estlein (Rutgers University)
Jennifer Theiss (Rutgers University)

An extensive review of the marital and parental literatures reveals that parallel conceptual dimensions underlie both spousal and parent-child interaction; namely, communication of responsiveness and communication of control. Drawing on the theoretical foundations of Fitzpatrick’s (1988) marital typology and Baumrind’s (1967, 1971) parenting styles typology, the current study examines perceptions of responsiveness and control in husbands’ and wives’ marital and parental communication. Specifically, this study predicts that the more responsive an individual is with their spouse, the more responsive he or she is with their child, and that the more control he or she demonstrates with their spouse, the more control they employ with their child. To test the hypotheses, the authors conducted a cross-sectional dyadic study in which 51 heterosexual couples who were parents to a 3-6 year old child completed questionnaires about their perceptions of their marital practices and the characteristics of their parenting. The data were analyzed using multi-level modeling, which is designed to accommodate nonindependent data. Results revealed that perceived marital responsiveness is positively associated with perceived parental responsiveness; however, perceived marital control is not significantly associated with perceived parental control. Thus, results suggest that when it comes to messages of control, individuals may perceive their communication practices differently under different family roles with different family members. The lack of association between marital and parental perceptions of control may reflect different expectations with regard to the appropriate use of power within family subsystems.

Family Functioning: Her Perception and His Perception

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Lourdes Cortes Ayala (Autonomous University of Yucatan)
Sofia Rivera Aragon (National Autonomous University of Mexico)
Family functioning is a complex process that involves the person, the family, and the culture. It plays a key role to confront and overcome the normative and non-normative events of the individual, as well as family resistance to stress and adaptation (Boss, 2002; Walsh, 2004). Studies show the close link between family functioning and the person’s health and development (Arnett, 2008), marital conflict and problematic behavior of children (Sigda, 2000), infidelity (Díaz-Loving, 2005), among others. This study aimed to explore the perception of family functioning in men and women. A sample of 213 participants (86 men and 137 women) from Mérida, Yucatán was selected through non-probability sampling; all of them had a partner and two children on average. Participants completed the Escala de Funcionamiento Familiar (Family Functioning Scale) (Palomar, 1998), which consists of 51 statements with five response options ranging from never (1) to always (5). It measures the following dimensions: shared time, roles and domestic work, autonomy-independence, organization, authority and power; physical and verbal violence, communication, cohesion, lack of rules and support, and relationship. Results show that there is a positive perception of family functioning. The analysis of gender differences as well as the intercorrelations between factors are presented. Finally, these findings are discussed from ethnopsychology Mexican studies of couples.

Values, Closeness, Living Arrangements, and Interactions in Malaysian Families

Norzarina Mohd Zaharim (Universiti Sains Malaysia)
Intan H. M. Hashim (Universiti Sains Malaysia)

Modernization and globalization theories assume that families are changing in many countries. In developing countries it is assumed that family values and roles become less traditional, family networks become less extended, family relations become less close, and family residence becomes more urban. The study explored traditional values, emotional distance, living arrangements, and interactions in Malaysian families. Participants were undergraduate students in Malaysia (N = 391; M age = 21.96; SD = 1.19) who responded to the Family Questionnaire (Georgas, Berry, Pavlopoulos, Mylonas, & Giotsa, 2010). Findings showed that a large majority of the participants held traditional family values. They lived nearest to their parents, followed by siblings and grandparents. They saw and communicated most frequently with their mothers, followed by fathers, siblings, and grandparents. They were also emotionally closest to their mothers, followed by fathers, siblings, and grandparents. Interestingly, the participants reported being closer to their parents and siblings than to their girl/boyfriends and close friends. There were significant effects of gender on closeness to fathers and residence with fathers. There were also significant effects of ethnicity and parental marital status on traditional family values, closeness to fathers and mothers, residence with fathers and mothers, frequency of seeing fathers and mothers, and frequency of communicating with fathers. There were no significant effects of gender, ethnicity, and parental marital status on closeness with siblings and grandparents and frequency of seeing siblings and grandparents. Findings of this study are discussed within the frameworks of cultural identity as well as modernization and globalization theories.

An Appraisal-Centered Model of Family Stress and Coping

Katheryn Maguire (Wayne State University)

Theoretical examinations of family stress and coping have a rich history, beginning with Hill’s ABC-X Model of Family Crisis and continuing with Patterson and McCubbin’s Double ABC-X Model of Family Adjustment and Adaptation and Boss’ Contextual Model of Family Stress. These models highlight the complex, dynamic nature of family life by demonstrating how a stressor(s) interacts with a family’s resources, past and present coping efforts, and appraisals to influence family and individual stress as well as potential outcomes of the coping process (e.g., crisis, distress, adaptation). Whereas the models have
significantly advanced our understanding of stress and coping in families, they fall short of offering a comprehensive approach by failing to account for how families cope with chronic stressors in the family life, and for equating family coping with effectiveness and adaptation, essentially confounding the two processes. Informed by research from within the communication discipline, an updated model of stress and coping in the family system is offered that builds upon previous models in three important ways. First, it places the appraisal process at the centre of the model to explain how coping, resources, and outcomes can become sources of stress, as well as when expressions of family distress may be the first indication of a problem. Second, it provides further elaboration as to how the components of the model interact with one another and the communicative processes that occur within each component. Third, it allows for the examination of both acute and chronic stressors in the family system.

Examining the Association between Personality Pathology and Marital Functioning: Use of Experience Sampling Methodology to Understand Daily Processes

Susan South (Purdue University)
Sarah Myers (Purdue University)
Amber Jarnecke (Purdue University)

Previous research has demonstrated the negative impact of personality pathology on marital functioning. In a recent, South and colleagues (2008) found that a summary score of all DSM-IV personality disorder (PD) symptoms was negatively related to own- and partner-report of marital satisfaction, verbal conflict, and physical aggression. Of the individual PDs, borderline and dependent PD were significantly related to lower satisfaction and greater verbal aggression. What is still unknown, however, is why personality disorders are so detrimental for the marital relationship. The current analyses report on the results of a study aimed at examining more micro-level processes between PDs and marital functioning. Specifically, the current project utilized experience sampling methodology (ESM, or daily diary), as this method is particularly appropriate for identifying ways in which distal individual differences variables (like personality pathology) can impact more proximal relationship behaviors and outcomes. A community sample of newly married couples was recruited for a longitudinal study of personality and well-being. The current analyses focus on data from the first wave, collected during a baseline assessment within one year of marriage. Both members of the couple separately completed a variety of self- and spouse-report measures of personality pathology, relationship satisfaction, intimacy, and conflict. Participants then completed a one-week diary study that assessed daily communication and conflict behaviors. HLM analyses are used to examine personality pathology as a predictor of daily verbal and nonverbal behaviors, conflict, support and intimacy. Findings are discussed with regard to understanding the mechanisms behind the associations between personality pathology and marital functioning.

1427 Nontraditional/Unconventional Relationships: Quality and Circumstances

The Qualities of Dating, Cohabiting, and Married Relationships: Are Same-Sex Couples Any Different from Opposite-Sex Couples?

Kara Joyner (Bowling Green State University)
Wendy Manning (Bowling Green State University)
Ryan Bogle (Bowling Green State University)

The relationship landscape of young adults in the United States has been considerably transformed in recent decades and there are several indicators of this transformation. Most notably, the average at
marriage is at a historic highpoint (i.e., 28.2 for men and 26.1 for women), resulting in an expanded period of singlehood to form and dissolve romantic partnerships. In spite of the fact that men and women have more opportunity to spend time in romantic relationships than ever before, population-based studies continue to focus on the qualities of opposite-sex co-residential relationships. The most recent data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) offer researchers an unprecedented opportunity to examine the full spectrum of relationships that men and women now experience in young adulthood. Importantly, Add Health used state of the art survey methods to target individuals in relationships (i.e., computer-assisted self interviews and romantic/sexual relationship rosters). Add Health also benefits from its large sample and its recent fielding; there are sizeable numbers of all relationship types. In the proposed paper, we will present findings based on comparisons of respondents who are opposite-sex single, opposite-sex cohabiting, opposite-sex married, same-sex single, and same-sex cohabiting. We will also distinguish respondents who are in gay and lesbian relationships. We will compare these respondents in terms of several relationship qualities, including indicators of stability, quality, and sexuality. We will examine differences in these indicators before and after including a set of control variables (e.g., demographic characteristics and homogamy).

“The Tortoise and the Hare”: Sexual Orientation and Gender Differences in the Duration of Sexual Activity within Same-Sex and Mixed-Sex Relationships

Karen Blair (Queen's University)
Caroline Pukall (Queen's University)

Research has found that, on average, gay male couples have sex more often than heterosexual couples, who, in turn, have sex more often than lesbians. These findings are sometimes interpreted as evidence of colloquialisms such as ‘lesbian bed death’, but the majority of research in this area has focused on issues surrounding sexual frequency and exclusivity, rather than on more subjective aspects of a couple’s sexual relationship. The current analysis sought to examine the self-reported duration of sexual activity within mixed-sex and same-sex relationships, as an alternate method of examining the “quantity” of sexual behaviour in relationships. Participants (N=784) in a larger study on same-sex and mixed-sex couples provided the duration of their last sexual encounter as well as their average sexual encounter. Sexual orientation emerged as a significant predictor of the duration of sexual activity, with those in same-sex relationships spending nearly twice as much time in an individual sexual encounter as those in mixed-sex relationships. Lesbian women reported the longest durations of sexual activity, with 24% reporting that their last sexual encounter with their partner lasted at least one hour, compared to 6.6% of heterosexual women reporting the same. The association between sexual orientation and duration of sexual encounters remained significant after controlling for other variables, such as age, and similar results were found when comparing gay and heterosexual men. This paper will discuss the implications of these findings for understanding the sexual relationships in mixed-sex and same-sex couples within the context of existing (and possibly misinformed) research.

SW (Women who have Sex with Women) and Sexual Talk with Family, Friends, and Health Care Providers: A Pilot Study

Sandra Faulkner (Bowling Green State University)

Communication with family members and heath care providers about sex, sexuality, and health is an important area of study given the implications for sexual and relational health. However, homophobia and misconceptions about STI transmission have led to a dearth of research focused on women who have sex with women (WSW) and their communication practices about sex. This study used a pilot survey and in-depth on-line interviews with WSW to fill this gap through an examination of how WSW communicate
with their peers, families, and health care providers about sexuality. The questions focused on what conversations WSW are having and how they feel about these conversations. Findings indicate an overall desire to talk about sex openly and honestly, though many respondents feel unable to do so. In general, participants reported that the facilitation of safer sex requires more education on the parts of both the WSW community and health care providers. They also indicated the necessity of having conversations about sex that were light-hearted in tone and free of shaming or judgment. The results of this study open up new possibilities for future research of WSW and their sexual and relational health.

An Act of Naming: Abusive Lesbian Relationships

Michelle Millard (Wayne State University)

This is an investigation into violence and abuse against women that specifically focuses on lesbian relationships. Both historically and currently, the majority of the research done on violence against women is from the heterosexual perspective (male-as-perpetrator and female-as-victim). Therefore, there is limited knowledge about abusive lesbian relationships. Resulting in a lack of pre-existing and legitimized language and vocabulary available to victims/survivors, researchers, and the lesbian community: to name/recognize the violence and abuse they experience as such, to find/utilize support services, to educate their own and larger communities of violence and abuse perpetuated by women toward women, and to possibly survive violence and abuse within their intimate relationships. Critical feminist theories are utilized to address both issues of power and the act of naming to construct knowledge and authority over one’s experiences. The language available to lesbians to narrate their lived experiences is a tool that is lacking specificity and authority for them, because language is controlled and heavily influenced by the male and heterosexual perspectives. Neither of which translate in the empowerment of a lesbian woman to articulate her experiences of female perpetrated violence. Furthermore, there are several barriers, which generate challenges in how, lesbian women view/articulate their experiences of victimization in abusive relationships: homophobia, the heteronormative bias, the denial of abuse by both lesbian and heterosexual communities, and institutional oppression(s). Ultimately, resulting in a lack of support services, LGBTQI training of service personnel, intervention programs, and/or prevention education for an already susceptible and marginalized population.

Heterosexual Romantic Relationships, Social, Emotional and Sexual Needs, and Quality of Life in Prison

Rodrigo Carcedo (University of Salamanca)
Daniel Perlman (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)
Felix Lopez (University of Salamanca)
Begoña Orgaz (University of Salamanca)

The purpose of this study was to investigate the moderating effect of having vs. not having a heterosexual romantic partner inside the prison on the relationship between interpersonal needs and quality of life. In-person interviews were conducted with 55 male and 64 female inmates from the Topas Penitentiary (Spain). Higher levels of social loneliness and lower levels of sexual satisfaction were associated with lower levels of quality of life. In addition, the interaction between sexual satisfaction and romantic partner status was significant. Higher levels of sexual satisfaction were associated with higher levels of quality of life only for the group without a partner. These findings support a “bad is stronger than good” principle and indicate the detrimental aspects that can be associated with not having a satisfactory sexual life while incarcerated.
Communication Multiplexity: Implications of Social Media for Maintaining Social Relationships

Yuli Patrick Hsieh (Northwestern University)

Research looking at how information and communication technologies (ICTs) may shape people’s social connectivity has developed a communication multiplexity perspective, arguing that people tend to use multiple media to communicate with their personal networks. Although prior work has pointed out that relational closeness between interaction partners is positively associated with using multiple means of communication for sustaining the relationship less attention has been paid to identifying how individuals may differentiate their media choices for various types of relationships in their interpersonal environments. For example, individuals may regularly see their family and friends in person, talk and send texts to them via the phone, and check their status updates on social media; but they may be in touch with another group of close friends simply by emails and phone calls. At the same time, individuals may only exchange emails and phone calls with co-workers when necessary. By analyzing survey data collected from a diverse group of young adults about their regular contacts, including friends, relatives, and coworkers in their personal networks, this study investigates how people use different sets of media to connect with different contacts. More interestingly, whether such differentiated usage patterns are related to different characteristics of ICTs. This paper contributes to the literature by empirically exploring how users engage in communication multiplexity for maintaining social relationships. Additionally, this study examines whether individuals become more dependent on social media for relationship maintenance, given that they have become increasingly pervasive in the everyday life.

Leveraging Communication Technologies to Connect:
College Students’ Courtship Rituals

Kiley Larson (University of California - Irvine)

From gentleman suitors asking parental permission to call upon their daughters, to sexting, courtship in America has gone through substantial changes in the last century (Bogle, 2008). Relationships have become multimodal, meaning they are conducted through multiple media simultaneously, as individuals incorporate communication technologies into their relationship practices (Walther & Parks, 2002). To adapt to our current media saturated environment, norms for appropriate relational behaviors are being (re)constructed (Gershon, 2010). In order to better understand how the use of PCTs is shaping young adult courtship rituals this project investigated patterns of and expectations for PCT use in romantic relationships. This project employed a mixed method design. During phase one, 37 semi-structured, in-depth interviews were conducted with college students. During phase two, a quantitative survey developed based upon the qualitative findings was administered. Participants reported incorporating PCTs into their romantic relationships across levels of relational development. Results indicate that participants most often met potential romantic/sexual partners face-to-face and then moved into a combination of face-to-face and mediated communication. Texting was most likely to be used across relationship stage, while there were significant differences between texting and phone calling in less developed relationships.
this difference was not present in stable relationships. Media switching, particularly from texting to phoning, was seen as a relational turning point. Deviations from normative expectations about media use were met with social censure, suggesting that communicative competence extends to media choice and message production, and is important to relationship formation.

Reconnection: Using social media at midlife to regenerate relationships

Kelly Quinn (University of Illinois at Chicago)

An underlying assumption of relational maintenance practices is that a relationship is currently active. Yet of the thousands of relationship ties an individual accumulates over a lifetime, at any given time only a limited number are currently active (Hill and Dunbar, 2003), suggesting that the majority of one’s ties are inactive or dormant. Dormant ties are those that were once operational but have lapsed under the stressors of time, distance and circumstance, such as relationships between former college friends, neighbors, or work colleagues. Reconnection is the process by which these dormant ties become active again, and due to the shared history of the relationship, is a form of relationship maintenance. By definition, dormant relationships represent a bridge to an individual’s past: the pre-existing nature of the relationships underscores a temporality to the connections, invoking both the life trajectories of the individuals involved and the cyclicality of the underlying relationships. Because of a shared history, these connections can be reactivated at a significantly accelerated pace to serve as sources of social, informational and emotional support (Levin, Walter and Murnighan, 2010). The widespread availability of internet communication technologies such as search engines, email and social network sites has made the reconnection process more efficient and accurate. This study presents findings from interviews with midlife adults on how social media is leveraged to enhance and support reconnection as a relationship maintenance practice, extending scholarship on the ways in which media use in relationships differs at varying points in the life course.

We had a "Text Fight": Understanding the Role of Technology-mediated Communication in Romantic Couple Conflict

Lauren Scissors (Northwestern University)

Though communication technologies have become ubiquitous in today’s society, little is known about the role of text-based communication technologies (e.g., email, text-messaging, instant messenger) in romantic couple conflict. For instance, research on topics such as the likelihood of initiating a conflict, rumination about a conflict, or even demand/withdraw patterns does not typically examine how a couple’s communication medium might influence the nature of the conflict. Through a series of in-depth interviews (N=24) in which participants in romantic dating relationships discussed past relational conflicts, this exploratory study examines the role of communication technologies during three general stages of conflict: conflict initiation, conflict discussion, and conflict resolution. Results reveal that individuals have a number of motivations to use technology-mediated communication and that the affordances or characteristics of different communication technologies can both minimize and exacerbate conflicts. Also, while the majority of research on romantic couple conflict examines conflict through one form of communication, this study explores how couples “channel switch,” or move between forms of mediated and face-to-face communication throughout a conflict. Participants described a variety of channel switching patterns and revealed multiple motivations for channel switching, including minimizing frustration, managing emotions, and repairing hurt feelings. By identifying how and why individuals channel switch during a conflict, we can begin to understand which communication patterns are most conducive for conflict resolution and for other forms of relational maintenance.
Interest Group Meeting

1429 Reaching a Mass Audience: Exciting Developments in Making Relationship Research Accessible to All

Organizers: Bjarne Holmes (Champlain College)
Gian Gonzaga (eHarmony Labs)
Wind Goodfriend (Buena Vista University)
Jennifer Harman (Colorado State University)
Benjamin Le (Haverford College)
Gary Lewandowski (Monmouth University)
Tim Loving (University of Texas at Austin)
Debra Mashek (Harvey Mudd College)
Terri Orbuch (Oakland University)

Sponsored by the IARR Media Relations Committee and SAGE

A recent analysis concluded that advice about relationships found in traditional media outlets is often incongruent with scholarship published in peer-reviewed journals (Holmes & Johnson, 2009). Relationship scientists, cautious about having their work misconstrued, have been reluctant to engage with mass media. However, recent technology allows researchers to bypass traditional media outlets and communicate directly with mass audiences through websites, social-media, podcasts, desktop publishing, etc. Numerous IAAR members have developed exciting projects that serve the mission of distributing quality peer-reviewed research and evidence-based advice directly to mass audiences in a manner accessible, comprehensible, and useful to all. This Interest Group Meeting brings together representatives from several such recent projects to share their experiences. Some examples are ScienceOfRelationships.com (a website bringing relationship knowledge to a broad audience), Relationship Matters (official podcast series of JSPR), The Love Doctor (with column appearing in Huffington Post), and Love by the Numbers (column in Psychology Today). The Chair of IAAR’s Media Relations Committee will lead an initial panel-member presentation/discussion of these projects and others. This will be followed by a moderated panel and audience participatory discussion – exploring the ethics of sharing (vs. not) research knowledge with mass audiences, tips for how to get involved in ongoing projects or start a new one, and advice on how to use mass communication as a tool for the advancement of your career. We aim to be as inclusive as possible and hope discussions will inspire fellow IAAR colleagues to feel compelled to begin communicating with mass audiences.
Panel Sessions

1501 Idealization

Absence - and a Few Other Things - Makes the Heart Grow Fonder: Clarifying the Predictors of Idealization in Long-distance Relationships

Nicholas Brody (The University of Texas at Austin)

Studies have found that individuals in long-distance relationships (LDRs) – even those with limited opportunities for interacting face to face (FtF) – are able to initiate and maintain satisfying relationships. In fact, LDR partners often report levels of relational satisfaction, adjustment, and love that exceed comparable geographically close relationships (e.g. Stafford & Reske, 1990; Stafford & Merolla, 2006). The tendency to report overly positive outcomes in LDRs has been described as idealization. Additionally, due to geographic distance, LDR partners typically utilize mediated communication technology for interaction purposes (Dainton & Aylor, 2002). The hyperpersonal perspective of computer-mediated communication (CMC) contends that there are several unique characteristics of mediated interaction, such as strategic self-presentation, which may lead to inflated, idealized impressions (Walther, 1996). This study applied previous research on LDRs and the hyperpersonal model to examine the unique predictors of idealization in LDRs. A total of 188 participants (94 couples) currently involved in long-distance romantic relationships participated in an online survey. Time spent apart from a relational partner moderated the relationship between mediated communication frequency and partner idealization. Results of an actor-partner interdependence model (APIM) indicated that male strategic self-presentation predicted female idealization of his male partner, and female strategic self-presentation predicted male idealization of his female partner. Overall, the study extends previous research showing higher levels of idealization in LDRs by examining the unique predictors of such elevated relational perceptions and their connection to CMC.

Seeking the Ideal Way to Measure Idealization of One's Partner and Relationship

Alan Reifman (Texas Tech University)
Sylvia Niehuis (Texas Tech University)

Idealizing (holding positive illusions of) one's romantic partner and relationship may have important relationship implications. Many idealization measures exist, leaving investigators extensive choices. Fowers and colleagues have used the Idealistic Distortion (ID) Scale, which measures agreement with highly favorable statements (e.g., one's relationship is a "perfect success"). Murray and colleagues have used trait ratings (where idealization entails Partner A rating Partner B more favorably than Partner B rates him/herself), plus relationship optimism and efficacy questionnaires. Measuring over-evaluation of partners’ traits seems most consistent with Murray’s conceptualization, but requires both partners’ responses (or substitute measures). We tested relations among multiple idealization measures and other relationship-quality variables via Confirmatory Factor Analysis, examining whether relatively brief idealization measures showed sufficient convergent validity with the other variables to accommodate researchers seeking to minimize survey length. Individual students and
staff members (not both couple partners) at a university, from marital, cohabiting, and dating relationships, completed an online survey (N = 1,084). Our model included latent constructs for: Idealistic Distortion (with five ID item-level indicators); “Murray” Idealization (manifest by optimism, efficacy, and positive and negative rating-of-partner indices, the latter two benchmarked against ideal-partner ratings); Positive Relationship Quality (with Braiker/Kelley Love, Quality of Marriage Index, and Kansas Marital Satisfaction scale-level indicators, adapted for relationships broadly); and Negative Quality (with Relationship Disillusionment Scale and BK Ambivalence indicators). ID and Murray idealization constructs correlated from .79–.85 across relationship types. The Murray construct correlated higher than did ID with Positive and Negative Quality, but ID still correlated well with them.

**Development of a Scale to Capture Discrepancies in Real and Idealized Versions of Romantic Relationships**

Sarah Vannier (University of New Brunswick)
Lucia O’Sullivan (University of New Brunswick)

Romantic beliefs clearly shape expectations about romantic relationships. Unfortunately, discrepancies between relationship expectations and the characteristics of an actual romantic relationship can decrease relationship satisfaction (Sharp & Ganong, 2000). The goal of the current study was to develop a measure to assess respondents’ perceived discrepancy between romantic characteristics of an ongoing relationship and romantic characteristics of an ideal relationship. Items were developed based on examination of the romantic beliefs literature and consultation with experts in the field. The preliminary measure included items such as “fate brought us together” and “I knew I loved him/her the instant we met.” Participants completed the scale twice: in reference to their current relationship, then in reference to their ideal relationship. Data collection is in progress. To date, 103 participants (M age = 30.3 years) currently in a romantic relationship (M length = 67 months) have completed the romantic discrepancy scale, as well as measures of relationship quality/commitment, and general romantic attitudes/beliefs (Hendrick et al., 1998; Sprecht & Metts, 1989). A preliminary factor analysis of the romantic discrepancy scale revealed three factors: Passion, fate, and love at first sight. Participants who rated their current relationship as less romantic than their ideal relationship were more likely to endorse a game playing love style, and reported lower relationship quality and commitment. Thus, discrepancies between romantic expectations and romantic relationships are associated with relationship quality. This research has implications for both researchers examining romantic beliefs, and clinicians who work with couples.

**And This Relationship is Just Right: Applying the Goldilocks Principle to Courtship Patterns**

Elizabeth Keneski (The University of Texas at Austin)
Timothy J. Loving (The University of Texas at Austin)
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Nature rewards averageness. For example, in genetics, possessing the average genotype for a trait results in higher relative fitness. In mate attraction, photographs rated most beautiful are actually ‘averaged’ composites of many faces. We explored whether this interdisciplinary phenomenon, referred to as the Goldilocks Principle in light of the benefits of being ‘just right’ or average, applies to courtship patterns. Specifically, we tested whether a more average sequence in the relative occurrence of dating milestones is associated with increased marital quality. Newlywed couples (n = 171) generated a timeline of significant courtship events by indicating when each event occurred in their histories together (in ranked order: he met her friends (M = 2.87), she met his friends (M = 2.91), first intercourse (M = 4.04), he met her parents (M = 4.33), she met his parents (M = 4.57), she said “I love you” (M = 4.89), he said “I love you” (M =
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4.90), and engagement ($M = 7.28$). Spouses also reported their current marital satisfaction. Couples whose courtship timelines were more average, or normative (in this sample), also reported greater couple-level marital satisfaction ($B = -2.84$, $t(160) = -2.00$, $p < .05$, controlling for relationship length). This work highlights the importance of studying premarital relationship development to predict marital outcomes. We suspect that couples experiencing more ‘normal’ relationship development patterns receive more approval and support for their romances from social network members. The theoretical implications of the application of the Goldilocks Principle to relationships research will be discussed.

“With Love, From Me to You”: The Association between
Love Stories Heard and Love Stories Lived

Lauren Shapiro (Queens College, CUNY)

The intergenerational cycle of divorce has several hypothesized contributors. One less-explored contributor is the intergenerational transmission of cognitive frameworks for romantic relationships. Cognitive frameworks have been implicated in relationship dissolution in a single generation (e.g. Buchman, Gottman, & Katz, 1992). Their transmission could contribute to romantic relationship dissolution in younger generations. Little is known about the extent to which parents and adult children share cognitive frameworks for romantic relationships or how these frameworks might get transferred. Stories seem to be an ideal vehicle for this transfer. Narratives have been argued to function as a sort of cognitive framework, by helping people select, organize, and interpret information (Bruner, 1990). Unlike most cognitive frameworks, stories are spoken, making them transmissible. By hearing particular love stories from their parents (e.g. stories in which love conquers all), children may gain access to particular cognitive frameworks that they then apply to their own romantic relationships. The present study explores this possibility. By comparing the love attitudes, stories, and attachment styles of 30 newlyweds and their (divorced and non-divorced) parents, we investigated whether an association exists between the types of love stories that people share and the cognitive frameworks that they report, whether newlyweds and their parents share similar frameworks and stories, and whether these frameworks and stories differ for divorced and non-divorced families. Preliminary analyses indicate that newlyweds and their parents share similar cognitive frameworks and newlyweds with divorced and non-divorced parents prefer different types of love stories. Additional analyses and implications will be discussed.

1502 Relationship Development and Courtship Scripts

Identifying Patterns of Romantic Relationships in Emerging Adulthood and their Developmental Antecedents

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Although theories of romantic relationship development posit a rather uniform progression into a stable, committed union in young adulthood, societal changes in delayed entry into marriage have resulted in greater variability in young adults’ romantic relationship experiences. Utilizing a person-oriented approach to reveal the nature and extent of this variability, the current study mapped normative developmental transitions into and out of romantic relationships from late adolescence (age 18) through
emerging adulthood (age 25) and their developmental antecedents beginning at age 5 using data from 512 participants in the Child Development Project. Despite the uniformity of young adults’ beliefs in the importance of attaining a committed relationship, the current study suggests the paths they take to achieving this goal vary greatly as we found 5 distinct clusters varying in timing, duration, and frequency of participation in romantic relationships. Of the five unique romantic relationship profiles identified, experiences with romantic relationships ranged from those individuals who had only recently entered into a romantic relationship by age 25 to those young adults who had been in a committed, long-term relationship throughout the study period. Early differences in personality style and social experiences in the peer and family domain reliably distinguished these clusters, suggesting that the seeds of one’s romantic relationship trajectory in young adulthood are sown much earlier in life. Our efforts at understanding these different patterns of romantic experiences in emerging adulthood shed light on the normative and non-normative patterns of romantic relationships in this sample and on how they may develop.

Laughing and Liking: Humor Use and Attraction in Social Interactions

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A good sense of humor is a desired trait in mates (Lippa, 2007) and friends (Sprecher & Regan, 2002). Indeed, to laugh and to make another laugh evokes closeness and connectedness (Fraley & Aron, 2004; Weisfeld, 1993). Still, researchers have given little attention to humor’s influence on attraction (humor-liking link) and attraction’s influence on humor (liking-humor link). Studies that have examined these links (e.g., Bressler & Balshine, 2006) are bounded by two limitations: (1) use of hypothetical scenarios; (2) investigation of humor only in the context of romantic attraction. We addressed these limitations by examining the humor-liking and liking-humor links using a social interaction paradigm in which participants interacted with an unacquainted other. Furthermore, we explored possible mediators of the humor-liking link: perceived similarity and enjoyment of the interaction. We focused on the humor-liking link because it has been the primary target of attention in the humor literature. In Experiment 1, opposite-sex participants interacted in a series of either humorous or similar non-humorous tasks and provided ratings of romantic attraction and humor use. In Experiment 2, participants completed a turn-based self-disclosure task and provided ratings of humor use and platonic liking. In Experiment 1, humorous interactions led to greater ratings of attraction than non-humorous interactions; participants also used more humor when interacting with an attractive partner. We replicated these effects with platonic liking in Experiment 2. Furthermore, enjoyment of the interaction and perceived similarity mediated the humor-liking link.

Affective Responses to First Sexual Experience

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Sex-role scripts provide cultures with normative expectations for appropriate male and female behavior. As societies change, we might assume that sex role expectations also change. For example, the traditional assumption in most Western societies that sexual experience is reserved for a close romantic relationship has become more permeable as greater variability in sexual formulations such as hook-ups and friends-with-benefits become more common. Research that assesses frequency of sexual activity suggests that women are less sexually inhibited than previously assumed and the “good girl” mandate may be fading.
However, behavioral manifestations are only one lens through which to examine sexual scripts. Emotional responses to actual sexual experience provide a complementary lens. To the extent that emotional responses are interpreted according to learned patterns of assessment derived from understandings of what constitutes, for example, success or failure, pride or shame, love or hurt, affective reactions to first sexual experiences may be an indicator of whether sex role scripts continue to be salient, despite behavioral evidence to the contrary. The goal of the current investigation was to test whether affective response to first sexual experience reflects sex role normative patterns. Online survey data were collected from a sample of 293 college students who described their first sexual experience and the “feelings” they experienced at that time. Open-ended responses were coded into nine categories derived from emotion theory dimensions. Results confirmed three hypotheses consistent with sex role expectations: (1) men felt relatively more positive emotions across all categories, (2) women felt relatively more emotions, both positive and negative, associated with relational consequences, and (3) women felt relatively more ambivalence as reflected in the response pattern of simultaneous experience of both positively and negatively valenced emotions. The paper closes with a more detailed analysis of emotion profiles and directions for future research.

First Comes Texting, Then Comes Hooking Up: College Students’ Courtship Scripts

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Jennifer Guthrie (University of Kansas)
Allyn McCalman (University of Kansas)

Recent studies examining college students’ first date “scripts” (e.g., Laner & Ventrone, 2000; Mongeau, Jacobsen, & Donnerstein, 2007; Morr-Serewicz & Mongeau, 2004; Morr-Serewicz & Gale, 2007) are predating their research on the assumption that dating is still a step towards becoming a committed couple, instead of occurring, as other recent research (e.g., Bogle, 2008; Larson, 2011) indicates, after the couple is officially “dating.” Because new communication technologies have developed quickly in the past decade, it is possible that people’s scripts have been altered to include other socially relevant behaviors, such as texting, facebook friending, and becoming facebook official. However, we still know very little about the ways in which media use is incorporated into relationship development. In this project, we analyzed 683 open-ended surveys to try to understand the relational memory structures college students have for romantic relationship development and the role that technologies play in those structures. Also of interest, given the current realities of courtship, we examine college students’ “script” for hooking up. In addition, because of the shifting nature of terms used to describe romantic relationships, we also examined the terms college students used to describe and define their own romantic/sexual relationship development. Results indicated that college students most frequently use “talking to,” “hanging out,” “dating,” and “hooking up” to describe their relationships. It also demonstrates that college students are not following the traditional scripts for romantic relationships and that technologies carry symbolic meaning during relationship development.

Similarities and Differences in How Men and Women Respond to their Romantic Partners Standing Up for Them in Either an Aggressive, Assertive, or Passive Manner

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Svenja Straehle (Konstanz University)
Sarah C. E. Stanton (University of Western Ontario)
This research investigated how participants interpret their partner's aggressive, assertive or partner focused (passive) reaction toward someone that has rudely spilled a drink on the participant in a social setting. Heterosexual participants were asked to imagine being in a social setting with their partner and that someone of their partner's sex rudely spilled a drink on the participant. They were then asked to imagine their partner responding toward this person in one of three ways: (i) respond aggressively to the spiller, (ii) respond assertively to the spiller, or (iii) respond passively. They were then rated the degree to which their partners' response reflected how much their partners values and cares for them. Data were collected from Amazon's MTurk (n=242), as well as from undergraduates at a large Canadian University (n=156: total N=398). Results suggested that whereas male participants, on average, showed little or no variation in their appreciation for their partners' behavior across the three conditions, women significantly preferred, on average, an assertive response to an aggressive one, which was, in turn, preferred to a passive response. Implications to relationship research will be discussed.

1503 Conflict: Emergence, Consequences, and Processes

Emotion in Conflicts between Mates: A Multilevel Model of Event-Specific Effects and Contextual-Couple Effects

Keith Sanford (Baylor University)

To understand how couples express and perceive emotion during conflicts, it is necessary to distinguish between two different types of effects. First, an event-specific effect occurs if a partner in a relationship experiences an emotion at a single moment in time and if that emotion is subsequently expressed, and then perceived by the other. Second, a contextual-couple effect occurs if both partners in a relationship experience an emotion on multiple occasions over a span of time, and if they express and perceive emotions that primarily reflect this general affective climate in their relationship as a whole. This paper describes how multilevel modeling can be used to distinguish between these two effects. It also addresses questions about how clearly couples express emotion (encoding), how accurately they recognize each other’s overtly expressed emotions (decoding by observation), how accurately they recognize each others’ emotions when they are not expressed clearly (decoding by insider knowledge), and how well they distinguish between specific types of negative emotion. Eighty-three married couples engaged in a series of two conflict conversations. Self-report ratings, observer ratings, and partner ratings were used to assess two types of negative emotion: hard emotion (e.g., angry or annoyed) and soft emotion (e.g., sad or hurt). Couples were reasonably accurate in encoding, decoding, and in distinguishing between types of emotion. Emotion expression (encoding) mostly occurred at the contextual-couple level, whereas emotion perception (decoding) mostly occurred at the event-specific level. Hard emotion was mostly decoded by observation, whereas soft emotion was sometimes decoded by insider knowledge.

Conflict and Support Behavior as Mediators of Links between Implicit Partner Attitudes and Change in Relationship Satisfaction over 4 Years

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Soonhee Lee (University of Rochester)
Harry T. Reis (University of Rochester)

Recent work using a partner-focused Go/No-Go Association Task (partner-GNAT) has demonstrated that implicit attitudes toward a romantic partner can predict breakup over 12 months in samples of dating couples, even after controlling for self report data assessing various aspects of relationship quality and
functioning (Lee, Rogge & Reis, 2010). The current talk will present follow up work on the partner-GNAT in a sample of 68 newlywed couples followed through the first four years of marriage. HLM results within an actor-partner interdependence modeling framework suggested that implicit attitudes toward a spouse predict residual change in relationship satisfaction over the first 4 years of marriage. The results further demonstrated that this longitudinal prediction was at least partially mediated by links between implicit attitudes toward a spouse and objectively coded behaviors during problem discussions and social support discussions. Interestingly, implicit attitudes were linked to both individuals' own behaviors as well as their partners’ behaviors during those digitally recorded interactions. These results suggested that implicit attitudes might influence the course of romantic relationships by shaping how couples behave toward one another, potentially affecting behaviors under less conscious control (e.g., non-verbal behavior, voice tone).

Demand-withdraw Interaction Pattern and Marital Dissatisfaction: Precursor or Consequence?

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The demand-withdraw interaction pattern is a pattern of conflict in which one spouse pressures or blames while the other avoids or withdraws. Research has consistently shown that demand-withdraw behaviors are associated with marital dissatisfaction. However, although concurrent associations between the two constructs are robust, longitudinal associations are less consistent. Some studies found that demand-withdraw pattern is a predictor of later marital dissatisfaction, while other studies showed that it is marital dissatisfaction that exacerbates demanding and withdrawing behaviors. Moreover, existing research has been overwhelmingly conducted with relatively young couples, overlooking the differences that may exist between young and well-established marriages. The present study examined concurrent and longitudinal association between demand-withdraw pattern and marital dissatisfaction in a sample of 256 Italian couples with a wide range of relationship duration (1 to 60 years). Couples provided data on two occasions. Cross-lagged panel models were used to a) investigate causal relationships between marital dissatisfaction and demand-withdraw; b) determine direction of effects; and c) determine whether these relations were moderated by relationship duration. Results demonstrated that: a) demand-withdraw interaction pattern and marital dissatisfaction were associated both concurrently and longitudinally; b) marital dissatisfaction was a predictor of demand-withdraw interaction pattern; c) relationship duration moderated the longitudinal relation demand-withdraw interaction pattern and marital dissatisfaction: in well-established marriages the link between marital dissatisfaction and demand-withdraw pattern was stronger than in young couples.

Attachment Style, Serial Argument, and Taking Conflict Personally

Dale Hample (University of Maryland)
Adam Richards (University of Maryland)

Serial argument theory (Bevan, Finan, & Kaminsky, 2008; Johnson & Roloff, 1998; Trapp & Hoff, 1985) explains recurring conflict within close personal relationships. The theory specifies a cognitive process undergone during recurrent arguments whereby goals cause tactics, which then lead to outcomes of arguing. We extend this model in two ways. First we suggest that attachment styles (Ainsworth, Blehar, Waters, & Wall, 1978) predict serial argument goals. Attachment styles—“relatively coherent and stable patterns of emotion and behavior” developed in childhood (Shaver, Collins, & Clark, 1996, p. 25)—should affect one’s goals—mental representations of desired outcomes (Berger, 2007)—used to engage in
recurring conflict. Second, we hypothesize that taking conflict personally (TCP)—the feeling of being personally punished via conflict (Hample & Dallinger, 1995)—is a likely outcome of recurrent arguments. University students \( N = 682 \) completed a cross-sectional survey about their attachment styles and a serial argument they experienced. A structural equation model was used to test causal relationships between attachment styles, goals, tactics, outcomes, and TCP. The model exhibited excellent fit. Results indicated that attachment styles predict goals of serial arguing (with \( R^2 \)s up to .15 for the goals), and serial argument outcomes predict TCP (with \( R^2 \)s ranging from .24 to .57 for the TCP dimensions). Furthermore, the relationships identified between goals and tactics as well as tactics and outcomes contribute to the growing body of literature about serial argument theory. The study shows that attachment styles affect goals of serial arguing in close relationships and that outcomes of serial arguing predict the degree to which people take recurring conflict personally.

"So What I Hear You Saying Is ...": An Empirical Test of the Active Listening Paradigm in the Context of Troubles Talk

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Andrea Vickery (Louisiana State University)

Perhaps no other communication skill has been claimed more fundamentally important to enabling healthy relationships than “active listening.” Skills like paraphrasing, asking questions, and reflecting feelings are championed in a host of contexts, not the least of which is troubles talk. Given the scant empirical foundation that can actually support recommending the use of active listening skills like these, the purpose of this study is to test, in an experimental setting, perceptions of active listeners versus those not trained in this skill set. Undergraduate students were randomly assigned to disclose a recent upsetting problem to either a trained active listener \( (n = 41) \) or an untrained listener \( (n = 130) \). Active listeners were counseling education students instructed to listen in a way that displays acceptance, congruence, and empathy by asking open questions, paraphrasing, reflecting feelings, and using check outs. After the conversation, disclosers completed measures assessing the perceptions of the listener and emotional improvement. When compared to normal listeners, active listeners were perceived as more active and empathic as well as more emotionally aware. Disclosers also reported a greater likelihood of wanting a future interaction with an active than a normal listener. Interestingly, however, active listeners did not improve disclosers’ ability to problem solve, and active listeners did not produce a greater degree of affect change than normal listeners. This study appears to suggest limits of active listening within troubles talk. Future work is proposed to further investigate this ubiquitous skill with a variety of relationships.

1504  Commitment and Well-Being

Relationship Commitment and Pro-Relationship versus Pro-Partner Motivations: Committed People Sacrifice their Partner’s Interests to Benefit the Relationship

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Grainne Fitzsimons (Duke University)

In close relationships, relationship commitment reliably predicts a host of behaviors that promote the well-being of both the relationship and the partner, such as willingness to sacrifice, forgiveness, accommodation, and devaluation of attractive alternatives. However, because the well-being of both the relationship and the partner were always compatible in this research, little is known about whether
committed individuals’ behaviors are motivated by prorelationship or propartner motivations (or both). To address this issue, we created standardized dilemmas in which relationship and partner’s well-being were either independent of (Study 1) or incompatible with (Studies 1 & 2) each other. Participants were asked to make decisions that favored either relationship well-being or partner’s well-being. Commitment was measured as individual-difference variable in Study 1 and manipulated through a priming procedure in Study 2. In both studies, compared to less committed individuals, highly committed individuals tended to make decisions that reflect their concerns for the relationship’s well-being, not their partner’s well-being. Discussion focuses upon both (a) the implications of this research for our understanding of relationship commitment and (b) an analysis of how people navigate dilemmas that pit prorelationship against propartner motivations.

Commitment and Motivated Cognitions About One’s Sexual Relationship
David de Jong (University of Rochester)
Harry Reis (University of Rochester)

In close relationships, as interdependence with a partner increases, people become more committed to maintaining the relationship. Commitment, in turn, distorts partner-related perceptions and construals in ways that facilitate not only feelings of relationship security but also relationship well-being. Whether commitment influences how people think about the sexual aspects of their relationships remains unexplored. In two studies we investigated whether commitment predicts several beliefs about one’s sexual relationship that are conceptualized to be part of relationship maintenance processes. Across both studies and regardless of dating/marital status, commitment predicted 1) beliefs that one’s partner is one’s “ideal” sex partner, and 2) unrealistic optimism about the future of one’s sexual relationship. These results remained significant after controlling for sexual satisfaction. In the second study, to determine whether the perceived superiority effect also operates in the sexual dimension of relationships, people were asked to list and rate features of either their own or others’ sexual relationships and sex partners. Again after controlling for sexual satisfaction, committed people were more likely to rate features of their own sexual relationships positively and others’ sexual relationships negatively. These results indicate that relationship maintenance mechanisms that have been found previously to apply to relationships in general are also evident in the sexual side of relationships.

Developmental Trajectory Modeling of the Covariation of Commitment and Health in Newly Committed Relationships
Michael Coolsen (Shippensburg University)
Madoka Kumashiro (Goldsmiths University)

In research on close relationships, commitment has been shown to be beneficial to many relationship processes and relational well-being (e.g., Rusbult, 2001). Research to date has not examined long term benefits of commitment to physical and psychological health of individuals. The effects of close relationships (e.g., social support, marital quality) on physical and psychological health have been well-documented, although some research also suggests that relationships can also be detrimental for some. We propose that commitment, with its long term orientation, intention to persist, and psychological attachment, plays a key role in predicting health outcome measures. Specifically, we sought to examine the long-term trajectories of how commitment and health covary with each other in a sample of romantic couples who had recently declared their commitment to each other (e.g., via marriage, engagement, cohabitation). Preliminary growth curve analyses of a longitudinal study (five waves with 6 months-lag) of 187 newly established couples showed that initial commitment at Time 1 promoted healthier outcomes over time. Further investigation using semiparametric group-based mixed modeling techniques (SAS proc
traj) revealed that commitment and health (psychological and physical) actually covary with each other over time. Individuals who maintained their high commitment through the study also reported high levels across multiple health indicators (e.g., enhanced subjective well-being and lower anxiety, depression, and physical health symptoms), whereas declining or increasing commitment levels were associated with respective fall and rise in health outcomes. Implications of the findings will be discussed.

The Conceptualization of Commitment and Development of a Typology:
Examining the Relationship between Commitment Type, Mental Health, and Life Satisfaction

Laura Stafford (University of Kentucky)
Rachel Price (University of Kentucky)
Molly Reynolds (University of Kentucky)

The purpose of this study was to examine how individuals conceptualize commitment in a wide range of nonmarital relationship types and to identify different commitment types and ramifications of these types on mental well-being and life satisfaction. Study 1 involved an analysis of focus groups and interviews (n = 126, age 18 – 70, M = 29). Participants indicated commitment involved personal commitment, moral commitment, structural commitment, trust, sacrifice, and exclusivity. In Study 2, a student sample (n = 415; M age = 19.57) completed a survey with measures of the constructs. Factor analysis identified the components model of commitment as expected. In Study 3, the factors were replicated with another student sample (n = 526; M age = 19.56) and a community sample (n = 319; M age = 30.67). Cluster analysis was employed. Three commitment patterns were identified; two types involved exclusivity. One exclusive group reported the highest levels of moral, structural, personal commitment, trust, and sacrifice. The second exclusive group evidenced relatively low levels of structural commitment and sacrifice. The nonexclusive group reported similar levels of structural commitment and sacrifice as the second exclusive group and reported lower levels of trust, personal, and moral commitment than either exclusive group. Those in nonexclusive relationships also reported the lowest levels of relationship satisfaction, life satisfaction, and mental well-being. Findings reinforce the presence of different dimensions of commitment and extend research by identifying three distinct combinations of these dimensions with implications for mental health and life satisfaction as related to commitment type.

Suddenly on Shaky Ground: Experiencing Physical Instability Affects Perceptions of Romantic Relationship Stability

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Lindsay Stehouwer (University of Waterloo)
Joanne V. Wood (University of Waterloo)

How do people judge the stability of their romantic relationships? Relationships researchers have typically focused on the effects of personality variables (e.g., self-esteem, attachment style) and situational factors (e.g., relationship threat) on relationship perceptions. We investigate a novel source of information that may affect people’s views of their relationships: their somatic experiences. Drawing upon recent work in the areas of embodiment and metaphor-enriched social cognition (e.g., Barsalou, 2008; Landau, Meier, & Keefer, 2010), two studies tested the hypothesis that experiencing physical instability affect perceptions of the stability of one’s romantic relationship. Participants stood on either a physically stable bench or unstable rubber disk (Study 1) or sat at a physically stable or unstable table and chair (Study 2). As predicted, participants who experienced physical instability reported feeling that their romantic relationship was less stable (i.e., that they were less likely to remain with their current partner).
than participants in the stable condition (Studies 1 and 2). These condition differences were not accounted for by differences in fatigue or positive or negative affect. In Study 2, results also suggested that perceiving one’s relationship as unstable led participants to self-protectively derogate the relationship (e.g., Murray, Holmes, and Collins, 2006). This work represents the first application of embodiment to the domain of romantic relationships. Our findings highlight the importance of considering how incidental features of the environment may affect relationship perceptions.

1505 Family Influences on Identity and Socialization

Understanding How Multiethnic/racial Children Construct Identity through Parental Socialization

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Jordan Soliz (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

As a result of the “check all that apply” modification to the US Census in 2000, populations of individuals self-categorizing as multiethnic/racial have grown substantially. Given that most multiethnic/racial (ME/R) individuals report being raised by parents who identify with a singular race/ethnicity, ME/R children may experience difficulty in the negotiation of racial and ethnic identity based on conflicting messages of self, coupled with social pressure to articulate a singular ethnic identity. Despite a growing interest in research focusing on new conceptualizations of race due to modifications of the 2000 US Census, extant literature exclusively focusing on the child’s perspective of racial and ethnic identity negotiation is quite limited. More so, research exploring parental messages that shape ethnic/racial identity among ME/R children is equally scarce. Thus, in order to better understand how ME/R individuals communicatively negotiate ethnic/racial identity, the present study investigates how parental messages about race and ethnicity shape identity development among ME/R children. By employing socialization frameworks, the present study observes how parental messages shape racial/ethnic identity development among ME/R children. Indeed, to better understand this unique process, memorable parental messages about race and ethnicity are explored from the perspectives of ME/R children. The purpose of the present study, therefore, is to better understand how ME/R children construct identity through parental socialization.

Adolescent-parent Relationships as Predictors of Caregiving in the Next Generation

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Lisa Phillips (University of Melbourne)
Christina O'Loughlin (Murdoch Childrens Research Institute)
George Patton (University of Melbourne)

Parent-adolescent relationships were assessed as predictors of early maternal caregiving in the next generation using data from the Victorian Adolescent Health Cohort Study (VAHCS), a 19-year population-based study, now with a growing offspring cohort. The VAHCS has followed the health and development of 1,943 Australians from puberty to young adulthood across nine waves. Since 2006, VAHCS offspring have been assessed at 32 weeks gestation, 8 weeks postpartum and at 12 months. Adolescent perceptions of maternal and paternal care and overprotection were measured at age 16-years using the Parental Bonding Instrument (Parker, Tupling & Brown, 1979). Maternal warmth, hostility, overprotection and self-efficacy were measured when the offspring were aged 12 months. Hierarchical
regression was used to analyze data on 169 mothers recruited to date. After accounting for personality, depression and relationship variables in the pre-conception, gestational and post-partum periods, maternal care during adolescence (G1-G2) remained a significant predictor of maternal warmth in the next generation (G2-G3). Conversely, maternal overprotection represented a significant risk for both maternal warmth and self-efficacy. The findings indicate that adolescence may be a particularly important developmental period in the transition from being a care-receiver to a potential caregiver. The results suggest pathways by which the quality of the first generation mother-daughter relationship may either promote or interfere with the development of effective caregiving in the next generation, with potential implications for the wellbeing of offspring. Intergenerational studies, such as this, offer the opportunity to identify pre-conception relational factors that are protective or pose risks for early development.

"When I was little...": The Shaping of Identity and Management of Face through Family Stories

Emily Langan (Wheaton College)
Angela Bae (University of Southern California)
Grace Cannell (Wheaton College)
Joy Fabry (Wheaton College)
Maggie McNamara (Wheaton College)
Caitlin Nielsen (Wheaton College)

Narratives are a universal genre, “used across cultures as a fundamental means of making sense out of experience,” (Turner & West, 2006, p. 87). Walter Fisher (1984) understood stories as the way through which we know the world, arguing that we pick and choose the stories that make the most sense to us. For many people, the most compelling stories revolve around family interactions, a genre of narratives that follows a general trend of experiences differing only in the details. For as much as every family is different (content), the situations they find themselves in seem to be fairly similar (context). In a family, one’s identity is based on the corporate group and through stories, families co-create their identity. Fiese and Pratt (2004) argue that over the course of life, the content of family stories becomes internalized and “lays the foundation for a personal life story” (p. 404). These stories become sense-making structures that guide belief, behavior, and interaction (Bochner, 2002; Domenici & Littlejohn, 2006). For this study, researchers coded 120 family stories in order to examine if the content and context varied when the story was told by member of low-, mid-, or highly-cohesive families. Themes that emerged include tensions between individual versus family identity, doing vs. being, small stories of everyday life vs. big milestones, and between stories told vs. stories untold. The importance and possible implications of these family stories is discussed in regards to identity formation and face management.

Differentiation in Family of Origin and Frequency and Medium of Communication between Emerging Adults and Their Parents

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Shannon Weaver (University of Connecticut)

The “Electronic Tether,” (Hofer, Souder, Kennedy, Fullman, and Hurd, 2009) is the term used in reference to college students communicating with parents an average of 13.4 time a week by cell phone, email, instant messages, text messages, and Skype with cell phones and email being the most common forms. However, this study did not consider aspects of the family environment that may contribute to communication medium and frequency between emerging adults and their parents. One aspect of the family environment that likely influences communication is differentiation. This concept refers to “the
ability of family members to express their own individuality and act autonomously while remaining emotionally connected to other” (Anderson and Sabatelli, 2007). A family’s level of differentiation influences young adult’s ability to individuate. Individuation is a lifelong developmental process through which one comes to see oneself as separate and distinct from others within one’s relational (familial, social, cultural) context (Anderson and Sabatelli, 2007). A family that is emotionally supportive but allows for individual differences and expression would facilitate individuation while families that are distant and provide little support or those that stifle differences would complicate individuation of an emerging adult. The extent to which individuation has occurred is the degree to which the person no longer experiences him or herself as fusing with others in personal relationships. Therefore, the adult child is no longer an extension of his or her parent, but rather his or her own distinct person. Frequency of communication may reflect the inability of a child to be able to handle their life independently from parents. However, frequent contact could also reflect a level of support and encouragement by parents for children. Therefore, in the current study, differentiation between emerging adults and their parents is examined to see if it influences the type and frequency of contact between more than 300 college students and their parents and siblings.

Potential Pathways from Family of Origin to Early Marriage Experiences

Renee Dennison (Saint Mary's College of Maryland)
Susan Koerner (University of Arizona)

Past research has shown that family of origin (FOO) experiences (e.g., parental divorce, interparental conflict) are influential in predicting eventual marital quality of young couples (e.g., Amato & Booth, 2001; Yu & Alder-Baeder, 2007). However, most existing research on this intergenerational transmission assumes that couples generally follow a “modelling” pathway from FOO experience to their own marital experiences—directly modelling the relationship skills they observed in their FOO. There is a small, but growing body of evidence supporting the notion that there may be other potential pathways from FOO experience to early marital experiences (e.g., Beaton & Doherty, 2007; Mahl, 2001). The current study extends the existing research by utilizing mixed-methods research methodology to examine key concepts in the intergenerational transmission process (e.g., conflict in the FOO, current conflict resolution strategies, and marital satisfaction), and to answer the research questions: (1) Is there more than one potential pathway that couples follow from their experiences with their respective FOO to their current experience of marriage? (2) If so, what are the other pathways, and what are the characteristics of and outcomes for the couples who take them? Using configural comparative analysis (Rihoux & Ragin, 2009) to combine results of qualitative interview data coding with quantitative survey data from 18 newlywed couples, three distinct pathways were identified: “modelling” (n=3), “modified modelling” (n=10), and “compensation” (n=5). Each pathway, as well as the characteristics of and outcomes for couples who took them, is described. Implications of these findings for research and practice are discussed.

Symposia

1506 Two Steps Forward and Two Steps Back: Examining the Negotiation of Approach-Avoidance Motivations in Romantic Relationships from a Risk Regulation Perspective

Convener: Sadie Leder (High Point University)
To Approach or to Avoid? Self-esteem, Social Motivation, and Perceptions of Acceptance

Jessica Cameron (University of Manitoba)

Relationship initiation is risky, eliciting conflicting goals of approaching a potentially rewarding social bond and avoiding a potentially painful rejection. How people resolve this motivational conflict depends at least in part on their self-esteem. According to the risk regulation model (Murray et al., 2006), those with lower self-esteem (LSEs) should err on the side of caution and self-protect whereas those with higher self-esteem (HSEs) should turn towards building connections with others. Furthermore, these divergent social motivations should lead LSEs to be cautious in their estimates of another’s acceptance and should lead HSEs to be optimistic in such estimates. In Study 1, social risk increased activation of avoidance goals for LSEs on a word-recall task, but increased activation of approach goals for HSEs, as evidenced by their increased use of likeable behaviors. In Study 2, participants engaged in a video exchange with a highly attractive and accepting member of the opposite sex. When participants were led to believe the situation was “high risk” (i.e., the other person would make an explicit decision regarding acceptance or rejection), those with LSE self-protectively under-detected acceptance compared to those with HSE. Importantly, when social risk was removed, self-esteem differences were eliminated. In Study 3, participants were either primed with social goals or were given no goal prime. Self-esteem differences in perceptions of acceptance were only evident when no prime was presented. Consequently, initiation contexts that reduce social risk or ones that prime certain social goals may reduce self-esteem differences in perceptions of acceptance.

Navigating the Dating Game: A Risk Regulation Model of Strategic Partner Selection

Sadie Leder (High Point University)

Romantic life poses a number of contradicting demands, perhaps none more fundamental than the opposing drives for connection and self-protection. As humans, we are motivated to seek out closeness, but creating such intimacy necessarily makes us vulnerable to hurt and rejection. The current work takes a risk regulation approach to examining how individuals balance these competing demands during situations of partner selection. Overall, results revealed that attachment security moderates approach-avoidance tendencies. Specifically, it was found that more secure individuals responded to the presence of a potential romantic partner by prioritizing connection motivations. These individuals correctly identify such situations as being capable of fulfilling important belongingness needs and respond by utilizing strategic partner selection aimed at optimizing the likelihood of successful relationship initiation. Participants showed a preference for the “best possible” partner when rejection concerns were minimal, but flexibly shifted their preference in favor of a “safer” romantic alternative (with whom connection would be more likely) under conditions of rejection salience. Conversely, less secure individuals failed to respond to situations of relationship initiation and partner selection with the same automatic activation of connection goals. More focused on avoiding such situations, these individuals evidenced no pattern of strategic partner selection.

Attachment Anxiety Moderates the Effect of Interpersonal Conflict on Social Network Integration

Jaye L. Derrick (University at Buffalo, State University of New York)  
Kenneth E. Leonard (University at Buffalo, State University of New York)
According to the Risk Regulation Model (Murray, Holmes, & Collins, 2006), people balance their need for connection with the possibility of rejection. People who are relatively unconcerned with rejection, like securely attached people, find this balance easily and seek connection when in need. Those who are relatively more concerned with rejection, like anxiously attached people, distance themselves from others when they need social connection the most. The current research examines the role of extra-dyadic conflict on relationship-specific and social network outcomes in newlyweds over the first nine years of marriage. Self-report data were collected 0, 1, 2, 4, 7, and 9 years after marriage. Time-lagged multilevel modeling analyses revealed that attachment anxiety and extra-dyadic conflict at a given time point interacted to predict outcomes at the subsequent time point. Specifically, experiencing extra-dyadic conflict led people relatively low in anxiety to seek greater interdependence in their marriage, an effect not observed in those high in anxiety. This effect was mediated by perceived partner regard and responsiveness. In addition, experiencing greater extra-dyadic conflict led people relatively low in anxiety to seek greater integration in their social network, an effect that again was not observed among those high in anxiety. This effect was mediated by perceptions of network members’ responsiveness. Together, these results suggest that people relatively low in anxiety, but not those high in anxiety, seek connection to others after rejection because of their perception that others are caring and likely to be responsive to their needs.

Self-esteem Moderates the Effects of Daily Rejection on Health and Well-being

Máire Ford (Loyola Marymount University)
Nancy Collins (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Despite the fact that rejection is normatively distressing, individuals differ in their responses to rejection, with some individuals displaying relative resilience following rejection and others displaying vulnerability to the poor outcomes associated with rejection. One factor that has been associated with resilience/vulnerability in the face of rejection is an individual’s self-esteem level, with low levels of self-esteem being associated with maladaptive psychological and physiological responses to rejection. It is important to investigate whether low self-esteem is also associated with other maladaptive responses such as poor health-related coping behaviors following rejection. The aim of the current work was to investigate health-related responses to rejection in the context of a daily diary study. Specifically we investigated differences between how high versus low self-esteem individuals cope with feelings of rejection in their daily lives and how they recover in the hours and days following rejection. Participants in this study completed an online diary for two weeks, reporting on rejection, mental wellbeing/resources, risky health behaviors, and health-related outcomes. Overall, daily rejection was associated with decreases in mental wellbeing/resources, but not with health behaviors or health-related outcomes. Additionally, self-esteem played an important moderating role. On high rejection days, low self-esteem individuals were more likely to engage in risky health behaviors, and on the day following a high rejection day they reported decrements in health and wellbeing. In this talk I will discuss these findings in the context of risk regulation theory, as well as discuss implications for the health of individuals with low self-esteem.
Avoiding Monogamy: Attachment, Sex, Love, and Consensual Non-monogamy

Amy C. Moors (University of Michigan)
Robin S. Edelstein (University of Michigan)
Terri D. Conley (University of Michigan)

Although rarely stated, attachment researchers focus on monogamous relationships and often interchange the terms “adult-attachment” and “love” (c.f. Brumbaugh & Fraley, 2006). The use of these terms as synonyms reflects a wider conceptualization of attachment that suggests dyadic relationships are healthiest. However, approximately 10.5% of people engage in consensual non-monogamous relationships (CNM; Aral & Leichliter, 2010), where all partners agree to have more than one concurrent sexual and/or emotional romantic relationship. Research suggests that individuals in CNM relationships report high levels of trust, honesty, and relationship satisfaction (Barker, 2005; Visser & McDonald, 2007), which are characteristics of a secure attachment orientation. Conversely, attachment research has shown that individuals with insecure orientations report sexual promiscuity, more sexual partners across the lifespan, and problems with commitment compared to those with secure orientations (Shaver & Lussier, 2007; Simpson, 1990).

To date, no research has applied an attachment framework to examine CNM relationships. Thus, we conducted two large-scale studies (both Ns > 1200) to examine: 1) the relationship between attachment orientations, attitudes toward CNM, and willingness to engage in hypothetical CNM relationships among individuals who have never engaged in CNM, and 2) whether attachment orientations differently predict the likelihood of actual engagement in CNM versus monogamy. We found that avoidance was robustly linked to positive attitudes toward CNM as well as willingness to engage in these relationships. However, lower avoidance predicted actual engagement in CNM (over monogamous relationships). The implications of this research for attachment and romantic relationship research will be further discussed.

Rules and Beliefs about Monogamy in Mexico

Giovannna Escobar (National Autonomous University of Mexico)
Rozzana Sanchez-Aragon (National Autonomous University of Mexico)

Monogamy is an influential social norm, which is taken for granted and rarely questioned (Saxey, 2010). The legally established monogamous marriage was the basis for religious, social and economic system in Western cultures. The main aspects of this model are currently being questioned in several countries include Mexico, basically the ones referring to sexuality outside the marriage, abandonment of ritual or the record of initiation of marital cohabitation and the indissolubility of the bond set by the secularization of the latter (Quilodrán, 2003). Furthermore, signs of greater equity between genders, free expression of feelings, and greater flexibility in the roles are considered symptoms of modernity (Esteinou, 2008).

According to Diaz-Guerrero (1967, 2003) socio-culture is a system of interrelated premises that regulate: feelings, ideas, the hierarchical order of interpersonal relationships, the types of social roles and the way to be fulfilled, the rules of interaction, in short, the where, when, with whom and how to fulfill them. In this regard and in the context of couple monogamy premises, the purpose of this study was to explore in 200 participants the definition of monogamy and the rules that Mexican must have an exclusive romantic relationship; and based on this, to design and validate a measure of socio-historical premises
supported by Mexicans in relation to monogamy (HSCP’sM). Findings show the interesting notions of monogamy and a valid and reliable measure with particular factors that display some cultural highlights that will be discussed in terms of cross-cultural psychology and personal relationships literature.

Examining the Relationship of Sexual Shame to Substance Misuse in a Sample of Women in Treatment: A Mixed-Methods Approach

Raven James (Governors State University)
Lori Simons (Widener University)
Serena Wadhwa (Governors State University)

Sexuality issues linked to drug or alcohol use contribute greatly to their misuse and subsequent addiction; left unaddressed in treatment too often results in treatment failure. When drug and alcohol recovery perpetuates client shame and low sexual self-esteem it inadvertently leads to ineffective treatment approaches related to sexual health. Several recent research and pioneering clinical applications have identified relevant psychological constructs for theory development centered on elevated levels of shame and low sexual self-esteem. This mixed-methods study utilized a cross-sectional sample of women in drug and alcohol treatment in the Chicagoland area. Measures included demographics, abuse history, sexual self-efficacy measures and the brief sexual self-esteem inventory for women. Four agencies collected survey data (n=215) and four focus groups were conducted (n=36). Descriptive analysis, T-tests and ANOVA procedures were utilized to analyze quantitative data with regard to group differences and identified low sexual shame related to sexual abuse and sexual orientation. Focus group interviews revealed over 14 themes related to sexual shame with regard to sexuality issues, sexual risk behaviors and connections to substance use. These sexual shame variables are explored in terms of their relationship to substance abuse and drug and alcohol treatment/recovery. Addressing shame with regard to sexuality issues in drug and alcohol treatment forms a foundation for reducing the harm and improving the outcomes for sexuality and drug-linked patterns of addiction.

Mafiga matatu ("Three Cooking Stones"): Power, Polygyny and Sex in Tanzania

Jennifer Harman (Colorado State University)
Michelle Kaufman (John’s Hopkins School of Public Health)
Benjamin Kamala (John’s Hopkins School of Public Health)
Najmeh Modarres (John’s Hopkins School of Public Health)
Susan Mlangwa (John’s Hopkins School of Public Health)
Jennifer Orkis (John’s Hopkins School of Public Health)
Robert Karam (John’s Hopkins School of Public Health)
Elizabeth Serlemitsos (John's Hopkins School of Public Health)

Power dynamics in intimate relationships are nuanced and influenced by multiple sources, such as gender and religious norms and access to resources. Power impacts the ability to negotiate sexual health behaviors (Pulerwitz et al., 2000), and in research on polygamous and monogamous marriages, power has been of recent empirical interest due to the high prevalence of HIV in countries where polygamy is common practice (Bove & Valeggia, 2009; Reniers & Watkins, 2009; Saddiq et al., 2010). The purpose of the current study was to explore the role of power on sexual protection behaviors in marital relationships among a large, nationally representative sample of individuals in monogamous and polygamous marriages in Tanzania. We analyzed data from 1,664 married Tanzanian adults of reproductive age that were obtained from a cross-sectional household survey conducted across 16 regions. As hypothesized, men and women in monogamous marriages did not significantly differ from each other
on relationship power, however, males in polygamous marriages reported having significantly more power than women, \( \beta = -0.33, t(1646) = -9.43, p < .001 \). Regardless of marriage type, sexual communication self-efficacy was lower for women than men when women had low relationship power. In addition, women with low sexual relationship power were significantly less likely to use condoms than men; men were less likely to use condoms when they had more power. Discussion will center on complex marital structures in Tanzania, the role of gender and sexual relationship power on sexual health negotiation, and implications for sexual health interventions.

Sexuality Examined through the Lens of Attachment Theory: Caregiving and Sexual Satisfaction

Katherine Peloquin (University of Sherbrooke)
Audrey Brassard (University of Sherbrooke)
Marie-France Lafontaine (University of Ottawa)

Attachment theory stipulates that adult love relationships are governed by three innate behavioral systems, namely attachment, caregiving and sexuality (Shaver, Hazan, & Bradshaw, 1988; Mikulincer & Shaver, 2007). Theoretically, although each system is independent, each is affected by and influences the others (Mikulincer & Shaver, 2007). Empirical evidence for an association between attachment and sexuality, as well as between attachment and caregiving in couple relationships has been accumulating in recent years (Birnbaum, 2010; Collins, Guichard, Ford, & Feeney, 2006). However, despite expected associations between the caregiving and sexual systems, studies of these links are rare. Accordingly, this study examined the association between caregiving dimensions (proximity, sensitivity, control, compulsive caregiving) and sexual satisfaction in two samples of committed couples (Study 1: 126 cohabiting or married couples from the general community; Study 2: 55 clinically distressed couples). Partners completed the Caregiving Questionnaire (Kunce & Shaver, 1994) and the Global Measure of Sexual Satisfaction (Lawrence & Byers, 1998). In Study 1, analyses based on the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (APIM) revealed that caregiving proximity and sensitivity positively predicted both partners' sexual satisfaction, whereas caregiving control negatively predicted both partners’ sexual satisfaction. In Study 2, APIM analyses revealed that proximity in men and women positively predicted sexual satisfaction in women only. These results are discussed in light of attachment theory and their implications for treating distressed couples.

1508  
Friendships over the Years and Across Cultures

Explicating Links between Friendship and Well-Being

Trey Guinn (University Of Texas at Austin)
Jane Damron (Baylor University)

There is growing sentiment among scholars that friendships play a critical role in the lives of adults (Diener & Seligman, 2002). Recent work has underscored certain formation strategies (McEwan & Guerrero, 2010) and maintenance behaviors (Ledbetter, 2009) that people use in order to obtain and maintain friendship. Explicating the links between use of friendship behaviors and well-being constitutes the primary contribution of this project to the extant scholarly literature. By employing a longitudinal design that included data from more than 500 emerging adults, the results from this study show how use of friendship formation strategies as well as maintenance behaviors positively contribute to individuals’ overall well-being. Interestingly, the association from persons’ friendship behaviors to well-being was found to be mediated by the actual relationship quality that such friendship behaviors achieved. In other
words, individuals’ use of friendship formation strategies and maintenance behaviors contributed to their overall well-being, insofar as these practices yielded higher quality friendships. Data from participants’ close friends was also collected, in order to verify claims of relationship quality and determine trends and patterns within friend-dyads. Overall, the study’s findings support and extend the argument that friendship plays a critical role in the lives of adults, and, more importantly, increase our understanding of how this process actually occurs.

Maintenance Strategies to Preserve Friendship in Mexico

Claudia Lopez Becerra (National Pedagogics University)

Maintenance of interpersonal relationships such as friendship, involves a series of activities which are influenced directly and indirectly by culture (Dainton, 2003). To keep this kind of relationship on time and quality, requires follow a process that may facilitate the progress of attraction between friends, the knowledge that elicits intimacy and deep, and every action that preserve it. In congruence, Duck (1988) stated that maintenance involves efforts to sustain the existence of the relationship, to maintain it, to become more intimate, and to stabilize a relationship that has bear up several stages. Canary (1994) reports that the strategies are plans, methods or series of maneuvers to obtain a specific goal (such as keeping a friend), which implies that the maintenance behaviors not only work to maintain a united dyad, but also to keep up the relationship at a condition desired. Based on this, the aim of this study was to identify the maintenance strategies used by Mexicans to preserve their friendship relations, and to know if there were gender significant differences in these strategies. To do so, we worked with 505 Mexican participants between 18-80 years old, who answered to the Maintenance of Friendship Strategies Inventory (MFSI) (Lopez, Reyes & Rivera, 2007). Findings show that emotional support, tolerance, growth and avoidance of conflict are the main tactics used by Mexicans to preserve friendly relationships. About gender differences, we found that women use more emotional support, tolerance, closeness and loyalty than men. The results will be discussed in terms of the cultural norms about the interpersonal reality according to Diaz-Guerrero (2003).

Social Groups and Friendships of Brazilian Elderly: An Exploratory Study

Agnaldo Garcia (Federal University of Espirito Santo)
Sandra Leonel (Federal University of Espirito Santo)

According to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics the number of elders in Brazil (over 60 years old) rose from 14.8 million in 1999 to 21.7 million in 2009. However, the social life of this population, including friendships, is still little known. This paper aimed at investigating how a group of elders attending university courses for elderly perceived their friendship networks. Twenty Brazilian elders aged 60 to 95 years old, including 14 women and six men, were interviewed to obtain information on their friendship network, activities shared with friends and social contexts. Friends were depicted as people with similar purposes and sharing the same groups. Mutual respect and mutual care, as well as good communication, were devised as fundamental for friendship development and maintenance. Elders kept old friends and made new ones. Besides relatives considered as friends, all participants mentioned friends as members of specific groups they took part in their community. These included social groups connected to university courses or other activities, church and neighborhood. Shared activities in these groups ranged from singing in a choir, dancing, crafts, gymnastics, to religious activities and academic activities at university. Cultural, leisure and religious activities were mentioned. The participation in groups was reported as source of satisfaction and joy. The role of university and other institutions to create conditions for the development and maintenance of friendships in this population is discussed.
Friendships of Brazilians Living Abroad: Friendship Network and Meaning of Friends

Agnaldo Garcia (Federal University of Espirito Santo)
Cloves Bitencourt Neto (Federal University of Espirito Santo)
Dominique Goes (Federal University of Espirito Santo)

According to the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations 3,122,813 Brazilians lived in other countries at the end of 2010. However, data on social networks and specifically on friendships of this population are scarce. Some aspects of the friendships of 60 adult Brazilians living abroad, including friendship network, problems to make friends and the meaning of friends were investigated. The participants had lived in Asia (20), Europe (20) and North America (20) for at least six months at the moment of the investigation. Participants were recruited in Brazilian communities abroad and they answered a few questions as a written report. The data were analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively using content analysis. Concerning friendship network, data on number of friends and their nationalities were collected. A total of 420 friends was mentioned. In Asia, 123 friends from 38 countries were mentioned. In Europe, 139 friends from 28 countries, and in North America, 158 friends from 25 countries were reported. In the three situations, most friends were Brazilians. Main difficulties to make and keep friends were communication (mainly language), cultural differences and personality or individual differences. Concerning the meaning of these friends for participants, friends were considered important for adaptation and socialization in other country, including serving as local guides for survival resources, socializing agents and also furnishing social support and companionship. The role of friends in a globalized international society is discussed.

Cross-Cultural Comparisons on the Role of Communication and Culture Based Concepts in Expectations about Friendship: A Six Country Analysis

Susan Kline (Ohio State University)
Shuangyue Zhang (Sam Houston State University)
Uttara Manohar (Ohio State University)
Wen Song (Ohio State University)

College students are particularly positioned to form friendships with members of other cultures, relationships that can lead to life-long bonds. These relationships are likely shaped by understandings and expectations about friendship that are both culturally and individually constituted. Our study examines the proposition that conceptions of friendship and friendship roles differ culturally, but that there are also cross-cultural similarities associated with communication expectations. In recent years considerable cross-cultural research has accumulated on the characteristics that young adults prefer in a spouse (e.g., Buss, 1989; Buss & Barnes, 1986). These studies have detected both cultural and gender differences, typically with lists of preferred traits developed from US samples. Far less research has focused on comparing persons’ conceptions of friendship and their preferred and dispreferred characteristics of friendship role characteristics. After reviewing cultural concepts associated with friendship in each culture, we advance specific hypotheses that both specific cultural concepts and universal communication concepts influence friendship role conceptions. Our work involves 384 young adults from six countries, US, China, South Korea, Japan, India, and Malaysia who responded to a series of open-ended questions about friendship and friendship roles. Analytic induction methods are used to create categories across six topics (good same sex friend/bad same sex friend, good opposite sex friend /bad opposite sex friend, good friendship/bad friendship). Preliminary chi square and proportion tests confirm that some communication characteristics appear across the six cultures.
1509 Stereotypes, Beliefs, and Attitudes about Relationships

The Content of Mother Stereotypes

Melinda Markham (Kansas State University)
Jessica Troilo (West Virginia University)
Marilyn Coleman (University of Kansas)
Lawrence Ganong (University of Missouri, Columbia)
Ghadir Khalil (Kansas State University)

The purpose of this study was to understand how Americans think about nine types of mothers and women. This was accomplished by conducting two smaller studies. The first study identified the characteristics Americans ascribe to both mothers and women through open response. The second identified which of the characteristics generated in the first study were most often associated with different types of mothers and women through an adjective checklist, methods used in previous studies (Ganong & Coleman, 1995; Troilo & Coleman, 2008). In order to facilitate an examination of the large number of descriptors generated, they were each put into one of five categories: parenting, not living up to mothering ideal, positive personal, negative personal, and neutral. A total of 456 Americans’ perceptions were analyzed in the two studies (246 in study 1 and 210 in study 2). The types of women investigated included women-in-general, mothers-in-general, married mothers, divorced residential mothers, divorced nonresidential mothers, stepmothers, adoptive mothers, lesbian mothers, and never married mothers. Women-in-general, mothers-in-general, married mothers and adoptive mothers were the most positively stereotyped groups. There were relatively neutral views of divorced residential mothers and stepmothers, whereas divorced nonresidential mothers, never-married mothers, and lesbian mothers were the most negatively stereotyped groups. Our results empirically supported the notion that Americans’ stereotypes of mothers depend on the mother’s marital status, parental status, and sexual orientation. Implications of the findings will be discussed.

Shared and Unique Prototype Features of Relationship Quality Concepts: How They Predict Romantic Relationship Evaluation and Continuation

Mie Kito (University of Winnipeg)

Hassebrauck and Aron’s (2001) prototype matching model indicates that people refer to their conceptualization or prototypes of relationship quality, especially prototypical features (i.e., features that are central to the concept), when they evaluate a romantic relationship. Since previous literature on prototypes of relationship quality and related concepts only examined one or two concepts at a time, it is not clear how features that are part of multiple concepts are differently related to relationship evaluation from features that are unique to each concept. The current longitudinal study examined whether relationship evaluation and continuation would be predicted by the presence of features shared across six or seven relationship quality concepts (i.e., commitment, intimacy, love, passion, satisfaction, trust, and relationship quality) and the presence of features unique to three or fewer concepts. Dating and married individuals (N = 369) completed standardized relationship quality scales and reported the extent to which shared features (20 items, e.g., honesty, caring) and unique features (21 prototypical items, e.g., trustworthy, companionship; 21 non-prototypical items, e.g., marriage, lust) were present in their current relationship. They were contacted again eight months after the initial survey. Regression analyses indicated that the presence of shared and unique prototypical features at Time 1 predicted high relationship quality at Time 1. The presence of unique prototypical features at Time 1 predicted that participants stayed together with their partner at the 8-month follow-up. Thus, although both shared and
unique prototypical features predict relationship evaluation, it is only unique prototypical features that predict relationship continuation.

What Influences the Attitudes of People in the U.S. toward Marriage?: A Critical Review

Xiaohui Li (University of Minnesota)

The purpose of this paper is to review a selected body of research published over the past 25 years, 1984 to 2008, and focus on what influences the attitudes of people in the U.S. toward marriage; to critique what is known about how attitudes toward marriage are affected by all kinds of factors. A review of 14 studies revealed that research questions were limited in terms of scope. Theoretical guidance has been minimal, with only five of the 14 studies incorporating theoretical or conceptual frameworks. This critique found that among 14 studies, the samples were not diversely representative, research designs were generally simple, and measures were inconsistent. Despite these limitations, the findings of the 14 studies showed that offspring’s attitudes toward marriage is highly dependent on the parental/family environment: those whose parents were having conflicts, were divorced, and were having post-divorce inter-parental conflict expressed negative attitudes toward marriage. Additionally, those who reported anxiety in the family of origin through the processes of triangulation or fusion were more likely to report negative attitudes about marriage and negative feelings about marriage. The findings also suggested that mothers’ expectations played an important role in beliefs and attitudes toward marriage. More research is needed to understand people’s attitudes toward marriage, how those attitudes were formed, and how this influence changes over time. A roundtable discussion or an oral presentation will facilitate better to promote an open conversation on this controversial issue: attitudes toward entering a committed relationship.

Personal Goal Pursuits Lead to Biased Processing of Relational Information

Laura VanderDrift (Purdue University)
Christopher Agnew (Purdue University)
Alyssa Bell (Purdue University)

At different stages of goal pursuits, individuals adopt mindsets that have the cognitive features necessary to facilitate success at that stage. The mindset associated with striving for a selected goal (i.e., the implemental mindset) is characterized by biased (i.e., more extreme) information processing, and although this mindset is beneficial to the goal pursuit, it may have deleterious consequences for other aspects of life. In two experiments, we examined whether the biased processing that facilitates a personal goal pursuit impacts individuals’ processing of relational goal information. Specifically, we induced either an implemental mindset or a control mindset with regard to a personal goal pursuit, then asked participants how positively they perceived false, ambiguous feedback regarding their relationship (experiment 1), and how willing they were to engage in relationship maintenance (experiment 2). Results indicated that individuals who adopted an implemental mindset with regard to a personal goal processed ambiguous information regarding their relational goals in an extreme, evaluatively polarized fashion such that highly satisfied participants perceived their relational goals were met even if they were not and low satisfied participants perceived their relational goals were not met even if they were. Additionally, participants in an implemental mindset with regard to a personal goal pursuit reported reduced willingness to engage in relationship maintenance activities when they would come at a cost to the personal goal pursuit. These findings suggest that personal goal pursuits alter how individuals perceive their relationship, which has implications for how they maintain their relationships during a goal pursuit.
The Deinstitutionalization of Marriage vs. the New Institutional Marriage: A Test of Two Theories on Modern Marriage

Claire Kamp Dush (Ohio State University)
Galena Rhoades (University of Denver)
Letitia Kotila (Ohio State University)
Sara Sandburg-Thoma (Ohio State University)

Amato (2004) and Cherlin (2004) argued that marriage in the US has become deinstitutionalized; they suggested that social norms governing marriage have weakened to a point that the very institution is in danger. Yet, Lauer and Yodanis (2010) have argued that there is little evidence to support this claim. Following the new institutional perspective, they posit that married couples still behave in a manner consistent with institutionalization. For example, married couples continue to pool their money, wives continue to change their name, and marriage remains a gendered institution where even in the face of rising female employment, women continue to do a majority of home and childcare work. Yet, marital scholars have failed to examine whether measures of institutionalization change across the transition to marriage in recent cohorts. We seek to test this assertion using data from two cohorts of the National Longitudinal Surveys, one collected from 14 to 21 year olds in 1979, and the second collected from 11 to 14 year olds in 1997. By using two cohorts, and examining investments across the transition to marriage, we are able to test two assertions. First, we are able to test the assertion of Lauer and Yodanis that marriage is still institutionalized by examining whether relationship investments change across the transition to marriage. Second, we are able to test the assertion of Amato and Cherlin by examining whether 1) there are fewer investments, or 2) investments change less across the transition, in more recent as compared to a previous cohort.

Labeling Relationships: What does "Married" Mean?

David C. Bell (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis)
Elizabeth B. Erbaugh (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis)

The literature on deinstitutionalization suggests that socially sanctioned relationships such as marriage may have begun to lose normative support in recent decades. This change further suggests that the forms relationships take may have come to depend more on the emotions and goals of partners than on social conventions and definitions. This study examines the association between how individuals label their relationships and the emotional content of those relationships. A community (non-clinical) sample of 202 drug-using and nonusing persons and their partners was recruited from high drug-use areas of Houston in order to investigate the relationships between sample participants and their partners. Participants were interviewed every three months for over three years about their sex partners, drug use partners, social support partners, and close friends. Within the sample, of all partners reported by participants over thirteen waves, 1,223 were reported more than once. The uniqueness of this dataset involves not only its longitudinal nature, but also its ongoing census of important relationships. Because partners were named at multiple waves, we are able to use these data to examine the consistency of reporting on relationship status over time. We analyze multiple influences on how individuals living near the margins of society label relationships and describe their emotional content. Results show considerable inconsistency in the labeling of relationships. For example, only 28% of those partners described as a spouse are so described every time they are named. We find that emotional connection to the partner is the best predictor of what label is attached to a partner.
Symposium

1510 Managing Privacy-Related Roles, Decisions, and Implications in Personal Relationships

Convener: Keli Steuber (University of Iowa)
Discussant: John Caughlin (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Self-Disclosure Patterns in Established, Online Dating Initiated Relationships

Lauren Buchanan (University of Iowa)

For 2011, the estimate of marriages from online dating has risen to 280,000 per year, more than doubling that of last year’s estimate (Online Dating Magazine 2011). The main differences between online dating and traditional dating are the rate and depth of personal disclosures that are exchanged during the initiation stage of the relationship (Gibbs, Ellison, & Heino, 2006). It has been speculated that relationships that have been initiated online should be relatively stable and durable over time (McKenna, Green, & Gleason, 2002) because there are more self-disclosures and exchanges of private information at the start of these relationships (McKenna et al., 2002; Sprecher, 1987). However, we still do not know how this initial quickness and depth affects the relationship in the future as compared to more traditionally initiated relationships. Given the differences in relationship initiation between these two modes, the theory of Communication Privacy Management is employed to investigate patterns of behavior in relationships established online. In addition, implications for increased depth and frequency of disclosure in relationships established online will be considered in terms of how couples continue to manage their privacy boundaries once the relationship switches modes to include face-to-face encounters.

"I Had to Find Out on Facebook!": Choices of Recipients and Modes for the Disclosure of Private Information

Liesel Sharabi (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
Allison Faetz (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
Kristen Guth (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
Melissa Eichstead (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
Samantha Suranne (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Despite the large literature on self-disclosure, there is minimal research on how individuals choose the person with whom they first share private information. Yet, that initial disclosure of private information can have important personal and relational implications (Chaudoir & Quinn, 2010; Greene & Faulkner, 2002). The purpose of this study was to explore first-time disclosures; specifically, the person with whom individuals first share private information, the modes that facilitate these disclosures, and the reasons behind these decisions. Undergraduate students (n = 118) at a large Midwestern university were asked to complete an open-ended questionnaire. Analytic induction (Bulmer, 1979) was used to analyze their responses and establish categories for analysis. Respondents most frequently noted that they told a best/close friend first (40.7%; n = 48), and the vast majority of these first-time disclosures happened in-person (83.9%; n = 99). Interestingly, the reason most often ascribed to the choice of mode was continuity (i.e., participants were already engaged in conversation using the mode) (37.3%; n = 44), followed by intimacy (i.e., participants found the mode to be the most personal) (17.8%; n = 21). The participants also alluded “right” and “wrong” ways to reveal private information, suggesting that not being told first (e.g., Green & Faulkner, 2002) can be just as much of a threat to the relationship as not
being told the “right” way. The discussion focuses on the theoretical implications of considering the timing of private disclosures.

"I feel like I have the right to know everything": Exploring Adoptee Information Preferences from their Birth Mother during Reunion

Kristina Scharp (University of Iowa)

As a result of the stigma surrounding adoption in American culture and the emphasis placed on biological ties, adoptees often seek to reunite with their birth mothers (March, 1995; Norwood & Baxter, 2011). These reunions are, however, often awkward or uncomfortable as a result of the absence of social rules surrounding the reconnection process (March, 1997). Consequently, this qualitative study examines adoptee information preferences from their birth mother during reunion. Overall, this paper contributes both practically and theoretically to communication research by: (1) extending existing literature on the understudied phenomenon of adoption reunion, (2) providing guidance for birth mothers seeking to reunite, (3) conceptualizing a new facet of information ownership (i.e., perceived information entitlement), (4) answering Petronio’s call for research about recipients of private information and (5) extending Communication Privacy Management theory to account for instances when individuals do not want to know information that they believe is their right to control. Preliminary findings suggest adoptees perceive they are entitled to certain information but do not always want to know that information. As it happens, adoptees express that they would like their birth mothers to serve as information guardians, revealing desired information and concealing unwanted disclosures. By assuming this guardian role, birth mothers and adoptees may have less stressful reunions, especially if both parties have similar expectations for information preferences.

Private Negative Emotions of Child Interpreters: Discrepancies between Parent Perceptions and Child Reported Negative Feelings while Interpreting for a Parent

Lisa Guntzviller (Purdue University)
Erin Donovan-Kicken (University of Texas at Austin)
Jakob Jensen (The University of Utah)

Having bilingual adolescents interpret for their Spanish-speaking parents (i.e., language brokering) is a common coping strategy for immigrant Latino families. Language brokering has been linked to positive adolescent outcomes, such as higher self-esteem, adolescent independence, and a decrease in adolescent cigarette use. However, it has also been associated with increased stress, depression, and risky behaviors. Little research has examined when and why language brokers have positive versus negative language brokering experiences. One potential explanation may be that children are exposed to sensitive information; for example, children who broker in a financial or healthcare setting may learn information that causes them worry or discomfort. Parents may try to monitor their child’s feelings, but may over or underestimate their child’s negative feelings. Children in families that consider emotions to be a private or taboo topic may not express their feelings to their parents. The lack of correlation ($r = .07$) between parent perceptions of child negative emotions and child reported emotions in 100 low-income parent-child Latino dyads is examined. Parent-child communication characteristics, parent and child acculturation characteristics, and child self-efficacy indicate when parents will misunderstand their child’s negative feelings. These findings have implications for language brokering and privacy research. When children perceive their family to have closed privacy boundaries pertaining to emotions, parents are likely to severely underestimate their child’s negative feelings. Children in families that do not have open communication about emotions and who do not have the self-efficacy to break these boundaries may be more at risk for negative outcomes.
Privacy Management Concerns and Strategies of Binge Eaters

Christina Paxman (University of Iowa)

Binge eating disorder (BED) is the most common eating disorder and affects nearly 3% of the U.S. population, or over 900,000 individuals, during the course of their life (National Institute of Mental Health, 2011). The condition, generally marked by the compulsive and continual overeating of unhealthy foods, often results in a variety of physical and psychological maladies (Fitcher, Quadflieg, & Brandl, 1993). Since BED (a) does not receive the attention of more well-known eating disorders, (b) is not recognized by the American Psychiatric Association DSM-IV manual as a distinct eating disorder (though it is under review for future inclusion), and (c) is a deeply stigmatized condition (Davis, Levitan, Muglia, Bewell, & Kennedy, 2004), it is clear that binge eaters face a unique set of challenges in managing their health-related information. Petronio’s (1991; 2002) communication privacy management (CPM) theory provides a compelling framework through which explore binge eating. CPM theory maintains that individuals have varying degrees of boundary permeability and, as a result, reveal and conceal private information in different ways. Preliminary research suggests this is especially true for binge eaters, many of whom go to great lengths to conceal their condition from family members, friends, and co-workers (Overeaters Anonymous, 2011). By further exploring binge eating disorder through the lens of CPM theory communication research has the opportunity to highlight the privacy management strategies and concerns of individuals afflicted with this pervasive yet thickly veiled health condition.

Privacy Rules between Sexual Assault Survivors and Confidants

Kelly McAninch (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
Ashley Middleton (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
Kimberly Pusateri (University of Illinois)
Amy Delaney (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
Jillian Beley (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Sexual assault can have long-lasting, deleterious effects on survivors, yet sexual assault is one of the most underreported crimes in the United States when it comes to telling formal authorities. At some point, however, a majority of survivors do disclose to at least one close other (e.g., family, friends). To date, sexual assault research has focused on confidants’ reactions to disclosure. This important avenue of investigation has revealed that communication between confidants and survivors during disclosure significantly impacts a survivor’s coping and well-being. Research in this area has yet to examine privacy issues that arise for confidants once they learn about the sexual assault, though. How confidants handle, or mishandle, that private information could also affect survivors’ well-being. Disclosing sexual assault to someone, even a close other, means that survivors and confidants must negotiate the privacy of intensely intimate information. To examine these issues, we conducted a study of 14 individuals who indicated that within the last year someone with whom they shared a close relationship had disclosed to them about being sexually assaulted. The in-depth interviews focused on how survivors and confidants can successfully navigate post-disclosure support and coping. Guided by communication privacy management theory, the current paper examines confidants’ reports of privacy negotiation during sexual assault disclosures. Participants reported four themes relevant to access rules (i.e., rules about divulging information) and three themes pertinent to protection rules (i.e., rules about guarding information). The
discussion focuses on implications for communication privacy management theory and practical applications of the findings.

11:30-12:30
Panel Sessions

1511 Relationship Quality in Early and Later Years of Marriage

You, Me, and Equality: Egalitarian Beliefs and Behaviors among Newlywed Couples

Jill Bowers (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
Brian Ogolsky (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
Renee Dennison (Saint Mary's College of Maryland)

Studying egalitarianism in romantic relationships has been linked to individual mental health (Steil, 1997) and greater satisfaction in romantic relationships (Huenergart & Knudson-Martin, 2009), whereas inequality has been linked to relationship dissolution (Gottman & Silver, 1999). Despite the consistent evidence that equality in relationships is associated with relationship satisfaction, considerably less is known about the correspondence between individuals’ own beliefs and behaviors regarding egalitarianism. Does this correspondence differ across relational partners? What predicts correspondence between beliefs and behaviors? What implications does correspondence have on relationship processes (e.g., satisfaction, commitment, and conflict)? We tested these questions using a sample of 176 newlywed couples recruited through marriage records in five US counties. We recruited couples who had been married within the last 24 months ($M = 12.56, SD = 3.72$). The sample ranged in age from 18-37 ($M = 27.13, SD = 3.67$) and was 70% Caucasian and 20% African American. We measured beliefs about egalitarianism using the SRES (Beere, King, Beere, & King, 1984) and measured behaviors using a Family Management Scale designed for this study. HLM analyses showed that correspondence between beliefs and behaviors differed as a function of spousal strain/risk, spousal support, marital quality, marital length, and number of children. Those who reported low beliefs about egalitarianism but had high levels of egalitarian behaviors had the highest satisfaction and support, the lowest marital strain and risk, and fewer children than those who reported high egalitarian beliefs but low egalitarian behaviors.

Stress Spillover in Early Marriage: The Role of Self-Regulatory Depletion

April Buck (University of Texas at Austin)
Lisa Neff (University of Texas at Austin)

Stressful experiences external to a marriage (e.g., work stress, finances) are often associated with poor relationship functioning and lowered marital satisfaction, a phenomenon called stress spillover. To date, however, little attention has been devoted to understanding the specific mechanisms through which stress may lead to maladaptive relationship patterns. Drawing from theories of self-regulatory depletion, it was predicted that coping with external stress is an effortful process that consumes spouses’ regulatory resources, leaving spouses with less energy to effectively respond to their relationship issues. The current study relied on a sample of 171 newly-married couples to examine whether self-regulatory depletion may mediate the link between external stress and relationship well-being. Couples were asked to complete a 14-day daily diary, which assessed their daily stress, their state of self-regulatory depletion, their marital behaviors, and their daily marital appraisals. Within-person analyses revealed that, on average, couples experienced stress spillover, such that on days when their stress was higher than usual they reported
enacting more negative behaviors towards their partner and endorsed less positive appraisals of the relationship. Further evidence revealed that self-regulatory depletion accounted for a majority of these spillover effects. These findings suggest that even happy and committed couples may find it difficult to engage in adaptive relationship processes under conditions of stress.

It's Not What You Think But How: Newlyweds' Cognitive Structure Predicts Marital Quality and Longevity

Grace L. Jackson (University of California, Los Angeles)
Benjamin R. Karney (University of California, Los Angeles)

Evaluating one’s relationship requires that partners integrate observations of each other’s strengths and weaknesses within a coherent whole. Decades of research suggest that how partners accomplish this integration has implications for their relationship outcomes, but to date this work has been limited by an exclusive focus on how partners integrate negative observations, a reliance on survey methods over more naturalistic assessments, and the failure to examine how these processes themselves develop over time. To address these gaps, the current research asked newlywed couples (N=169) to describe each other’s strengths and weaknesses in open-ended paragraphs, every six months for the first four years of their marriage. Paragraphs were coded for their content (i.e., elaboration of their partner’s positive and negative qualities) and their structure (i.e., evidence of seeing strengths in weaknesses or weaknesses in strengths). Analyses reveal that, on average, spouses do spontaneously qualify their descriptions of each other, seeing the limits of each other’s strengths and the upsides of each other’s weaknesses. Moreover, these structural features change over time, such that wives grow more critical of their husbands’ strengths, and husbands grow less forgiving of their wives’ weaknesses, controlling for the content of their descriptions. These structures significantly predict marital outcomes, such that, even after controlling for initial marital satisfaction and the number of strengths and weaknesses they describe, husbands and wives who qualify their partner’s strengths with weaknesses experience steeper declines in satisfaction over time and a higher likelihood of divorce within the first years of marriage.

Are Marital Outcomes a Consequence of a Gradual Incremental Process or a Manifestation of Initial Risk Factors?

Justin Lavner (University of California, Los Angeles)
Thomas Bradbury (University of California, Los Angeles)
Benjamin Karney (University of California, Los Angeles)

Most couples begin marriage intent on maintaining a fulfilling relationship, but some newlyweds soon struggle while others continue to experience high levels of satisfaction. Do these diverse outcomes result from an incremental process that unfolds over time, as prevailing models suggest, or are they a manifestation of initial differences and vulnerabilities that are largely evident at the start of the marriage? Using eight waves of data collected over the first 4 years of marriage from 251 newlywed couples, we tested these competing perspectives first by identifying three qualitatively distinct relationship satisfaction trajectory groups and then by determining the extent to which spouses in these groups were differentiated on the basis of (a) initial scores and (b) 4-year changes in a set of established predictor variables, including relationship problems, aggression, attributions, stress, self-esteem, and intimacy. Across all variables, initial values afforded stronger discrimination of outcome groups than did rates of change in these variables. Independent of these initial values, couples experiencing the most rapid rates of deterioration in relationship satisfaction reported corresponding 4-year increases in relationship problems and increasingly maladaptive attributions for partner behaviors. Models of marital outcomes will be
strengthened by acknowledging the potent consequences of risks and vulnerabilities that can be identified early in marriage, and studies are now needed to clarify the specific ways in which initial indices of risk come to influence change in spouses’ interactions and judgments of relationship satisfaction.

1512 Relationships, Illness, and Medical Decision Making

The Impact of Neurological Illness on Relationships

Marita McCabe (Deakin University)
Elodie O'Connor (Deakin University)

The current study investigated the impact of neurological illness on relationship satisfaction. Participants were 423 patients and 335 carers with either motor neurone disease (MND), Huntington’s disease (HD), Parkinson’s, or multiple sclerosis (MS). Participants provided information on relationship satisfaction, sexual satisfaction, social support and duration and severity of illness. The results demonstrated that patients and carers with HD had a significantly lower level of relationship satisfaction and sexual satisfaction than the other three illness groups. Further, patients with HD indicated a significantly higher level of relationship satisfaction than their carers. For MS and MND patients, social support predicted marital relationship satisfaction, and for Parkinson’s patients, social support and sexual satisfaction predicted marital relationship satisfaction. Overall, the levels of relationship and sexual satisfaction found in the current study were lower than levels obtained with studies from the general population. These results demonstrate that the duration and severity of illness are not the main predictors of relationship satisfaction. Rather, social support is an important predictor of both relationship and sexual satisfaction.

How Relationships Shape Medical Decision Making

Alexandra Suppes (Weill Cornell Medical College)
Joseph J. Fins (Weill Cornell Medical College)

One of the most difficult moments in any close relationship is when one person lays on a hospital bed without decision-making capacity, leaving their loved one to make medical decisions to pursue ongoing care. Under prevailing ethical and legal norms, the surrogate, if called upon, is obligated to follow the wishes expressed by the patient while competent. When an otherwise healthy person arrives in an ER following a catastrophic accident, they have rarely discussed such wishes with close others. In lieu of explicit preferences, the surrogate is expected to invoke the standard of substituted judgment (what decision the patient would have made if that patient were competent to do so). What guides these judgments? Our work explores how a surrogates’ relationship to the patient shapes the motivation to continue life-sustaining therapy or transition to palliative care. In our research with surrogates of brain injured patients we have found that relationship factors between the patient and the surrogate, such as their relational closeness, shapes the surrogates motivation more than factors that matter to clinicians, such as the source of injury or the patient’s diagnosis. With our data, we argue that advances in the science of relationships must inform clinicians to be more aware of, and responsive to, the difficulties faced by close others when they find themselves in the role of the surrogate decision-maker.
Protective Buffering and Self-Disclosure in Couples Coping with Cancer

Mariët Hagedoorn (University of Groningen, University Medical Center)

This study examined links between protective buffering and self-disclosure in couples coping with colorectal cancer and relationship satisfaction and depressive symptoms in both partners. Eighty-eight newly diagnosed patients and their partners completed measures of past spousal support, protective buffering (e.g., hiding worries and fears), relationship satisfaction and depressive symptoms, 3 and 9 months post-diagnosis. Couples also engaged in a cancer-related conversation (5 months post-diagnosis). Each partner’s self-disclosures of thoughts and emotions were coded. One partner’s protective buffering was found to be negatively associated with the other’s relationship satisfaction over time. However, as long as past spousal support was high, high levels of satisfaction were maintained in the short-term even if partner buffering was high. Levels of depressive symptoms declined over time in both partners. Buffering nor self-disclosure were found to be associated with changes in depressive symptoms. Interestingly, decreases in depressive symptoms over time were found to be least prominent in couples in which the partner disclosed a lot whereas the patient disclosed little. Although buffering may reduce relationship satisfaction, self-disclosure to one’s intimate partner does not appear to be beneficial in reducing distress. Partners’ self-disclosure toward patients who disclose little even appears to be harmful both for patients and their partners. If there is a mismatch in the need for self-disclosure within couples, partners with a strong need to talk about their concerns may be recommended to confide in someone else in their social network or to consult a health care professional.

Recruitment Issues in Couples Coping with Cancer Studies - A Systematic Review

Meirav Dagan (University of Groningen, University Medical Center)
Mariët Hagedoorn (University of Groningen, University Medical Center)

It is well known that recruiting couples for psychological studies can be challenging and that the couples’ response rate is an important indicator of the generalizability of the results. In this paper we aim to review (a) recruitment and response rate issues in studies of couples coping with cancer, and (b) the quality of reporting. A systematic review (1980 – May 2011) was conducted including 70 studies meeting the inclusion criteria of being published in peer-reviewed journals, describing quantitative findings using a cross-sectional or longitudinal design. Fifty seven percent of the studies did not allow for calculating the actual couples’ response rate (ACRR). In addition, we have found huge variation across studies with very low rates of 25% and very high rates of 90%. Except for ACRR, we have identified three additional rates that were presented in the literature: % of those who expressed interest, agreement rate and participation rate. When comparing these rates with ACRR, we have found that although these rates are not incorrect they create the impression that the sample is much more representative than it actually is. Although overall reporting has improved over the years, the quality of the reporting was rather poor (e.g., lack of information about sampling and the number of participants approached). Less than half of the studies provided sufficient information to calculate ACRR that represent the generalizability of the results. Even when calculating the ACRR was possible, studies often presented the most favorable rates. We critically discuss our findings.
Effects of Deployment on Marriage and Family

Risk and Resiliency in Families during Military Deployment Reintegration Periods

Kelly Rossetto (Boston College)

Wartime deployment, and its associated prolonged separation, can create uncertainty, fear, and disorganization in family life during separation (Peebles-Kleiger & Kleiger, 1994) and poor family well-being, functioning, and communication upon return (Fisher McNulty, 2010). This study examines the risk and resiliency factors associated with deployment reintegration, or the demands military families face during reintegration periods (e.g., rest and relaxation, post-deployment), and how military partners cope with these demands. 26 in-depth interviews were conducted with military wives and fiancés whose partners were currently deployed. Through thematic analysis it was found that wives/fiancés discussed reintegration risk factors in terms of significant changes: personal changes of self and spouse, relationship changes, space/time changes, and family system changes. Resiliency factors (i.e., how wives and fiancés reported dealing with reintegration changes) included acceptance, managing control, open communication, space/time management, preparation and education, and reorganization of roles/routines. These resiliency factors paralleled the risk factors reported and, notably, an additional emergent theme involved barriers to managing change (i.e., barriers to resiliency). These results help develop our understanding of military deployment and family communication during stressful events. Each theme is discussed along with theoretical implications, including connections and extensions of the Family Adjustment and Adaptation Response Model (Patterson, 1988) and Circumplex Model (Olson, 2000).

“My Friends Don't Understand How it Feels”: Exploring Perceptions of Feeling Understood among Adolescents who have Experienced the Deployment of a Military Parent

Steven Wilson (Purdue University)
Christina Collins (Purdue University)
Jennifer Owlett (Purdue University)
K. Andrew Richards (Purdue University)
J. D. DeFreese (Purdue University)
Felicia Roberts (Purdue University)
Kurtis Miller (Purdue University)

Nearly one million children have experienced the deployment of a military parent during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (Park, 2011). Research with youth (Mmari et al., 2009) and school staff (Chandra et al., 2009) suggests that adolescents experiencing a parental deployment often perceive that most of their peers do not understand what they are going through. Feeling understood is critical for having one’s identity confirmed and feeling connected with others, whereas not feeling understood is associated with disconfirmation and social isolation (Dailey, 2006; Reis et al., 2000; Weger, 2005). Despite this, no research to date has provided an in-depth exploration of this issue in military families. To address this gap, semi-structured interviews (45-60 minutes) were conducted with 24 adolescents (M age = 13.37 years, SD = 1.66 years; 13 males, 11 females) while they attended a summer camp for military children who had experienced one or more parental deployments. Interview data are being analyzed inductively through the use of open and axial coding (Patton, 2002) for themes related to understanding. Issues being explored include how adolescents’ define “feeling understood,” who adolescents perceive do/do not understand parental deployment, dyadic factors perceived to facilitate or impede understanding, communicative behaviors (verbal and nonverbal) that signal someone does/does not understand, and positive and negative outcomes associated with feeling (mis)understood. Implications for the literatures
Experiences of Military Youth during a Family Member's Deployment: Changes, Challenges, and Opportunities

Leanne Knobloch (University of Illinois)
Kimberly Pusateri (University of Illinois)
Aaron Ebata (University of Illinois)
Patricia McGlaughlin (University of Illinois)

The deployment of a family member can be very distressing for military children (Chandra, Lara-Cinisomo, et al., 2010; Lipari, Winters, Matos, Smith, & Rock, 2010), but it also can supply opportunities for growth (Park, 2011). This study addresses calls for research on the changes, challenges, and opportunities facing youth during a family member's tour of duty (e.g., Palmer, 2008; Park, 2011). It uses the relational turbulence model (Knobloch & Theiss, 2011) to frame research questions about how children experience a family member's deployment. Participants were 33 military youth ranging from 10 to 13 years old who completed one-on-one, semi-structured interviews. Findings indicated six changes to family life (RQ1), five challenges (RQ2), and four opportunities (RQ3). The results contribute to the literature by advancing theory, by providing insight into children's experiences in their own words, and by suggesting practical guidelines for helping youth navigate a family member's deployment.

Factors Associated with Marital Quality in Air Force Active Duty Members

Jared R. Anderson (Kansas State University)
Matthew D. Johnson (State University of New York at Binghamton)
Wendy Travis (United States Air Force-Family Advocacy Program)

There is very little empirical data related to the factors associated with marital quality in military populations. In their comprehensive review of research on marriage and divorce in the U.S. military, Karney and Crown (2007) stated, “To date, research on military marriages has not directly examined the associations between service members’ characteristics and their marital outcomes (p. 40).” Therefore, the current study seeks to add to our knowledge of the factors that influence military marriages. Specifically, this study utilizes data from the 2006 Air Force Community Assessment, a biennial, anonymous survey of Air Force active-duty members conducted at 82 Air Force bases worldwide. Using Bronfenbrenner's (1977) bio-ecological model as a guide, we examine the individual (e.g., depression, personal coping, physical health, religious involvement), familial (e.g., number of children, spouse preparedness for deployment, parent-child relationship satisfaction), workplace (e.g., satisfaction with the AF, workgroup cohesion, workplace relationship satisfaction), and community (e.g., social support, community resources, and community unity) factors that influence marital quality (i.e., relationship satisfaction) in active-duty Air Force personnel. The results from this study provide evidence for multiple levels of influence (individual, familial, workplace, and community) on marital quality in Air Force active duty members.
1514 Education, Intervention, and Relationships

Relating through Immediacy in the Online Classroom:
Comparing Student Outcomes in the Online and Traditional Formats

Christina Farwell (Western Illinois University)
Lisa Miczo (Western Illinois University)

The relationship between teacher and student has admittedly been a popular area of study over the past few decades, specifically in regards to teacher immediacy, with much of the research done on instructors’ verbal and nonverbal behaviors in the classroom as they relate to student outcomes (such as motivation and learning). Virtually all of this research has focused on the traditional classroom, under the assumption that the online format severely limits what behaviors instructors may exhibit (or that will be received) without the addition of a video element. Recognizing that the relationship between teacher and student in an online classroom is restricted due to the physical separation, this study built upon a growing acknowledgement that online instructors’ communication behaviors, while not conforming to traditional conceptions of immediacy, may nevertheless function similarly in the online classroom. Utilizing a measure of online instructor behaviors believed to translate as immediacy behaviors, this study examined the relationship between teachers’ verbal and nonverbal behaviors and students’ perceptions of their own motivation and learning. Additionally, these associations were compared to those resulting from a similar evaluation of these variables in the traditional format. Results demonstrated a positive relationship between the conceptualized “online immediacy” behaviors and the student motivation and student learning variables in the online classroom. Findings also confirmed past research demonstrating a positive relationship between immediacy and student outcome variables in the traditional classroom. Finally, comparison tests revealed no significant difference between these relationships across instructional formats.

Striving for Romance: Impact on Self-Ratings of Warmth, Competence, and Academic Achievement among College Women

Michele Acker (Otterbein University)

Several recent studies have suggested that young women’s romantic relationships diminish their aspirations in science and technology (STEM) careers (Diekman et al., 2010; Park et al., 2011). In a related vein, studies of women who are in these types of male-dominated fields note that women are viewed as either warm or competent but not both (e.g., Cuddy et al., 2004; Heilman et al., 2004). This study investigated whether some of the diminished interest in STEM fields is due to self-stereotyping on dimensions of warmth/competence as a function of romantic relationship goals. 78 college women participated in an online survey that assessed their interest and competence in STEM fields, their self-ratings of warmth/competence, and evaluations of their personal tasks regarding intimacy and academics. For women not currently in a relationship, romantic striving was negatively correlated with importance, involvement and achievement of academic goals, whereas it was not for those in a relationship. Relationship status did not predict differences in self-stereotyping on warmth/competence, or involvement in STEM fields, but the degree to which the task of intimacy was seen as difficult, conflictual, and creating ambivalence did. However, for women not in a relationship, their evaluation of their romantic desirability was negatively correlated to their endorsement of traits counterstereotypic to the female gender role which was not the case for those in a relationship. Discussion focuses on self-stereotyping and the mismatch between female stereotypes for the culture of romance versus academic achievement, in particular for those women who are currently looking for a relationship.
Messages Shared within the Family and Classroom That Affect Student Perceptions of Academic (Dis)Honesty

Leah Bryant (DePaul University)

A voluminous amount of research has been dedicated to understanding why students cheat (see McCabe & Treviño, 1999). The vast majority of that research considers psychological variables such as students' self-esteem and personality style, in addition to contextual factors such as faculty monitoring and likelihood of being caught (Davis et al., 1992). However, research has largely neglected the effect of communication within the family and the classroom that impacts students' understanding of academic ethics and their likelihood to engage in academic misconduct. This proposed multi-method, multi-phased research proposal is designed to explain the influence of the transmission of messages from families and instructors that affect students' perceptions of ethical decision-making regarding their coursework, thus providing a framework for understanding how ethics are learned and enacted in college.

Does a Self-Directed Relationship Enhancement Program make Individuals Happier?
A Randomized Controlled Trial

Peter Hilpert (University of Zurich, Department of Psychology)
Guy Bodenmann (University of Zurich)

Because relationship satisfaction and personal happiness are strongly associated, interventions to reduce relationship distress also reduce depressive symptoms. But surprisingly, no intervention thus far has used the potential of relationship enhancement programs to increase personal happiness among couples who are not distressed. To test the effect of a self-directed relationship enhancement program on personal happiness, 212 couples (N = 424) were randomly assigned to the program or to a waiting control group (survey: pre, post, 3 months and 6 months follow-up). It was hypothesized that (i) personal happiness can be increased in comparison with the control group and (ii) a change in skill usage will lead to an increase in relationship satisfaction, which will account for the change in personal happiness. Results reveal that personal happiness can be increased by a self-directed relationship enhancement program over the long term. Furthermore, unhappy participants profited more than happy participants. Finally, the increase in happiness was independent from an increase of relationship satisfaction, but dependent on skill improvement. Thus, these findings highlight the potential of relationship interventions for pursuing lasting personal happiness.

A Brief Disclosure Intervention to Increase HIV Disclosure Efficacy and Access to Social Support

Amanda Carpenter (Rutgers University)
Kate Magsamen-Conrad (Rutgers University)
Athryn Greene (Rutgers University)
Danielle Catona (Rutgers University)

Disclosing HIV status is a difficult decision that involves balancing potential risks with benefits. This project developed a Brief Disclosure Intervention (BDI) utilizing Brief Motivational Interviewing to increase HIV disclosure efficacy, disclosure, and social support. This 10-15 minute intervention is designed to be used with case managers to facilitate HIV disclosure decision-making as a tool in direct practice. We evaluate BDI efficacy (N = 55 HIV+ individuals) with clients from a large northeastern AIDS Service Organization. We compare the BDI intervention with two control (pre/posttest assessment
only and posttest only) groups. Cognitive and behavioural outcomes were assessed six months post intervention to estimate BDI impact [all controls receive BDI as a delayed component]. Time 1 results suggest some differences in immediate posttest measures. BDI participants reported less anxiety and more confidence at the end of the interview (compared to the beginning) than did participants in the control group. In post Time 1 interviews, staff reported that BDI intervention participants want to discuss the disclosure strategies. Although there was no significant difference in perceptions of variety of strategies to share HIV+ status, clients shared with case managers that they had not previously thought about the different ways to share. Preliminary results suggest that the BDI increases confidence in HIV+ individuals’ ability to share their HIV status and decreases disclosure anxiety. The BDI provides a variety of different strategies for sharing HIV status and is brief enough to be adopted, thus extending the reach of theories of disclosure and information management.

Symposia

1515  The New Story of Romeo and Juliet

Convener: H. Colleen Sinclair (Mississippi State University)
Discussant: Diane Felmlee (Pennsylvania State University)

Is it really about Destiny?
How Implicit Theories and Social Network Opinions can Influence Commitment.

Lauren Colvin (Mississippi State University)
H. Colleen Sinclair (Mississippi State University)

The present study examined whether someone’s implicit theories of relationships (ITRs) moderate the relationship between social network disapproval and commitment to one’s romantic relationship. There are two types of ITRs. One type is characterized by belief in destiny, and the other is characterized by a belief in growth. The former view their relationships as either meant to be or not. The latter believe relationships take work to maintain and problems can be overcome. We believed those embracing a cultivation orientation (high on growth/low on destiny) would be more resilient in the face of network disapproval than those with an evaluation orientation (high on destiny/low on growth) who might view network disapproval as a sign they weren’t “meant to be.” To test this hypothesis, 376 participants in dating relationships completed an online survey which assessed their perceived degree of friend and parent approval/disapproval of their current romantic relationship (using Sinclair’s 2006 Social Network Opinion scale), their Implicit Theories of Relationships (using Knee’s 1998 scale), and their commitment to the relationship (using Lund’s 1985 scale). Analyses largely confirmed our hypothesis. Those exhibiting a cultivation orientation remained highly committed to their romantic relationship despite the disapproval of their parents (but friend disapproval was still damaging). In contrast, those exhibiting an evaluation orientation showed low commitment scores when parents and friends disapproved. Thus endorsing growth and rejecting destiny seems to be key to maintaining a relationship when faced with the disapproval of others.
Is it really about Defiance? Reactance and the Romeo & Juliet Effect

H. Colleen Sinclair (Mississippi State University)
Abigail Blaney (Mississippi State University)
Diane Felmlee (Pennsylvania State University)
Susan Sprecher (Illinois State University)

Then I defy you, stars! William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*, 5.1. The Romeo and Juliet effect has been suggested by some (Driscoll et al., 1972; Sprecher & Felmlee, 1992) to be a reactive response to social disapproval, whereby the disapproval leads the individual to draw closer to their partner rather than pull the couple apart. The present studies thus sought to examine whether individual differences in reactance (Study 1 – correlational survey, n = 858) or reactive responses to hypothetical friend and parent opinions [Study 2 – a 2 (Source of Opinion: Parents, Friends) x 2 (Type of Opinion: Approval vs. Disapproval) factorial vignette survey, n = 340] predicted the Romeo and Juliet effect. First, analyses of reactance measures revealed two types of reactance: defiant reactance (doing the opposite of that urged by others) and independent reactance (a desire to make free and independent decisions). Second, independence, rather than defiance, proved a better buffer to social network disapproval. Both studies revealed that these independent reactance-prone individuals managed to maintain their opinion of their relationship by disregarding, rather than defying, network opinions. Therefore, the disapproval of others does not necessarily increase affection for the partner, but independent reactance might protect the relationship from deteriorating in the face of adversity.

Is it really about Disapproval? Comparing the Consequences of Social Network Approval and Disapproval on Relationship Initiation

Brittany Wright Fife (University of Texas at Austin)
H. Colleen Sinclair (Mississippi State University)

My only love sprung from my only hate. William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*, 1.5.138. We examined how perceptions of dating partners are affected when individuals are faced with social network opinions that are in agreement or disagreement about the quality of the potential dates. The present study expanded on previous research in four ways: 1) We employed an experimental design in order to establish that social network opinion affects individuals’ perceptions, 2) We examined multiple third-party opinions which has rarely been tested in the literature, 3) We assessed the influence of third-party opinions on relationship initiation, a stage less commonly examined, and 4) We explored whether resource exchange influenced the impact of the friend’s and parent’s opinions. In a virtual dating game paradigm, participants spoke to two potential romantic partners online and received positive and/or negative feedback ostensibly from their friend and parent about one of the partners. The study employed a 2 (Parent Opinion: approve, disapprove) x 2 (Friend Opinion: approve, disapprove) x 2 (Interaction Partner: Evaluated Target, Control Target – within-subjects) mixed factorial design. Friend opinion influenced who the participants liked, such that individuals liked the friend-approved target more than the control. Parental opinion was influential only when participants relied on their parent for more resources than their friend. Further, we found that even having one approving source – despite having disapproval from another source - can lead a potential partner to be liked more than a partner about whom one has no information from the social network. Thus, approval from one source can help one withstand disapproval from others.
1516 What Makes Two People Click: Exploratory Research in Romantic Attraction and Interpersonal Dynamics of Relationship Initiation Processes

Convener: Chang Chen (The University of British Columbia)

An Exploratory Study of Romantic Chemistry in Young Adults: A Mixed Methods Analysis

Chang Chen (The University of British Columbia)
Geoff MacDonald (University of Toronto)

Romantic chemistry is a readily recognized construct but one has received little empirical attention. Although people colloquially describe “chemistry” as the central aspect of romantic attraction, surprisingly little research has explored what chemistry is. The general aim of the current research was to investigate the experience of chemistry using a mixed-methods (i.e., qualitative and quantitative) design in an effort to empirically articulate its core features. In the first study, we collected narratives of experiences of romantic chemistry from university undergraduate students (n=82). In addition, participants completed measures of adult attachment and perception of social threats and rewards. Preliminary analyses demonstrated that experiences of romantic chemistry include elements of physiological arousal, physical attraction, emotional connection, flow, sexual desire, and companionship among others. Individual differences in adult attachment were associated with various aspects of chemistry. Participants higher in anxious attachment tended to emphasize the emotional elements of the experience of chemistry more strongly and attached greater importance to chemistry in romantic relationships. The second study, involving community adults who were single (n=121) and those who were in a relationship (n=123), replicated the components of chemistry from the first study. The results will be discussed in terms of the relevance of romantic chemistry to attachment theory and relationship initiation processes.

What Leads to Romantic Attraction: Similarity, Reciprocity, Security, or Beauty?
Evidence from a Speed-Dating Study

Shanhong Luo (University of North Carolina-Wilmington)

Years of attraction research has established several “principles” of attraction with robust evidence. However, a major limitation of previous attraction studies is that they have almost exclusively relied on well-controlled experiments, which are often criticized for lacking ecological validity. This study was designed to test the evidence for four attraction principles in a real-life setting—speed-dating. Social Relations Model analyses showed strong evidence for the beauty principle; that is, partners’ physical attractiveness (i.e., beauty) was the best predictor of initial romantic attraction for both sexes. There was partial support for the reciprocity and security principles; that is, people were more attracted to partners who also liked them (reciprocity) and who were emotionally secure (security). Surprisingly, there was no evidence for similarity—people were not particularly attracted to those who were similar to themselves.

Mimicry as a Mating Strategy

Claire Ashton-James (Free University of Amsterdam, Vrije Universiteit)

The present research investigates the role of mimicry in the cultivation of sexual relationships. That mimicry may be involved in human mating behavior is suggested by research demonstrating that single people mimic the opposite sex more than those already involved in a romantic relationship (Karremans &
Verwijmeren, 2008). However, due to the absence of a condition in which same-sex interactions are observed, it is not clear whether the effect of relationship-status on mimicking behavior is due to a mating motive or an affiliation motive (singles have a higher need to belong). Therefore, the present research examines the impact of mating goals on mimicry of the same-sex and the opposite sex. In two studies, conducted in the field and in the laboratory, we found that short versus long term mating goals (measured in Study 1 and primed in Study 2) differentially affect mimicry of the opposite sex compared to the same sex. The results of these studies support the notion that mimicry is not only integral to the formation of social bonds, but also sexual bonds.

A Relational Approach to Mate Value

Lucy Hunt (Texas A&M University)
Paul Eastwick (Texas A&M University)

Mate value refers to an individual’s appeal as a potential or actual mate (i.e., romantic partner). Existing models of mate value consider this construct to be a function of a person’s valuable traits, such as physical attractiveness, intelligence, and other indicators of genetic quality. However, this conceptualization of mate value ignores humans’ unique evolutionary heritage; humans are motivated not only to select mates whose traits signal genetic quality but also to form successful pair-bonded relationships for the purpose of raising costly offspring. Addressing this latter point, we tested an alternative conceptualization of mate value: Mate value might also reflect a romantic partner’s ability to provide a satisfying, committed relationship. In an initial study, 88 participants described what the term “mate value” meant to them. Although traits were mentioned in 80% of essays, themes related to our proposed relational conceptualization appeared in 88% of essays. In a second study, opposite-sex individuals (e.g., acquaintances, friends, romantic partners) rated each other’s mate value using traditional trait-based measures (e.g., “[Name] is attractive”, “[Name] is intelligent”) and a new measure emphasizing satisfying partnerships (e.g., “[Name] is a valuable mate for me”, “[Name] gives me a better life”). Using the Social Relations Model one-with-many design, we isolated actor, target, and relationship variance. As predicted, the trait-based measure yielded high target variance, whereas our relational measure yielded high relationship variance. These results suggest that mate value may reflect individual differences in desirable traits or compatibility and “chemistry” unique to a dyad, depending on how it is measured.

1517 Personal vs. Relational Goals: The Role of Self-Regulation

Convener: Francesca Righetti (VU University Amsterdam)
Discussant: Francesca Righetti (VU University Amsterdam)

Me or You? The Role of Self-Control in Facing the Dilemmas of Sacrifice

Francesca Righetti (VU University Amsterdam)
Catrin Finkenauer (VU University Amsterdam)
Eli Finkel (Northwestern University)

People in close relationships often encounter situations in which their interests are at odds: what is good for one partner is not good for the other, and individuals are forced to choose between pursuing their self-interest and sacrificing for their partners’ needs. Some sacrifices are small, they occur daily in a relationship and involve small costs to the self (e.g. going out with your partner’s friends that you find terribly boring). Others are big and involve substantial costs to the self (e.g. moving to another city for
your partner’s career). When people need to choose between their and their beloved one’s interest, what is people’s impulsive choice? And does the result of an impulsive decision differ for small and big sacrifices? In four studies we tested the role of self-control in the decision of sacrificing (or not) for close others. Across studies, we found that, for small sacrifices, people’s impulsive decision is sacrifice. However, when sacrifices entail big costs for the self, people’s impulsive decision is to opt for self-interest and it takes self-control to sacrifice. Possible mechanisms and boundary conditions were also explored and will be discussed. While previous research suggests that human behavior is automatically driven by selfish impulses, this new work suggests that, under certain conditions (e.g. small sacrifice in close relationship), automaticity is more likely to elicit pro-social responses than deliberative thinking.

Linking Self-Regulation to Relationships: Personal versus Social Self-Regulation

Kassandra Cortes (Wilfrid Laurier University)
Lara Kammrath (Wake Forest University)

Researchers often refer to self-regulation as a one-dimensional construct, defined as adapting our emotions and actions to fit in accord with standards (of many kinds). What if the effortful behaviour is for someone else, rather than oneself? As the goal shifts from being personally relevant (performing to benefit oneself) to being socially relevant (performing to benefit another person) perhaps the type of self-regulation also shifts. We propose that personal self-regulation, that is, engaging in effortful behaviour to benefit oneself, is distinct from social self-regulation, engaging in effortful behaviour to benefit others, and that each will be predominantly predicted by different constructs. According to self-control literature, individuals high in trait self-control are the best regulators, irrespective of whether the self-regulation is for personal or social purposes. Other researchers, however, speculate that social regulation may be a distinct domain, best predicted by traits associated with communal goals. Three studies examined whether trait self-control would predict social self-regulation abilities the same way it predicts personal self-regulation abilities. We suspected social-regulation strength may be distinct, and may be predicted by a social-centered construct, namely, agreeableness. In study 1, participants reported how much effort they would exert for themselves and for others. In study 2 we examined observed effortful behaviour. In study 3, we added incentive to the effortful behaviour and used close relationships in the social condition. In all studies, trait self-control predicted task effort in the personal, but not social domain, and trait agreeableness predicted effort in the social, but not personal domain.

I’d Give It All Up for You! Executive Control Promotes Sacrificial Behavior

Tila Pronk (VU University)
Johan Karremans (Radboud University)
Daniël Wigboldus (Radboud University)

In every relationship, there will be times when one’s own personal goals or motives conflict with the goals and motives of one’s partner or relationship. Why is it that some people are better able to sacrifice their own needs for the needs of their partner than others? We proposed that an individual’s level of executive control plays an important role in answering this question. Executive control refers to a group of cognitive control processes that guide our behavior and aid us in reaching our goals in everyday life. Recently, there has been converging evidence that executive control plays a vital role in helping people protect and maintain their relationships. For example, a higher level of executive control is related to forgiveness of close others, and the ability to stay faithful to one’s romantic partner. In two studies, we tested whether executive control is also related to the ability to enact in sacrificial behavior towards one’s romantic partner. Study 1 showed that people with a higher level of executive control proceeded longer with a frustrating task in order to pick out a gift for their partner. Study 2 replicated this finding, by
showing that romantically involved participants proceeded longer with a boring task if this had positive consequences for their partner. Additionally, Study 2 showed that executive control was related to a higher tendency to make big sacrifices for one’s partner in various hypothetical sacrifice situations. Together, these results suggest that executive control facilitates sacrificial behavior in close relationships.

2:30-3:45

Panel Sessions

1518 Family and Parent-Child Communication

Supportive-Controlling Tensions in Family Discourses about Virginity Pledges

Jimmie Manning (Northern Kentucky University)

This research study explores discourses from family members centred upon conversations they had about sex and sexuality, particularly their concerns about the preservation of a (usually female) child’s virginity. Discussion primarily explores support/control tensions in family pledge processes; but also differences between individual and group articulations of virginity pledges; and connections between seemingly contradictory attitudes, beliefs, and values in the discourses. Interviews were conducted with 13 families involving 57 research participants from two different southern United States communities. Each family member was interviewed separately before being reconvened with their full families for a final interview session. Values coding (Gable & Wolf, 1993) was used to elaborate upon participants’ values, attitudes, and beliefs. Seven dominant beliefs emerged: more children are having more sex than ever before; sex is more dangerous now than it has ever been; school systems, particularly sexual education curricula, are encouraging students to engage their sexuality; “the media” is negatively influencing the sexual identities of young women; children will make the same mistakes as their parents; sex is better after marriage; and young women have no sexual agency. Five values undergird these beliefs: parents should want the best for their children, loyalty to family is important, sex and sexuality are private matters; traditional heteronormative models of sexual development should prevail; and children should be protected from the negative aspects of sex and sexuality. Only three dominant attitudes emerged: sex is beautiful, sex is terrifying, and entities publicly engaging sexuality are unwanted.

How Families Talk about Sex and What It Means For the Sexual Relationships and Experiences of Adult Children in College

Ascan Koerner (University of Minnesota)

This study investigates college students’ recollection of communication in their families of origin, how and how often their parents talked to them about sex and sexual relationships, and college students’ sexual communication and experiences as young adults. Data from 216 students were analyzed to test hypotheses relating family general and sexual communication to college students’ sexual experiences and behaviors, sexual self-efficacy, and sexual and romantic relationship satisfaction. Results showed that sexuality is experienced very differently in the current generation of college students than in past generations. Men reported more sex partners, more sex-stereotypical views, and greater variety of sexual behaviors, but there were no sex differences in age at onset of sexual activities, most attitudes about sex in romantic relationships, and sexual satisfaction, and women reported greater sexual self-efficacy than men. Open sexual communication in couples is associated with greater sexual satisfaction, but sexual self-efficacy, interestingly, is not, although together with open sexual communication, it predicts relationship
satisfaction. In regard to sexual communication within families, both men and women reported that it was infrequent and of low quality. Women reported somewhat greater frequency and quality of talk about sexual mores and delaying sexual activity. Parental communication that was sex-positive is associated with greater current sexual satisfaction, whereas parental sexual communication that emphasized traditional sexual mores was negatively associated with relationship satisfaction. Implications of these results for our understanding of sex and communication about sex in romantic couples, as well as the role of family sexual communication in this process, are discussed.

Family Communication Patterns, Illness Attitudes, and the Willingness to Disclose Symptoms to Parents

Nathan Miczo (Western Illinois University)
Lisa Miczo (Western Illinois University)

The family is a primary site of socialization about how to perform illness. For adolescents, this includes decisions about revealing versus concealing symptoms to parents, a decision that may affect provision of adequate medical care. This study examined family communication patterns in relation to sick role illness attitudes, family health practices, self-concealment, and the willingness to disclose symptoms to parents among college students. Conversation orientation was positively correlated to family health practices, the attitudes that ill persons should be released from everyday obligations and should receive extra consideration, and negatively related to self-concealment; conformity orientation was positively associated with the attitudes that ill persons should receive consideration, that they can be a burden on others, and that illness can be motivated by a desire for secondary gains, and self-concealment. The two family communication dimensions had opposite relationships with willingness to disclose symptoms (positive for conversation orientation, negative for conformity orientation), but in mediation regression analyses, only conversation orientation and family health practices predicted willingness to disclose symptoms. Thus, in families characterized by open communication and a history of good health habits, college-aged adolescents were more willing to self-disclose symptoms to parents. Future research on the intersection of close relationships (especially the family) and illness behavior is warranted.

Could Telling a Child Not to Worry be Disconfirming?: What Caregiver Confirmation Actually Looks Like in Caregiver-Child Exchanges

Elizabeth Munz (SUNY New Paltz)

This project explores patterns in the ways in which caregivers exhibit behaviors which confirm or disconfirm their children during caregiver-child communicative exchanges while reading a story together about the transition to kindergarten. Confirmation within interactions is defined as the degree to which messages validate another as unique, valuable, and worthy of respect (Cissna & Sieburg, 1981; Sieburg, 1976) and lead others to value themselves more (Sieburg & Larson, 1971). Caregiver-child dyads (N = 50) read a story together called Take a Kiss to School by Angela McAllister. Caregivers were prompted to “Read a story however you would normally read a story” and were instructed to ask a specific question at three different points during the story. These three question-prompt excerpts from the storybook task were examined by the author and a second observer to decipher what caregiver confirmation looks like in this context. The goal of watching the videos of the interactions while reviewing the transcripts was to inductively examine caregiver confirmation. Results yielded current examples of a number of Sieburg’s (1975) categories of confirmation and disconfirmation (i.e., recognition, acknowledgment, endorsement, imperviousness, indifference, and disqualification) and other patterns of confirming or disconfirming behaviors across caregivers such as missed opportunities for confirmation, the use of free information as confirmation, and assuaging fears as disconfirmation. This study contributes to existing efforts to
conceptualize caregiver confirmation by looking at the ways in which caregivers verbally and nonverbally confirm or disconfirm their children while engaged in interactions during this time of transition.

Parental Influence on Child Language Brokering Feelings: Using the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model in Low-Income Mexican-American Parent-Child Dyads

Lisa Guntzviller (Purdue University)
Jakob Jensen (Purdue University)

The communicative act of children interpreting or translating language and cultural aspects for their parents is termed “language brokering,” and is common in immigrant families. However, child language brokering outcomes have varied from positive (e.g., excelling academically, increased self-esteem) to negative (e.g., depression, stress, negative feelings), with little research offering explanations for why these outcomes vary. The current study examined 100 parent-child dyads -of which the parent was primarily Spanish-speaking and the child was bilingual and had served as a language broker- to determine when children may experience negative feelings about language brokering (LB). Kenny’s (1996) partner-effect actor-partner interdependence model was used to compare three models of parent and child evaluations of frequency, quality, and the child’s negative feelings about LB. The theoretical propositions made by Author 1 and Author 2 (2011) were partially supported by the best-fitting structural equation model. The hypothesized paths held for parents: parent reports on LB frequency positively predicted parent evaluations of LB quality, and both negatively predicted parental perceptions of their child’s negative feelings. Children’s reports on LB frequency positively predicted children’s quality ratings, but child’s negative feelings were solely predicted by the parent’s quality rating. Thus, parents’ rating of their child’s brokering quality was the only significant predictor for child’s negative feelings about LB, overshadowing even children’s own quality ratings. These results indicate that explanations for LB outcomes should incorporate the parent-child interaction, and that some positive or negative child outcomes may depend on parenting feelings and practices when the child is brokering.

Parenting Styles and Adolescents’ Well-being in Malaysia

Rozumah Baharudin (Universiti Putra Malaysia)
Nor Sheereen Zulkefly (The Australian National University)
Chi Yee Hong (Universiti Putra Malaysia)
Wan Yeng Chiah (Universiti Putra Malaysia)
Hui Jun Lim (Universiti Putra Malaysia)

Using a representative sample of 2934 school-going adolescents, the study found that a considerable proportion of Malaysian parents (mothers=37%; fathers=43%) were perceived by their adolescents as uninvolved in their parenting. The rest were reported as indulgent, authoritative or authoritarian. Adolescents having uninvolved parents tend to demonstrate poor developmental outcomes (i.e., exhibit symptoms of depression, delinquency, poor school connectedness and academic achievement). As expected, adolescents coming from homes with authoritative parents turn out to be doing well in all aspects of their development. It is interesting to note that authoritarian parenting is not the dominant style of parenting in Malaysia, which clearly contradicts the view that Asians are authoritarian in their parenting. Furthermore, a substantial proportion of adolescents in this study with optimal well-being have parents who embraced an authoritative style of parenting. These findings seem to suggest that Malaysian parents are possibly different from other Asian parents. An in-depth ecological analysis is deemed necessary to refine these findings.
1519 Relationship Quality: Appreciation and Avoidance

The Ups and Downs of Variability: Are Fluctuating Relationship Appraisals Always Detrimental for Long-term Relationship Outcomes?

Taylor Anne Morgan (The University of Texas at Austin)
Lisa Neff (The University of Texas at Austin)

Variability in daily relationship appraisals has been shown to undermine future relationship well-being. The current study suggests that the relationship climate may moderate this effect. Namely, and in light of prior work showing that ignoring relationship issues can be detrimental for long-term relationship well-being, it is argued that when the relationship is characterized by more negative relationship experiences, variability in daily appraisals may actually represent an adaptive acknowledgement of those experiences. Seventy-five newly-married couples completed a 10-day daily diary task in order to assess the variability of daily appraisals as well as the positive and negative marital events taking place each day. Spouses then reported on their overall marital satisfaction every six months over the first three years of marriage. Results revealed that variability in daily relationship appraisals across the diary days interacted with the marital climate to predict changes in marital satisfaction over time. Consistent with predictions, simple slope analyses revealed that when the marriage was characterized by more positive than negative marital events (i.e., a more positive marital climate), greater variability predicted steeper declines in marital satisfaction over time. In a less positive climate, variability was not associated with future marital satisfaction. Furthermore, greater variability predicted significantly steeper declines in marital satisfaction when the marital climate was more (vs. less) positive. Thus, fluctuations in daily appraisals may be detrimental in the absence of relationship negativity, but an adaptive response to negative marital experiences.

Being Grateful: Does it Bring Us Closer?
Gratitude, Attachment, and Intimacy in Romantic Relationships

Zoe Hazelwood (Queensland University of Technology)
Atholl Murray (Queensland University of Technology)

Recent research has identified the important role of gratitude in promoting health and longevity in romantic relationships. Being grateful and experiencing others’ gratitude appears to have a positive impact on a relationship, although it is still unclear exactly how gratitude enhances relationships. This study explored the function of gratitude in romantic relationships by investigating the extent to which adult attachment moderated the relationship between dispositional gratitude and intimacy. Participants (n=156) were all involved in a current romantic relationship and completed a series of questionnaires about that relationship, assessing dispositional gratitude, attachment and emotional intimacy. Correlation analyses showed a significant positive association existed between gratitude and intimacy; subsequent regression analyses revealed significant, negative, main effects for avoidant and anxious attachment, each accounting for 11% of the variance in intimacy scores. There were no significant interaction effects. Further investigation suggested that limited variance in the intimacy scores and small sample size may have impacted on these results. Future research exploring how specific experiences of gratitude, rather than dispositional gratitude, and the feelings of intimacy that result from specific partner behaviours may allow a more comprehensive understanding of the function of gratitude in intimate relationships. Priming attachment security in an experimental setting may also provide for the opportunity to better observe the impact of romantic attachment on both gratitude and intimacy.
Being Understood vs. Being Accepted: Elements of Interpersonal Validation and Their Links to Everyday Experience

Kyle Smith (University of Guam)

Josselson’s (1996) model of close interpersonal relationships proposes eight distinct motives, including desires for validation: assurance that one is valued, accepted and understood by other people. The first of four current studies used newly developed explicit measures of validation-based motives and experiences to identify two independent components in validation—value-based acceptance, and understanding—that the original model did not differentiate. Many respondents reported being understood by family and potential friends, without being accepted by them, and vice versa. This study (n = 447) also distinguished motives for validation from attachment anxiety and avoidance, and distinguished specific factors in validation from mattering (Marshall, 2004). Study 2 (n = 201) replicated the factorial structure of validation identified in Study 1, and identified commonalities and distinctions between validation and a closely related motive in Josselson’s model: desires for mutuality, or empathic sharing of experience. Study 3 (n = 225) reliably linked pretested levels of perceived validating acceptance to a willingness to take risks in in-person encounters with close friends. Study 4 (n = 61), using daily reports of experiences in close relationships, reliably linked pretested desires for validating acceptance, and desires to avoid misunderstanding-based rejection, with distinct patterns in daily experiences: including reports of validating and rejecting other people, and successfully avoiding rejection. Consistent with Study 1, individual differences in attachment anxiety and avoidance could not account for these patterns. Discusses implications for a more nuanced understanding of what people want from close relationships, and directions for future research.

A New Approach Exploring Relationship Quality and Demand-Withdraw Behavior Patterns in Same-Sex and Opposite-Sex Couples

Christopher Lamb (Claremont Graduate University)
Allen Omoto (Claremont Graduate University)

The current study explores reports of self-demand, partner-demand, self-withdraw, and partner-withdraw behaviors made by both partners in same-sex and opposite-sex couples, and their associations with relationship quality. The benefit of using this method allows for the traditional exploration of self-demand and partner-withdraw behaviors taken together, but also provides novel explorations of individual demand behavior and individual withdraw behavior separate from each other, providing reports of partner’s actual and partner-perceived demand and withdraw behaviors. Analyses are based on reports of 39 heterosexual, 18 gay, and 35 lesbian couples recruited for a larger survey study exploring family relationships of opposite-sex and same-sex couples with adolescent children. Relationship quality was not significantly different across couple types. Partners agreed on their reports of who expressed more demand behaviors and who expressed more withdraw behaviors in their relationships. Partner reports of demand-withdraw behaviors were negatively related to relationship quality across all couple types. Gay and lesbian couples showed a stronger negative association between demand-withdraw behaviors and relationship quality than heterosexual couples. Partners’ reports using traditional demand-withdraw item combinations is contrasted with novel combinations exploring each approach’s influence and contribution to explaining negative influences on relationship quality. Each approach illustrates negative influences on combined partner relationship quality, and reports of individual relationship quality. Overall, traditional and novel approaches were negatively related to combined and individual partners’ relationship quality. However, novel analyses uniquely varied across couple types. Future research may benefit by considering the implications of both coupled and individual behavior approaches in studying demand-withdraw behavior patterns.
Relationship Quality as a Moderator of Influence Strategy Effectiveness in Close Relationships

Allison Farrell (University of Minnesota)
Jeffry Simpson (University of Minnesota)
Nickola Overall (University of Auckland)

Direct influence tactics are highly effective in changing behavior in most romantic couples (Overall et al., 2010). We investigated whether relationship quality moderates this effect, such that direct influence tactics are more effective in higher quality relationships, while directness is threatening in lower quality relationships and produces less behavioral change. Romantic couples participated in two discussions regarding desired changes in one another: one in which Partner A (agent of influence) tried to convince Partner B (target of influence) to change something about him/herself, and the second in which the influence agent-target roles were switched. The discussions were videotaped and coded for influence tactic use in terms of tactic valence and directness (i.e., positive-direct, positive-indirect, negative-direct, negative-indirect). Six months later, participants reported change in the targeted behaviors following the discussions. We found positive-direct tactics resulted in more behavior change when targets of influence reported higher quality relationships, but less change in relationships in which targets reported lower relationship quality. Positive-indirect tactic use and agent-reported relationship quality also significantly interacted, with greater use of positive-indirect tactics resulting in more change in agent-rated lower quality relationships, but less change in relationships with higher agent-rated quality. Greater use of negative-indirect tactics was associated with more change in targets who reported high quality relationships but less change for targets who reported low relationship quality. We suspect that target- and agent-perceived relationship quality may separately affect the delivery, perception, and interpretation of direct and indirect influence tactics, which result in differing effects on behavioral change.

Aquarela Romantic Relationship Scale: Semantic Differential Measure for Quality Assessment in Romantic Relationships

Alexsandro Luiz De Andrade (Federal University of Espírito Santo)

Satisfaction and quality of a romantic relationship are aspects related to quality of life, happiness and relationship maintenance. This research presents results about the development of a new psychological measure for quality assessment in romantic relationships. The Scale for Assessment of Quality in Romantic Relationships – Aquarela, follows the parameters of a semantic differential (SD) and it is proposed to assess directly five cognitive, affective and behavioral dimensions of romantic relationships: 1) commitment, 2) intimacy, 3) love, 4) sexual relationship, 5) communication. Two studies composed the research: a first study of the semantics of descriptors and a second about construction of the measure. A total of 1530 individuals participated in this study, 660 of these being males and 870 female, the average age of participants was 28.2 years (SD = 9.1 years). The results from exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses showed consistent results in terms of its factorial and external validity, as well as indices of reliability Cronbach's alpha higher than 0.90 in all factors. The results of this study recommended the use of measure to study the phenomenon.
1520 Relationship Dissolution and Divorce

Navigating Romantic Relationships on Facebook: Extending the Relational Dissolution Model to Account for Social Networking Environments

Leah LeFebvre (University of Texas at Austin)
Kate Connolly (University of Texas at Austin)
Nicholas Brody (University of Texas at Austin)

This study explores the impact of technology on how individuals manage online impressions of their romantic relationships. As of October 2011, Facebook boasts more than 800 million active users, and more than ⅓ of all online time is on Facebook (Putting digital at the centre, 2011). This research extends a traditional model of relational dissolution by examining phases of post-breakup online behavior. As social networking participation becomes adopted and incorporated into online social spaces, there is a call to discover its impact on communication patterns. Extending the relational dissolution model (Duck, 1982) enables the investigation of breakups in online and offline contexts. Rollie and Duck (2006) recently modified the model to further emphasize phases experienced by partners undergoing a breakup, accentuating the centrality of communication during the dissolution process. Since relational dissolution occurs over time as individuals move through five processes (i.e., intrapsychic, dyadic, social, grave-dressing, and resurrection), the investigation of these processes in online environments both strengthens and extends the original framework by seeking to understand how technology influences relational behaviors. In this study, participants (N = 226) who experienced a breakup within the past two years completed an open-ended, online survey. Thematic analysis indicates that individuals undertake a variety of behaviors consistent with the relational dissolution model. Specifically, participants report defriending or blocking their former relational partners, deleting and un-tagging pictures, and monitoring their ex-partner’s social networking behavior. Results provide further insight into the dyadic, social, grave-dressing, and resurrection phases of the dissolution process in an online context.

"Cooling the Mark Out" in Relational Dissolution

Daniel Usera (University of Iowa)

Relational dissolution can be understood as a metaphorical process that Erving Goffman termed “cooling the mark out.” Using Duck’s (1982) dissolution model as a guide, this article specifies how Goffman’s metaphor applies and suggests two implications concerning relational dissolution on a social and interpersonal level: 1) while a break-up initiator may not feel any loss from giving up a partner in particular on a dyadic level, the initiator can still experience loss due to the relinquishing of having a partner in general on a social level 2) there is opportunity for joint-performance in breaking up where partners can co-construct a narrative for the end of their relationship. Also, this article suggests a new method of “cooling out” that Goffman did not mention: rendering to obsoleteness. In sum, this paper clarifies and extends understanding of dissolution in new terms.

Rebound Relationships: Emotional Band-Aids or Fresh Starts?

Claudia Brumbaugh (Queens College, CUNY)
R. Chris Fraley (University of Illinois)

A “rebound relationship” is commonly understood to be a relationship that is initiated shortly after the end of a significant romantic relationship—before the feelings about the former relationship have been
fully resolved. Although there are many reasons why people enter into new relationships shortly after the dissolution of a previous relationship, it is generally assumed that these new relationships are not "typical" relationships. A rebound partner is usually thought of as a transitional mate or a stepping stone on the way to a more legitimate relationship. Despite the negative views that people tend to have concerning rebound relationships, there is virtually no empirical research on these relationships. The goal of the present study was to examine factors that predict whether people will enter into a new relationship by conducting a prospective study on rebound relationships. We also sought to learn whether entering a new relationship was beneficial or harmful to a person's psychological well-being. We studied people who recently experienced a breakup and assessed their well-being, their feelings about their ex-partner, and whether they were seeing someone new. Analyses indicated that people who were involved in new dating relationships were more likely than those who were not to have confidence in their desirability and to have more resolution over their ex-partner. Moreover, among those involved in new relationships, the speed with which they entered into those new relationships was associated with greater well-being and self-confidence.

Loneliness after Divorce: A Cohort Comparison among 55-65 Year-Old Dutch People

Theo van Tilburg (VU University Amsterdam)  
Marja Aartsen (VU University Amsterdam)  
Suzan van der Pas (VU University Medical Center Amsterdam)

It is well documented that divorced people have a high risk of loneliness. Societal changes now challenge this knowledge for current cohorts with divorce becoming a life event experienced by many people. The stigma attached to divorce has declined, and societal norms and regulations have become more customized to divorce. Divorcees in recent birth cohorts may have better opportunities to realize satisfying relationships than divorcees in earlier cohorts. We test the hypothesis that intensity of loneliness has decreased over time on data collected in 1992 and 2002. Data on 55-65 year old people were derived from the Longitudinal Aging Study Amsterdam: 79 divorced and 814 married respondents interviewed in 1992 and 113 divorced and 814 married respondents interviewed in 2002. In 1992 divorcees were more emotionally and socially lonely than married respondents. In 2002 divorcees were less socially lonely than divorcees in 1992 and no longer differed from married respondents. They also more often had regular and important contact with children, siblings and a variety of non-kin contacts than divorcees had in 1992; there were no other differences in network composition. Regression analyses showed that having a partner and having regular and important contact with siblings was associated with less loneliness among divorcees. These effects did not diminish the cohort differences in divorcees' loneliness. Divorcees have improved their networks, which contributes to less loneliness. Results suggest that the social position of divorcees has changed which may lead to an increase in the societal acceptance of divorce.

1521 Physiological Factors in Relationship Processes and Events

Dyadic Coping Accelerates Cortisol Stress Recovery: Highly Anxious Women Benefit Less

Nathalie Meuwly (Stony Brook University)  
Guy Bodenmann (University of Zurich)  
Janine Germann (Alberts-Ludwigs-Universität)  
Thomas N. Bradbury (University of California, Los Angeles)  
Beate Ditzen (University of Zurich)  
Markus Heinrichs (University of California)
Social support from a close partner is known to buffer the effects of stress, and because the receipt of support has enduring benefits for well-being and health, the interpersonal factors governing physiological recovery from stress are of particular importance. At the same time, evidence is clear that individuals vary greatly in their ability to benefit from partner support, with working models of attachment emerging as likely moderators of links between support and dyadic coping, on one hand, and stress recovery on the other. The present study integrates these two views by examining (a) whether positive forms of observed dyadic coping in intimate relationships do in fact enhance cortisol-mediated stress recovery under controlled laboratory conditions and (b) the extent to which the stressed partner’s self-reported attachment moderates these effects. Stress was experimentally induced by asking either the man or woman in 123 heterosexual couples to participate in a public speaking task. The dyadic coping behaviors subsequently displayed by the stressed person’s partner were coded and examined in relation to changes in cortisol levels, and self-reports of the stressed person’s attachment anxiety and avoidance were tested as moderators. Stressed individuals recovered faster from stress the more positive dyadic coping they received from the partner, with women low in attachment anxiety benefitting the most from these behaviors. Attachment avoidance did not moderate links between dyadic coping and cortisol recovery. These findings highlight the value of examining stress and stress responses in the context of intimate relationships and the working models of attachment that partners bring to these relationships.

Cortisol Patterns in Response to Marital Conflict: The Role of Spouses’ Attachment Styles

Lindsey Beck (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
Paula Pietromonaco (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
Casey DeBuse (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
Sally Powers (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
Aline Sayer (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

The present research examines how attachment processes in marital relationships shape neuroendocrine and behavioral responses, which have been shown to predict emotional and physical health over time. We emphasize the interdependence of couple members and thus focus on the interplay between spouses’ attachment orientations in predicting physiological stress responses. Newlywed couples (n = 165) attempted to resolve a marital conflict. Each spouse’s physiological responses were assessed via salivary cortisol at times indicating stress before, during, and after the conflict. Multilevel modeling indicated that husbands’ attachment avoidance interacted with wives’ attachment anxiety to significantly predict both spouses’ cortisol trajectories. Couples with a wife high in attachment anxiety (e.g., who desires excessive closeness) and a husband high in attachment avoidance (e.g., who is uncomfortable with closeness) showed a distinctive pattern of physiological reactivity and recovery: Both spouses’ cortisol levels were heightened before the conflict but then declined sharply and more rapidly than for couples with other attachment pairings. Initial analyses of behavior during the interactions indicated that less constructive behaviors predicted physiological patterns similar to those observed among anxious wife–avoidant husband pairs. Further analyses will examine more closely the connection between behavior and physiological responses in couples with different attachment pairings. The findings so far suggest that particular attachment pairings are associated with distinctive physiological stress patterns that may increase the risk of adverse emotional and physical health outcomes over time.
I Do, Do You? Gender and Dependence Moderate Daters’ Cortisol Responses When Accommodating a Partner’s Thoughts about Marriage

Elizabeth A. Schoenfeld (University of Texas at Austin)
Marci E. J. Gleason (The University of Texas at Austin)
Timothy J. Loving (The University of Texas at Austin)

We examined how daters’ degree of accommodation during a likelihood of marriage discussion interacts with men’s and women’s levels of relationship dependence to predict cortisol levels at the conclusion of the discussion. Upon arriving at the laboratory, couple members were separated and asked to graph their perceived likelihood of one day marrying their current partner. Couples were reunited and instructed to create a joint graph depicting their agreed-upon chance of marriage. For the majority of couples, negotiating their likelihood of marriage required one or both partners to accommodate each other’s presumed likelihood of marriage. Multilevel analyses revealed a significant Accommodation x Dependence x Gender interaction. For more dependent women, accommodating by increasing their likelihood of marriage predicted increased cortisol at recovery relative to baseline; we suggest such a response is indicative of eustress. Less dependent men, who accommodated by decreasing their likelihood of marriage, experienced significantly lower levels of cortisol. Discussion focuses on why men and women show different physiological reactions in response to favorable outcomes from a relationship discussion.

Examining the Link between Social and Physical Pain: Ratings, Descriptions, and Sex Differences

Anita Vangelisti (University of Texas at Austin)
James Pennebaker (University of Texas at Austin)
Nicholas Brody (University of Texas at Austin)
Trey Guinn (University of Texas at Austin)

There is growing sentiment among scholars that social pain – or hurt feelings – and physical pain may share the same neural system (MacDonald & Leary, 2005). Researchers have found that the neuroimaging data associated with social pain are similar in some ways to those associated with physical pain (Eisenberger, Lieberman, & Williams, 2003) and that acetaminophen, a medication used to relieve physical pain, reduced people’s reports of the amount of social pain they experienced over a three week period (DeWall et al., 2010). The purpose of the current study was to further examine the link between social and physical pain. Our findings indicated that women who took ibuprofen reported feeling less hurt or social pain when they were excluded from a game and when they relived or re-experienced a painful experience than did women who took a placebo. Men who took the pain reliever, by contrast, reported feeling more hurt when they were excluded from the game and when they relived a socially painful experience than did those who took the placebo. Further, the sex difference revealed in men’s and women’s ratings of their social pain was reflected in their open-ended descriptions of a painful experience. The study’s findings support and extend the argument that social and physical pain share parts of the same neural processing system. They suggest that reducing physical pain can affect the way people think about their social pain and that the effects of reducing physical pain on social pain vary based on biological sex.
Modeling Longitudinal Convergence in Physiological Attunement in Newlywed Couples

Holly Laws (University of Massachusetts Amherst)
Aline Sayer (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Attunement (or co-regulation) is an important property of relationships that is theorized to predict the mental and physical health of couples. There is also recent interest in the concept of health concordance, which postulates that couples grow more similar over time on a host of physiological, social and emotional characteristics. Studies vary widely in how they operationalize attunement (e.g., as a discrepancy, an average, or a correlation) which is problematic for researchers wanting to make inferences about its importance across multiple methodologies. In addition, many statistical techniques used in studies of attunement do not account for the interdependence inherent in dyadic data. This paper will present a methodology derived from work by Sayer and colleagues (2005, 2006) that addresses both issues. We use a structural equation model that estimates simultaneously a measurement model of couple discrepancy and a structural model of changes in discrepancy over time. These analyses require more advanced statistical modeling paradigms available in Mplus. The present study contributes to the health attunement literature by examining physiological stress response similarity, as indicated by salivary cortisol, in a sample of 225 newly-married couples. The couples engaged in two experimentally-induced (lab) conflict discussions, separated by a year. Multiple measures of cortisol were obtained within the arc of each lab session. We were interested in examining within-couple similarity in cortisol level and reactivity patterns during the lab session, and testing if couples became more attuned in their physiological functioning as their relationship matured during the first year.

Heart Rate Variability Moderates the Association between Attachment Avoidance and Self-concept Reorganization Following Marital Separation

David Sbarra (University of Arizona)

Despite substantial evidence indicating that relationships shape people’s self-concept, relatively little is known about how people reorganize their sense of self when relationships end. In this report, we examine the prospective association between attachment avoidance and self-concept recovery among 89 adults following a recent marital separation. People high in attachment avoidance are characterized by the tendency to deactivate (i.e., suppress) painful attachment-related thoughts and feelings, and, following Fagundes, Diamond, and Allen (2011), we hypothesized that highly avoidant people would show better or worse self-concept outcomes depending on their ability to successfully regulate their emotional experience during a divorce-related mental recall task. We operationalized self-regulation using respiratory sinus arrhythmia (RSA) and found that highly avoidant people who showed RSA increases across our divorce-related mental activation task (DMAT) evidenced improvements in their self-concept over three months. In contrast, highly avoidant adults who showed RSA decreases during the DMAT showed no improvement (or a worsening) in their self-concept disruptions over the subsequent three months. These results suggest that RSA, an index of heart rate variability, may provide a window into self-regulation that has the potential to shed new light on why some people cope well or poorly following the loss of a relationship. Discussion centers on the potential mechanisms of action that explain why some people are able to successfully deactivate attachment-related thoughts and feelings whereas other people are not.
Symposia

1522 New Looks at Old Friends

Convener: Harry Reis (University of Rochester)
Discussant: Rowland Miller (Sam Houston State University)

Reconsidering the Role of Familiarity in Interpersonal Attraction

Michael Maniaci (University of Rochester)
Harry Reis (University of Rochester)
Peter Caprariello (University of Rochester)
Paul Eastwick (Texas A&M University)
Eli Finkel (Northwestern University)

Most textbooks describe familiarity as one of the fundamental principles of interpersonal attraction: All other things being equal, the more familiar two people are with each other, the more likely they are to be attracted to each other. Recent research by Norton, Frost, and Ariely (2007) has challenged that assumption, claiming that rather than inducing attraction, familiarity fosters contempt. Their work, however, was based on a trait-evaluation paradigm that seems likely to have promoted a critical, evaluative mindset. We suggest instead that natural social interaction creates a more engaged mindset, which emphasizes commonalities and the goal of interacting smoothly and enjoyably. We theorized that the context of natural social interaction imply a favorable impact of familiarity on attraction. Perhaps remarkably, given the ubiquity of textbook proclamations about its positive impact, familiarity effects have never been tested in this sort of context. In this presentation, we will describe two experiments using a live interaction paradigm in which two previously unacquainted same-sex persons interacted with each other for varying amounts of time. Findings strongly supported the “familiarity leads to attraction” hypothesis: The more participants interacted, the more attracted they were to each other. Mediation analyses identified three processes that contribute to this effect: perceived responsiveness, increased comfort and satisfaction during interaction, and perceived knowledge. Our results therefore suggest greater confidence in the traditional conclusion about the benefits of familiarity. Our presentation will conclude by discussing the importance of considering how context influences participants’ mindsets and goals in studies of interpersonal attraction.


Eli Finkel (Northwestern University)
Paul Eastwick (Texas A&M University)
Natasha Tidwell (Texas A&M University)

The similarity–attraction effect stands as one of the most well-known findings in social psychology; indeed, it is sufficiently entrenched that textbook authors frequently adopt Byrne’s phrase “law of attraction” to describe the positive linear association of similarity with interpersonal attraction. Despite the widespread view that similarity predicts attraction, however, evidence is emerging that this effect is robust for perceived similarity, but sporadic and weak for actual similarity. This presentation reports the results of the first-ever study to examine the effects of actual and perceived similarity simultaneously.
during a face-to-face initial romantic encounter. Lending particularly strong support to the emerging view that (actual) similarity is much less relevant to interpersonal attraction than long assumed, results revealed that perceived, but not actual, similarity significantly predicted romantic liking. These results have important implications for commercial dating services (e.g., eHarmony) that depend upon actual similarity as a crucial predictor of both attraction and long-term relationship well-being: If there is compelling reason to doubt whether there is a robust association of actual similarity with relationship outcomes, then using the principle of similarity as the foundation for a matching algorithm may be ill-advised.

**Implicit and Explicit Preferences for Physical Attractiveness in a Romantic Partner: A Double Dissociation in Predictive Validity**

Paul Eastwick (Texas A&M University)
Alice Eagly (Northwestern University)
Eli Finkel (Northwestern University)
Sarah Johnson (Northwestern University)

Physical attractiveness is a strong predictor of romantic attraction, perhaps stronger than any other single variable. Presumably, the association between physical attractiveness and romantic attraction differs across people, yet traditional explicit measures of the preference for physical attractiveness (e.g., “Rate the importance of physical attractiveness in a romantic partner”) consistently fail to predict this association. In this talk, we describe an alternative implicit measure of the preference for physical attractiveness that indeed reveals significant predictive validity in a live romantic context. Three hypotheses were generally supported. First, two variants of the Go/No-go Association Task revealed that participants on average demonstrate an implicit preference (i.e., a positive spontaneous affective reaction) for physical attractiveness in a romantic partner. Second, these implicit measures were not redundant with a traditional explicit measure: The correlation between these constructs was \( r = .00 \) on average, and the implicit measures revealed no reliable sex differences, unlike the explicit measure. Third, explicit and implicit measures exhibited a double dissociation in predictive validity. Specifically, implicit preferences predicted the extent to which attractiveness was associated with (a) participants’ romantic interest in real-life opposite-sex speed-daters or confederates but not (b) their romantic interest in opposite-sex photographs. Traditional explicit preferences showed the opposite pattern. This research extends prior work on implicit processes in romantic relationships and offers the first demonstration that any measure of a preference for a particular characteristic in a romantic partner (an implicit measure of physical attractiveness, in this case) predicts individuals’ evaluation of live potential romantic partners.

**Understanding in Close Relationships: An Interpersonal Approach**

Catrin Finkenauer (VU University Amsterdam)
Francesca Righetti (VU University Amsterdam)

Understanding plays a cardinal role in relationships. People desire and need to understand their relationship partners and, importantly, they need to feel understood by others in daily life. Although most researchers agree that understanding is crucial to relationships, systematic research on understanding is surprisingly scarce. Three questions guide this work that expands upon models on the role of understanding in relationships. The first question concerns the definition of understanding. We suggest that people’s needs for understanding are reflected in two types of understanding: their need to know and be known by others (understanding as knowledge) and their desire to be responsive to others’ needs and experience others as responsive to their needs (understanding as responsiveness). The second question
derives from a growing body of research that examines whether understanding is “in the eyes of the beholder.” To what degree are perceptions of perceived understanding, actual understanding, or both, related to the quality of close relationships? The third question asks whether and how understanding affects relationships. We review empirical findings showing that a lack of understanding has important ill-effects and that the presence of understanding has a multitude of beneficial effects for people in relationships, both for their personal and relational well-being.

**1523 Attachment Theory and How it can Help Us to Understand, Predict, and Modulate Aberrant Eating: Evidence from Childhood, Adolescence, and Adulthood and a Clinically Obese Sample**

Convener: Angela Rowe (University of Bristol)
Discussant: Guy Bosmans (Catholic University Leuven)

Attachment as Predictor of Eating Pathology and Weight Gain in Pre-adolescent Boys and Girls

Lien Goossens (Ghent University)
Caroline Braet (Ghent University)
Kim Van Durme (Ghent University)
Veerle Decaluwé (Ghent University)
Guy Bosmans (KU Leuven)

The present study examined the role of attachment towards mother and father as a predictor of eating pathology and weight gain among pre-adolescent boys and girls. Self-report questionnaires and Adjusted Body Mass Index (BMI) were administered from a community sample of 601 pre-adolescents (8-11 years; 48% female) at baseline and once again one year later. Significant baseline associations were found between attachment towards both parents and several features of eating pathology. No baseline correlations were found between the attachment variables and Adjusted BMI. However, after controlling for gender and baseline levels of eating pathology and weight, an insecure attachment towards mother significantly predicted increases in dietary restraint, eating, weight and shape concerns, and in Adjusted BMI in the children one year later. An insecure attachment towards father was predictive for persistence in children’s subjective binge eating episodes. The present study provides preliminary evidence for the longitudinal association between attachment and eating pathology and weight gain in pre-adolescents. Moreover, attachment towards mother and attachment towards father appear to be differently associated with their children’s disordered eating attitudes and Adjusted BMI. Future research should further elucidate the mechanisms underlying this differential association.

Associations between Attachment Dimensions and Eating Disorder Symptoms in Early-Adolescents

Kim Van Durme (Ghent University)
Caroline Braet (Ghent University)
Lien Goossens (Ghent University)

Previous research has found an association between insecure attachment and eating pathology. Since these studies mainly focused on female adults and most of them made no distinction between the different insecure attachment dimensions, this study investigated whether the attachment dimensions are differentially linked to eating disorder symptoms and whether gender differences occur within these
associations in an early adolescent sample. To assess attachment patterns and eating disorder symptoms, reliable and valid self-report questionnaires, including the Experience for Close Relationship Revised version for Children (ECR-R-C) and the Child version of the Eating Disorder Examination Questionnaire (Ch-EDEQ), were administered in a group of early adolescent males (n=432) and females (n=520) between the age of 10 and 15 (M=12.18 years). In the male adolescent group, attachment anxiety was related to all eating pathology subscales, i.e. restrained eating, weight concern, shape concern and eating concern. No associations were found between attachment avoidance and eating disorder symptoms. In the female group, both insecure attachment dimensions, attachment anxiety and attachment avoidance, were related to all eating pathology subscales. These results show clear associations between attachment dimensions and eating disorder symptoms and suggest possible gender differences. Further longitudinal research needs to be conducted to confirm these findings and to disentangle the underlying mechanisms of the abovementioned associations. In addition, it needs to be longitudinally investigated whether insecure attachment patterns are predictive for eating disorder symptoms.

Attachment Orientation in Candidates for and Recipients of Bariatric Surgery

Laura Wilkinson (University of Bristol)
Angela Rowe (University of Bristol)
Caitlin Sheldon (University of Bristol)
Jeff Brunstrom (University of Bristol)
Andrew Johnson (Southmead Hospital)

Recent research has shown that attachment anxiety is a good predictor of body mass index (BMI) (Wilkinson, Rowe, Bishop & Brunstrom, 2010). This relationship is fully mediated by disinhibited (over-)eating and is likely to be a specific form of affect regulation. Indeed, a follow-up study showed that priming attachment security as opposed to anxiety led to significantly less ‘junk food’ consumption (Wilkinson, Heath & Rowe, under review). However, to date this relationship has only been explored within non-clinical samples. The present study sought to explore attachment orientation in a morbidly obese population (BMI > 35). Obese participants were candidates for or had already received bariatric surgery (N = 50) and, age and gender matched lean control participants were recruited in a community-based sample (N = 50). Attachment orientation, depression and anxiety levels, and eating style were assessed. In addition, pre-operative and all post-operative weights recorded by the hospital, as well as information on the type of bariatric surgery received, were obtained where relevant. Results comparing attachment orientation across populations and assessing the value of attachment anxiety as a predictor of bariatric surgery outcome will be presented. The impact of this research on our understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of the relationship between attachment anxiety and over-eating and approaches taken to tackle the ‘obesity epidemic’ will be discussed.

Anxious Attachment Predicts Uncontrolled Eating Independently of Emotional Eating

Anna Phillips (University of Roehampton)
Leigh Gibson (University of Roehampton)
Lance Slade (University of Roehampton)

Anxious attachment has recently been proposed as a possible aetiological explanation for overeating and obesity (Wilkinson, Rowe, Bishop & Brunstrom, 2010). Wilkinson et al. (2010) showed that attachment anxiety in adults predicted body mass and that this relationship was explained by increased disinhibited eating. This was interpreted as reflecting external regulation of emotions by overeating i.e. anxious attachment leads to disinhibited eating as a way regulating negative feelings and emotions. However, this
was not directly tested, as the measure of disinhibited eating (TFEQ) conflated both external and emotional influences on eating. To address this, we used the most recent version of this instrument (TFEQ-R18v2), which separates disinhibited or ‘uncontrolled’ eating from emotional eating items, to test directly the relative associations between attachment anxiety, uncontrolled and emotional eating. Seventy-seven participants (females n= 51, BMI range from 17.6 to 29.3 kgm⁻²) completed a measure of anxious attachment (ECR, Brennan et al 1998) and a measure of uncontrolled eating and emotional eating (TFEQ-R18v2, Cappelleri et al., 2009). Height and weight were measured to calculate BMI. Anxious attachment predicted uncontrolled eating (beta = .202, P < .05), after controlling for age, gender and emotional eating. In contrast, anxious attachment did not predict emotional eating (beta = .039, ns) after controlling for age, gender and uncontrolled eating. No significant correlations were found between BMI and either uncontrolled eating, emotional eating or anxious attachment. These findings support the link between anxious attachment and disinhibited eating but suggest that interpreting this in terms of external affect regulation maybe premature.

**Priming Attachment Anxiety Promotes Snacking**

Angela Rowe (University of Bristol)  
Laura Wilkinson (University of Bristol)  
Georgina Heath (University of Bristol)

Recent research has shown that attachment anxiety (a model of interpersonal relationships characterised by a fear of abandonment) is a good predictor of disinhibited eating and, in turn, body mass index (BMI). However, this association has yet to be explored within an eating episode. The present study investigated the effect of priming attachment security and attachment anxiety on food intake. Normal weight participants (N = 21) were primed with security and anxiety on separate occasions and given ad libitum access to a snack food. Priming security led to a significantly lower food intake than priming anxiety (p = .014). We suggest that participants consumed more food in response to the anxious prime in an attempt to manage the resulting feelings of insecurity. These results highlight a possible role for security priming in the context of a weight management programme.

### 1524 Advancing Applications of the Communication Privacy Management Perspective

Convener: Sandra Petronio (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis)  
Discussant: Sandra Petronio (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis)

Overviews of Communication Privacy Management Theory and Development of Content Coding Scheme

Sandra Petronio (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis)  
Jack Sargent (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis)

Understanding the processes in which individuals and collectives manage their private information is important. Scholars of the Communication Privacy Management (CPM) theory frequently look to grasp the intricacies of the delicate communication dance people enact to protect or grant access to their information. Under the CPM paradigm researchers have examined the privacy process in varying contexts: interpersonal and relational, healthcare, organizational, social media, government, and nonverbal communication. Although these studies have accomplished a great deal in explaining the privacy phenomenon, more methodological tools are needed. This first presentation provides an overview
of the Communication Privacy Management perspective highlighting new theoretical advances to set the stage for the symposium discussion. Second, we will give a brief summary of the development of a CPM content coding scheme to position the findings from this study within the subsequent findings that are presented by the other scholars on the panel.

Power Differentials and Vying for Control of Privacy Information

Jeffrey T. Child (Kent State University)

Communication Privacy Management (CPM) theory explains how individuals manage and control private information about themselves and others. Individuals feel that they retain ownership rights about their private information, even when they allow others temporary or permanent access to their private information (Petronio, 2002). Medical settings provide a context for seeing unique variations in privacy management practices because of the trust provided by patients to medical officials. Patients expect medical officials to use their knowledge, training, and expertise when accessing their medical records in order to enable them full access to possible decisions they might make about their private health information. Medical students in their obstetric and gynecological rotations kept journals about ethical issues observed and experienced during rotations. Analysis of the open-ended journal responses revealed that medical providers, at times, used their advanced knowledge and status to vie for control of patients’ private information. Medical students reported observing strategies of passive control over private information through such tactics as neglecting to discuss alternatives altogether, provided an unbalanced discussion of alternatives, inflated either the risks or benefits of one approach relative to another, and the asserted that a particular course of action related to patients’ private information must be followed. The data reveal how strategies based in the CPM notion of vying for control impacts the management of private information among patients.

Dilemmas of Parallel Privacy Ownership in Patient and Provider Interactions

Jennifer Bute (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis)

Communication Privacy Management theory (CPM) posits that people have a sense of ownership over information they consider to be private (Petronio, 2002). Although private information is owned by a particular individual, in many cases, information is co-owned by multiple individuals. Co-owners co-construct privacy boundaries and establish privacy rules that regulate access to the information. People may become co-owners after the original owner of the information reveals his or her private information or when there is reciprocity of disclosures contributing to form a collective privacy boundary. When privacy rules are established to regulate access to the collectively held information where everyone agrees, this synchronicity allows for consistent management. However, there can also be a sense of parallel ownership in situations such as between divorced couples, where each partner may claim rights over what once was collective and after divorce is defined as individual rights of regulating access. This paper investigates parallel ownership among medical students’ rotations in obstetrics and gynecology through a CPM lens. Using data from journal observations and reflections written by medical students in obstetrics and gynecology rotation, the challenges and dilemmas that arise when multiple people stake proprietary claims over the same information are investigated in this research.
My Way or the Highway: Is Resistance Futile?

Mark DiCorcia (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis)

Today it is widely accepted that in order to provide high quality patient care the practice of medicine needs to move away from its paternalistic past towards a more patient/relationship-centered approach. The concept of recognizing and respecting patient autonomy in medical decision-making is stressed in medical education and it is actively promoted in mass media aimed at educating consumers regarding treatment options to “discuss with your doctor.” This movement has fundamentally changed the doctor-patient relationship in that it has altered the traditional power hierarchy. The physician, whose medical knowledge and experience was once unquestioned, may now be put in the position to have to defend the integrity of his or her opinion over the wishes of the patient. What can result is a set of resistance strategies to control who will manage the patient’s treatment plan and struggles over who will retain ownership rights of the patient’s information. This study used Petronio’s (2002) Communication Privacy Management (CPM) theory to explain this privacy rule control strategy. Resistance Privacy Rule Control encompasses communication strategies intentionally employed by both the patient and the physician to resist or defend the integrity of ownership rights or fiduciary responsibilities and obligations to the original owner’s point of view. The issues highlighted in this study help identify areas of communication tensions that have a direct impact on the doctor-patient relationship, the delivery of medical treatment, and can be used in training medical students and physicians on communication skills needed to reduce turbulence impacting this therapeutic relationship.

Defining Privacy Ownership Boundaries: Role of Emotions

Ashley Duggan (Boston College)

Using the Communication Privacy Management (CPM) perspective (Petronio, 2002), this study examines the way that emotions intersect with medical students in obstetrics and gynecology learning to navigate patient’s privacy boundaries. Diary entries gathered over the course of a year reflect the data. The data represents both observations of faculty physicians and the medical students’ own reflections about feelings and sensibilities in learning the part emotions play in triggering changes in privacy rules for them and their patients. The data analysis revealed that medical students were often confused when a patient’s response to providing private medical information resulted in an emotional reaction. Their training in a biomedical approach to decision-making and requesting information often clashed with the patient’s sense of ownership rights over the information. The emotional triggers that these interactions illustrate underpin some of the difficulties that taking a biomedical approach in seeking information from patients who are under stress can engender. As reported by the medical students in their journals, the lessons of seeing the outcome of patients’ unexpected emotional reactions and the patients’ sense of compromised ownership over information was found to complicate decision-making and challenged a physician’s assessment of treatment and therapies.
Panel Sessions

1525 Lifespan Transitions: Pregnancy and Parenthood

From Romance to Partnership:
The Effect of the Transition to Parenthood on the Intimate Relationship

Hagar ter Kuile (Utrecht University)
Esther Kluwer (Utrecht University)
Catrin Finkenauer (VU University Amsterdam)
Loes Keijsers (Utrecht University)
Jan Boom (Utrecht University)
Tanja van der Lippe (Utrecht University)

The transition to parenthood is one of the most challenging events in a relationship. Studies to date have found mostly negative effects of the birth of the first child on the parents’ intimate relationship. Based on the Vulnerability-Stress-Adaptation model (Karney & Bradbury, 1995), we propose that how the transition to parenthood affects the marital relationship depends on the couple’s resources and vulnerabilities. We studied personal happiness as a resource, and predicted that relationships of parents that are happy prior to pregnancy fare better than those of unhappy parents. To test our prediction, we used data of a 5-wave longitudinal study among 199 Dutch newlyweds to compare couples who had their first child and couples who remained childless during the course of the study. Replicating existing research, relationship satisfaction decreased after childbirth and parents felt less passion for their partner. In contrast to earlier studies however, there were also positive effects. Parents reported higher commitment and intimacy after childbirth and in comparison to childless couples. As predicted, these positive effects were moderated by Time 1 happiness: While happy partners reported higher commitment and intimacy, even higher than childless couples, unhappy parents showed strong decreases after childbirth. These findings shed new light on the transition to parenthood: Rather than a crisis as has been claimed in the past, the birth of a child intensifies both pre-birth vulnerabilities as well as pre-birth resources. Having a child is thus not a cure for relationship problems, but may further solidify bonds that are already strong.

Division of Labor and the Transition to Parenthood:
The Role of Gender and Attachment in Individual and Relationship Outcomes

Jennifer Fillo (University of Minnesota)
Jeffry Simpson (University of Minnesota)
W. Steven Rholes (Texas A & M University)
Jamie Kohn (University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio)
Deborah Kashy (Michigan State University)

Whereas the birth of a child is typically anticipated with much enthusiasm, the stress associated with this event can have adverse effects on the individual and the marital relationship. A major source of this stress is the introduction of demanding and often unfamiliar childcare tasks. This study used latent variable growth curve modeling to examine 3 questions surrounding couples’ division of childcare across the transition to parenthood: (1) Which factors predict contributions to childcare?; (2) How do people feel about their contributions to childcare?; (3) What influence do contributions to childcare have on people’s relationships (with partner and baby)? Analyses focused on the moderating effects of two individual
difference characteristics relevant to caregiving: gender and attachment avoidance. First time parents were studied across 5 time points from 6 weeks prebirth through 2 years postpartum. Findings suggest that men and women respond very differently to their contributions to childcare. Whereas women complete 70% of all childcare, they derive more parental satisfaction from their contributions than men do, which buffers them from the declines in marital satisfaction associated with attachment avoidance and larger contributions to childcare. In contrast, avoidance steepens the marital satisfaction declines among men who make large contributions to childcare. Additionally, attachment avoidance is associated with greater perceptions that childcare is interfering with individuals’ lives, and it restricts individuals’ ability to feel close to their newborn children. These findings suggest that individual responses to childcare are important factors in determining how contributions to childcare will influence marital and parent-child relationships.

Effects of Stress and Coping on Relationship Satisfaction among Expectant Parents

Britney Wardecker (University of Michigan)
Robin Edelstein (University of Michigan)
William Chopik (University of Michigan)
Emily Kean (University of Michigan)
Amy Moors (University of Michigan)
Natalie Lin (University of Michigan)

The transition to parenthood can be a stressful time for women and their partners and a majority of studies show that couples experience decreased relationship satisfaction and increased conflict after the birth of a first child (e.g., Cowan & Cowan, 1995). Perceived stress in new parents has been linked to decreases in intimacy and time spent together (Crawford & Huston, 1993) and maladaptive coping strategies, such as avoidance, have also been correlated with pregnancy-related distress (Hamilton & Lobel, 2008). The current research longitudinally examines the roles of perceived stress and pregnancy-related coping to better understand factors that contribute to declines in relationship satisfaction for some couples. We recruited a sample of heterosexual couples expecting their first child to participate in a five-wave longitudinal study; laboratory sessions were conducted at approximately 12, 20, 28, and 36 weeks of pregnancy. Both couple members completed the Perceived Stress Scale (Cohen & Williamson, 1988) and the Prenatal Coping Inventory (Yali & Lobel, 1999). A postnatal follow-up questionnaire was sent to participants approximately 3 months after the birth of their child to assess prenatal and postnatal changes in relationship satisfaction. Results suggest a negative association between changes in perceived stress and changes in relationship satisfaction. Expectant fathers show the same trend, but to a lesser extent. Coping strategies moderated the effects of perceived stress on relationship satisfaction for both partners. We also assessed whether these effects were mediated by cortisol. The present research contributes to the understanding and identification of factors that lead to changes in relationship satisfaction and provides solutions and strategies to maintain and even improve relationship satisfaction during this critical period.

Sharing Pregnancy News: The Experiences of Chinese Women

Shuangyue Zhang (Sam Houston State University)
Shaojing Sun (Fudan University)
Haihong Qian (Fudan University)
Fan Wang (Fudan University)

Using Communication Privacy Management (CPM) Theory as a framework, this study explores when, how, and to whom Chinese women share their pregnancy news. In-depth interviews were conducted
among 51 pregnant women or new moms (39 one-to-one interviews and 12 from two independent focus groups). Upon knowing the news of pregnancy, most women disclosed the news immediately to their husbands and their own parents either face to face or on the phone. Very few women, however, directly shared the news to their in-laws. It was the husbands’ responsibility to inform their own parents. Lacking closeness and avoiding unnecessary interferences from the in-laws were the major reasons for such a lack of communication. Most women also shared the pregnancy news directly to their close female friends, especially those who have had children, during their first trimester, mainly to get information and advice. Most of them, however, never directly shared such news with their male friends, unless asked. When they had to share the news, they chose to do it indirectly. A few women used Internet websites such as blogs, weibo (Chinese twitter), and text messages to share their pregnancy news and experiences. Besides family members and friends, most women also shared their pregnancy news to their supervisors, early on during their pregnancy, mainly for self-protection, such as avoiding long business travels. Interestingly, some delayed or concealed their pregnancy from their supervisors in fear of being biased treated. Intentional delaying or concealing pregnancy news also occurred in the data. The findings in general lend support to CPM’s privacy rules.

Romantic Caregiving Responsiveness Mediates the Link between Romantic Attachment Avoidance and Prenatal Bonding in Pregnant Women

Judi Walsh (University of Rochester)
Erica Hepper (University of Southampton)
Benjamin Marshall (University of East Anglia)

Discussion of how to describe the prenatal bond differs between research traditions. Some researchers have referred to the prenatal relationship as attachment, and demonstrated a link between this relationship and other attachment relationships in adulthood, including romantic relationships with partners. The present study tested the hypothesis that relationships between mothers and their unborn children should be thought of as stemming from the caregiving system rather than the attachment system because, according to traditional definitions, the attachment system exists to motivate an individual to seek care in times of distress, whilst the caregiving system exists to motivate an individual to provide care to others. We examined for the first time the mediating role of women’s caregiving responsiveness to partner in the association between romantic attachment and prenatal bonding. A total of 258 women in pregnancy (13 weeks, 23 weeks and 33 weeks gestation) completed measures of prenatal bonding, romantic attachment and caregiving towards partner via the internet. Structural equation models indicated that the association between adult attachment avoidance and prenatal bonding was fully mediated by caregiving responsiveness, even controlling for gestational age, parity, and psychological health. Prenatal bonding scores were higher for women at 23 weeks gestation than 13 weeks gestation. Women in second or subsequent pregnancies had higher levels of romantic attachment avoidance and lower levels of prenatal bonding than women in their first pregnancies. These data suggest that levels of prenatal bonding better reflect the operation of the caregiving system than the attachment system.

Daily Locus of Control Moderates the Effect of Supportive Reciprocity on Negative Mood in Expectant Fathers

Holly S. Ryon (University of Texas at Austin)
Marci E. J. Gleason (University of Texas at Austin)

Perceived social support has been associated with positive outcomes across many populations. However, when one considers support transactions as they occur on a daily basis, support receipt is often associated
with negative outcomes such as emotional distress (Reis, Clark, & Holmes, 2004). This paradoxical phenomenon is best understood when considered in the context of supportive reciprocity. It has been found in both normal and stressed populations that the increase in negative mood associated with support receipt is reversed on days when the recipient also provides support (Gleason, Iida, Bolger, & Shrout, 2003). One posited explanation for these effects is that receiving support is a signal of the recipient's incompetence or lack of control (Gleason, Iida, Shrout, & Bolger, 2008), that is, receipt of support may be moderated by locus of control. To examine this possible moderation, a daily diary study of 78 couples expecting their first child investigated the within and between-person associations between mood, locus of control, and support. Expectant mothers did not follow the supportive reciprocity pattern. However, this pattern did replicate for expectant fathers, but was moderated by daily feelings of control. That is, on days when fathers had a high sense of control, they did not experience any change due to support receipt and provision, but on days when fathers had a low sense of control the supportive reciprocity effects were present. These findings suggest that both context and feelings of control are important to the understanding of when support from one's partner will be beneficial.

1526 Love and Attraction

What's Love Got to Do with It? An Exploratory Study of Relationship Formation and Romantic Love among American University of Beirut Students

Michael Oghia (American University of Beirut)

Romantic love is a topic largely absent from the social scientific inquiry in the Arab world. Although it has deep historical roots in the region, many scholars have traditionally reduced romantic relationship formation down to family–facilitated arrangements. However, increasing amounts of new, globalized discourses and narratives saturate the Middle East, providing alternatives to the socially prescribed and sanctioned avenues of romantic love and relationships. This is challenging the pre–existing romantic discourses, particularly those held by young Arabs. The purpose of this study was to explore how a sample of unmarried Arab youth form and maintain romantic relationships, specifically focusing on how they define and identity romantic love, the value they ascribe to it, and what influences their perception of love. To test this, I utilized a mixed qualitative–quantitative methodology through a concurrent triangulation research strategy. Employing a self–selected, non–random sample of students at the American University of Beirut (AUB) in Lebanon, I conducted interviews with 22 students, and distributed questionnaires to 195 students. Preliminary results indicate that the students wanted more freedom when choosing a romantic partner, particularly from their family. Also, family, friends, experiences, and mass media were all reported as having a particular influence on the way they perceive love, reinforcing the notion that love is culturally defined and socially governed. As this was an exploratory study, further research can be conducted on a wider sample of Arab youth encompassing wider demographics such as geographic location and educational level.

Temporal Course of Relationships among Brazilians: Did Love Predict Continuing Dating?

Vicente Cassepp-Borges (Universidade Federal da Grande Dourados)

Quantitative studies of love ignore that the feeling changes over the time. This work had the objective of evaluate if the levels of love can predict the continuity and the ending of the dating after six months. The participants were 129, select from a sample of 1549 participants of 13 Brazilian states. They responded a socio-demographic questionnaire, the Relationship Assessment Scale and the Sternberg’s Triangular Love
Scale. These participants were dating in the moment of data collection and had answered an e-mail message after six months, talking about the relationships’ destiny. The results indicated that, after six months from data collection, 29 (22.5%) participants finished the dating (END group), 93 (72.1%) continued the dating (REMAIN group) and 7 (5.4%) decided to live together, married or became engaged (EVOLUTION group). The participants with higher levels of intimacy, passion and commitment were EVOLUTION, followed by REMAIN and END. Higher levels of relationships’ satisfaction were found in REMAIN, followed by EVOLUTION and END. This data suggest that love can predict the continuity of a dating. The hypothesis that a little degree of dissatisfaction is necessary to take the decision of evolving the relationship can explain the higher levels of relationship satisfaction in REMAIN group. These data had the limitation of a small number of subjects in the EVOLUTION group; this fact interfered with the ability to perform inferential statistics. However, the data do suggest the importance of love also in Brazil.

I love you, but I’m not in love with you:
Attraction and Love are Different in Romantic and Platonic Cross-sex Relationships

Joy Smithson (The University of Southern Mississippi)

This study investigated experiences of love, attraction, and attachment in heterosexual cross-sex friendships. Individuals (N = 302) completed a questionnaire to assess their feelings of passionate and companionate love toward both their romantic partner and their best cross-sex friend. Additionally, respondents indicated their level of attraction toward their best cross-sex friend on four types of attraction common to cross-sex platonic relationships—subjective physical/sexual attraction, objective physical/sexual attraction, romantic attraction, and friendship attraction. Finally, individuals reported their attachment style. Results indicated that respondents felt more friendship attraction over all other types of attraction. Individuals involved in romantic relationships reported less physical/sexual attraction, less romantic attraction, less friendship attraction, and less passionate love toward their best cross-sex friend compared to individuals who did not have a romantic partner. Regarding attachment styles, individuals with a dismissing-avoidant attachment style reported significantly lower passionate love for their best cross-sex friend compared to individuals with a preoccupied attachment style and significantly lower companionate love for their best cross-sex friend compared to individuals with a secure attachment style. Finally, respondents with secure attachment styles reported being more satisfied with their cross-sex friendship compared to respondents with dismissing-avoidant attachment styles. The implications of these results for understanding cross-sex friendships, and their uniqueness from cross-sex romantic relationships, are discussed.

Multidimensionality of Romantic Love Feelings in Fictional Literature

Stuart Clapp (Aquinas College)
Victor Karandashev (Aquinas College)

Romantic love is a multifaceted and multidimensional concept, which inspired artists, musicians, and writers to describe its various aspects over the centuries. Psychologists' systematic efforts to understand love began in the mid-twentieth century (Ellis, Fromm, Lewis). Several psychological theories identified major love constructs and presented their love taxonomies (Berscheid, Hatfield, Hazan & Shaver, Fehr & Russell, Lee, Rubin, Sternberg). Significant progress was made, but the scientific version still seemed pale, compared to centuries’ efforts of writers to describe love’s emotional complexity. Our research intended to tap multiple concepts and constituent feelings related to romantic love through analyzing fictional literature and its language. Based on several hundred quotes pulled from twenty, top list pieces of English literature, we developed items that comprised a multidimensional scale. The items were refined to be more general than the original, specific context, while classifying items into dimensions and
eliminating any redundant items. Participants were asked to rate their romantic partner on these items using a 4-point scale from disagree (1) to strongly agree (4). Multiple dimensions have been found reliable, valid, and also unaffected by social desirability. Hierarchical cluster analysis revealed a multilevel structure of dimensions describing love. This structure supports the hypothesis of sub-dimensions fitting together in a hierarchical structure and showing inner-connections between dimensions. In conclusion, the study has revealed multiple dimensions of romantic love depicted in fictional literature that are still not present in scientific research.

What Motivates People Holding Certain Love Styles?

Victor Karandashev (Aquinas College)

Lee’s theory of love styles (1973, 1976) and the Love Attitude Scale developed by C. Hendrick and S. Hendrick (1986) have been a major focus in romantic love research since late 1980s. The question remains, however, what is the long-standing motivation of the people holding certain love styles. The study investigated what motivational goals stand behind these. The participants completed the Love Attitude Scale and Schwartz Value Survey. Hierarchical regression analysis revealed that the higher importance of self-enhancement values predicts the higher self-centered love attitudes (Ludus, Mania) and lower other’s oriented ones (Storge, Agape): the higher priority of Power value leads to more ludic and manic and less agapic love attitudes; while higher priority of Benevolence value leads to less ludic and more agapic love attitudes. Conservation values affect the love attitudes the following way: Tradition allow to predict erotic and agapic love attitudes in any age, storgic attitudes in the young age, and manic in the old age; Security values predict higher Eros and lower Ludus love attitudes; Conformism and lack of Self-direction predict the Pragma love attitude. Conformity and Tradition play an important role in determination of young males and females of being more passionate, storgic, agapic, pragmatic, and less ludic, but they do not make difference in the older age.

1527 Interethnic and Interracial Relationships

"Race Doesn't Matter":
A Dialogic Analysis of Interracial Romantic Partners’ Stories about Racial Differences

Erin Brummett (The University of Iowa)

The purpose of this study was to examine constructions of racial differences within online stories narrated by individuals currently involved in interracial romantic relationships. A dialogic analysis of the stories (n = 76) revealed that interracial partners marginalized difference by positioning racial dissimilarity as problematic, contrasting differences with partner similarities, devaluing difference in the evaluation of relational success, and erasing difference or contesting an ‘interracial’ relational identity. Although the majority of interracial partners refute the societal construction of interracial romantic relationships as inappropriate, they resist that construction by participating in discursive work which minimizes partner racial dissimilarities. The marginalization of difference in contrast to the dominance of similarity in individuals’ talk exemplifies interracial partners’ efforts to legitimate their romantic relationships. The study sheds light on how talk surrounding difference functions within relationships that are socially marked by difference, which appears to be similar to the regulation of difference found in research that focuses on more traditional or normative personal relationships. The discourse of similarity maintains its centripetal force in interracial partners’ stories about racial differences.
The Costs of Racism for Marriage: How Racial Discrimination Hurts, and Ethnic Identity Protects, Newlywed Marriages among Latinos

Thomas Trail (University of California, Los Angeles)
Benjamin Karney (University of California, Los Angeles)
Phillip Goff (University of California, Los Angeles)

The experience of racial or ethnic discrimination is a salient and severe stressor that has been linked to numerous disparities in important outcomes. Yet, the link between perceived discrimination and marital outcomes has been overlooked by research on relationship stressors. Because past research demonstrates that ethnic identity can buffer the negative impact of discrimination on intrapersonal outcomes, this study examined whether identity moderated associations between discrimination and ratings of marital quality and verbal aggression. A sample of 330 Latino newlyweds completed measures of perceived discrimination, ethnic identity, spouse’s verbal aggression, and marital quality. Interviewers also independently rated each spouse’s marital quality. Dyadic analyses revealed that, across both measures of marital quality, the experience of discrimination predicted lower ratings of marital quality. For wives, these experiences were also independently related to their husbands’ perception of marital quality, but for husbands, the extent to which their experience of discrimination predicted their wives’ marital quality depended upon the strength of the husband’s ethnic identity. For husbands with weaker ethnic identity, the more that they experienced discrimination, the lower their own and their wives’ satisfaction with their marriage. For husbands with stronger ethnic identity, however, the experience of discrimination was unrelated to either spouse’s ratings of the marriage. This moderated effect was in turn mediated by husbands’ verbal aggression toward their wives. Thus, it seems that the stress of experiencing discrimination can seep into marriages both through its negative implications for one’s own perceptions of marital quality, and through its associations with the negative behaviors of low-identified husbands toward their wives.

Looking at Interracial Couples and Conflict: A Multi-Method Approach

Theresa MacNeil (University of Connecticut)

Interpersonal conflict is a vital component in most major theories of human development (Canary, Cupach, & Messman, 1995) and can be a cause of stress (Jensen-Campbell & Graziano, 2001), and associated with positive adjustment, well-being and overall development. Additionally, an individual’s conflict management skills, or how they handle and respond to conflict, may be more imperative to understanding relationship quality and commitment (Sillars et al., 1982). One important group that has largely been ignored in the conflict management literature is interracial couples. Little research looks at interracial couples in dating or marital relationships (Zhang, & Van Hook, 2009), and most interracial couples studies are confined to Black and White dyads only (Zhang & Van Hook, 2009), ignoring other types of important interracial couples. Since the amount of interracial couples continue to rise in America (U.S. Census Bureau 2004; Troy, Lewis-Smith, & Laurenceau, 2006; Bratter & King, 2008; Zhang & Van Hook, 2009), it is important to include this type of relationship in the discussion of interpersonal conflict and conflict management. Given the paucity of interracial conflict literature, the current study sought to use observation and self-report measures to better understand interracial couple conflict. Additionally, the current study attempted to explain interracial conflict vis-à-vis Brofenbrenner’s (2005) Process-Person-Context-Time (PPCT) model, with a main focus on the Process-Person-Context elements of the model. Thus, results and future research are discussed and placed in a bioecological theoretical lens in order to help further elucidate interracial couples and conflict.
Privacy Management Tactics and Partner Interference:  
The Concealment of Secrets in Interracial Romantic Relationships  

Erin Brummett (University of Iowa)

U.S. Census data report that interracial unions are increasing in number, yet research suggests that interracial couples continue to receive social sanctions and are often met with societal opposition (Gaines & Leaver, 2002). The stigma associated with interracial romantic partners thus increases their likelihood of engaging in privacy management behaviors. The goal of this study was to examine the tactics that interracial romantic partners may utilize to protect their private information that is specific to the nature of their romantic relationships. Two research questions were addressed regarding the tactics that participants employ to conceal information about their relationships from others (RQ1) as well as individuals’ experiences with partner interference when enacting those tactics (RQ2). Semi-structured interviews were conducted with participants (n = 21), and the data from the interviews were analyzed using a thematic analysis method. The analysis revealed that even though many interracial partners receive societal opposition as a result of their choice of a relational partner, they tend to disclose information about their romantic relationships to social network members. In conjunction with this finding, participants reported experiencing little to no partner interference regarding their disclosure decisions. The study offers insight into the ways in which individuals manage their potentially risky or stigmatizing private information within and outside the confines of romantic dyads. Moreover, the data suggest that mixed-race couples often partake in both an interracial and intercultural identity, which carries with it additional opportunities for partner negotiation regarding disclosure decisions.

Predicting Parents' Intentions to Support Their Adult Children's  
Stigmatized Romantic Relationships

Jill Boelter (University of Texas at Austin)

Adults in traditional dating relationships (same-race, opposite-sex couples) perceive more parental support for their relationships than do individuals in socially stigmatized relationships (e.g., interracial, same-sex couples; Lehmiller & Agnew, 2006). Thus, understanding what motivates parents to provide support for their children’s dating relationships provides key insight into traditional and stigmatized relationship functioning. In this study, the original and a modified version of the Theory of Reasoned Action (Ajzen & Fishbein, 1975) was implemented to predict parents’ intentions to provide support in the future. Parents’ attitudes toward showing support (ATB) and subjective norms (SN) were predicted to influence parents’ behavioral intentions to provide support. In the modified model, SN was reconceptualized to include parents’ perceptions of stigma by associating with their children’s relationships. A sample of 438 parents with single or dating adult children completed an anonymous online survey. Parents with single children were asked to imagine their children in traditional, interracial, or same-sex relationships. All other parents reported on their children’s traditional, interracial, or same-sex dating relationships. Multiple regression across the six groups revealed that parents’ ATB were associated with parents’ future behavioral intentions across all groups. In contrast, parents’ original or modified SN were not consistent predictors of intentions across groups. Furthermore, parents’ motivations differed among parents whose children were in real or hypothetical relationships. Findings suggest parents who imagine their children in relationships overestimate the likelihood of problems with interracial and same-sex relationships and underestimate the likelihood of problems with traditional relationships than may occur in real-life situations.
Roundtables

1528 Research on Military Families across the Deployment Cycle: Current Insights and Future Directions

Organizers: Leanne Knobloch (University of Illinois)
            Katheryn Maguire (Wayne State University)
            Benjamin Karney (University of California - Los Angeles)

The cycle of deployment and reunion is emotionally charged for military personnel and their families. During a tour of duty, service members focus on accomplishing their mission (Hosek, Kavanagh, & Miller, 2006), and at-home partners shoulder responsibility for running the household, managing finances, and caring for children (Merolla, 2010). Although many military families eagerly await reunion, the post-deployment transition presents new obstacles and opportunities (Sahlstein, Maguire, & Timmerman, 2009). Returning service members may have trouble acclimating to the changes that transpired while they were away, at-home partners may find it difficult to cede their decision-making power, and children may be unsure how to re-establish closeness (Bowling & Sherman, 2008; Knobloch & Theiss, 2011). These challenges may take a substantial toll on people’s personal and relational well-being. Research on military families has blossomed in recent years, as evidenced by a 2011 special issue of the Journal of Family Psychology and an upcoming 2013 special issue of Health Communication, but much remains unknown about the individual, dyadic, and situational parameters that affect the well-being of military families across the deployment cycle. This roundtable session is designed to bring together an interdisciplinary group of scholars to assess the current state of the literature and to set goals for future research. It will begin with brief introductory presentations by the facilitators, followed by an open forum for discussion. The session will provide opportunities for attendees to foster collaborations, to share best practices, and to identify priorities for work in this area.

1529 A Splintered Discipline: A Call for Integration of Interpersonal Relations Theories

Organizer: John Holmes (University of Waterloo)

Leaders: Nancy Collins (University of California, Santa Barbara)
          John Holmes (University of Waterloo)
          Harry Reis (University of Rochester)

Considerable progress has occurred in the field of personal relationships, both on the empirical and theoretical fronts. However, there have been few efforts to integrate the ideas that have developed in the major theories in the field. Approaches such as Attachment Theory, Interdependence Theory, Sociometer Theory and Relational Selves Theory seldom reference each other or try to bring together in a coherent way the suppositions and concepts that are common across frameworks. In this sense the relationships field is very splintered and has the appearance of consisting of islands of understanding. However, several years ago Reis, Clark and Holmes (2004) suggested that perceived or expected responsiveness by others was a core construct that played a vital role across these frameworks. We will suggest that the various theories are consistent in arguing that confidence as opposed to anxiety about others’ acceptance and likely responsiveness is central in shaping people’s cognitions and behavior in relationships. The points of divergence of the theories center largely on whether expectations of responsiveness are best understood as rooted in early experience and personality and apply across targets, or whether expectations can be relatively unique to specific relationships, or some combination of such models. An in-depth discussion of these issues, emphasizing the value of an integrated conceptual model, will be encouraged.
Interest Group Meeting

1530  GLBTQ Studies Interest Group Meeting

Organizers:  Jimmie Manning (Northern Kentucky University)
             Lisa Diamond (University of Pennsylvania)

This interest group meeting allows those who study gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or otherwise queer-oriented relationships to explore common interests and to engage in discussion about their work. As a variety of scholars have noted (e.g., Meezan & Martin, 2003), relationships involving GLBTQ individuals often carry unique characteristics and processes; and studying GLBTQ populations offers its own kind of research exigencies. This session will allow participants to share ideas they have for research studies, ask questions about how to do or present their work, explore research initiatives they hope to engage, and build networks to enhance research possibilities. Anyone who studies GLBTQ relationships (romantic, friendly, family, workplace, social groups, or in any other relational context) will benefit from this meeting.
Panel Sessions

1601  You, Me, Us: Relating, Liking, And Happiness

Balancing the Need to be "Me" with the Need to be "We":
Applying Optimal Distinctiveness Theory to Romantic Relationships

Erica Slotter (Villanova University)
Wendi Gardner (Northwestern University)
Caitlin Duffy (Northwestern University)

Optimal Distinctiveness Theory (ODT) posits that individuals balance competing motives of assimilation (being identified with an ingroup) and distinctiveness (maintaining a distinct individual identity) in their group memberships (Brewer, 1991). When made to feel overly similar to other group members, individuals distance themselves from the group in order to feel distinctive. When made to feel overly different from other group members, individuals draw closer to the group in order to feel included (e.g., Brewer, 2003). Although ODT was developed to explain individuals’ behavior in groups, it has been suggested that individuals may have similarly competing motives in dyadic relationships (Brewer, 2001). The aim of the current research was to empirically examine whether individuals in romantic relationships would attempt to balance the motivation to be assimilated with their partner, which is highly beneficial to romantic relationships (e.g., Aron, 2003), with the motivation to feel distinct and autonomous. Two studies demonstrated that individuals who were induced to feel similar to their romantic partner wanted to spend less time with their partner, on self-report and behavioral measures, than individuals who were induced to feel distinct from their partner. A third study revealed that individuals who were induced to feel similar to their partner reported beliefs that relationship partners should be less similar to each other, in general, than individuals who were induced to feel distinct from their partner. Results from these three studies imply the balance of the motives to be included versus distinct posited in ODT exist at the relational level.

Deliberate about Relating: A Heroic Leap-of-Faith or a Transactional Obligation?

Aneta Tunariu (The University of East London)
Matthew Colahan (The University of East London)

However private an experience and its associated meanings may feel, dominant norms and cultural formulations are always already present promoting certain views, realities, practices, and ways of relating, while marginalising others. This paper presents a Discourse Analysis of twelve lay-peoples’ talk (generated via semi-structured interviews with seven women and five men who self identified as being in long-term, heterosexual relationships) to map out the operation of culturally embedded, taken-for-granted assumptions that inform their understandings of relationship satisfaction. Two discourses will be
presented. *Relationship satisfaction as a dialectical need fulfilment: a transactional obligation* – here the construct of relationship satisfaction centres on the dialectic of self-needs and other-needs. The discursive imperative delineates a transactional obligation to ‘know’ and fulfil the other’s needs and to expect self-needs to be ‘known’ and fulfilled. *Relationship satisfaction as a function of heroic relating* - here relationship satisfaction is constructed as the product of a certain mode of romantic relating which requires ‘heroism’ from both partners; a particular giving of themselves which is taken to demonstrate romantic love, concern and compassion. The discursive imperative delineates satisfying relationships as locations of security from within which one takes a ‘leap of faith’ anticipating their partner can ‘love’ and can provide unconditional support and acceptance. The two discourses are then further deconstructed through the existentially informed lens of “deliberate relating”. The theoretical propositions of deliberate relating as a capacity to ‘care’, ethics of responsibility, and an attitude towards being-in-the-world-with-others are introduced, and its applicability to the field of the psychology of relationships is considered.

**Exploring the Meaning of Cohabitation: A Relational Dialectics Perspective**

Lindsey Thomas (University of Iowa)  
Kristina Scharp (University of Iowa)  
Keli Steuber (University of Iowa)

The increase in cohabitation is one of the most significant changes in American family demographics in the past century. Approximately half of all marriages are preceded by cohabitation, and the number of couples now choosing cohabitation as an alternative to marriage is increasing. Although cohabitation is becoming increasingly popular, these relationships are linked with a variety of negative outcomes (i.e., the “cohabitation effect”), including poor communication and overall lower relational satisfaction. Cohabitation is also an ambiguous relationship state (e.g., perceived as “more than dating” but “less than marriage”), which often leaves partners unsure about the commitment or future of their partnership. Scholars in a number of disciplines have empirically investigated cohabitation behaviors; however, relatively little research has explored cohabiters’ perspectives of what it means to be in a co-residential relationship. Exploring the meaning of cohabitation is an important step in illuminating perceptions within this relational experience, which may coincide with these negative outcomes. Given the ambivalent feelings about cohabitation, the present study utilizes Relational Dialectics Theory to take the first step in understanding the natives’ perspectives and cultural meanings about cohabitation. In particular, women’s stories about living with their partner were sampled from the public website Experienceproject.com. The stories were then analyzed using Baxter’s new method of contrapuntal analysis, which focuses on how meanings emerge from the interplay of discourses that are voiced through talk.

**Optimal Relating: Witnessing the Self with Another**

Dori Yusef (The University of East London)

This paper presents a new concept, namely the concept of “Witnessing” and argues that the capacity to note, witness and be present with another is a pivotal aspect of optimal relating. The concept of Witnessing will be introduced; its dimensions defined and its applications to the psychology of relationships discussed. Witnessing is conceptualised to represent a state of observation and awareness that is experienced on multiple levels. It is felt discernment that is happening prior to full reflection and awareness and, when harvested, can serve as a rich source of relational knowledge, facilitative for an inter-subjective connection that defines the very ‘ebb and flow’ of intimacy. When Witnessing is allowed to unfold as a process of noting what the other says without evaluation and with the intention to know without the need to precipitate an explanation, then Self and Another are present. Likewise, when
Witnessing is allowed to unfold as a process of noting one’s own dialogue as communication or listening, without the intention to know and the need to precipitate an explanation, then the Self with Another are present. In short, Witnessing facilitates relating from an equal foothold. The reality of Self, as a full, real, experiencing individual meets the reality of Another as a full, real, experiencing individual. The frustrations of self-needs can be tolerated for the benefit of optimal relating. Young-Eisendrath (1999) sees this as a need to return to being “ordinary,” which is rooted in “wisdom about our human condition and a knowledge of how we are all connected.” The presence of Witnessing as part of the very ‘ebb and flow’ of intimacy captures this wisdom and sit at the optimal relating.

Do Close Relationships Make You Happy? Evidence from Husbands and Wives in India

Stanley Gaines (Brunel University)
Sarah White (University of Bath)
Shreya Jha (University of Bath)

In the present study, we examined the impact of objective economic status and several aspects of inner wellbeing -- especially perceived quality of social connections and perceived quality of family relationships -- on spouses’ happiness in India. Results of hierarchical multiple regression analyses indicated that among husbands (n = 134), objective economic status was a significant positive predictor of happiness in Step 1. In Step 2, subjective quality of family relationships (but not subjective quality of social connections) was a significant positive predictor of happiness, and objective economic status remained a significant positive predictor. In Step 3, subjective quality of values and meaning was a significant positive predictor of happiness, subjective quality of family relationships remained a significant positive predictor, and objective economic resources became a marginal positive predictor. Among wives (n = 116), objective economic resources was a significant positive predictor of happiness in Step 1. In Step 2 subjective quality of close relationships and subjective quality of social connections were unrelated to happiness, and objective economic resources remained a significant positive predictor. In Step 3 subjective quality of economic resources, subjective quality of self-worth, and subjective quality of values and meaning were significant positive predictors, of happiness; subjective quality of family relationships became a significant negative predictor, and objective economic resources was no longer a significant or marginal predictor. Implications for the study of inner wellbeing and objective economic resources as influences on individuals’ happiness in developing nations, within and beyond the context of marriage, are discussed.

The Effects of Conflict on the Accuracy and Projection of Mood Judgments in Close Relationships

Sean Lane (New York University)
Gertraud Stadler (Columbia University)
Niall Bolger (Columbia University)

Individuals can be both accurate and biased when making judgments about the affective experiences of close others. Some studies have explored levels of accuracy and bias in conflict situations, but none have acknowledged the subjective nature of conflict whereby one partner may perceive conflict while the other may not. Using data from a 35 day diary study of 75 heterosexual couples, a multi-level Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (Kashy & Kenny, 2000) was fit to assess the impact of actor-only (AO), partner-only (PO), and actor-and-partner (AP) reported conflict on accuracy and bias effects (as described in Kenny & Acitelli, 2001). Compared to non-conflict days, on AO conflict days actors’ own moods were more highly correlated with their perceived ratings of their partners’ positive and negative moods (i.e. they projected more). Neither PO nor AP conflict impacted accuracy or projection for positive moods, but
for negative moods PO conflict was associated with lower levels of accuracy. Moreover, AP conflict was associated with increases in accuracy estimates for negative moods such that they were 60% larger than on non-conflict days (i.e. conflict agreement greatly improved accuracy). Furthermore, random effects analyses showed that for negative mood accuracy and projection estimates were positively correlated for high-conflict individuals, uncorrelated for average-conflict individuals, and negatively correlated for low-conflict individuals. These findings both substantiate and qualify recent theoretical work regarding the underlying forces that motivate accuracy and bias and the situationally hydraulic relationship between the two (e.g. Gagné & Lydon, 2004; West & Kenny, 2011).

1602 Forgiveness or Revenge

The Experience of Revenge: From Initial Acts to Receiver Responses

Stephen Yoshimura (The University of Montana)
Susan Boon (The University of Calgary)

Recent research shows that punishment increases cooperative behavior in games of economic exchange. Whether these findings apply to naturalistic relationship contexts, however, is unknown. The additional possibility that revenge serves educational and deterrent functions in social relationships is equally plausible, but also unexamined. This study thus investigates revenge experiences in the context of three relationship types, and addresses four descriptive questions: (1) What types of acts do recipients recognize as revenge?; (2) What do revenge recipients perceive as an actor’s motivation?; (3) What lessons do recipients learn from revenge?; and (4) How do recipients typically respond? Survey respondents were randomly assigned to describe their revenge experiences in a romantic relationship, family relationship, or association. Of 669 recruited participants, 251 participants (38%) reported being targeted for revenge in the recent past. Direct anger expressions were the most commonly reported act of revenge in families and associations, whereas distancing was most commonly reported in romantic relationships, with direct anger expressions nearly as frequent. Desired change in emotions or awareness was the most commonly attributed goal in all relationships, and the most commonly reported lesson in all relationship was how to enact appropriate future behavior. The most commonly reported response across relationships was passivity. The results suggest that revenge is largely recognized in common, routine interaction, and that revenge expressions carry meaning and educative value for recipients. The findings do not show increased cooperative responses as other research suggests, but instead indicate that revenge increases knowledge of relationally appropriate behavior, and deters counter-aggression.

I Want You to Hurt: Hate as a Motive

John Rempel (St. Jerome's University)

Hate is a formidable but understudied force in human behavior. We propose that hate is a motive associated with the goal of diminishing or destroying the wellbeing of the other and that different forms of hate are associated with different eliciting attitudinal and emotional experiences and with different ultimate goals. Thus, although the desire to harm need not be the primary or ultimate goal, for hate to be present harm must actually be desired, rather than merely seen as the lamentable byproduct of a nobler superordinate goal. To test these ideas, 127 introductory psychology students at the University of Botswana were presented with a series of brief vignettes in which the main character displayed a desire for harm to come to another individual or group. Participants were randomly assigned to one of three conditions: 1) harm was undesirable but unavoidable, 2) harm was necessary and acceptable for achieving a superordinate goal, and 3) harm was the preferred means of achieving the superordinate goal even though less harmful options were available. When the desire to harm was present, either as a preferred
outcome or simply as a necessary and acceptable requirement for achieving the superordinate goal, hate judgments were comparable. In contrast, when the same levels of harm were seen by the protagonist as necessary but not desired, hate attributions were significantly lower. Thus, for increased attributions of hate to occur, the desire for harm simply needs to be present – it need not be the ultimate goal.

Everybody’s Doing It: Evidence of Pluralistic Ignorance in Revenge Attitudes and Frequency of Revenge Behavior in Interpersonal Relationships

Susan Boon (The University of Calgary)
Stephen Yoshimura (The University of Montana)

The present study explored whether individuals’ attitudes toward revenge reflect pluralistic ignorance, or the tendency to believe that others’ attitudes and behavior differ from one’s own when in fact they do not (Prentice & Miller, 1993). Previous findings from studies examining pluralistic ignorance in the context of risky health behaviors (e.g., smoking, drug use, alcohol consumption), academic cheating, and unethical business and legal practices suggest that such misperceptions may have important implications for people’s behavior. As part of a survey in which they were asked to think about their relationship with a romantic partner, a family member, or an associate (e.g., friend, co-worker, roommate), undergraduates rated the acceptability of “getting even” with partners from the class of target relationship to which they had been assigned (i.e., romantic partner, etc.), judging acceptability from both their own and the average university student’s perspective. They then reported how often they had gotten even with a partner from that class of target relationships and how often the average university student had done so. Consistent with previous research, participants believed that others both saw revenge as more acceptable and engaged in revenge more frequently than they did themselves. The magnitude of the gap between own beliefs/behavior and other’s beliefs/behavior varied, however, with the class of relationship judged (the largest self-other gaps were observed among participants judging romantic relationships) and was more pronounced among females than males. Possible sources of such misperceptions and their implications for understanding acts of revenge in interpersonal relationships will be discussed.

Hurtful Events and the Aftermath: An Examination of Uncertainty, Conflict, Forgiveness, Rumination, and Trust

Brandi Frisby (University of Kentucky)
Colleen Malachowski (West Virginia University)

Hurtful events in romantic relationships often result in emotional distress, provoking uncertainty about the self, partner, and/or the relationship. Framed in relational uncertainty (Knobloch & Solomon, 1999), this study examined how uncertainty affects interactions between romantic partners after a hurtful event. Hurtful events were conceptualized as a cause of uncertainty and distrust, and the aftermath of the hurtful event was examined through communicative interactions including conflict, forgiveness, and rumination. Participants completed two surveys, two months apart, to examine a) uncertainty as a mediator between hurt and communication outcomes, b) trust as a mediator between hurt and communication outcomes, c) outcome differences based on hurtful event type and d) whether post-hurtful event communication can predict relational status changes. Participants (N = 193) completed one open-ended question describing the most hurtful event they encountered with their current romantic partner, along with measures of hurt, uncertainty, conflict, rumination, forgiveness, and trust. Fifteen types of hurtful events emerged with infidelity (n = 47), jealousy (n = 27), and taking a break (n = 13) occurring most frequently. Uncertainty mediated the relationships between hurt and rumination, nonverbal forgiveness, and forgiveness through minimization. Further, trust mediated the relationships between hurt and rumination, nonverbal forgiveness, and forgiveness through minimization. The types of hurtful events, significantly differed for
hurt, trust, and forgiveness through minimization. Infidelity was more hurtful, created more distrust, and resulted in lower levels of forgiveness through minimization. Finally, a discriminant analysis revealed that hurt, trust, rumination, forgiveness, and uncertainty were not significant predictors of status.

Perceptions of Victim Motivations as Correlates of Remorse Expression and Forgiveness Following Hurtful Events in Close Relationships

Monica Gracyalny (California Lutheran University)
Paul Mongeau (Arizona State University)

Nearly all conceptualizations of forgiveness include the victim transforming his/her motivations away from seeking revenge/estrangement to pursuing conciliatory, prosocial action toward the offender (Metts & Cupach, 2007). This study uses a social functionalist framework to investigate the role of remorse in the forgiveness process following hurtful events in close relationships. We propose that offenders’ experiences and expressions of remorse associate with forgiveness by shaping victims’ motivations toward offenders – either by reducing or eliminating the victim’s desire for revenge/estrangement or by increasing the victim’s prosocial motivation toward the offender. Undergraduate participants (N=671) completed questionnaires about a time when they hurt a close relational partner and reported their partners’ responses to hurt, their own experiences and expressions of remorse, and their perceptions of forgiveness. Results indicated that offenders who perceived that their partners desired revenge were more likely to report using low status behaviors (e.g., self-degrading remarks, drooping posture) and compensation (e.g., gifts, favors) to express remorse, whereas offenders who perceived that their partners used avoidance and estrangement following the event tended to express remorse through apology/concern and connection behaviors (e.g., saying “I love you”, hugging, increased communication). Offenders’ apology/concern and connection behaviors associated positively with perceptions of forgiveness, whereas low status behaviors negatively predicted forgiveness. Use of compensation following a hurtful event was not significantly related to forgiveness. Results are interpreted within the framework of evolutionary psychology and further validate the functional approach to studying emotion.

It Takes Two to Forgive: Motivation X Capacity

Reine van der Wal (Radboud University)
Johan Karremans (Radboud University)
Toon Cillessen (Radboud University)

Forgiveness is a key factor in understanding relationship functioning and stability. Previous research has demonstrated that both motivational and capacity factors facilitate forgiveness. For example, people are generally more strongly motivated to forgive an offender when the offender is close rather than distant. As to the capacity factors, recently it was demonstrated that high levels of executive control inhibit retaliatory tendencies to promote forgiveness (Pronk et al., 2010). However, the motivational and capacity processes involved in forgiveness have been studied largely in isolation from each other. In the current research, guided by dual process models (Chaiken & Trope, 1999), we examined how motivation and capacity interact towards promoting forgiveness. Specifically, we hypothesized that the relationship between executive control and forgiveness would be stronger in close rather than distant relationships. We tested this prediction in two studies, including both adults and children, in which we measured executive control by means of a Stroop task (Study 1) and a go/no-go task (Study 2). Results of both studies demonstrated that executive control was positively associated with forgiveness towards close others, but not towards non-close others. These results suggest that forgiveness results from a dual process, whereby the willingness and motivation to respond in a forgiving manner only facilitates forgiveness among those individuals who have higher levels of executive control (i.e. capacity). More
broadly, the present findings highlight the crucial role of executive control in maintaining long-term bonds.

1603 Attachment as a Relational Resource

Attachment Security as a Resource for Self-Regulation

Juwon Lee (University of Kansas)
Omri Gillath (University of Kansas)
C. Nathan DeWall (University of Kentucky)

According to Baumeister (1998) self-regulation draws upon an internal resource, which may be depleted through use. Attachment security is conceptualized as an internal resource that was already shown to facilitate emotion regulation (Mikulincer & Shaver, 2007). We hypothesized that security primes will increase the capacity to self-regulate and insecurity primes will decrease that capacity. Participants (n = 101; 61% women) were subjected to either a security, avoidance, anxiety, or neutral prime, and then had to complete a self-regulation task under high cognitive load (ego-depletion condition) or low cognitive load (control condition). The attachment primes asked participants to recall and write down previous secure, avoidant, anxious, or neutral experiences. The self-regulation task asked participants to solve anagrams that were unsolvable (Baumeister, Heatherton, & Tice, 1994). Results showed that in the low-load condition, anxiety primes increased self-regulation, in line with findings showing that attachment anxiety is related with a high need for reassurance. In the high-load condition, exposure to attachment security primes increased participants' performance on the self-regulation task such that participants spent more time on the unsolvable anagrams, reflecting higher persistence and increased self-regulation. Conversely, in the same condition (i.e., in the high-load, ego-depletion condition but not in the low-load, control condition), exposure to insecurity primes led participants to spend less time on the unsolvable anagrams – reflecting decreased persistence and self-regulation. This suggests that security primes indeed facilitate self-regulation when people are depleted, and more broadly supports the idea that attachment security serves as a resource for self-regulation.

Attachment Theory and Coping

Gery Karantzas (Deakin University)
Rebecca Bale (Deakin University)
Lyndsay Hoyle (Deakin University)

Over the last thirty years, hundreds of studies have investigated the manner in which individuals cope with stress. However, two critical issues remain unresolved. Firstly, it is unclear if coping should be best represented as a trait-based or state-based phenomenon. Secondly, the individual difference variables that influence people's coping tendencies remain unclear. In this presentation, it is argued that attachment theory, a theory of distress regulation and emotional bonding, provides a useful framework to understand the nature of coping and provides an understanding of people's coping tendencies. Using data from daily diary studies and longitudinal studies across various life contexts, we examine the stability of coping tendencies and the association between attachment and coping. Study 1 (N = 64, Mdn = 23 years) reports on the day-to-day fluctuations in coping and attachment. Study 2 (N = 120, Mdn = 30 years) reports on short-term longitudinal study investigating new mother's coping with the transition to motherhood. Study 3 (N = 100, Mdn = 18 years) reports on first-year university student's coping as they adjust to university. Across all three studies the association between attachment and coping demonstrated moderate to high
stability over time and between contexts. The implications of these findings for health professionals in the area of stress-coping will be discussed.

Coping Together for a Healthier Self and Relationship: An Examination of Dyadic Coping, Attachment Styles, and Well-being in Adult Romantic Relationships

Andrea Finkelstein (Acadia University)
Diane Holmberg (Acadia University)
Kristina Hobson (Acadia University)

Although the relationships between attachment styles, ways of coping, and psychological and relational well-being are understood at the individual level, the associations between these constructs are less understood at the dyadic level. The current study examined the association between both partners’ attachment styles and the way in which one partner encourages the other partner to cope with stress. Associations between the coping strategy one partner encourages the other to use when stressed, and the stressed partner’s psychological and relational well-being, were also examined. Couples \( N = 196 \) completed an online survey, assessing which coping strategies one partner encourages the other to use, as well as measures of attachment, and relational and psychological well-being. Results show that the type of coping encouraged is associated with the support giver’s attachment style. For example, support giver’s attachment avoidance is positively associated with the encouragement of distancing coping (i.e., ignoring the stressor), which is generally considered to be the coping strategy an individual high in attachment avoidance would use to cope with a stressor at the individual level. Furthermore, the type of coping encouraged by the support giver was found to be associated with the support seeker’s psychological and relational well-being. Specifically, the encouragement of distancing coping was negatively associated with the support seeker’s psychological well-being, while the encouragement of social-support coping was positively associated with the support seeker’s relational well-being. The findings of the current study have the potential to aid in the development of new therapeutic approaches for couples.

Adult Attachment Styles as Predictors of Memory Phenomenology for Attachment-Relevant Events

Diane Holmberg (Acadia University)
Courtney Black (Acadia University)

Anxiously attached individuals, who fear rejection, are theorized to engage in hyperactivation of the attachment system, obsessively ruminating over attachment-related information. Avoidantly attached individuals, uncomfortable with closeness, are theorized to engage in deactivation of the attachment system, suppressing attachment-related information. Applying these theories to memory, one would expect anxious individuals to have particularly vivid and accessible attachment-related memories, whereas avoidant individuals would have less vivid or accessible memories. Although previous research has tested these hypotheses in terms of speed of recall, little work has been done assessing the phenomenology of memory for attachment-related events (i.e., how vivid, detailed, coherent, etc. the memories are, subjectively). In this study, 132 participants currently in a romantic relationship completed an on-line study in which they reported their attachment styles, and recalled two attachment-related memories, one positive and one negative. After writing about each event in an open-ended fashion, participants completed a memory phenomenology questionnaire assessing seven aspects of memory (e.g., vividness, coherence, emotional intensity). Results showed, as hypothesized, attachment avoidance was associated with less vivid, coherent, and accessible attachment-related memories, both positive and negative; however, interactions with attachment anxiety revealed that these deactivating tendencies only
Investigating Interpersonal Trauma through the Integration of Attachment Theory and Reinforcement Sensitivity Theory

Lyndsay Hoyle (Deakin University)
Gery Karantzas (Deakin University)
Nicolas Kambouropoulos (Deakin University)

Exposure to traumatic events such as interpersonal violence is common, however the factors that influence the extent to which victims experience trauma remain unclear. Many researchers have emphasised the subjective appraisal of threat, such as believing one is about to die or suffer life-long harm, as a key determinant of psychological trauma. However, two critical issues remain unresolved. Firstly, research findings linking the appraisal of threat with trauma symptoms are inconsistent. Secondly, the examination of individual difference variables that influence detection of threat has been neglected. To this end, the aims of this study were to determine the association between threat appraisal and trauma symptoms, and to propose a theoretical model of individual difference that provides an explanation for the association between threat appraisal and trauma in the context of interpersonal violence. A meta-analysis involving 33 studies on trauma demonstrated an association between threat appraisal and trauma symptoms ($r = .32$). In particular, moderation analysis using meta-regression revealed that the association between threat appraisal and trauma symptoms is strongest among victims of interpersonal violence ($r = .38$) compared to all other forms of trauma. In explaining this association, we propose an integrative model of threat-detection and appraisal that encompasses Attachment Theory and Reinforcement Sensitivity Theory (RST). We believe that this integrative model provides a useful framework to provide insight into individual differences that influence the association between threat detection, appraisal and the experience of trauma symptoms, especially when dealing with interpersonal violence.

1604 Relationships’ Link with Well-Being and Other Areas of Life

Does Being In Love Help or Hinder Performance?
The Perspectives of Olympic Athletes

Kelly Campbell (California State University San Bernardino)
Chelsea Lamb (California State University San Bernardino)
Kelly Myers (California State University San Bernardino)
Jasmine Calderon (California State University San Bernardino)

Researchers have recently used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to determine potential biological correlates for constructs such as love (Aron, 2006). Results indicate that individuals who are in love experience oxygenated blood flow to the part of the brain associated with reward and motivation (Aron, Fisher, Mashek, Strong, Li, & Brown, 2005; Ortigue, Bianchi-Demicheli, Hamilton, & Grafton, 2007). Extrapolating from this research, it is possible that individuals who are in love may perform better on tasks involving intense focus on rewarding outcomes. We hypothesized that being in love would be associated with better perceived athletic performance. Data were collected through interviews at the 2010 Olympic Games and an online survey. Participants included 35 current and former athletes from different
countries of origin (e.g. France, Germany, Norway, USA) who were competing in a variety of sports (e.g. curling, hockey, skating, skiing). Results indicated that a majority believed being in love helped their performance for reasons that included: having a partner or children provided an audience to impress, partners helped manage other areas of life which created more time for training, and the presence of a partner at competitive events provided incentive to do well. Unexpected findings included that depending on country of origin, individuals had different definitions of “being in love.” Future research should examine cross-cultural definitions of love, as well as use fMRI scanners to examine whether brain activity is similar for athletes who visualize their sport versus their beloved.

You Make Me Sick: The Dampening Effects of Perceived Vulnerability to Disease on Affiliation and Attraction at Speed Dating

Natsumi Sawada (McGill University)
John E. Lydon (McGill University)

Although there are benefits of initiating a romantic relationship, closeness may come at a cost; social contact increases risk of exposure to pathogens. The behavioural immune system (BIS) is thought to provide a first-line defense against pathogens by detecting and triggering avoidant responses towards potential pathogen threats (Schaller & Park, 2011). Indeed, increased BIS activation, measured with the Perceived Vulnerability to Disease (PVD) Scale, predicts decreased extraversion and increased social stimuli avoidance suggesting PVD may impact social interactions (Mortensen, Becker, Ackerman, Neuberg, & Kenrick, 2010). We therefore hypothesized that chronic PVD would predict affiliation and attraction towards prospective romantic partners at speed-dating. Forty females and 41 males aged 18 – 25 completed the PVD scale and then attended a speed-dating event where they interacted with each opposite-sex participant for 3 minutes. After each interaction participants rated partners’ affiliativeness (friendly, withdrawn, submissive, anxious), physical attractiveness, and dateability. They also indicated interest in future dates with each partner. This binary variable was used to compute a partner selectivity score. As predicted, actors with higher PVD were rated by partners as less affiliative and more withdrawn, anxious, and submissive, controlling for attachment anxiety and avoidance. Actors with higher PVD rated partners as less attractive, less dateable and were more selective controlling for gender and physical attractiveness, as rated by research assistants. As hypothesized PVD predicted decreased affiliation and romantic attraction and increased selectivity at speed-dating. This suggests chronic or acute elevations in BIS activation may have implications for social interactions and relationship initiation.

Differences in Health and Relationship Outcomes by Perceived Playfulness of IPV

Rebecca Weston (University of Texas at San Antonio)
Linda Marshall (University of North Texas)

Aggressive behaviors perpetrated playfully likely have different effects than intentional IPV. For example, joking vs. non-joking IPV is associated with increased relationship commitment (Arriaga, 2002). Three hypotheses were tested: (1) IPV would be more severe and frequent when not perceived as playful, (2) intentional IPV would have more negative effects on women’s health, and (3) relationship outcomes would be more positive when IPV was playful. Data were from Wave 2 of Project HOW, a longitudinal study of low-income women. Women averaged 34 years old and were African American (n=202), Euro-American (n=187), and Mexican American (n=187). Women reported threats and physical IPV with Marshall’s (1992) scale. All women reporting physical victimization were asked if any IPV was playful. Mental health was assessed with the HSCL 90 (Derogatis, Lipman, & Covi, 1973). Single items assessed physical health, relational satisfaction and happiness. The frequency of 19 positive behaviors and Acitelli et al.’s (1993) measure assessed relationships. Most women (n=328) reported no physical IPV;
159 said partners’ IPV was never playful and 89 indicated IPV was playful at least once. Three 3 (race/ethnicity) x 3 (none/playful/intentional IPV) MANOVAs were conducted. Multivariate main effects for playfulness and race/ethnicity occurred for all analyses and supported all hypotheses. Partners’ IPV was most frequent in the intentional group. Women’s perpetration and health effects were similar for the playful and intentional IPV groups. Relationship outcomes were similar for the playful IPV and no IPV groups. Results for race/ethnicity did not show a clear pattern and will be discussed.

The Influence of Mental Health on Casual, Sexual Relationships in Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood

Sara Sandberg-Thoma (Ohio State University)
Claire Kamp Dush (Ohio State University)

The development of intimacy in adolescence and emerging adulthood includes both monogamous intimate relationships as well as casual sexual encounters ranging from making-out to sexual intercourse (Manning, Giordano, & Longmore, 2006). The impact of casual sexual encounters for those with mental health symptoms is not yet fully understood. In intimate relationships, mental health has been shown to improve with increased levels of commitment (Kamp Dush & Amato, 2005). This improvement may be due to the potential benefits gained from having a committed partner, such as increased emotional (Frech & Williams, 2007) and social support (e.g. Coombs, 1991). However, mental health symptoms have also been shown to improve with casual sexual relationships across a semester in college students; those with more depressive symptoms experienced a decrease in symptoms after engaging in casual sexual intercourse with partners (Owen, Fincham, & Moore, 2011). Yet, it is unclear if these benefits are long-term, whether these benefits extend across multiple casual sexual encounters and over time, and whether they hold for non-college students. We used longitudinal data from the nationally representative National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health to examine the impact of casual sexual relationships on mental health symptoms, measured as depressed affect and suicidal ideation. Preliminary results indicate that increased depressed affect is significantly correlated with an increased number of casual sexual relationships. Furthermore, suicidal ideation in adolescence significantly predicted entering into more casual sexual relationships in emerging adulthood. We suggest that the association between mental health and casual sexual encounters needs further exploration.

Anxiety Disorders and the Quality of Relationships with Friends, Relatives, and Romantic Partners

Jacob Priest (Florida State University)

Though research has established support for the association between marital quality and anxiety disorders, less is known about the association between relationship quality with relatives and friends and anxiety disorders. Those with anxiety disorders are more likely to be single or divorced; therefore, it is important to examine the role that relationship quality with friends and relatives plays in anxiety disorders. Using data from the Collaborative Psychiatric Epidemiology Surveys, the association between relationship quality with relatives and friends and anxiety disorders is examined for those who report being divorced, widowed, or separated, and for those who report never being married. For those who report being married or cohabitating, the association between anxiety disorders and relationship quality with relatives, friends, and with romantic partners is examined. Results suggest that examining the relationship quality with relatives and friends, in addition to the relationship quality with romantic partners, may be important for understanding the onset and course of anxiety disorders.
Do Restless Nights Mean Worse Fights?  
The Effect of Subjective Sleep Quality on Relationship Conflict  

Amie Gordon (University of California, Berkeley)  
Serena Chen (University of California, Berkeley)

Sleep problems are a public health epidemic that have been linked to wide-ranging consequences, including decreased productivity, quality of life, and impaired affective, cognitive, and social functioning (e.g., Horne, 1985; Killgore et al., 2008; Troxel, 2007). Little attention, however, has been given to the effects of sleep problems on relationship health. This research examines the impact of subjective sleep quality on affective and cognitive responses to relationship conflict, as well as on conflict resolution. Seventy-two couples came into the laboratory to report on their previous nights’ sleep and engage in a videotaped conflict conversation. The Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (APIM; Kashy & Kenny, 2000) was used to examine how each partner’s sleep quality uniquely influenced negative affect and empathic accuracy during the conflict conversation, and to test whether sleep influenced conflict resolution. Results revealed that people who had slept poorly the previous night experienced greater negative affect, perceived their partners as feeling more negative, and were less empathically accurate during the conflict conversation. Furthermore, partners of poor sleepers perceived the poor sleepers as feeling more negative during the conversation and were less empathically accurate when trying to gauge their emotions. In terms of conflict resolution, an interaction emerged indicating that it took two well-rested partners to resolve conflict. Overall, the present findings point to the interdependent nature of sleep in couples and have important implications for our understanding of the role of sleep in social functioning.

Symposia

1605 One Size Doesn’t Fit: Recognizing the Multitude of Casual Sexual Relationships

Convener: Jocelyn Wentland (University of Ottawa)

Four Functions for Four Relationships:  
A Consensus Definition of Four Romantic and Sexual Relationships

Peter Jonason (University of Western Sydney)

Researchers and the media have been devoting considerable paper over the last 5 years detailing the frequencies, the details, the consequences, and the intricacies of relationships that do not fit well within the dichotomy that constitutes serious, monogamous relationships and one-night stands (e.g., friends-with-benefits, booty-calls). However, what has generally not been done is to provide clear operational definitions of relationships and when it has been attempted it was often exploratory, based on qualitative data, and framed with sociocultural, structural, or feminist theories. This study reports the first quantitative (i.e., online questionnaire) attempt to define four different relationships using an evolutionary perspective. In a study of American undergraduates (N = 192), consensus definitions of one-night stands, booty-call relationships, friends-with-benefits, and serious romantic relationships were fashioned. Participants provided a Likert and forced-choice assessment of how each relationship was characterized by the functions of sexual gratification, trail run, placeholder, and socio-emotional support. One-night stands and booty-call relationships were motivated primarily by a desire for sexual gratification. Friends-with-benefits relationships were motivated by seeking a placeholder until something better comes up and as a trial run. Serious romantic relationships were primarily used to gain socio-emotional support. Men
ascribed a greater range of reasons to engage in sexual relationships than women did and the more short-term the relationship, the greater emergence of sex differences in ascribed functions. Results are discussed using Strategic Pluralism as a framework that predicts people may engage in a variety different relationships because they can serve different functions in people’s lives.

Friends with Benefits Relationships as Experienced by Rural Baby Boomers in Australia

Linda Kirkman (La Trobe University)

This study explores the experiences of baby boomers in friends with benefits relationships. A friends with benefits relationship is defined as one where people have repeated or ongoing sexual encounters, do not consider themselves to be a couple, but are friends. Changing social mores, a rise in the divorce rate, and the desire for both intimacy and independence has led to non-traditional relationships becoming more prevalent and accepted across the life span. This qualitative, interpretive descriptive study was influenced by social constructionism, feminist principles and queer theory. Semi-structured, in-depth interviews were conducted face to face and via telephone and Skype with baby boomers (born 1946-1965) living in Australia, outside a capital city. Participants had been in a friends with benefits relationship in the previous five years. Preliminary findings and themes from the study will be reported. These will include the impact of age, gender, and rural location when engaging in a non-traditional relationship, and the effect of a friends with benefits relationship on wellbeing. Comparison will be made with other friends with benefits studies that focused on young adults. The implications for policy, service provision, and health promotion for this cohort will be considered and recommendations made.

Which Came First: The Friendship or the Sex?
Identification and Exploration of the “F*ck Buddy” Relationship

Dana Male (York University)
Jocelyn Wentland (University of Ottawa)
Elke Reissing (University of Ottawa)

Casual sexual relationships (CSRs) have been gaining attention among academic researchers and are increasingly being investigated. Recent analyses have resulted in recognition and classification of specific variations of CSRs (e.g., Mongeau, Knight, Williams, Eden & Shaw, in press). The current study represents an exploratory qualitative analysis aimed at identifying the characteristics and terms of engagement of a newly emerging casual sexual relationship: “F*ck buddies” (FBs). Four focus groups were conducted (males, females, mixed-gender, sexuality educators), in which participants freely identified various CSRs, including FBs, and discussed the rules that govern each relationship. Thematic analysis revealed consensus surrounding: the amount of respect involved between FB partners, the type and frequency of their interactions, the acceptability of certain behaviours, levels of communication within and about the relationship to others, the quality and nature of sex, and the reasons for termination. Minimal gender differences emerged in regards to partner attachment and terminology used to discuss the relationship. The characteristics that define FBs are different from those of the various other CSRs that were identified, suggesting that FBs is a uniquely distinct sexual relationship. It is important that researchers use specific and valid definitions to describe the particular patterns of sexual interaction that they study in order to ensure reliability and validity of their findings. The relationship identified in this preliminary study has since been validated with a larger, more representative sample (Wentland & Reissing, 2011) and offers a new approach to conceptualizing CSRs.
Casual sexual relationships (CSRs) are common forms of sexual relationships among young adults (Bisson & Levine, 2009; Owen, Fincham, & Moore, 2011). Given the multitude of CSR options that exist, as well as the complexity of these relationships, it is important to determine if validated definitions of CSRs can be identified. Building on the work of Wentland and Reissing’s (2011) qualitative study, we examined four specific CSRs: One Night Stands, Booty Calls, F*ck Buddies, and Friends with Benefits. Undergraduate and community participants (N = 899) were surveyed to determine if participants can identify the CSRs based on descriptions provided. Additionally, participants were asked to identify specific script behaviours (N = 61) associated with each CSR (“These individuals add each other to Facebook”). Participants could both correctly identify the definitions for each relationship (e.g., 96% correctly identified a One Night Stand) as well as the script behaviours for each relationship. Patterns of endorsement will be discussed, such as differences between individuals with differing sexual intercourse and casual sexual experience, the revised Sociosexual Orientation Inventory (Penke, 2010), and other demographic measures (e.g., religiosity measures, safer sex knowledge). By identifying the behaviours associated with each CSR, we can identify the scripts that detail appropriate behaviours in each relationship, which will help us to better understand these modern sexual relationships. Furthermore, having validated definitions of CSRs allows researchers to measure prevalence of these relationships across different populations based on patterns of engagement.

**1606 The Trouble with Facebook: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Relationships in Cyberspace**

Convenor: Linda Acitelli (University of Houston)
Discussant: Linda Acitelli (University of Houston)

Why Time Spent on Facebook is Linked to Depression

Mai-Ly Nguyen (University of Houston)
Robert E Wickham (University of Houston)
Linda K Acitelli (University of Houston)

Social networking sites are pervasive technological media which have revolutionized the ways in which people interact and communicate with one another. This study investigated social comparison to peers through computer-mediated interactions on the social networking site, Facebook, and the potential impact of such interactions on user’s psychological health. One-hundred and eighty students from the University of Houston took an online questionnaire, consisting of demographic and internet use questions, a social comparison measure adapted for Facebook, depression measures, and reported approximations of daily time on Facebook. We tested a moderated mediation model, whereby individuals engaging in social comparison on Facebook, through looking at friend’s photos or status updates, serves as a mediator between time spent on Facebook and depressive symptoms, while gender serves as a moderator. Although there were no significant gender differences in the amount of time spent on Facebook, the results of a multiple group path analysis indicated that more time spent on Facebook is associated with greater Facebook social comparison, which in turn predicts greater depressive symptoms for men only. Thus,
Facebook may serve as a platform for men to engage in intrasexual competitive social comparisons such that, the more time men spend on Facebook the more likely they are to compete with other males and feel inadequate when comparing their accomplishments to those of their peers. Time spent on Facebook did not predict women’s outcomes in the same way. Perhaps women use Facebook as a way to maintain connections with their friends rather than compete with them.

Toxic Ties: Hurtful Networks of Relations in Cyberspace

Diane Felmlee (Pennsylvania State University)
Robert Faris (University of California-Davis)

The bulk of relationship research focuses on positive associations, such as friendship, romantic relationships, sexual ties, and marriages. Yet relations between people possess a range of destructive, as well as constructive, dimensions that are just beginning to be examined. Today the explosion of communication methods within “cyberspace” on social networking sites, and via texting, email, and twitter, offers novel opportunities for damaging communication between individuals, the dissolution of friendly relations, and for the genesis of enemies. The questions we examine here include: Do negative, cyber ties develop among relatively isolated, versus central, kids in the school social network? Furthermore, to what extent do these damaging associations occur between distally related individuals or between those who are/were friends or romantic partners? We investigate negative cyber relations among a large sample of 8th to 12th grade students in a longitudinal study of an affluent, Long Island school. Approximately 11% of the sample reported a negative cyber tie to a peer. Girls were significantly more likely than boys to report being harmed by another student via cyber communication. Illustrations of “cyberbullying” actions included posting on Facebook that someone is gay, texting rumors about another person’s sexual behavior, pretending to friend a lonely kid, posting embarrassing photos, and actual Facebook identity theft. These types of negative links developed more frequently between relatively central and popular students in the friendship network, as opposed to their more solitary peers. Finally, harmful relations often transpired between (former) friends, as well as between current and former dating partners.

Facebook Relationship Status: It's Complicated

Camilla Overup (University of Houston)
Mai-Ly Nguyen (University of Houston)
Julie Brunson (University of Houston)
Linda K Acitelli (University of Houston)

Social networking sites present a forum for users to publically present themselves and their relationships. Thus, identifying oneself as “in a relationship” on Facebook may represent publically committing to being part of a couple. The purpose of our study was to examine factors influencing whether individuals reveal their actual relationship status on Facebook. One hundred and 50 individuals currently in a relationship completed measures on relationship satisfaction, trust and commitment and indicated their Facebook relationship status. They also reported the extent to which various positive and negative reasons for posting the relationship status were applicable to them. Latent variable analyses showed that relationship quality positively predicted revealing one’s actual relationship status. This link was mediated by the endorsement of positive reasons (e.g. “because I am committed to my relationship”) for posting one’s status. These results indicate that individuals in good relationships are generally honest about their relationship status on Facebook and that this association occurs because people in good relationships generally have positive reasons for being truthful about their relationships. Negative reasons (e.g. “keep
others from knowing”) were not significant as a mediator, but predicted failure to reveal actual relationship status independently of relationship quality. Although positive relationship quality predicts displaying one’s relationship status publically, it may not be the only reason why people post as they do. For some, making one’s commitment public interferes with other needs. External concerns, such as the desire for privacy, may determine whether one chooses to reveal one’s relationship status.

How the Communication Privacy Management Perspective Aids in Understanding the Regulation of Private Information on Online Social Media

Sandra Petronio (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis)
Jeffrey Child (Kent State University)

The online social media sites have exploded with both opportunities to connect with others to establish and maintain relationships and challenges of how to manage a sense of privacy and autonomy (Child & Petronio, 2011). Given disclosure is largely the vehicle that allows these relational connections, it is also the source of problems. Managing and regulating revealed information is often difficult for the individual to control in ways that match existing privacy rules for third-party access. From existing research we know that the Communication Privacy Management perspective helps to discern seemingly paradoxical choices that people make about access to their private information (e.g., Child & Agyeman-Budu, 2010; Child, Pearson, & Petronio, 2009; Child, Petronio, Agyeman-Budu, & Westermann, 2011; Waters & Ackerman, 2011). Looking at both blogging and Facebook usage, this presentation overviews a way to unpack the complications of both disclosing and protecting private information in online social media sites.

10:00-11:15
Poster Session 7: Abstracts on pp. 284-298
Panel Sessions

1607 Attachment Theory: Measurement

Measuring What Counts: A Revised Assessment of Attachment Categories and Dimensions

Elaine Scharfe (Trent University)

Measurement issues have plagued attachment research over the past 30 years. Concerns range from limitations of the original paragraph measure (Hazan & Shaver, 1987), low reliability of the continuous scales of the 4-category measure (Griffin & Bartholomew, 1994), limited interpretation of the 2 dimensions of the ECR (Brennan, Clark, & Shaver, 1998), and time consuming coding of attachment interviews. The current project set out to develop a measure with improved reliability that would assess both the 2 dimensions of anxiety and avoidance as well as the 4 categories proposed by Bartholomew (1990). To generate new items, coders listened to attachment interviews of predominantly secure, fearful, preoccupied, and dismissing participants. In cases where items overlapped with the original 17-items from the RSQ (Griffin & Bartholomew, 1994), the wording of the original RSQ item was preserved. The final scale included 40 items: 10 items for each of the 4 categories. In the first sample (n=797), results demonstrated improved reliability of the four category scales and confirmed anxiety and approach-avoidance factors overall and within each of the four categories. These results were replicated and construct validity assessed in two longitudinal samples (n=343, 2 assessments over 6 months; n=100, 4
assessments over 6 months) and one cross-sectional sample which also included the ECR-R (n=144). In a final sample (n=60), the new self-report measure was compared to Bartholomew’s interview measure. Results highlight the importance of measuring the 4 categories independently as well as the importance of distinguishing between anxiety and avoidance within the four categories.

Measuring Adult Attachment Security: A Psychometric Meta-analysis

James Graham (Louisiana State University)
Marta Unterschute (Western Washington University)

Adult romantic attachment security is an increasingly popular variable in studies examining the processes and outcomes of romantic relationships. Existing research links attachment security with a host of variables, including relationship satisfaction, stability, psychological well-being, and physical health. In order for this research to be valid, the construct of attachment security must be measured appropriately and reliably. The present study uses a reliability generalization framework to examine the psychometric properties of the four most widely used measures of attachment security: the Adult Attachment Scale (Collins & Read, 1990), the Adult Attachment Questionnaire (Simpson, Rholes, & Phillips, 1996), the Experiences in Close Relationships scale (ECR; Brennan, Clark, & Shaver, 1998), and the ECR-Revised (Fraley, Waller, & Brennan, 2000). We examined more than 1500 studies for potential inclusion in the meta-analysis. We present the average internal consistency of each subscale measure across studies, and test to see what sample and study characteristics account for variance in score reliability across studies using random-effects methods. Additionally, we examine aggregate validity information for each measure, providing detailed information about the psychometric characteristics of these instruments, across a variety of relationship and respondent characteristics. Based on the results, we discuss issues relevant to selecting a measure of attachment security for relationship researchers. We make recommendations for those seeking measures that are maximally invariant across diverse relationship types. We also discuss theoretical ramifications for attachment research, and make suggestions for improving existing methods of measuring attachment.

Measuring Relationship Specific Attachment across Cultures: Differences in Factor Structure of the Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment in Western and Asian adolescents

Nor Sheereen Zulkefly (The Australian National University)
Ross Wilkinson (The Australian National University)

The Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment (IPPA) is the most widely used self-report measure of individual differences in adolescent attachment. However, the factor structure of this measure has not been replicated outside of Western adolescent populations. Using confirmatory factor analysis, the aim of the current study is to compare the structure of the IPPA across samples of Western and Asian (Malaysian) adolescents. Australian high school students (N = 980) aged 13 to 18 years completed 15 item short forms of the IPPA Mother, Father, and Peer scales. For the Malaysian sample (N = 2040), high-school students aged from 13 to 17 years completed Mother, Father, and Peer scales using the full item set from the IPPA. Similar to previous results in Western samples, a second-order factor structure with three subscales and an underlying global factor for each of the Mother, Father, and Peer scales was found to fit the Australian data. However, these results were not replicated in the Malaysian data. A different three factor structure for the parental scales and a two factor structure for the Peer scale were found to best fit that data. Further, there were major differences in the way the scales in each of the data sets related to each other. The results indicate that assumptions underlying the cross-cultural assessment
of attachment in specific relationships need to be examined. Future research is suggested to look into culturally valid instruments to investigate adolescent attachment relationship beyond the Western context.

**Romantic Attachment in the Clinical and General Population:**

Norms and Cut-off scores for the ECR

Audrey Brassard (University of Sherbrooke)  
Katherine Peloquin (University of Sherbrooke)  
Yvan Lussier (Universite du Quebec)  
Stephane Sabourin (Universite Laval)  
Marie-France Lafontaine (University of Ottawa)  
Phillip R. Shaver (University of California, Davis)

Interest in adult attachment on the parts of researchers and practicing clinicians has increased over the past 25 years. This interest has generated efforts to develop and validate self-report measures (Mikulincer & Shaver, 2007) of individual differences in attachment processes in romantic relationships. The Experiences in Close Relationships questionnaire (ECR; Brennan, Clark, & Shaver, 1998) is one of the most frequently used self-report measures of romantic attachment. Despite its good psychometric properties, the lack of clinical norms as well as reliable cut-off scores to determine attachment styles limits its utility in clinical settings. The present study was designed to provide norms and cut-off scores based on two large samples of French-Canadian adults from clinical (n = 2155) and general population (n = 2473) samples, taking gender into account. Participants (aged 18 to 83) completed the ECR and other measures of couple functioning (e.g., DAS-4). Women had higher mean anxiety scores than men in the community sample, but this gender difference was not found in the clinical sample. ROC Curve analyses showed that anxiety has a cut-off point around 3.5, whereas avoidance has a cut-off point around 3. These cut-off points allow the classification of participants into the four attachment styles proposed by Bartholomew and Horowitz (1991). They also show good discrimination between clinical and community samples, and between distressed and non-distressed couples. The discussion focuses on gender differences, a theoretical explanation of the lower cut-off score for the avoidance dimension, and clinical implications.

**Cross-cultural Differences in Adult Attachment Examined with Two-part versus Three-part Models of Individualism-Collectivism**

Hong-hui Lin (Australian National University)  
Ross Wilkinson (Australian National University)  
Weining Chang (Duke-National University of Singapore, Graduate Medical School)  
Pony Chew (Nanyang Technological University)  
Ching Wan (Nanyang Technological University)

The Individualism-Collectivism (IND-COL) framework and attachment theory are among the prominent approaches guiding the study of cultural variation and human close relationships, respectively. Bowlby (1969/1982) postulated that the key elements in attachment theory have universal applicability. However, only until relatively recently have studies started examining close relationships and attachment in non-Western cultures. Even so, available cross-cultural adult attachment research often does not explicitly measure cultural difference variables (e.g., IND-COL), and hence, cannot systematically examine their relationship with attachment. On the other hand, debate about how IND-COL should be conceptualized continues. Notably, there is an emerging trend to differentiate between relational and group forms of
collectivism for consideration alongside individualism. The current study investigated cross-cultural differences in adult attachment and its association with IND-COL measures developed with both the two-part and three-part models—Horizontal/Vertical IND-COL scale (Triandis & Gelfand, 1998) and Relational, Individual and Collective Self-Aspects (RIC) Scale (Kashima & Hardie, 2000). Samples of European Australian ($N=166$) and Chinese Singaporean ($N=149$) young adults participated. Singaporeans scored significantly higher in attachment anxiety but not attachment avoidance. Relationships between attachment and IND-COL differed across groups for the two-part and three-part models. Australians showed stronger positive relationships between attachment avoidance/anxiety and horizontal/vertical IND than Singaporeans. In contrast, attachment anxiety/avoidance were not significantly related to RIC-Individual scale scores across cultures. Attachment anxiety and avoidance showed significant negative relationships with horizontal COL across cultural groups but non-significant relationships with vertical COL or RIC-Relational/Group COL. Implications of these results are discussed.

1608  Mom, Dad, and the Family

Father-Adult Daughter Communication:
Examining Frequency, Medium, and Length of Interaction

Jennifer Schon (University of Kansas)

Extant studies on father-daughter communication tend to have a childhood or gerontological focus and typically investigate dark-side phenomenon such as child abuse or eating disorders. Routine communication between fathers and young adult daughters in normal relationships is understudied, especially given that most women now marry (on average) at age 26 and may therefore rely more on their father as the male figure in their life. This study will explore frequency, medium, and length of communication between fathers and their adult daughters and compare it to communication between mothers and adult daughters. Medium examined will include landline phone, cellular phone, text messaging, email, social networking sites, videoconferencing, and letters to provide a current look at how adult daughters communicate with their parents. One particular focus will be fathers who work blue-collar jobs and their lack of familiarity with modern communication technologies. Closeness, as measured by Buchanan, Maccoby, and Dornbusch’s (1991) scale, will also be examined as a potential moderating variable. Based on Altman and Taylor’s social penetration theory (1973), this study will examine whether closeness is a greater predictor of communication frequency and length than sex of the parent. Students ($N=250$) will be recruited from a large, Midwestern university to complete an online questionnaire assessing the above variables. Data will be analyzed using quantitative methods.

Comparing the Importance of the Parent-Child Relationship and Friendship Quality on Depression and Loneliness in Adolescents

Jennifer Homa (University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh)
Chong-Man Chow (University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh)

The current study examined: (1) the relative predictive power of parent-child relationship versus friendship quality on adolescents’ depression and loneliness and (2) whether friendship quality moderates the effect of parent-child relationship on adolescents’ depression and loneliness. Adolescents ($N=155$, $M_{age}=15.9$) completed questionnaires assessing their relationship closeness and discord with parents and a same-sex friend, depression levels, and loneliness. When predicting adolescents’ depression levels, results showed greater levels of parent-child discord were related to greater depression. Additionally,
greater levels of parent-child closeness were related to lower depression. Results suggest that friendship quality was not uniquely related to depression. Interestingly, although greater levels of parent-child discord were related to greater depression, having a close friendship buffered against such effect. That is, for adolescents who have lower same-sex friendship closeness, greater levels of parent-child discord were related to greater depression. In contrast, the effect of parent-child discord on adolescents’ depression levels was relatively weak for those who have higher same-sex friendship closeness. When predicting adolescents’ loneliness, results showed greater levels of parent-child discord were related to greater levels of loneliness. Additionally, greater levels of parent-child closeness were related to lower levels of loneliness. Friendship discord was not uniquely related to loneliness; however, greater levels of friendship closeness were related to lower levels of loneliness. None of the interaction effects between parent-child relationship and friendship quality on loneliness were significant. These findings demonstrate how a close friendship may be important in the psychological outcomes of adolescents that experience high parent-child discord.

Mother-Teen Communication about Weight Management: The Role of Confirmation in Promoting Healthy Behaviors

Rene Dailey (University of Texas at Austin)
Charee Mooney Thompson (The University of Texas at Austin)
Lynsey Kluever Romo (The University of Texas at Austin)

Using confirmation theory, this study assessed how the quality of weight management (WM) communication between mothers and teens was related to their diet and exercise behaviors. Confirmation theory suggests communication that accepts (i.e., validates, avoids judgment) and challenges (i.e., pushes, encourages) individuals should be related to better outcomes. Hence, both acceptance and challenge from a family member were predicted to be positively associated with individuals’ WM behaviors. The theory also postulates that the effectiveness of acceptance and challenge may vary by individual factors (e.g., some may need high acceptance and little challenge, or vice versa). Thus, we further predicted that relationships between acceptance and challenge and WM behaviors are moderated by factors such as member (mother vs. teen), sensitivity about weight, motivations for WM, and body-esteem. 107 mother-teen dyads (teens averaged 14.5 years) completed questionnaires regarding their diet and exercise behaviors as well as communication about WM with the other. Actor-partner interdependence models were employed. Analyses revealed acceptance and challenge were both positively related to perceiving the family member as effective in encouraging them to enact healthy behaviors. The proposed moderators also played a role in predicting diet and exercise, but findings varied by the outcome variable. Yet, the results generally suggest the positive relationship between acceptance and challenge and WM behaviors is stronger for those with higher sensitivity, lower health motivations, and lower body-esteem, particularly for teens. These findings indicate family members may more effectively promote healthy WM behaviors if they tailor their communication based on individuals’ characteristics.

"The Pain I Feel is Worse than Death:" Alienation, Power, and the Struggle for Interpersonal Relationships in the Narratives of Nonresidential Mothers

Falon Kartch (University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee)
Kelly Tenzek (University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee)

The goal of this inductive analysis was to explore the narratives of nonresidential mothers in order to identify the salient communication challenges they experience in interaction with their children and their social networks. A nonresidential mother has been defined as a mother who does not live with one or
more of her biological children. In order to explore the interpersonal communication experiences of nonresidential mothers, open-ended electronic surveys were administered to 31 nonresidential mothers. Findings of the present inductive analysis revealed two salient communication challenges these mothers experience. First, mothers described feeling alienated from both their children and their social networks. Nonresidential mothers felt estranged from the people around them, which negatively impacted their ability to communicate effectively with others. Stories of alienation included mothers’ experiences of both social stigma and feeling disconnected from their children. Second, mothers described power as a communication challenge. This was evident through narratives about the abuse of power or stories shared about nonresidential mothers attempting to reclaim power. Within their narratives, participants commonly described a struggle for power and control between themselves and the custodial parents of their children. The narrative of power can be seen as a tension between nonresidential mothers’ desire for access to their children and outcomes associated with living apart from them. The present study extends research on nonresidential motherhood by exploring the communicative experiences of these mothers with an emphasis on how residential status impacts these mothers’ interpersonal relationships.

Symposium

1609 Buffering Insecurity, Negative Evaluations, and Lack of Responsiveness: Identifying Relational and Cognitive Processes that Protect Against Factors that Harm Relationships

Convener: Nickola Overall (University of Auckland)

Buffering Attachment Avoidance:
Softening Emotional and Behavioral Defenses During Conflict Discussions

Nickola Overall (University of Auckland)
Jeffry Simpson (University of Minnesota)
Helena Struthers (University of Auckland)

This study was designed to examine whether partners can soften the defenses associated with attachment avoidance. Heterosexual couples (N = 180) were recorded having discussions involving one partner (agent of influence) wanting the other partner (target of influence) to change. At the end of the discussions, both agents and targets rated how successful the discussion was in resolving the problem. Agent and targets also reviewed their discussions and, for every 30-seconds of interaction, reported on how angry they were during the discussion. For each 30-second interval, objective coders rated the extent to which targets of influence exhibited withdrawal and partners (agents of influence) softened their communication by minimizing conflict, inhibiting hurt reactions, and downplaying problem severity. As expected, avoidant targets exhibited greater anger and withdrawal when they were the target of their partner’s influence, and these defensive reactions impeded problem resolution. However, analyzing within-person changes in emotions and behavior across the discussion revealed that avoidant targets’ anger and withdrawal were attenuated at points in the discussion when partners engaged in high levels of softening communication. Furthermore, persistent partner softening across the discussion reduced avoidant targets overall levels of anger and, in turn, facilitated greater problem resolution. These results indicate that partners can buffer avoidant defenses by down-regulating anger and circumventing withdrawal within threatening conflict interactions.
Recovering from Conflict: 
Early Attachment and the Buffering Effects of Current Relationship Partners

Jeffry Simpson (University of Minnesota) 
Jessica Salvatore (Virginia Commonwealth University) 
Sally Kuo (University of Minnesota) 
Ryan Steele (University of Illinois) 
W. Andrew Collins (University of Minnesota)

This study adopted a developmental and dyadic perspective to understand conflict recovery in adult romantic relationships. Participants were 73 20-23 year-old adults (target participants), all of whom have been studied since birth, and their current romantic partners. Each target participants’ attachment security was assessed in Ainsworth’s Strange Situation when they were 12 and 18 months old. Approximately 20 years later, participant’s degree of conflict recovery with his/her romantic partner following a standard conflict discussion task was videotaped and rated by trained coders. Conflict recovery was defined as the extent to which each participant was able to disengage from conflict during a 4-minute “cool-down” task that immediately followed a standard 10-minute conflict discussion task. Targets who had been rated as more insecurely attached when they were 12 and 18 months old showed poorer conflict recovery, as did their romantic partners. However, target participants’ early attachment security and their partners’ degree of conflict recovery interacted to predict relationship stability 2 years later. An insecure attachment history was associated with greater probability of break-up when partners showed lower conflict recovery but insecure participants’ who had partners who recovered well from conflict were more likely to remain together. These findings demonstrate how partners can contain the destabilizing impact of insecure attachment histories on adult romantic relationships.

Sex as a Buffer against the Negative Interpersonal Implications of Neuroticism and Insecure Attachment

James McNulty (University of Tennessee) 
Michelle Russell (University of Tennessee)

Prior research has shown that insecure attachment and neuroticism threaten marital satisfaction. Nevertheless, these associations are not perfect. What allows some insecurely attached and neurotic individuals to have satisfying intimate relationships? Two studies of 207 newlywed couples indicate that sexual frequency/satisfaction may serve as one such buffer. One analysis examined couples’ reports of their attachment insecurity, the frequency of their sexual intercourse over the past 30 days, marital satisfaction, and daily reports of sexual and relationship satisfaction in a 7-day diary. Although attachment insecurity was negatively associated with marital satisfaction on average, attachment avoidance was unrelated to marital satisfaction among spouses reporting more frequent sex and attachment anxiety was unrelated to marital satisfaction among spouses reporting more daily sexual satisfaction. A second longitudinal analysis examined couples’ reports of their neuroticism at baseline and up to 8 assessments of marital satisfaction and sexual frequency over five years. Although neuroticism was negatively associated with marital satisfaction on average, it was unrelated to satisfaction when couples had engaged in relatively frequent sex over the past 6 months. Discussion focuses on why sex buffers intimates from the negative implications of these traits and, accordingly, what other factors may provide similar benefits.
Positive Implicit Partner Evaluations Buffer the Impact of Negative Explicit Evaluations on Relationship Quality and Behavior.

Lorne Campbell (University of Western Ontario)
Etienne LeBel (University of Western Ontario)

Research on close relationships is increasingly examining the assessment of implicit constructs to shed new light on relationship processes. However, virtually nothing is known about the role of implicit constructs in understanding ongoing affective and behavioral romantic realities and how implicit and explicit relationship constructs interact to predict important relationship outcomes. Using a 21-day daily diary, the present research examined the unique and interactive role of implicit partner evaluations and explicit partner evaluations on daily relationship quality and positive relationship behaviors enacted toward the partner. As in prior research, lower explicit partner evaluations were associated with lower relationship quality, and vice versa. However, more positive implicit partner evaluations uniquely predicted more positive relationship outcomes during the 21-day diary period, and this was especially pronounced for individuals who possessed relatively low explicit perceptions of their partner. This pattern indicates that positive implicit relationship evaluations can buffer the impact of negative explicit evaluations on relationship quality and behavior. Implications for the close relationship literature will be discussed.

Responsiveness-Driven Diagnosticity: Buffering Unresponsive Behavior through the Construction of Communication Barriers

Edward Lemay (University of New Hampshire)

Trust in a partner’s care and commitment is often based on observing the partner’s behavior in diagnostic situations in which an opportunity for the partner to be responsive is clearly communicated to that partner. However, for people who are motivated to see the partner as responsive to the self (i.e., people who are high in “communal strength”), diagnosticity may be downplayed when the partner behaves in an unresponsive manner, which may mitigate the negative effects of this behavior. In Study 1, participants received experimentally manipulated supportive or unsupportive feedback from a relationship partner regarding participants’ positive personal event disclosures. Participants who strongly desired a mutually responsive relationship with the partner perceived less diagnosticity (i.e., perceptions of the partner’s understanding of the personal event) when they received an unsupportive response from the partner relative to when they received a supportive response. In Study 2, participants described a personal problem to their romantic partner during a recorded interaction. Subjective perceptions of low diagnosticity (i.e., that one did not adequately disclose a personal problem to the partner) buffered the negative affective responses and interpersonal evaluations following the partner’s objectively observed unresponsive behavior, even after controlling for objective indices of diagnosticity (i.e., self-disclosure as perceived by a panel of objective judges). These results suggest that perceptions of diagnosticity may sometimes be the result of wishful thinking and may buffer the negative personal and interpersonal effects of a partner’s lack of responsiveness.
POSTER SESSION

ABSTRACTS

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Poster Session 1

Friday, 12:45 – 2:00 (Palmer House)

The Impact of Substance Abuse on Sibling Relationships

Erin Logue (Texas Tech University)
K. Rachelle Smith (Texas Tech University)
Susan S. Hendrick (Texas Tech University)

Sibling relationships are important, yet relatively understudied (Whiteman et al., 2011). In addition, relationships with siblings who abuse substances (SASs) are particularly complex (Howard et al., 2010). This study assessed participants with and without a SAS on aspects of interaction, adjustment, and attitudes toward drugs and alcohol, using t-tests and correlations. Findings indicated that social support from siblings (non-SASs included) was positively related to a secure attachment style and negatively related to insecure attachment styles and depression. Furthermore, interaction with SASs was positively related to general social support, social support from that sibling, and a secure attachment style. Interaction with SASs was negatively related to insecure attachments styles. However, participants with a SAS were less likely to interact with that sibling than participants without a SAS were to interact with their closest sibling. Participants with a SAS were also less likely to have a secure attachment style and more likely to have an insecure attachment style than participants without a SAS. Several significant findings related to attitudes and behaviors toward alcohol and drugs were found. For example, participants with a SAS were first exposed to drugs or alcohol at a younger age and were more likely to meet DSM-IV-TR criteria for a substance abuse disorder than participants without a SAS, even though their attitudes toward substances were more negative. Implications of these findings and future directions for sibling research will be discussed.

Online Dating - Scaling of Attitudes

Michelle Guthrie (Texas Tech University)
Clyde Hendrick (Texas Tech University)

We constructed four subscales to develop an online dating attitude scale: 1) Forming a relationship through an online dating service, (2) Finding an ideal romantic partner through an online dating service, (3) Negative attitudes toward online dating, and (4) Positive attitudes toward online dating. Two studies tested the structure of the online dating scale. In Study 1, we recruited married and non-married participants (N=375; age =17-67) from the university community. In Study 2, we recruited non-married participants (N=398; age=17-28) from an undergraduate psychology subject pool. Using four bipolar adjectives (e.g., acceptable-unacceptable), participants rated their attitudes toward forming a romantic relationship and finding their ideal romantic partner through an online dating service. To measure negative and positive attitudes, participants reported their agreement with thirteen statements about online dating (e.g., “online dating is exciting”). We conducted maximum likelihood extraction with promax rotation on the 21 items. In both studies, we retained a one-factor solution with a variance above 50%, a Cronbach alpha’s of .95, and high inter-correlations between the subscales. On the overall scale, positive attitudes were correlated with online dating service experience. Generally, the 21 items form a scale, but it is reasonable to examine the subscales separately as well. In Study 1, but not Study 2, the following characteristics were associated with positive online dating attitudes: (1) being male, (2) being married, (3) being in love 3+ times, and (4) having 10+ sexual relationships. Our findings demonstrate the importance of testing our online dating scale on diverse populations.
Cyber-bullying: An Emerging Interpersonal Challenge

Kristen Morrison (Trent University)
Elaine Scharfe (Trent University)

Over the past few years, with the expansion of the internet, instant messaging, and Social Networking, there are an increasing number of opportunities to engage in cyber-bullying behaviour. The purpose of this research study was to explore the association between interpersonal factors and the likelihood that individuals report that they have engaged in bullying or have been a victim of bullying on the internet. First, we developed a 32-item measure to assess cyber-bullying in relationships with friends, acquaintances, and strangers. Results from two student and one online sample confirmed three types of cyber-bullying behaviours: traditional bullying behaviours (e.g., gossiping); personal attack bullying behaviours (e.g., negative remarks towards religion or sexual orientation); and malicious bullying behaviours (e.g., blackmail or threats). Next, we explored the association among several interpersonal theories (e.g., attachment, interdependence, impression management) and cyber-bullying. Preliminary findings suggest that cyber-bullying is negatively associated with attachment security regardless of the relationship status of the victim (significant correlations ranging from -.18 to -.23) and positively associated with each of the three insecure attachment patterns (fearful, preoccupied and dismissing; significant correlations ranging from .18 to .32). Correspondingly, experiencing cyber-bullying from a friend, acquaintance, and/or stranger was negatively associated with attachment security (significant correlations ranging from -.16 to -.28), and positively associated with fearful attachment (significant correlations ranging from .17 to .25). In the 21st century, cyber-bullying has become a tragic and widespread social concern. In this research, we hope to determine how interpersonal dynamics play a role in this emergent issue.

Benefits of Self-Expansion for Individuals and Relationships

Brent A. Mattingly (Ashland University)
Gary W. Lewandowski, Jr. (Monmouth University)
Miranda E. Bobrowski (Monmouth University)
Melinda J. B. Mattingly (Saint Louis University)

The self-expansion model posits that individuals are fundamentally motivated to acquire new identities, enhance capabilities, develop new perspectives, and gain resources (Aron & Aron, 1986; Aron, Aron, & Norman, 2001). Self-expansion benefits both individuals and relationships by increasing positive affect (Gordon & Luo, 2011), self-esteem (Aron, Paris, & Aron, 1995), effort exerted on difficult tasks (Mattingly & Lewandowski, 2011), and relationship quality (Aron, Norman, Aron, McKenna, & Heyman, 2000). In the current studies, we predicted that relational self-expansion would positively correlate with relational self-efficacy (Studies 1 and 2) whereas individual self-expansion would positively correlate with individual self-efficacy (Study 2). In Study 1, 75 romantically involved participants completed the Self-Expansion Questionnaire (Lewandowski & Aron, 2002) and a measure of relational self-efficacy designed for this study. As predicted, self-expansion positively correlated with relational self-efficacy, r = .42, p < .001. In Study 2, 155 participants completed the Personal Expansion Questionnaire (Gordon & Luo, 2011) and a measure of individual self-efficacy as additional measures. As predicted, individual self-expansion positively correlated with individual self-efficacy, r = .19, p = .02. Additionally, relational self-expansion positively correlated with relational self-efficacy, r = .49, p < .001. Taken together, these studies provide evidence that self-expansion is associated with increased self-efficacy, and the type of self-expansion (i.e., relational vs. personal) is associated with the type of benefit received (i.e., relational vs. personal self-efficacy).
The Self Evolving in a Dyad: Links between Attachment Insecurities and the Incorporation of Romantic Partners into Self

Christine Walsh (University of Rochester)
Ronald Rogge (University of Rochester)

The study examined how an individual’s self-concept grows to include their romantic partner as a relationship progresses over time. In an attempt to integrate self-expansion theory with adult attachment theory, we collected data from 142 couples who completed an extensive initial online survey and two follow up surveys at 3 and 6 months. We operationalized partner-incorporation using both the Inclusion of Other in the Self (IOS; Aron, Aron & Smollan, 1992) and the Relational Interdependent Self-Construal scale (RISC; Cross, Bacon, & Morris, 2000); presented to participants twice – once focused on their incorporation of their romantic partners and once focused on their friends. To augment this with a more concrete assessment of partner and friend-incorporation, we also included a measure assessing a romantic partner’s level of penetration into an individual’s social network (e.g., Homish & Leonard, 2008). We used lagged analyses and APIM (Kenny, Kashy & Cook, 2006) within an HLM framework to model how each partner’s attachment insecurities were associated with changes in their own partner/friend-incorporation (actor effects) and with changes in their partners’ levels of partner/friend incorporation (partner effects). The results suggested that both attachment anxiety and avoidance were associated with lower partner-incorporation at the start of the study but with increases in partner incorporation over time. This indicated that partner-incorporation still occurs in individuals with attachment insecurities, albeit at a slower rate. When modeling friend-incorporation, the results differed, suggesting that partner-incorporation might come at the cost of friend-incorporation for individuals with high attachment avoidance.

Sterilization: Its Mixed Link to Voluntary Childlessness

Kyung-Hee Lee (Virginia Tech)
Anisa Zvonkovic (Virginia Tech)

Effective and convenient contraceptive methods are especially important to voluntarily childless couples. Among many available contraceptive methods, sterilization has the lowest failure rate. Not surprisingly, voluntarily childless individuals show high rates of sterilization. However, there are many voluntarily childless couples who are not sterilized. The goal of the study was to delineate the decision making processes of sterilization among voluntarily childless married couples. The data were gathered using intensive conjoint interviews with 21 married voluntarily childless couples. The data were analyzed using constant comparative method. The results revealed that for couples who actively chose to get sterilized, sterilization represented finality. However, couples were different in the relationship between sterilization and the feeling of finality. For some couples sterilization encouraged the feeling of finality while for others, it expressed the finality. In couples where one spouse initially wanted to have a child, sterilization was used to dispel any lingering doubt or hope. For other couples, sterilization was a natural next step to make sure they remain childless. The decision as to who would get sterilized was made based on the practicality of vasectomy, stronger commitment to remain childless, fear of surgery, and fear of losing masculinity. Hysterectomy due to other medical reasons may be construed as a passive sterilization. However, most of wives with hysterectomy reported welcoming the chance to rid of the possibility of a pregnancy. One wife, however, reported not having wanted to have a hysterectomy despite the medical need and her strong wish for childlessness because for her a hysterectomy meant losing her femininity. The reasons for not getting sterilized included not wanting to have an elective surgery, refusal of doctors, the need to take birth control pills for medical reasons, money, and wanting to wait till certain age to make sure of their wish to remain childless.
Asian American Differences in Support Seeking from Intimate Partners During Acute Stress: Results from a Daily Diary Study

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Asian and Asian Americans show reluctance in seeking help from their social support network in lab studies and in diary studies of general social networks (Kim, Sherman & Taylor 2008). Individuals from Asian cultures are said to recruit support from their close relationship less frequently because they attend to negative consequences of revealing their own stress. We wondered if these effects would persist for persons in committed relationships who were facing a known stressful event. Participants were recent law school graduates in intimate relationships who were preparing for bar examinations. They completed daily diaries each night for five weeks prior to the bar exam. We focus on 301 persons who completed diaries at least seven days. Fifty four percent were female and 65% were married. The majority were White (N=242), whereas 22 were Asian, 15 were Latino, 5 were Black and 17 were “other”. Each night participants reported levels of anxiety and whether they had received emotional or practical support from their partner. They also reported whether they asked for emotional or practical support. We used generalized estimating equation methods to compare the likelihood of asking for support on each of the 35 days leading up to the examination. Asian American examinees were nearly half as likely (odds ratio=.56; p<.07) to request emotional support and one third as likely (odds ratio=.33; p<.005) to request practical support as Anglo examinees, adjusting for daily anxiety level. The effect did not seem to vary over the time leading up to the exam.

Investigating the Validity and Reliability of the Caregiving Questionnaire with Individuals in Same-Sex Couple Relationships

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Numerous surveys are not constructed for use with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transsexual (LGBT) population, for they may contain inadequate and restricting questions that do not effectively measure the romantic relationships experienced by gay and lesbian individuals (Peplau & Fingerhut, 2007). This study examined the factor structure, reliability, and convergent and discriminant validity of the Caregiving Questionnaire (CQ; Kunce & Shaver, 1994) with a sample of individuals involved in same-sex couples (N=143; 114 females). An exploratory factor analysis extracted the CQ’s four dimensions, supporting its construct validity. Additionally, the questionnaire demonstrated acceptable internal consistency. Correlations were found among participants’ self-reported romantic attachment patterns and caregiving patterns determined by the CQ. No significant association was found between the four factors and participants’ age, relationship duration, or gross annual revenue. Results supported the use of the CQ with individuals involved in same-sex relationships.
Behavioral Self-Soothing as a Mediator of Romantic Attachment and Non-Suicidal Self-Injury

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Christine Levesque (University of Ottawa)
Julie Gosselin (University of Ottawa)
Marie-France Lafontaine (University of Ottawa)
Jean-François Bureau (University of Ottawa)
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Romantic attachment has been revealed to be the most influential attachment model for young adults and is experienced differently by different people because of variations in their attachment histories (Hazan & Shaver, 1987). In fact, Cooper, Shaver, & Collins (1998) demonstrated that insecure attachment styles best predicted the use of maladaptive affect-regulation strategies with engaging in risky or problem behaviors to cope with their distress. Despite the strong theoretical link, few empirical works have been conducted on the specific relation between romantic attachment and non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) behaviors. The current study aims to better understand the role of romantic attachment and behavioral self-soothing on reports of NSSI behaviors in young adults. Using self-report data, a mediation model was used to assess if the relation between romantic attachment and NSSI behaviors was mediated by behavioral self-soothing. Participants consisted of 1077 university students between the ages of 18-25 years old, whom were involved in a romantic relationship at the time. Participants were administered multiple questionnaires including: the Experience in Close Relationships (ECR; Brennan et al. 1998) questionnaire, the Personal and Relationships Profile (PRP; Straus, & al., 1999; Straus & Mouradian, 1999), and the Ottawa Self-Injury Inventory (OSI; Cloutier & Nixon, 2003). Results show that behavioral self-soothing does mediate the effect of romantic attachment on NSSI behaviors. Specifically, anxiety over abandonment is linked to fewer behavioral self-soothing skills. In turn, less behavioral self-soothing competences results in more NSSI behaviors.

"Mom, Why Don't You Just Break Up with Him?": The Impact of Children on Post-Divorce Relationship Dissolution

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Little is known about the role of children in directing the course of their parents’ repartnering after divorce. The purpose of this study is to determine whether children’s relationships with their mother’s new romantic partners impact the likelihood of relationship dissolution. This multi-wave longitudinal study of n = 319 custodial mothers and their children consisted of three in-home assessments at standard intervals, the first of which occurred within 120 days of the divorce filing. These standard assessments were augmented by flexible supplementary assessments when significant repartnering events (e.g., beginning cohabitation, becoming engaged, and becoming remarried) occurred. Thus, by design, the number and timing of the longitudinal assessments varied across families. Participants were recruited through divorce court records. Eligible families contained an elementary-school aged child who resided with the mother at least 50% of each week. During the in-home interviews, children, mothers, and partners reported on the quality of the relationship between the child and the new partner. Continuous time survival analyses indicated that when children reported higher levels of rapport with their mother’s new partner, there was a significant decrease in the likelihood that mothers would break up with that partner (B = -.63; OR = .53; χ² = 5.30, p = .02), a finding confirmed in mother’s reports of children’s enjoyment of dyadic and triadic activities (B = -.60; OR = .55; χ² = 7.10, p < .01). These findings indicate
that children’s relationships with their mother’s new partners can affect the stability of the romantic relationship.

**The Pros and Cons of Commitment: Identifying People's Positive and Negative Feelings About Committed Relationships**

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Although most people see commitment as positive, Drigotas, Rusbult and Verette (1999) argue that it can be a coin with two sides. People can feel powerful levels of attraction, desire and obligation toward their partners, embarrassment, shame and anger in failing to live up to a commitment, or even resentment, rejection and loneliness by being let down (Leik, Owens, & Tallman, 1999). In this way, there may be pros and cons to being in committed relationships. A series of studies was conducted to explore the positive and negative feelings people associate with commitment in romantic relationships and to examine how those feelings may be differentially connected with people's overall perceptions of their relationships. In Study 1, participants freely-listed 48 distinct positive and 58 distinct negative feelings they connected with relationship commitment. That list was refined in Study 2 using exploratory factor analysis, resulting in three primary types of commitment-related feelings—positive, negative, and constraint. Study 3 confirmed these three types using CFA. Finally, Studies 3-5 found the three types of feelings to vary by type of relationship and to be differentially associated with perceptions of personal, moral and structural commitment, relationship satisfaction and quality, and use of commitment-related behaviors to communicate commitment to partners. The results of these studies demonstrate that relationship commitment does not come without costs and suggest that the not only do people associate pros and cons with relationship commitment, but that these perceptions are related to the way they view and interact in their relationships.

**Effects of Goal Conflict on Relationship Satisfaction and Commitment Over Time**

Judith Gere (University of Toronto)
Ulrich Schimmack (University of Toronto)

Researchers have begun to recognize and pay more attention to the ways in which intimate relationship partners influence people's self-regulatory efforts (Fitzsimons & Finkel, 2010). Prior studies have indicated that the level of conflict between the goals of relationship partners influences their ability to pursue their goals and is also associated with relationship quality (e.g., Gere & Schimmack, 2011). One limitation of existing studies is that they examined these associations concurrently, which leave the direction of the effects uncertain. The goal of the current study was to examine the association between goal conflict and relationship quality longitudinally in a sample of 45 dating couples (N = 90). Partners completed self-report measures of their relationship satisfaction, relationship commitment, listed up to six goals that they are trying to pursue in different domains of their lives, and rated the degree of conflict between their own and their partner’s goals. Couples then completed a second assessment approximately one month later, again indicating their commitment to and satisfaction with their relationship. Using multilevel modeling to account for the nested nature of the data (persons nested within couples), we examined changes in relationship satisfaction and commitment over time. Results showed that the degree of goal conflict reported by the partners predicted decreases in both relationship satisfaction and relationship commitment over the 1-month period (controlling for initial levels of satisfaction and...
commitment). These results indicate that goal conflict is important, as it influences the quality of the relationship over time.

Social Control Versus Self-Control: Internal Mechanisms Promote Relationship Resilience in Unmarried Cohabiting Couples

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Jaye Derrick (University at Buffalo, The State University of New York)

Research demonstrates that unmarried cohabiting couples experience poorer relationship quality, more conflict, and a greater likelihood of dissolution than married couples. These disparate outcomes are due in part to greater structural constraints and clearer social norms regarding marriage than unmarried cohabitation. Some cohabiting couples may compensate for the lack of social control, however, through the internal mechanism of self-control. Greater trait self-control is associated with numerous pro-relationship behaviors, such as accommodation during conflict and avoidance of romantic alternatives. In the current study, we examine the possibility that cohabiting individuals who are high in self-control may be less likely to experience the negative relationship outcomes typically observed for cohabiting couples. Ninety-three respondents (46 married, 47 cohabiting) completed a series of questionnaires regarding relationship functioning. Block sequential regression analyses were conducted in which demographic variables were entered in the first block, marital status and self-control were entered in the second block, and the two-way Marital Status X Self-Control interaction was entered in the third block. These analyses revealed significant Marital Status X Self-Control interactions predicting several relationship variables. For unmarried cohabiting respondents, greater self-control was associated with more positive relationship functioning. For married respondents, however, these simple effects were not significant. These results highlight the importance of considering internal mechanisms when examining the relationship functioning of unmarried cohabiting couples. Although many cohabiting couples experience negative relationship outcomes, the current research suggests that internal mechanisms, like trait self-control, may compensate for the lack of structural barriers to ending the relationship.

Self-Expansion and Passionate Love across the Lifespan

Virgil Sheets (Indiana State University)

It is commonly believed that “passionate” love diminishes over time even as “companionate” love may grow. According to Self-Expansion Theory (Aron & Aron, 1986), this change may reflect changes in opportunities for self-expansion. Early in relationships, as partners continuously learn new things about each other, self-expansion—which occurs through the integration of the qualities and characteristics of the partner into oneself—generates passion for one’s partner. Later, as one’s partner is completely “included” in the self, self-expansion opportunities diminish and less passion is generated. From this perspective, if self-expansion could be sustained, so could passionate love. Over 500 adults in a Midwestern community responded to a telephone survey about their romantic relationship. Respondents answered questions from the Self-Expansion Experiences Questionnaire (Lewandowski & Aron, 2002) and passion (Mania and Eros) and companionate (Storge) subscales of the Love Attitudes Scale (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1986). As expected, companionate love was stable across different relationship-ages and was unrelated to self-expansion. Self-expansion was lower in relationships of longer duration as was obsessive passion (Mania), offering support for claims that drops in “passion” reflect drops in opportunities for self-expansion. However, sensual passion (Eros) remained stable across relationship-lives and was positively correlated with self-expansion in relationships 0-40+ years in length, offering support for claims that sustained self-expansion sustains romantic passion. Although broadly consistent
with Self-Expansion Theory, these findings highlight a need for further theoretical development that explains the specific linkages of self-expansion with different indicators of passion.

Marital Conflict and Commitment: The Mediating Effect of Religiousness

Greg Brooks (University of Missouri)

Findings on the relationships between negative marital interaction and personal, moral, and constraint commitment have been mixed. Some researchers have reported no significant relationships although others have reported an unexpected positive relationship between conflict and personal commitment. Religiousness has been reported as a positive predictor of personal and constraint commitment; however, it has been proposed that religiousness serves as a mediator of marital interaction variables. Multiple group structural equation modeling analysis is used to examine the mediating effect of religiousness on the relationship between marital conflict and marital commitment on a sample of 1281 individuals from the southwestern United States.

Predicting Psychological Partner Aggression on the Basis of Relationship-Level Variables

Jamie Lyn Flesch (University of Ottawa)
Marie-France Lafontaine (University of Ottawa)

Psychological partner aggression, which refers to any verbal or symbolic acts that are intended to cause psychological pain or fear to the partner, is a critical variable in the domestic violence field (Straus, Hamby, Boney-McCoy, & Sugarman, 1996; Langhinrichsen-Rohling, 2005). Given its importance, its high prevalence, and its negative impact on victims and their relationships, research seeking to better understand psychological partner aggression remains an important endeavour. Along these lines, this study sought to better understand psychological partner aggression from a sociological perspective; that is, by focusing on characteristics of the relationship as opposed to characteristics of the offending partner or victim. Using self-report data, this study examined the role of several relationship-level variables in predicting the use of psychological partner aggression. The sample consisted of 418 men and women who were 18 years of age or older, involved in a heterosexual romantic relationship with their partner for at least 12 months, and cohabitating with their partner for at least 6 months. Participants completed a questionnaire package that included, among others, the Personal and Relationships Profile (PRP; Straus et al., 1999) and the Conflict Tactics Scale Revised (CTS2; Straus et al., 1996). A standard regression analysis, performed between psychological partner aggression as the dependent variable and eight relationship-level independent variables, indicates that this model was significant for both males and females. For males, psychological partner aggression was predicted by conflict and communication problems. For females, significant predictors included conflict, communication problems, jealousy, negative attribution, relationship commitment, and relationship distress.

The Caligula Effect: Power, Sexual Desire, and Testosterone

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Natalie Lin (University of Michigan)
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The sexual indiscretions of powerful men are often scandalous and make us wonder why power corrupts so absolutely. Even in the past two decades, there have been several instances of powerful men abusing
their influence to satisfy their sexual desire. A recent survey supports the intuitive notion that powerful people are also sexually unfaithful (Lammers et al., 2011). However, little attention has been paid to the direction of causality between power and sexual desire or to hormonal mechanisms that might underlie associations between these constructs. The current studies examined neuroendocrine processes associated with power and sexual desire in men. Our prior research demonstrated that testosterone levels were positively associated with desire for casual sex among partnered men, such that partnered men reporting high desire for casual sex had similar testosterone levels to those of single men. Other research suggests that social context (e.g., imagining sexual activity) can lead to changes in hormones among men. We conducted two studies to examine how the context of power influences sexual desire and testosterone. Participants were randomly assigned to high- and low-power conditions and completed measures of sociosexual orientation and sexual desire. Among partnered participants, those in the high-power condition reported more sexual desire than men in the low-power condition, similar to the desire of single participants across conditions. Associations with pre- and post-manipulation levels of testosterone and implicit power motivation were also examined. Findings from the current studies contribute to our knowledge of contextual and biological influences on sexual desire.

Hypersexualization and Sexual Functioning among Young Adults

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Josianne Perron-Laplante (University of Sherbrooke)
Emmanuelle Dupuy (University of Sherbrooke)
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Over the past ten years, youth have adopted sexual behaviors, attitudes and dress codes that have caught the attention of journalists, parents, and psychologists. A task force issued from the American Psychological Association (2007) has underlined the importance of Internet and media in the emergence of hypersexualisation whereas research suggests potential damageable repercussions of hypersexualisation on men’s and women’s physical and psychological health (Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997). The present study aimed to evaluate the associations between adult hypersexualisation, sexual satisfaction and sexual dysfunction. Furthermore, it aimed at examining if sexual communication is a mediating factor in these associations. A sample of 705 French-Canadian men and women (aged 18 to 29 years) currently in a relationship with one or many partners were recruited across the province of Quebec to voluntarily complete a battery of online questionnaires assessing adult hypersexualisation, sexual satisfaction, sexual dysfunction, and sexual communication. Regression analyses showed negative associations between hypersexualisation behaviors and sexual satisfaction, except for the “sexualized discourse” subscale (positive association). Although hypersexualisation was associated with higher libido and sexual arousal, it was also positively related to difficulties achieving orgasm and sexual pain. Sexual communication was found to mediate some of these associations. The discussion addresses clinical implications and future research.
Broken Hearts and Loss of Self: Avoidance (not Approach) Motivation Mediates the Relationship between Self-Expansion and Post-Dissolution Happiness

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The dissolution of self-expanding relationships results in the contraction of individuals' self-concepts (Lewandowski, Aron, Bassis, & Kunak, 2006) and more extreme decreases in post-dissolution happiness (Tomlinson & Aron, 2011). Self-expansion is rooted in approach motivation (Mattingly, McIntyre, & Lewandowski, in press), which is also associated with positive affect (Carver & White, 1994). Theoretically, losing a self-expanding relationship should decrease individuals’ relational approach motivation, which in turn should decrease experienced positive affect (i.e., happiness). Thus, in the current study, we predicted that the negative relationship between self-expansion and post-dissolution happiness would be mediated by reduced approach motivation. Individuals who had experienced a romantic breakup (N = 174; 146 women; mean age = 31.2) completed modified versions of the Self-Expansion Questionnaire (Lewandowski & Aron, 2002) and a relational motivations scale (Mattingly et al., in press), as well as a 1-item measure of current happiness. Replicating previous research, pre-dissolution self-expansion was negatively associated with post-dissolution happiness (β = -.15, p = .046). However, this relationship was mediated by avoidance (rather than approach) motivation. Avoidance motivation predicted happiness after controlling for self-expansion (β = -.19, p = .013) and the relationship between self-expansion and happiness was significantly reduced (β = -.10, p = .185; Z = 2.03, p = .042). Although rooted in approach motivation, this study suggests that losing a self-expanding relationship increases individuals’ avoidance motivation, which in turn is associated with decreases in overall post-dissolution happiness. Future directions and implications are discussed.

The Role of Adolescent and Adult Attachment and Emotion Regulation Strategies in Predicting Psychopathology in Adulthood

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Ellen Moss (Université du Québec à Montréal)
Chantal Cyr (Université du Québec à Montréal)

The aim of the present study was to test a 10-year longitudinal model depicting the mechanism through which attachment relationships with parents and peers in adolescence, and romantic attachment and emotion regulation strategies in young adulthood, influence adult symptoms of psychopathology. Fifty French-speaking adults completed the Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment (Armsden & Greenberg, 1987) at age 14. At age 22, participants completed the Experience in Close Relationships (Brennan, Clark, & Shaver, 1998) measure of adult romantic attachment, as well as the Coping Inventory for Stressful Situations (Endler & Parker, 1994) and the Emotional Expressivity Scale (Kring, Smith, & Neale, 1994), as measures of emotion regulation strategies. Two-years later, participants completed the Symptoms Checklist 90-Revised (Derogatis, 1983) and the Revised NEO Personality Inventory (Costa & McCrae, 1992). Results of hierarchical regression analyses revealed that an insecure attachment to parents (β = .53) at age 14, and the use of emotion-oriented regulation strategies (β = .36) at age 22, independently predicted greater overall symptoms of psychopathology at age 24, F(2,45) = 18.51, p < .01. These associations were maintained when controlling for related adult variables of romantic attachment and neuroticism. Anxious romantic attachment was also related to symptoms of psychopathology (r = .39, p < .01), although the use of emotion-oriented strategies completely mediated this association, F(1,47) = 16.10, p < .01, β = .53. Finally, adolescent attachment insecurity towards peers and avoidant romantic.
attachment in young adulthood were unrelated to adult symptoms of psychopathology. The discussion will focus on the long-term negative impact of early attachment insecurity towards parents.

If She's Attractive then He Must be Rich: Investigating People's Implicit Theories of Matching within Romantic Relationships.

Chantele Joordens (University of Victoria)
Danu Stinson (University of Victoria)

Partners who ‘match’ have the most successful and long standing relationships (Stafford & Canary, 2006). Matching within romantic relationships may occur through trading of the same characteristic (e.g., attractiveness for attractiveness), referred to as character-specific assortment (Buss & Barnes, 1986) or through trading of different, but equally valued characteristics (e.g., attractiveness for social status) referred to as cross-character assortment (Gangestad, 1993). However, to date no research has investigated whether people maintain implicit theories of matching when considering mismatched couples. Applying a hierarchical model of matching (Fletcher, Simpson, Thomas & Giles, 1999), whereby characteristics are organized according to three distinct levels (i.e., Vitality-Attractiveness, Status-Resources, and Warmth-Trustworthiness), we hypothesized that when faced with couples who did not match in attractiveness, participants would increase their ratings of Status-Resources for the partner who was less attractive, to accommodate this mismatch. Participants were randomly assigned to one of three matching conditions where the man and woman did not match in attractiveness (i.e., mismatch at the level of Vitality-Attractiveness) as well as one of two temporal dating conditions (i.e., couple has been dating for two weeks versus couple has been dating for two years). In the two-year temporal condition where the woman was slightly more attractive than her male partner, there was a significant increase in ratings of his Status-Resources. The aforementioned results imply that individuals are applying their implicit theories of matching, however only when the couple has been dating long-term.

Emotional Intelligence and Conflict Resolution Strategies in Romantic Heterosexual Couples

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Maciej Stolarski (Warsaw University)
Slawomir Postek (Warsaw University)

This study investigated the relationships between emotional intelligence (EI) and conflict resolution strategies in romantic heterosexual couples. 164 couples solved the ability test of Emotional Intelligence (TIE), and the Problem-Solving Strategies Inventory (PSSI) in two versions: self-report and a report of partner’s behavior. We assumed that individuals high in EI have superior conflict resolution skills and engage in active and constructive strategies, avoiding those characterized as passive and destructive. These hypotheses were supported for women, but not for men. Females’ EI was consistently positively related to their own reports of Voice, and negatively related to their self-reports of Neglect. Emotionally intelligent men did not declare using more constructive or positive conflict resolution styles; however, their female partners judged them as more prone to use those strategies. The study demonstrated an interesting disparity between male and female’s reports on relationship behaviors.
A Test of a Mediation Model Linking Avoidant Attachment to Ulcerative Colitis Status through Stress and Coping Style

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Patricia Gonzalez (Universidad de Chile)  
Maria Jose Yavar (Universidad de Chile)

Ulcerative Colitis (UC) is a chronic inflammatory bowel disease of increasing incidence and yet unknown etiology. It is believed that chronic stress plays a role in the onset of UC. The aim of this study was to test a model that predicts that avoidant attachment will be linked to the presence of UC, and that this link will be mediated by relatively ineffective strategies to cope with stressful situations, resulting in an intensified stress response. Participants in the study were fifty six adults diagnosed with UC and an equal number of adults without this diagnostic or any other digestive disturbances. Mediation analyses (controlling for sex, age, and anxious attachment) supported the proposed model. Avoidant attachment predicted the status of UC (i.e., membership to the UC group). This link was mediated by an ineffective coping style and, in turn, by an amplified stress response as the most proximal mediator predicting UC status. Alternative explanations for these results, as well as their potential implications for prevention and treatment interventions, are discussed.

What Makes a Siren Sultry: Investigating the Attractiveness Stereotype in Vocal Performance

John Purcell (High Point University)  
Sadie Leder (High Point University)

Physical attraction has been linked to greater success across many situations from job interviews to political campaigns (Surawski & Ossoff, 2006), but to what extent does physical attractiveness influence vocal performance evaluation and the process of partner selection? Prior studies have evaluated attractiveness of the spoken voice, but research into the impact of physical attraction within a vocal music context is limited. To date, it is known that vocal tone is the key factor in perceived auditory attractiveness (Collins & Missing 2003; Berry, 1992). The current work builds from this finding to examine the influence of evolutionary theories of attraction and risk regulation on rating of vocal evaluation and target desirability. In the current study college-aged adults rated vocal skill, vocal attractiveness, and desire to foster a relationship with a series of pictured individuals. Each picture was paired with a separate female vocal recording of a fragment of The Star Spangled Banner. Unknown to participants, one voice was presented twice with different pictures. These two recordings had varying diction, rhythm, and ornamentation, but maintained the same tone quality. In order to examine risk regulation half of our participants were asked to recall a rejection experience (experimental condition) at the beginning of the study. Findings bridge previous work on evolutionary theories of attraction and risk regulation by showing that participants favored the more attractive picture except in the rejection condition, in which they showed a preference for the safer targets. As predicted, female participants’ ratings were less impacted by the attractiveness stereotype.

Attachment and Peer Competence: The Mediating Role of Emotion Regulation

Ashley Seibert (Shippensburg University)

It is important to investigate factors that lead to adaptive peer relationships as experiences with peers greatly influence children’s lives. Research shows that attachment security is related to peer relationships (Schneider, Atkinson, & Tardif, 2001). However, there is little attention to mechanisms that explain the
relation. One potential mechanism is emotion regulation. The attachment relationship may serve as the context in which emotion regulation develops, and emotion regulation may be vital for successful peer relationships. The purpose of this study is to examine emotion regulation as a mediator of the link between attachment security and peer competence. Data came from Phase III of the NICHD Study of Early Child Care. Bivariate correlations showed that children who reported greater attachment security at fifth grade reported greater peer competence at sixth grade (r = .16, p < .001), and were reported to have greater emotion regulation at fifth grade (r = .17, p < .001). Children rated as having greater emotion regulation reported greater peer competence (r = .16, p < .001). When attachment security and emotion regulation were entered together in a regression to predict peer competence, there was a drop from .16 to .12 in the standardized regression coefficient for attachment security. The Sobel test indicated that this change is statistically significant z = 3.18, p < .01. Results suggest that emotion regulation is one mechanism that explains the attachment-peer relationship link. Attachment serves as a context for the development of emotion regulation which then influences peer competence.

Predicting Qualities of Romantic Relationships from Perceived Partner Responses to Capitalization

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Sharing positive events, or capitalization, has been shown to be beneficial for disclosers (Langston, 1994), especially if listeners respond in an overt, positive manner (Gable et al. 2004; 2006). Responses to capitalization also impact relationship well-being (Gable et al., 2006), yet prior research has used aggregate variables to predict relationship quality. In this study, we investigated how specific types of responses (active-constructive or AC; passive-constructive or PC; active-destructive or AD; and passive-destructive or PD; Gable et al., 2004) predict multiple aspects reflecting quality of romantic relationships. This study included 167 college students who completed a week-long daily diary study and their romantic partners. Participants’ reports of their partners’ general responses to positive events (PRCA; Gable et al., 2004) and their reports of relationship quality (NRI; Furman, 1996) were obtained during a laboratory visit. Stepwise regression results demonstrated that specific types of responses were shown to independently impact relationship quality. PC responses predicted support, which differs from findings that these responses are negatively associated with relationship quality (Gable et al., 2004). AD responses negatively related to instrumental aid, and PD responses negatively related to satisfaction, admiration, affection, and feeling that partners were a reliable alliance. AC responses predicted admiration, instrumental aid, companionship, reliable alliance, and nurture scores. This evidence suggests that partners’ aggregated responses, as well as specific types of responses, may have an important impact on relationship quality. However, aggregating partner responses to capitalization may not be the most sensitive way to examine how such responses function within romantic relationships.

“It’s Complicated”: Attachment Style Predicts Relationship Visibility and Attending to Alternatives on Facebook

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Benjamin Le (Haverford College)

Attachment theory (Hazan & Shaver, 1987) is widely used in the study of close relationships. Despite the proliferation of online social networking, it has not been studied in conjunction with attachment. In two studies, we examined associations between individuals’ attachment orientations and relationship-related
behavior on Facebook. In a cross-sectional study, avoidant and anxious attachment were robustly associated with Facebook behavior. Avoidant individuals reported less likelihood of posting a dyadic profile picture, providing their relationship status, mentioning their partner in Facebook status updates, and had lower desire for Facebook friends to know they were in relationships. When posting their relationship status, avoidant individuals were motivated by extrinsic factors rather than by importance of the relationship. They were also more likely to use Facebook to monitor their partner. Anxiously attached individuals tended to use Facebook to communicate with and monitor their partner; however, they tended not to mention their partner in Facebook status updates. A second study used a Facebook simulation to examine interest in alternatives. Participants viewed a “photo album” of attractive alternatives and rated the attractiveness of the target pictures. Avoidant individuals were more likely to report finding the alternatives attractive. Avoidant individuals had increased response latencies for ratings of attractiveness, consistent with spending longer looking at the images (cf. DeWall et al., 2011). Anxious individuals had relatively quick reaction times when reporting low attraction to targets. Together, these studies support the extension of attachment theory to social networking behaviors associated with romantic relationships.

Patterns of Coping in Response to Close Relationship Stressors

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Patrick Shrout (New York University)
Gertraud Stadler (Columbia University)

It is well established that different types of stressors call for different types of coping (Lazarus, 2000). However the literature on coping presents a mixed picture of the sorts of behaviors individuals engage in when attempting to manage stress effectively. Extant research often describes coping in response to stressors reported freely by participants, which allows for high variability in the types of stressors reported. While investigators have called for a focus on specific types of stressors in the past (Kessler, Price & Wortman, 1985), systematic differences in coping patterns between specified stress types remain infrequently explored. We compared patterns of coping among individuals when responding to stressors in two different, important life domains: relationships and academics. Using data from a four-wave survey of stressful events and coping responses in college students (N=771) over the course of one academic year, we examined whether coping responses differed between relationship stressors and academic stressors. Because relationship stressors involve other individuals directly, the strategies for addressing them can be vague, making one less likely to address these stressors actively and more likely to instead regulate distress by focusing on one’s emotions (Oettingen, Schettner, & Pak, 2001). Generalized Estimating Equations verified that individuals responding to relationship stressors engaged in more emotion-focused and less active coping behavior, while the opposite pattern of coping emerged in response to academic stressors. Our findings indicate that experiencing relationship stressors may generally incline individuals toward addressing their negative feelings instead of addressing directly the interpersonal problems that constitute these stressors.

Remapping the Topography of Couples’ Everyday Interactions: Mediated Messages.

Melanie Laliker (Bridgewater College)
Pamela Lannutti (Boston College)

The importance of studying romantic couples' everyday relational maintenance behaviors has been well-established in the communication literature (e.g. Duck, 1995). Yet relatively few studies have examined couples' communication in daily mundane interactions (Alberts, Yoshimura, Rabby, & Loschiavo, 2005). One study that provided a detailed mapping of the topography of couples' everyday interactions was conducted by Alberts et al. (2005) who studied one week of interactions between 10 couples. While
Alberts et al. (2005) provides a valuable view of couples' mundane interactions, their study was limited to examining face-to-face interactions. The rise of social technology necessitates a better understanding of how couples use electronic tools (email, social networking sites, texting, and instant messaging) in their everyday relational maintenance communication. This study applies Alberts et al. (2005)'s typology to couples' electronic, text-based relational messages. We analyzed the daily mediated communication of 15 couples over one week. Our results suggest that while mediated everyday communication functions in some ways similar to face-to-face everyday communication, mediated communication is unique in several ways. Given our results, we argue that understanding the role of mediated messages in the everyday communication of romantic couples is an important part of the relational maintenance picture.

The Impact of Computer-mediated Communication Technology on Family Communication Patterns: An Exploratory Study

Emily M. Cramer (University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee)
Edward A. Mabry (University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee)

This empirical study uses student survey data to examine the interaction between family communication patterns (Chafee, McLeod, & Wackman, 1970; Ritchie & Fitzpatrick, 1990) and use of computer-mediated communication (CMC) technology. Family communication patterns is a construct that measures the degree to which families stress the avoidance of social conflict (conformity orientation) or encourage conversation and open exchange among members (conversation orientation). I predict that families with a higher conversation orientation will communicate more frequently across all mediums, including face-to-face, cell phone, text, and e-mail. Families with a higher conformity orientation will communicate less frequently across all mediums, and students from protective and consensual families will communicate with parents using the technologies preferred by their parents. A research question also is proposed regarding how technology impacts the nature of family communication. The 26-item Revised Family Communication Scale, which is Ritchie and Fitzpatrick’s (1990) adaptation of McLeod and Chafee’s (1972) original scale, is used to measure a family’s conversation orientation (“I really enjoy talking to my parents even when we disagree” “My family and I often have long, relaxed conversations about nothing in particular”) and conformity orientation (“In our home, my parents usually have the last word” “When anything really important is involved, my parents expect me to obey without question”). Results have implications for understanding not only how families with different communication patterns integrate CMC technologies into their relationships, but also how CMC technologies may possess the potential to change existing communication patterns within families.

Partner Consensus on Relationship Feelings: Linking Courtship to Marital Success across 13.5 Years

April Wilson (University of Texas)
Ted Huston (University of Texas at Austin, School of Human Ecology)

Courtship can serve as a testing ground for marriage, providing partners an opportunity to learn about each other and develop feelings that accurately reflect their experiences. The present study examines the concordance of partner’s experiences and perceptions of their courtships. During an interview carried out separately on spouses less than two months after the wedding, participants pinpointed turning points where they believed the prospect of marriage increased or decreased, providing a running narrative of what led them to think that the likelihood of marriage changed. The independent accounts also provided information about whether the courtship was experienced and seen as proceeding by the partners in parallel rather than divergent paths. The current study provides evidence that individuals who share similar
experiences that are grounded in the actual features of the courtship are likely to remain married 13 years later. Logistic regression and path analyses of 168 couples revealed that marriages are more likely to be stable when premarital partners: feel analogous depths of love for one another, assess the likelihood of marriage similarly as their courtship progresses, take a comparable amount of time to increase their estimation of marital likelihood, and when feelings of love and ambivalence reflect how frequently they experience conflict and downturns in their appraisals of the likelihood of marriage. The next steps are to study the lasting role of shared beliefs early in marriage and to move from a dichotomous consideration of marital success (married versus divorced) to more nuanced considerations (e.g., happily married, sexually satisfied).

The Complex Relationship Between (and Within) the Suppressed and the Empowered: Contradiction and GLBT Portrayals on the L Word

Jennifer Guthrie (University of Kansas)
Adrienne Kunkel (University of Kansas)
Kristel Hladky (University of Kansas)

Lavigne (2009) argues that the popularity of primetime television shows provides an impetus for the critical analysis of these texts. In 2004, Showtime’s President of Programming, Bob Greenblatt, reported that Showtime’s critically acclaimed and Emmy-nominated series, The L Word, received about three times the amount of viewers than other Showtime original series (as cited in Anderson-Minshall, 2006). In response to the attention given to this television show, the current study combined two focus group interviews and over 50 qualitative, open-ended responses to an online survey with Owen’s (1984) thematic analysis to reveal the contradictions emergent in The L Word. Despite its opportunity to give voice to members of the GLBT community by showing GLBT relationships on screen, The L Word nonetheless problematizes GLBT relational portrayals by the apparent stereotyping, sensationalizing, and polarizing of its characters’ issues and relationships. These potential contradictions reinforce the ability of the mediated gaze to simultaneously give power and take it away, as participants reported that the show provided an opportunity to be open about their relationships, but they also faced stereotypes and uncomfortable conversations related to how GLBT relationships were portrayed.

Changes in Couples Satisfaction Index Rankings across 21 Countries after Controlling for Response Bias

Emily Maywood (eHarmony Labs)
Erina Lee (eHarmony Labs)
Gian Gonzaga (eHarmony Labs)

Studies have shown that response bias is a consistent dilemma when conducting cross-cultural survey research. This is an especially prominent problem when attempting to investigate and accurately portray couples’ satisfaction across countries. The purpose of the current study was to thoroughly examine how responses from participants in survey research may be misinterpreted without proper standardization. More specifically, country scores from the Couples Satisfaction Index (CSI-4) were first ranked by raw scores. After performing within-subjects standardization, new scores were obtained and changes in CSI-4 rankings were recorded. Differences in response patterns were expected to occur when comparing collectivistic and individualistic countries. In order to fully investigate the effects of response bias in couples’ satisfaction scores, 11,479 heterosexual, married or cohabitating couples across 21 countries were studied. Response bias of the CSI-4 was adjusted for using within-subjects standardization. The resulting sets of scores (raw and standardized) were observed after performing a one-way ANOVA
analysis. Within-subjects standardization revealed many differences when ranking the most and least satisfied couples across countries. For example, when initially reviewing the raw data, the score for female Finnish participants was significantly lower than the score from Dutch women, and significantly higher than the score from Japanese women. However, after ipsatization, Finnish women had a significantly lower score than Spanish women only, but had a significantly higher score than Japanese, French, Polish, and Russian women. Conversely, German women’s satisfaction ranking declined after standardization of their scores. Implications of comparing couples in individualistic and collectivistic countries are discussed.
Poster Session 2

Friday, 4:30 - 5:30 (Rock Bottom)

Love Styles, Digital Dating, and Online Dating Attitudes

Michelle Guthrie (University of Kansas)
Clyde Hendrick (Texas Tech University)

Our study investigated the relationship between love styles, digital dating methods, and online dating attitudes. We expected Eros and Agape to be negatively correlated, but Storge, Pragma, Mania, and Ludus to be positively correlated, with the following: (1) using digital dating mediums, (2) engaging in relationship behaviors with digital methods, (3) having internet dating experience, and (4) holding positive online dating attitudes. Participants (N=398) indicated how often they used twelve digital mediums (e.g., Facebook) to engage in nine relationship behavioral goals (e.g., flirting). Additional scales included internet/online dating service experience, online dating attitudes, and the love styles. After dividing the sample into gender and dating status, we conducted correlational analyses. For non-daters and casual-daters, Ludus was positively correlated with (1) the use of several digital mediums, (2) numerous relationship behaviors, (3) internet dating experience, and (4) positive online dating attitudes. For non-daters, Mania was positively correlated with internet dating experience and positive online dating attitudes. For serious-daters, Eros was negatively correlated with chatroom use and online dating service experience. For women, but not men, Ludus and Mania were positively correlated with several digital mediums and relationship behaviors. For men, Storge was negatively correlated with texting use; for women, Agape was positively correlated with maintaining and advancing a romantic relationship using digital mediums. We found interesting relationships between love styles and digital dating methods and goals, indicating that an individual’s love style may influence the digital medium and behavioral goal they choose to pursue. Implications will be noted.

Cancer Patients and Their Healthcare Providers: A Close Relationship

Susan Hendrick (Texas Tech University)
Clyde Hendrick (Texas Tech University)
K. Rachelle Smith (Texas Tech University)

Relationship research in the medical world is limited, even though previous research (e.g., Bendapudi et al., 2006) showed that when patients characterized the ideal physician in a Mayo Clinic study, interpersonal qualities such as empathy and respect were two of the seven most important dimensions. The current study involved 81 oncology patients who were continuing patients at a regional cancer center that is part of a university health sciences center and university/county hospital. The sample included 59 women and 22 men who rated their oncologist and their healthcare team on a brief scale developed from the seven Mayo Clinic dimensions, and measures of respect for, respect from, and satisfaction with both the oncologist and healthcare team (oncologist and team rated separately). Established measures of respect (Hendrick & Hendrick, 2006) and satisfaction (Hendrick, 1988) were employed. With slight adjustments for the change from romantic to medical relationships, factor analyses and alphas were acceptable. Gender comparisons were essentially not significant. Correlations among the measures were for the most part as expected. For example, the Mayo scale correlated .72 with respect for oncologist but only .31 with respect for team. This was logical, given that the Mayo dimensions were for physicians, not teams. Respect for oncologist and respect for healthcare team were correlated .75, and satisfaction with
each correlated .67. The importance of these findings and future relationship research in medical settings will be discussed.

A Longitudinal Investigation of the Friendship Model of RISC

Simmi Mann (University of Manitoba)
Marian M. Morry (University of Manitoba)
Ashley Hall (University of Manitoba)

Individuals enjoy many friendships throughout their lifetime, however not all of these relations are equally satisfying. Research has shown that people report varying levels of satisfaction during friendship initiations as well as friendship maintenance (e.g., Fehr, 1996; Morry, 2005, 2007). One variable that has been shown to be a predictor of various relationship processes is an individual’s self-construal. Relational-interdependent self-construal (RISC) refers to the degree to which individuals include relationships into their self-definition (Cross, Bacon, & Morris, 2000) and is important for experiencing satisfying attachments. Our study expands on Morry and Kito’s (2009) Friendship Model of RISC where an individual’s level of RISC predicted their own relationship supportive behaviors greater own fulfillment of friendship functions, and higher own relationship quality with each antecedent predicting all subsequent concepts. In the present research 310 participants completed a four wave longitudinal study examining how (RISC) was related to cognitions and behaviors within male and female same-sex friendships over time. Using structural equation modeling, we tested the associations among own and perceived partner’s RISC and relationship supportive behaviors (opener and disclosure), as well as own fulfillment of friendship functions and relationship quality (satisfaction, liking, and loving) in ongoing same-sex friendships. In both concurrent and prospective analyses, we found support for the Friendship Model of RISC. More specifically, own RISC predicted perceived friend’s RISC and behavior as well as own behavior and relationship quality. Own and perceived friend’s behavior then predicted own friendship functions which predicted own relationship quality. Limitations and future direction are discussed.

Relational-Interdependent Self-Construal: Transgressions, Perceptions of Forgiveness, and Relationship Outcomes

Tamara A. Sucharyna (University of Manitoba)
Marian M. Morry (University of Manitoba)

One variable that has been shown to be a predictor of various relationship processes is an individual’s self-construal. Relational-interdependent self-construal (RISC) refers to the degree to which individuals include relationships into their self-definition (Cross et al., 2000) and is important for experiencing satisfying attachments. In the present study 194 individuals in romantic relationships wrote about a transgression they had performed (i.e., acting in a way to violate their partner’s trust). Individuals completed a questionnaire on relationship quality (i.e., commitment, satisfaction, and closeness), conflict behaviors, attention to alternatives, and perceptions of event/forgiveness. Individuals’ level of RISC was measured to see if it would predict these factors. We found that higher transgressor’s RISC positively correlated with more commitment, satisfaction, and closeness. In addition, higher transgressor’s RISC positively correlated with voice behaviors, seeing event as resolved, perception of partner accepting an apology, and perception of partner forgiving the transgressor. In regards to attention to alternatives, regression analyses indicated that higher transgressor’s RISC predicted less active prowling and passive awareness (both fully mediated by commitment) but more willful disinterest (partly mediated by commitment). However, higher transgressor’s RISC was not correlated with ratings of how negative the behavior was or how long ago the behavior occurred. These results demonstrate that the negative impact
of a transgression on relationship function is buffered when the transgressor is higher in RISC. More specifically, higher transgressor’s RISC predicted overall better relationship quality compared to lower transgressor’s RISC. Limitations and future directions are discussed.

Relationship Satisfaction Across the Transition to Parenthood: Do All New Parents Experience Declines?

Brian Don (Kent State University)
Kristin Mickelson (Kent State University)

One thing is a certainty during the transition to parenthood: adjustment. Adjustment, however, does not necessarily imply change for the worse, and not all parents experience the transition in the same way. Changes in relationship satisfaction have received particular attention, with research indicating that average levels of relationship satisfaction decline across the transition to parenthood. Yet, extant studies reveal little about how different parents experience different patterns of change. In other words, while relationship satisfaction generally declines across the transition to parenthood, little is known about potential sub-groups for which there may be no change in relationship satisfaction or an increase in relationship satisfaction across the transition. Furthermore, few studies have examined factors which may influence new parents’ trajectory of relationship satisfaction change. The current study utilizes latent class growth analysis on a sample of 208 new parents to identify distinct sub-groups of change in relationship satisfaction across the transition to parenthood. We also examine pre-natal risk factors as predictors of sub-group membership. Results were in line with our hypotheses: new parents fell into three distinct sub-groups of relationship change: two sub-groups were relatively stable across the transition, while one group declined sharply on relationship satisfaction. Pre-natal depression, positive affect, self-esteem, and spousal support all distinguished those who fell into a declining sub-group versus the more stable sub-groups. Thus, the current study suggests – contrary to the prevailing belief in the literature – that only a minority of new parents experience significant declines in relationship satisfaction across the transition to parenthood.

Siblings in Social Networks: A Bull's Eye Perspective

Gillian Tibbetts (Trent University)
Elaine Scharfe (Trent University)
Robyn Pitman (University of Guelph)

Relationship researchers have largely focused on romantic and parental relationships, and a few studies have explored friendships. Despite the fact that sibling relationships are likely the longest and are often important sources of support, even fewer researchers have explored sibling relationships. In the current study, we examined the importance of sibling relationships in a sample of 435 young adults using the WHOTO and Bull’s Eye techniques (n=398 reported biological sibling relationships). In these analyses, we focused on individuals’ perceived closeness to siblings compared to parent and peer relationships. Working with the assumptions that ranking on the WHOTO and distance from the center of the Bull’s Eye (i.e., representing “you”) are indicators of an attachment relationship, we examined participants’ sibling ranking on the WHOTO and placement on an electronic bull’s eye diagram compared to that of mothers, fathers, close friends, and romantic partners. On the Bull’s Eye, distance from both mothers and fathers significantly predicted the distance to sisters (R2=0.51) and brothers (R2=0.53). Interestingly, although attachment with mothers was associated with sibling ranking on the WHOTO (i.e., individuals reporting higher security with mothers were more likely to depend on their siblings), attachment to friends was more likely to be associated with sibling placement on the bulls eye (i.e., individuals with secure peer
relationships also placed siblings closer to the center “you”). Further analyses will explore the importance of individual differences in attachment and mapping of sibling relationships on the Bull’s Eye.

Do Families that Play Together, Stay Together?

Patrick Tennant (The University of Texas)
Marci Gleason (The University of Texas)
Tim Loving (The University of Texas at Austin)

Sharing novel and arousing activities with one’s partner is correlated with increases in relationship quality (Aron, Norman, Aron, McKenna, & Heyman, 2000). We extend this work to families by examining whether participation in novel, fun, and exciting family activities increases parenting and relationship satisfaction. Participants responded to a survey that included items about the number of novel, fun, and exciting activities that they engaged in with their child or children (under the age of 15). Participants also indicated whether or not their partners engaged in these activities, and subsequently completed measures of parenting and relationship satisfaction. Measures of general life satisfaction, depression, boredom in the relationship, and parenting locus of control were tested as possible moderating factors. Discussion will focus on the application of mainstream relationship research theories to the realm of parenthood.

Stress and Verbal Support in Romantic Relationships

Jeffrey Bowen (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Lauren Winczewski (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Molly Metz (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Cynthia Khan (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Nancy Collins (University of California, Santa Barbara)

The provision of social support in close relationships has been linked to partners’ abilities to cope with stressful situations. The present research examined the relationship between supportive language and psychological and physiological underpinnings of stress in a sample of married and cohabiting couples (N = 86). In this study, we manipulated the experience of stress for one member of each couple (the Support Recipient, “SR”) and observed the behavior of the other partner (the Caregiver) while he/she watched the SR performing an easy (low-stress) or difficult (high-stress) cognitive task. Both partners were assessed for cardiovascular reactivity and salivary cortisol throughout the experiment. After the cognitive task, the Caregiver sent a private, written message to the SR, to which the SR replied. These messages are currently being analyzed for language pertaining to support provision and gratitude. They are also being coded for the extent to which the SR’s message was linguistically coordinated with the Caregiver’s message. This coordination, known as Language Style Matching (LSM), predicts relationship maintenance and reflects relationship difficulties. We hypothesized that poorer LSM would be found in the high-stress (vs. low-stress) condition. We also predicted that this association would be mediated by physiological reactivity and moderated by relationship satisfaction and attachment style. Analysis of the cardiac data and salivary assays are underway. As predicted, preliminary results from the linguistic data show a trend in the predicted direction; couples in the high-stress (vs. low-stress) condition evidenced lower LSM. Statistical probes for mediation, moderation, and effects will be reported.
The Role Friendships Play in Influencing Diet and Physical Activity in Young Adults

Jhon Wlaschin (University of Minnesota)
Alexander Rothman (University of Minnesota)
Jeffry Simpson (University of Minnesota)

A growing literature supports the premise that interpersonal relationships play a significant role in influencing behaviors related to health (House, Landis, & Umberson, 1988; Kiecolt-Glaser & Newton, 2001). While investigations have concentrated on marital relationships, fewer studies have examined the role close friendships play in health behavior change and maintenance. Friendships may enhance and inhibit healthy behavior especially for young adults. Given the considerable research in the area of adolescent health, there are relatively few descriptive studies and fewer theoretically based investigations, which identify factors that influence the dietary behavior and physical activity of youth as they transition into adulthood. We examined social influences on eating habits and physical activity using dyadic growth curve analysis of data from 95 young adult roommates assessed 3 times during their freshman year of college. Perceptions of roommates’ diet and exercise values predicted change in the after dinner snacking and breakfast skipping habits of students controlling for the perceived norms of friends and other students on campus. In addition, roommates tended to directly influence each other’s sedentary behavior. TV watching and computer use became more concordant over time particularly for females and roommates who developed close relationships. Amount of actor exercise at baseline also predicted changes in partner’s sedentary behavior over 10 weeks of living together. These results suggest that socialization of health related behavior is likely to occur between same sex friendships and the process can begin within the first few weeks of a newly established relationship.

The Importance of the Self in Social Mood Regulation: How Closeness Influences Both Emotional Contagion and Emotional Regulation

David R. Kille (University of Waterloo)
Joanne Wood (University of Waterloo)
Amanda Forest (University of Waterloo)

Why do romantic partners try to regulate each others’ moods? The aim of this investigation was to illuminate one process through which couple members regulate each others’ moods. Namely, we reasoned that feeling a strong sense of connection with a romantic partner would increase the likelihood of “catching” the partner’s emotions (Hatfield, Cacioppo, & Rapson, 1994). Further, we expected that such emotional contagion would in turn predict motivation to regulate the partner’s negative mood (i.e., to cheer-up one’s partner). Using two hypothetical scenarios in which participants were asked to vividly imagine their partner expressing upset (Study 1) or joy (Study 2), we obtained support for our mediation hypothesis. Specifically, participants who felt more connected with their partner (as measured by Aron, Aron, & Smollan’s Inclusion of the Other in the Self Scale) thought they would catch their partners’ moods to a greater degree than less connected participants, which in turn predicted their motivation to regulate their partners’ moods (i.e., by cheering up their partner in Study 1, or by prolonging a positive mood in Study 2). These results suggest that deeply connected people may try to regulate their partners’ moods because they themselves are more personally affected.
Relationship-Contingent Self-Esteem and Relationship Satisfaction Predict Drinking Problems in Committed Couples

Lindsey M. Rodriguez (University of Houston)
Camilla Overup (University of Houston)
C. Raymond Knee (University of Houston)

Alcohol use is prevalent in college students and for those in committed relationships, drinking is a variable that may serve as a source of enjoyment or strain. The current study aims to examine the effect of relationship satisfaction and relationship-contingent self-esteem (RCSE) in predicting drinking problems. Both partners in committed relationships (N = 78 dyads) completed an online survey assessing alcohol use and problems, relationship satisfaction, and RCSE. The Actor-Partner Interdependence Model was selected as the technique to account for the nonindependence in analyzing dyadic data. Results revealed a nonsignificant interaction between actor relationship satisfaction and RCSE predicting overall alcohol consumption, but a significant interaction between actor relationship satisfaction and RCSE predicting actor drinking problems. Results suggest that only for those higher in RCSE, lower relationship satisfaction is associated with increased drinking problems. Results support the literature on RCSE and on drinking in committed relationships. Implications and future directions are discussed.

The Influences of Parent-Child Conflict on the Health of Adolescents with Asthma

Erin T. Tobin (Wayne State University, Department of Psychology)
Daniel J. Saleh (Wayne State University, Department of Psychology)
Danya Alawie (Wayne State University, Department of Psychology)
Pavadee Poowuttikul (Wayne State University, Department of Psychology)
Elizabeth Secord (Wayne State University, Department of Psychology)
Sylvie Naar-King (Wayne State University, Department of Psychology)
Richard B. Slatcher (Wayne State University)

Previous research has demonstrated a clear association between family conflict and health. Families that have repeated expressions of anger and aggression in conjunction with recurrent conflict can be damaging to a child’s physical health, especially for children with a chronic illness such as asthma (Repetti et al., 2002). Little research has examined the effects of family conflict on objective markers of physical health or the ways in which children can be buffered against the negative consequences of family conflict. The current research advances knowledge on links between family conflict and physical health and investigates potential moderation by peer relationships. Twenty-nine adolescents with asthma and their caregivers completed questionnaires and interviews regarding their relationships with family and peers. After a four-day period of daily questionnaires, they returned to Children’s Hospital to undergo a pulmonary function test. Data was collected regarding emergency room (ER) visits, body mass index (BMI), and child reports of sleep quality; both high BMI and poor sleep quality are measures of health that have been linked to negative long-term health consequences. Analyses revealed that adolescents from families high in conflict had a greater number of ER visits in the past 5 years and poorer sleep quality. Further, there were significant effects of both family conflict and peer conflict on BMI. However, we found no evidence of interactive effects of parent and peer relations on health. This work identifies implications of family and peer conflict on markers of health and the importance of having positive social relationships in adolescence.
Dating Relationships and Well-being:
The Differential Effects of Attachment Avoidance and Attachment Anxiety

Joy Xu (New York University)
Patrick Shrout (New York University)

The positive effects of spousal relationships on health and well-being are well-documented (House, Landis, & Umberson, 1998; Marks and Lambert, 1996). However, the link between dating relationships and health, especially in younger individuals, is less clear. Do transitory dating relationships have the same benefits as more permanent spousal relationships? Attachment theory (Bowlby, 1969) provides a framework for answering this question. Secure individuals who have moved away from their hometowns for college are likely to retain feelings of support and connectedness. However, for individuals high in attachment avoidance, who have been shown to have smaller social networks (Anders & Tucker, 2000), the formation of a new romantic relationship may be of special significance. For those high in attachment anxiety we predict that the benefit of a dating relationship will be mixed, with some benefiting and others not. We tested these predictions in a 3-month longitudinal study of 79 undergraduates. Consistent with our prediction, we found that for participants who have higher than average attachment avoidance, relationship status was negatively associated with perceived stress and positively associated with perceived support. However, these associations were reversed for participants lower in attachment avoidance. In contrast, for participants who have higher than average attachment anxiety, relationship status was positively associated with perceived stress and negatively associated with perceived support, whereas the associations were reversed among those with lower attachment anxiety. We discuss the implications of these findings and consider the importance of examining the differential effects of attachment anxiety and avoidance on outcomes of interest.

Shared Laughter in Romantic Relationships

Laura Kurtz (UNC Chapel Hill)
Sara Algoe (UNC Chapel Hill)

Laughter—a ubiquitous social behavior—is correlated with a variety of momentary outcomes that might promote positive interpersonal relationships, including emotional stability, strengthened group cohesiveness, and increased positive emotions. Unfortunately, the majority of existing research has neglected to address how and why these momentary effects accumulate to promote high quality relationships. One mechanism through which laughter may operate to improve relationships is by eliciting momentary increases in interpersonal safety. The current study addresses laughter’s potential to create meaningful relationships and focuses on the behavioral and psychological mechanisms through which this process unfolds. 75 romantic couples attended a laboratory session during which they were videotaped while engaging in a conversation about how they first met. These conversations were then coded extensively for count and duration of solo and shared laughter (i.e., both members of the couple laughing simultaneously). A series of multi-level modelling analyses reveal significant correlations between the amount of shared laughter produced during the conversation and a variety of important relationship outcomes, including relationship satisfaction and perceived responsiveness. Further analyses examine how the immediate effects of shared laughter in the lab translate to real world interactions in the days following, as evidenced by daily diary reports. Finally, the behavioral data also correlate with a newly created Shared Laughter Scale, designed to evaluate the ease and frequency with which two people report laughing together. The findings are discussed in terms of their importance to relational and individual well-being.
Avoidant attachment is related to permissive infidelity attitudes, higher ratings of alternative partners, and increased infidelity with lower commitment mediating these relations (DeWall, Lamber, Slotter, Pond, Deckman, Finkel, Luchies, & Fincham, 2011). Furthermore, avoidance is associated with lower commitment to dating partners, and commitment is negatively associated with anxiety (Schindler, Fagundes, & Murdock, 2010; Simpson, 1990). The current research surveyed undergraduates to study the relationships between attachment, dating status, and relationship quality with mother and best friend. We expected that single-partner participants would report lower avoidance, lower anxiety, and more positive evaluations of their other relationships than multiple-partner and no-partner individuals. Attachment was measured using the Experiences in Close Relationship-Revised (ECR-R; Fraley, Waller, & Brennan, 2000), and relationship quality was measured using the Quality of Relationships Inventory (QRI; Pierce, Sarason, & Sarason, 1991), the Perceived Relationship Quality Components (PRQC; Fletcher, Simpson, & Thomas, 2000), and the Self-Disclosure Index (Miller, Berg, & Archer, 1983). Consistent with past research, single-partner participants (n = 160) were less anxious and less avoidant than multiple-partner (n = 30) and no-partner participants (n = 137). They also had better relationships with their mothers than multiple-partner individuals and disclosed more to their best friend than the other two groups. Single-partner relationships were rated higher than multiple partner relationships on commitment, depth, and self-disclosure. This study provides new information about single versus multiple-partner daters and links between dating status and quality of other close relationships. Future studies of dating should distinguish between persons with one versus multiple-partner relationships.

While findings from previous studies have established that attachment bonds in close relationships are related to psychological well-being and dyadic functioning, little research has examined the respective contributions of multiple relationship types in the prediction of young adult well-being and dyadic functioning (Meeus, Branje, van der Valk, & de Wied, 2007). In this study, attachment patterns to parents, friends, and romantic partners were examined in order to determine the respective contributions of each relationship type in the prediction of young adult well-being and dyadic functioning. A sample of 2,214 young adults was recruited for participation. Participants completed a survey package including five self-report measures evaluating attachment patterns in relationships to parents, friends, and romantic partners, in addition to one self-report measure of psychological well-being. Participants in couple relationships also completed two self-report measures of dyadic functioning. Results from regression analyses suggest that attachment patterns to parents, friends, and romantic partners provide unique contributions to young adult well-being and dyadic functioning. Specifically, secure attachments to parents were revealed as the greatest predictor of young adult well-being, while avoidance in romantic relationships was the greatest predictor of dyadic functioning. The findings of this study serve to expand...
the modest body of research examining respective contributions of multiple attachment relationships to psychological well-being and dyadic functioning.

"Are You Sure You Want to Eat That?: A Dyadic Investigation of the Effectiveness of Influence Strategies on Health-Related Sacrifices

Valerie Young (Hanover College)
Hannah Coy (Hanover College)

This investigation examines the effectiveness of positive and negative social influence strategies that couples in romantic relationships use to elicit health behaviour change by partners. Based on interdependence theory and social influence literature, we predict that influence strategies may differ in effectiveness and how partners attribute behaviour changes. Couples (N = 159, mean age 36) reported how frequently they used positive and negative messages to encourage a partner’s health behaviours. Each individual also reported how often they made healthy or unhealthy changes for their partner, and labelled their sacrificial behaviour as “active- I did something I would not prefer to do” or “passive- I gave up something that I like doing”. Dyadic results were analysed using multilevel actor partner models. Using negative social influence strategies (e.g., guilt, withdrawal, invoking obligation) to persuade a partner to be healthy was associated with partner reports of making active sacrifices (partner effect, b = 0.15, t(74.2)=3.67, p < .01), and making changes in one’s own health behaviours (actor effect; b = 0.18, t(74.6)= 4.70, p < .01). In addition, negative social influence was associated with more passive sacrifices; actor effect (b = 0.23, t(64.8)=5.18, p < .01), partner effects (b = 0.19, t(70.4)= 4.18, p < .01). There were no significant actor or partner effects for positive social influence on active or passive health-related sacrifices. Results suggest that negatively framed messages from a relational partner may be effective in eliciting behaviour change; however these messages may be costly for the relationship.

The Role of Perceived Friend’s Responsiveness in Intimacy and Satisfaction with Friendship

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Zeljka Kamenov (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb)
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So far, results of numerous studies have shown the importance of perceived partner responsiveness for the experience of intimacy and satisfaction in romantic relationships. The aim of this study was to explore the importance of perceived responsiveness in friendship. The sample consisted of 294 pairs of friends, all participants being emerging adults (aged between 20 and 30). Besides measuring perceived friend's responsiveness in general, using the Perceived Partner Responsiveness Scale (Reis, 2003), we also tried to assess the perceived friend's responsiveness at the behavioral level, using the Affection and Negativity Scale (Kamenov, Huic & Huston, 2011). In order to assess the friendship intimacy level, the modified version of the Love Scale (Braiker and Kelley, 1979) was applied, as well as a global measure of satisfaction with friendship. Results have shown the relation between two responsiveness measures as well as their relative contribution to the explained variance of intimacy and satisfaction in friendship. Differences in result patterns regarding friends' gender (same- and cross-gender friendship dyads), the length of the relationship, and the information on whether any of the dyad members was involved in a romantic relationship are considered.
An FMRI Investigation of the Components of Attachment Security Enhancement

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Having a dispositional sense of attachment security has been linked with a host of beneficial outcomes related to personal and relational well-being. Moreover, research has demonstrated that the sense of attachment security can be temporarily enhanced via cognitive priming techniques. Studies using such techniques have shown that security priming results with positive outcomes similar to dispositional attachment security, even for people with an insecure dispositional attachment style. The underlying neurological processes that accompany security priming and lead to beneficial outcomes, however, are poorly understood. We examine the components of enhanced security by exposing 30 participants (15 women) to security priming while undergoing functional magnetic resonance imaging. During scanning, participants were exposed to supraliminal and subliminal attachment-related stimuli while judging neutral images. Results show that security priming (when compared to controls) involves patterns of brain activation reflective of cognitive (e.g., regulatory processes in the medial frontal cortex), as well as affective (e.g., feelings of reward in the putamen) and behavioral (e.g., goal direction in BA 6) processes, which are consistent with behavioral studies. Attachment anxiety and avoidance were found to moderate these patterns of activation, indicating different pathways to security enhancement based on dispositional attachment style. These findings support a conceptualization of the sense of security as involving multiple components, and providing enhanced resources.

Symbolizing the Expanded Self: Self-Expansion and Couple-Representative Possessions

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The current study explores the use of identity symbolism through personal possessions as a means of achieving social validation of an expanded-self. According to self-expansion theory (Aron & Aron, 1986), engaging in a romantic relationship alters one’s sense of self; romantic partners take on the qualities and characteristics of a partner and integrate them into the self. Classic social psychological theory predicts that full integration requires social validation of the expanded self that can be facilitated through the symbolic representation of one’s relationship to others. This study investigated the link between the amount of reported self-expansion and couple representativeness of important possessions. Participants in romantic relationships were asked to read a vignette in which they imagined that their home had been destroyed and listed three possessions that they wished to find among the rubble. They also completed the self-expansion experiences questionnaire (Lewandowski & Aron, 2002) and the passionate love scale (Hatfield & Sprecher, 1986). Results indicated that reported self-expansion was significantly associated with the tendency to identify couple-representative possessions, and both were correlated with reports of passionate love. This study provides substantive support for the occurrence of self-expansion through the selection of identity symbols that signify the bond with a romantic partner.

Perceptions of Social Support Longitudinally Predict Relationship Quality in Fragile Families

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Research has demonstrated that social support (SS) is a significant process in romantic relationships that affects both individual and relationship well-being. SS is generally expected to be beneficial, but has the
potential for negative influence as well. Data from the Fragile Families Child and Well-Being Study were used to investigate the extent to which SS perceived by mothers (n=3,951) and fathers (n=2,515) predicted relationship quality (RQ) cross-sectionally and longitudinally (1, 3 and 5 years following childbirth). Most participants were unmarried at baseline and from minority ethnic backgrounds. RQ was measured using a 5-item scale created from the dataset (α=.78). SS at year 1 was measured using a 2-item scale from the dataset (α=.75). Data were analyzed using hierarchical linear modeling with the equation $RQ = \beta_1(Mother) + \beta_2(Father) + \beta_3(Mother\ Time) + \beta_4(Father\ Time)$. Mother, father, and motherXfather RQ were predictors of each parameter. Higher mother, father, and motherXfather SS significantly predicted lower RQ cross-sectionally ($r_{effect}=.63, .18, .07$ for mothers and $.16, .56, .04$ for fathers). Mother and motherXfather SS ($r_{effect}=.24$ and .05, respectively) significantly predicted higher slopes in mothers’ RQ. Father SS ($r_{effect}=.31$) significantly predicted higher slope in fathers’ RQ, while mother SS ($r_{effect}=.20$) significantly predicted steeper declines in fathers’ RQ. Although SS predicted initially negative RQ outcomes, it also predicted more positive trajectories of RQ over time. These results confirm findings from past research in a sample typically underrepresented in research. However, these results also suggest that other factors relating to SS (such as contextual stressors) are important as well.
Interest in Extramarital Partners Reduces Closeness over Time

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Feeling close to one’s spouse is an important factor in a number of relationship issues. Reduced closeness can impact relationship engagement and satisfaction (Tsapelas, Orbuch, & Aron 2009) and can even lead to negative outcomes, including infidelity and relationship dissolution. Data from a longitudinal study of married couples (Orbuch et al., 1986) were analyzed, focusing on measures related to infidelity and suspicions of interest in extramarital partners. Husbands’ suspicions regarding a wife’s affair at Year 7 predicted a decrease in wives’ closeness at Year 16 (controlling for wives’ closeness at Year 7), \( t (115) = -2.86, p < .01, 26 \). Husbands’ suspicions also predicted a decline in husbands’ own closeness at Year 16, (controlling for husbands’ closeness at Year 7), \( t (115) = -2.21, p < .05, 20 \). However, wives’ suspicions regarding husbands having an extramarital relationship were not related to husbands’ closeness over time, or wives’ own closeness over time. These findings are discussed in relation to potential gender differences, and with regard to broader theoretical implications.

Attachment Working Models and Relationship Behaviors in Dream Content

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Psychologists historically have sought a deeper understanding of “attachment working models” (Bretherton & Munholland, 2008) in close relationships. The current research was designed to investigate attachment representations for specific figures in dream content. The general prediction was that dreams of relationship partners (significant others) would resemble the narratives found in structured laboratory storytelling procedures (Waters & Rodrigues-Doolabh, 2001). Sixty-one participants in committed dating relationships completed attachment assessments in the lab, followed by a dream diary at home for 14 days. Nearly all participants (85%) reported dreams that contained their romantic partner and contained such elements as proximity-seeking, emotional comfort, responsiveness, support for exploration in the environment, affective buffering, attention to partners’ mental state, among others. Regression analyses revealed a significant association between participants’ attachment security in their current relationship and the degree to which dreams about romantic partners followed the “secure base script.” In addition, several other relational behaviors appeared in dream content, including commitment (marriage), sexual behavior, conflict, betrayal, and romantic jealousy. Multilevel modeling results indicated that participants’ dreams of their partners varied as a function of love felt during the preceding day, and as a function of individual differences (attachment avoidance). Jealousy and relational behaviors in dreams (e.g., infidelity) were also associated with post-dreaming affect and behavior (conflict). These findings illuminate our understanding of attachment mental representations with regards to specific relationship partners, as they manifest in dream content. Clinical implications are also discussed in the current study.
Impact of Account-Making for Breakup Experience on Self-Esteem and Post-Dissolution Relationship Self-Efficacy

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This study examines how focused account-making for a breakup experience influences post-dissolution outcomes. A preliminary sample of 33 (11 males, 22 females) college students who had recently ended an exclusive romantic relationship wrote an account of their breakup guided by type of reminiscence (positive vs. control) and perspective (self vs. past partner). This prime used reminiscence (i.e. recollection of past memories and experience) to guide individuals to reflect on positive or general (control) implications of their breakup. Additionally, individuals were directed to either think of their own experiences or asked to consider their past partner’s account of the breakup. After writing their account, participants completed a questionnaire assessing their post-dissolution rumination, self-esteem, and relationship self-efficacy. An interaction between reminiscence and perspective was found for rumination, (p=.08), self-esteem (p=.05), and post-dissolution relationship self-efficacy (p=.09). Individuals reflecting from the positive/self condition indicated less rumination and higher self-esteem than those reflecting in the other three conditions. Also, individuals had the greatest confidence as a dating partner when reflecting positively about their own experiences or in the control condition from their partner’s perspective. The findings suggest that when individuals reflect on a breakup experience, they have the capability to increase their self-esteem and self-efficacy to create better outcomes for themselves through writing. Additional data will be collected through spring of 2012 at a second university.

Relationship Social Comparison Interpretations: Relations to Attachment, Comparison Direction, and Relationship Quality

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Social comparisons are common occurrences in dating relationships. These comparisons can be upward to relationships better off than one’s own, or downward to relationships worse off than one’s own. How one interprets these comparisons may impact relationship quality. We developed a 54-item measure of relationship social comparison interpretations and examined how comparison direction and attachment dimensions (anxiety or avoidance) predicted these interpretations and how all three variables predicted relationship quality. Participants (N = 198) were randomly assigned to read one of six stories about celebrities relationship (upward or downward comparisons). Participants then completed the interpretation scale and measures of their own relationship. Factor analysis with varimax rotation indicated 4 factors. Regressions were conducted to predict each factor. Factor 1, own relationship doing better than others’ relationships, contained 14 items and was negatively predicted by upward comparisons and higher avoidance. Factor 2, positive expectations and working to make things better, contained 18 items and was positively predicted by higher anxiety. Factor 3, negative thoughts about one’s own relationship, contained 11 items and was positively predicted by higher anxiety and avoidance. Finally, Factor 4, own relationship being similarly negative as someone else’s relationship, contained 11 items and was positively predicted by higher anxiety and avoidance and negatively predicted by upward comparisons. When predicting relationship quality (satisfaction, commitment, and closeness), the social comparison interpretations added to the prediction of the other variables. Our findings indicate that relationship social comparison interpretations are important for determining relationship outcomes. Limitations and further research will be discussed.
The Effects of Perspective on the Perceived Outcomes of Romantic Revenge: Comparing Affective and Empathic Forecasting

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How we judge acts of revenge, and whether we decide to take revenge ourselves, could be heavily influenced by the process by which we predict the consequences of such acts. The present study explored the effect of perspective on how individuals predict those consequences, assessing differences between affective (predicting one's own consequences) and empathic (predicting another's consequences) forecasts for romantic revenge. Eighty-eight undergraduate students were presented with a scenario detailing revenge exacted on a cheating partner by broadcasting the partner's true character to the new flame via Facebook. Participants were asked to list the potential outcomes experienced by the individual who took revenge, and were randomly assigned to do so from an empathic perspective (Do you think the actor will experience any positive/negative outcomes?) or an affective perspective (If you were the actor, do you think you would experience any positive/negative outcomes?). Participants also filled out measures of the avenger's predicted emotional state. The number of both positive and negative outcomes listed by participants were recorded, as were the mean ratings of the impact of those outcomes. The outcomes were also analyzed qualitatively. Participants predictions of emotional state exhibited stronger correlation with the impact of those outcomes for individuals making affective forecasts than it did for individuals making empathic forecasts. Furthermore, affective forecasters appeared more concerned with self-oriented outcomes (i.e., feeling more assertive, damage to reputation), whereas empathic forecasters more often mentioned other-oriented outcomes (i.e., help or damage done to the 3rd party, impact on shared friendships). Limitations and implications of these findings will be discussed.

Longer Time Interval between Relationship Initiation and First Sex Predicts Relationship Stability

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Relationships vary on a number of dimensions. One important and understudied dimension is how long couple members wait prior to initiating sexual relations. Some couples may begin sexual activity relatively soon after initiating their relationship whereas others may take more time before having sex. The current study examined whether the time interval between first initiating a relationship and first having sex was related to the ultimate stability of the partnership. We hypothesized that relationships characterized by longer duration between these events would prove more stable over time (i.e., the relationship would be more likely to remain intact when assessed later in time). As part of a larger longitudinal study of relationship dynamics and sexual risk behaviors among a sample of young adults in Los Angeles, California at increased risk for HIV, 214 participants reported on which calendar dates their relationship started and they first had sex with their partner. Approximately 4 months later, participants reported whether the relationship was ongoing or had dissolved. Logistic regression analyses indicated that the time interval between initiating the relationship and initiating sexual relations significantly predicted relationship status at Time 2 (Wald=6.81, p ≤ .01). Specifically, the longer the time interval between these events, the more likely participants reports still being in their relationship at Time 2. We propose several possible mediating mechanisms that may be responsible for this observed effect.
The Relationship between my Personality and that of my Partner’s as it Relates to Functionality and Intimacy

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Rolando Diaz-Loving (National Autonomous University of Mexico)

Every culture and social group possesses certain norms designed to regulate the behavior of its members. Sanchez-Burks, Nisbett & Ibarra (2000) propose that every society determines patterns of socialization and establishes a style and schema of relationships according to the socio-emotional orientation of that society which influences the formation and continuation of those relationships. In the case of Mexican culture, Diaz Guerrero (1994, 2003) proposed the existence or particular traits and distinctions of the personality which contribute to interaction. A random sample of 447 volunteers between the ages of 18-71 (ME=41.013, DE=57.15) was used of which 221 were male and 224 female. Volunteers were asked to respond to the sections “I am” (48 items) and “My Partner” (44 items) of the Mexican Personality Scale (Cruz-Martinez, Rivera-Aragon & Diaz-Loving, 2011) using a Likert-like answer sheet based on a scale of 1-5, 1 being nothing and 5 being a lot or much. In addition, volunteers were asked to complete a modified version of the Family Function Scale (Garcia-Mendez, Rivera-Aragon, Reyes Lagunes & Diaz-Loving, 2006) containing 45 items using the same Likert-like 5-point answer scale. The correlations observed indicate that the men tended to perceive their personalities as related to those of their partners and included aspects such as perception of intimacy as well as their ideas of how well their relationship was going. The women’s answers indicated a more specific and pointed perception of aspects related to the evaluation of the relationship in particular, a dichotomy between the traditionally female roles in comparison to those of an androgynous nature.

Observed Support Provision in Couples: The Influence of Biological Sex and Gender Identity

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The widely accepted marital support gap hypothesis says that women receive less support from their spouses than men, and that the support they receive is less helpful than what they provide to their husbands (Belle, 1982). It should be noted, however, that observational studies examining this support gap hypothesis exclusively focused on biological sex differences (male vs. female) in support provision, thereby overlooking the role of spouses’ gender identity. In the current study we examined if the extent to which a spouse possesses masculine qualities (e.g., self-reliant, independent, competitive) or feminine qualities (e.g., warm, understanding, compassionate) had an effect on his/her way of providing support to a partner in distress. Fifty married couples participated in an observational laboratory study. They provided questionnaire data and participated in two 10-min support interaction tasks, designed to assess each spouse’s support provision behavior. The videotaped interactions were subsequently coded for emotional, instrumental, and unhelpful support provision behavior. The Bem Sex Role Inventory (Bem, 1974) was used to determine spouses’ gender identity. Our results indicate that support provision within marriage depends on the interaction of spouses’ biological sex and gender identity, at least for instrumental and unhelpful types of support. More specifically, the marital support gap only became visible when support was solicited and provided within couples in which at least one spouse was traditionally sex-typed.
Revealing and Concealing Information about Sandusky’s Relationships with Children: 
A Communication Privacy Management Analysis

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This paper examines choice-making at Pennsylvania State University about revelations concerning Sandusky’s relationships with children utilizing Communication Privacy Management (CPM) theory (Petronio, 2002). Analysis highlights how individuals dealt with vulnerable private information and the diverse elements at Pennsylvania State University impacting the management of private information. We base the examination on the Investigating Grand Jury findings associated with the Penn State tragedy. We identify the critical incidents noted in the revealing or concealing of information and employ a CPM-based diagnostic tool to classify critical incidents, to describe regulation assessment of the information disclosure, and to assess the trajectory of actions taken to change privacy boundaries. Critical incidents in breakdowns of privacy boundary regulation generally include points of disruption in sharing or withholding information. We describe the ways border definitions and privacy rules regulating privacy boundaries prevented individuals who had access to information about Sandusky’s questionable or inappropriate relationships from sharing that information. We also examine changes, shifts, and recalibrations in negotiating ownership rights over the information once the scandal became public. Results highlight the vulnerable position of each individual with access to information and the ways privacy management functioned to withhold or conceal details even when information that revealed the criminal actions was shared. We include diagnostic analysis of each witness and confidant with whom information was shared and offer suggestions for recalibration of privacy rules. Analysis of the Sandusky case allows an understanding about how individuals manage sensitive and vulnerable private information and how multiple individuals reinforce existing privacy rules.

Attachment Orientation, Threat, and Symbolic Closeness to Attachment Networks

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When threatened, securely-attached individuals use attachment figures to regulate negative affect, high-anxious individuals perceive less available support, whereas high-avoidants rely on the self. We examined the influence of manipulated threat on closeness motivation (assessed symbolically by measuring distance from the core-self of attachment-figures in the hierarchical mapping technique (HMT)). We expected completing the HMT to increase felt-security, and threat to exaggerate effects of attachment-orientation on closeness motivation. Participants (N=102) reported on attachment orientation and members of their attachment network. One week later, participants completed either a stressful logic task (threat), or a comparable, non-stressful task (control), then completed manipulation checks and the HMT. Results showed that the threat condition increased stress and decreased felt-security. Moreover, threat (compared to control) led high- (but not low-) avoidants to bring their network-members closer, and led low- (but not high-) anxious participants to bring their five most important network-members (marginally) closer. Finally, when we examined the network-member placed closest to the self, we found that in the control condition dismissing individuals placed their network-member further from the self than did secure, but in the threat condition both dismissing and preoccupied individuals brought their
closest network-member closer. Regardless of condition, completing the HMT led to increased felt-security; also participants who placed their network-members closer in the HMT felt significantly more secure afterwards. Among those who placed network-members further from the self, attachment-anxiety was associated with lower felt-security. Results suggest that attachment orientation influences closeness motivation under threat and that symbolic closeness may serve affect-regulation functions.

Intimate Partner Violence in Interracial and Monoracial Couples:
The Effects of Gender and Relationship Status

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This study investigated intimate partner violence (IPV) in interracial and monoracial relationships and also examined the role of gender and relationship status in interracial and monoracial IPV. First, it was hypothesized that the level of IPV would be higher among White-Black interracial couples than among either monoracial White or monoracial Black couples. Regarding gender, it was hypothesized that women would report lower levels of victimization than men in intimate relationships. Third, it was hypothesized that married and cohabiting couples, including both interracial and monoracial couples, would demonstrate higher levels of IPV than dating couples. Using a nationally representative sample (n=10,628), regression analyses indicated that interracial couples demonstrated a higher level of IPV than monoracial White couples but a level similar to monoracial Black couples. There were significant gender differences in IPV, with women reporting lower levels of victimization than men. Regarding relationship status, married and cohabiting couples demonstrated higher levels of IPV than dating couples. Finally, results from interactions among racial composition, relationship status and participants’ gender suggested that married interracial couples report the highest levels of IPV. Implications for practitioners and directions for future research are discussed.

The Relationship between Positive Emotion, Self-Disclosure, and Intimacy with a Romantic Partner

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Research shows self-disclosure to be an important contributor to physical and psychological health (Prager, 1995). However, research on self-disclosure and health has often examined self-disclosure outside of its relational context. We know that more self-disclosure within a relationship is associated with greater marital happiness (Antill and Cotton, 1987). Recently, research has highlighted the health benefits of positive affect (Cohen & Pressman, 2006), and the beneficial effects of positive self-disclosure on relationships (Gable, Gonzaga, & Strachman, 2006). We therefore thought it worthwhile to investigate the impact of day to day self-disclosure on couple partners’ daily experiences of positive affect. We investigated the effects of both self and partner disclosure. Participants were 100 cohabitating couples who completed a 21-day dairy in which they rated the intimacy-level of their interactions with their partners on 2 dimensions: understanding and appreciation, and self-disclosure. They also rated their level of positive emotion each day. Via HLM analyses, we discovered that day to day interactions characterized by more self-disclosure and understanding/listening were significantly associated with daily elevations in positive emotion for male and female partners. On the days when an individual disclosed
with their romantic partner the disclosing partner reported more positive emotion. Positive emotion also increased on days when individuals felt that they were understood/listened to by their partner. The results of this study demonstrate that self-disclosure with a partner increases daily positive affect. Positive affect is known to be beneficial to well-being and therefore this positive association could possibly reflect benefits to well-being on a daily basis.

Perceived Partner Responsiveness and Affect during Periods of Acute Stress for Romantic Dyads

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Perceived partner responsiveness has been associated with positive outcomes such as increased intimacy (Laurenceau, Barrett, & Pietromonaco, 1998), perceived social support (Lemay, Clark, & Feeney, 2007), and greater daily levels of relationship quality (Maisel & Gable, 2009). Furthermore, periods of acute stress (e.g., the bar exam) for romantic dyads have been associated with increased levels of depressed and anxious moods (Bolger, Zuckerman, & Kessler, 2000). The current study sought to investigate the relationship between daily levels of perceived partner responsiveness and affect during periods of both high and low stress. An initial hypothesis posited that daily levels of perceived partner responsiveness would more strongly predict negative mood during periods of acute stress, as opposed to a low-stress period. Participants were 88 undergraduate students in a committed, intimate relationship who completed a daily diary for two weeks while preparing for a stressful class exam, and several days thereafter. Diary data were analyzed with multilevel modeling, allowing simultaneous estimates of between- and within-person processes. Interestingly, results indicate an interaction between daily levels of responsiveness and stress period, such that during the high stress period (i.e., days prior to the exam) daily levels of perceived partner responsiveness were positively associated with negative mood. These data provide initial evidence that during periods of acute stress for romantic dyads, partner responsiveness may actually backfire and worsen negative mood.

Self-Modification: A Cultural Trait in Mexican Passionate Lovers

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Diaz-Guerrero (1994) argued that one of the main characteristics of people is the way they cope with stress. His proposal comprises two different styles, but just one is proper to Mexican culture. A passive way to confront the stress is when persons prefer to adapt themselves to other people’s benefit. The aim of this behavior is to keep the harmony in their close relationships. This style based on the notion for mother’s abnegation and the self-modification and is considered as a sign of affect or as a negotiation tactic among the members of the couple (Rivera Aragón, 2000). Furthermore, the self-modification is applied in different interactional contexts, including in the scenario of passionate love. In this subject, Sánchez-Aragon (2007) proposes a model of four different phases: Attraction, Infatuation, Obsessive Love and Desperate Love. This author has suggested that first two phases are positive because are related with the reciprocate love while the second ones are negative and the people live an unrequited love. Based on this information, the purpose of this study was to find the relation between self-modification as a central Mexican trait with each of the four passionate love phases. Findings showed interesting correlations between two ways of self-modification –reconcile and respect- with the passionate love phases. The scores are higher with the two last phases than the first ones. Moreover, the self-modification
is present in all passionate love phases. This confirms the self-modification as a main characteristic of Mexican lovers.

Ignoring Love:
Attachment Avoidance Influences Empathic Accuracy in Romantic Conversations

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Empathic accuracy is important for satisfying relationships, and some research suggests attachment avoidance is negatively related to empathic accuracy. However, few studies have directly examined the relationship between attachment avoidance and empathic accuracy in couple interactions, specifically in positive contexts. This study examined the influence of attachment avoidance on accuracy in reading a romantic partner’s emotions during both positive (love) and negative (suffering) conversations. We hypothesized that individuals high in attachment avoidance, who resist intimacy, would be motivated to disregard the feelings of their romantic partner during a rewarding, positive conversation. When discussing love in their relationship, attachment avoidance was associated negatively with accuracy for positive emotions, but positively with accuracy for negative emotions. No relationship between attachment avoidance and empathic accuracy was observed in the suffering conversation. This pattern of results suggests that individuals high in avoidance may defensively minimize feelings of love in their relationships by being attuned to their partner’s negative expressions, while ignoring their partner’s positive expressions in conversations that are most likely to evoke warm feelings. This may assist individuals high in avoidance to maintain emotional distance in relationships. These findings also highlight the importance of differentiating between positive and negative emotions when examining an individual’s empathic accuracy.

Pick Your Poison: College Student Preferences for Romantic and/or Sexual Relationships

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Modern US college campuses are often portrayed as environments that lack relationship options. Specifically, students are frequently described as having the choice to hook up or be shut out (Bogle, 2008; Glenn & Marquardt, 2001). Given its apparent popularity, scholars and cultural commentators alike have focused on the campus hookup. Some extant research, however, indicates that students’ attitudes toward hook-ups are more negative than their prevalence might suggest (e.g., Fielder & Carey, 2010; Lambert, Kahn, & Apple, 2003; Mongeau & Wiedmaier, 2011). Therefore, the current project’s primary goal was to examine how college students evaluate several relationships (i.e., hookups, friends-with-benefits, casual dating, committed dating, engaged, and married). A survey of 695 undergraduates at a large Southwestern US university investigated how students ranked these relationships in terms of desirability. Students also selected the one relational type they preferred to be in. Results indicated that close to 30% of the sample were currently in committed dating relationships. Furthermore, over 70% of participants indicated preferring either casual or committed dating. Finally, students ranked both serious and casual dating considerably more positively (first and second, respectively) than friends with benefits and hookups (which was consistently ranked last). Typical sex differences emerged in each analysis. In summary, our results indicate that students experience ambivalence about hookups and friends-with-
benefits (i.e., engage in the practices that they don’t particularly care for), suggesting that the alleged “hookup culture” may not be sustainable.

The Association of Sexual and Marital Satisfaction in Newlywed Couples: The Mediating Role of Perceived Partner Responsiveness

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Sexuality is an integral part of intimate relationships, yet surprisingly little is known about how and for whom sexuality matters. The present research investigated the interplay of sexual and non-sexual factors that contribute to relationship satisfaction. Specifically, we tested the hypothesis that the association between sexual satisfaction and marital satisfaction is mediated by a non-sexual factor – namely, perceived partner responsiveness (PPR). Additionally, we tested gender as a possible moderator of this mediated association. Both partners in thirty-five newlywed couples completed a diary in which they reported their sexual satisfaction, marital satisfaction, and PPR every day for 30 days. We tested our predictions at both the person-level (i.e., the mean level across 30 days) and the daily level. At the person level, we found (as expected) that sexual satisfaction and PPR separately predicted marital satisfaction. Moreover, the effect of sexual satisfaction on marital satisfaction was partially mediated by PPR. No gender differences emerged at this level. At the daily level, we found (as expected) the same partial mediation, though in this case, a gender moderation was found: this mediation was stronger for women than men. This gender difference emerged from a stronger association between sexual satisfaction and PPR among women than among men, which fully accounted for the gender moderation of the sexual-to-marital satisfaction link. This study joins a growing literature highlighting the role of PPR in dyadic relationships, especially when examined within a daily process context. In this context, an important gender difference emerges that would have been obscured otherwise.

Individual Differences in Self-Expansion Motives, Experiences, and Passionate Love

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The Self-Expansion Theory of Love (Aron & Aron, 1986) proposes that the desire for self-expansion is a fundamental motive underlying the formation of close relationships. Romantic partners expand their sense of self by accepting the qualities, characteristics, and resources of the partner as their own. This expansion process has a positive affective tone that is experienced as passion toward the other who becomes included in the self. Although variability in expansion motives is acknowledged by Aron & Aron (1986), predictors of this variability, and its impact on relationship affect has not been explored. We hypothesized that motives for self-expansion might be evidenced through desires for novelty and for complexity in self-representations. To test this, college students completed several personality measures
(Sensation Seeking, Big-5 “O”, Need-for-Cognition) as well a measure of desire for self-expanding experiences. Participants also completed measures of passionate love (Hatfield & Sprecher, 1986) and the Self-expansion experiences questionnaire (Lewandowski & Aron, 2002). As predicted, self-expansion motives were positively correlated with two of the subscales of the Sensation-Seeking Inventory, and with the Openness and Need-for-Cognition Scales. Congruency between self-expansion motives and experiences were associated with higher relationship satisfaction; however, self-expansion experiences were positively associated with passionate love, regardless of individual dispositions. These findings are consistent with basic tenets of self-expansion theory (Aron & Aron, 1986).

Potential Risk is Key: Self-Esteem and Signature Social Motivations Influence Connection Behaviors

Lisa Reddoch (University of Victoria)
Danu Stinson (University of Victoria)

Self-esteem affects social motivations in situations where there is the potential risk of rejection (Cameron et al., 2010). In these situations, individuals with low self-esteem (LSE) are motivated to self-protect, while those with high self-esteem (HSE) are motivated to connect (Murray et al., 2008). Past research has examined cognitive (e.g., Marigold et al., 2007) and perceptual (Cameron et al., 2010) outcomes of self-esteem differences in social motivation behavior, but the present research sought to demonstrate behavioural responses to social risk. We expect that compared to when there is no social risk, the presence of risk will cause LSEs to behave in a self-protective manner by being less warm and friendly, while it will cause HSEs to behave in a pro-social manner by being more warmly and friendly. Participants filmed an introductory video about themselves. Those in the “risky” condition believed that an opposite sex participant would view their video and potentially meet them if they so choose, while those in the “no risk” condition believed that no one would view their tape. Trained behavioural coders blind to the hypotheses of the study and to the self-esteem of the participants coded participants’ videos for non-verbal displays of warmth/friendliness. As predicted, LSEs were less warm/friendly than HSEs in the “risky” condition. Furthermore, when the risk was removed the pattern was reversed: LSEs were more warm/friendly than HSEs, and HSEs were less warm/friendly than when risk had been present.

Children’s Fears about Finances: What Scares them and Why?

Lynsey Kluever Romo (University of Texas at Austin)
Anita Vangelisti (University of Texas at Austin)

It is well known that money can be a source of stress and worry for adults, particularly during uncertain economic times. Parents are also concerned about the effect that financial information can have on their children and sometimes conceal that information from their children because they do not want to scare them. Through interviews with 136 children aged 8-17 ($M = 10.55$, $SD = 10$), the current study used a mixed-methods approach to investigate children’s reports of what money-related topics scare them and why. The extent to which the topics and reasons differed by children’s sex and age also was examined. Findings indicate that the financial topics children most commonly reported as being fearful were losing money and shortage of money; the topics noted least often were spending unwisely and global concerns. Children reported most frequently that the reason they were scared about money was that their personal needs would be threatened. The investigation also revealed significant sex and age differences, including a positive correlation between age and children being afraid of spending their own money poorly, a negative correlation between age and children being afraid of losing everything, and a negative association between children’s age and the total number of financial topics children reported scaring them. These results illustrate that children are indeed worried about money-related topics, underscoring
the need for parents to be cognizant of these concerns so that they can effectively communicate with their children about finances and foster a healthy family relationship about money.

The Effect of School-Specific Parenting Processes on Academic Achievement in Adolescence and Young Adulthood

Mellissa Gordon (Florida State University)
Ming Cui (Florida State University)

There is inconsistency in the current literature regarding the relationship between dimensions of parenting processes and academic achievement for adolescents. Further, few studies have extended such an association into young adulthood. In accordance with social capital theory, one operational definition of social capital is parenting processes. As suggested by Coleman (1988), greater amounts of social capital, in the form of close parent-child relationships, parental educational expectations, and parental presence, lead to better school performance. In this study, we examined the effect of three dimensions of parenting processes, including school-specific involvement, general parental support and parental expectations, on academic achievement in adolescence and in young adulthood. The study utilized a large, nationally representative, and longitudinal sample. Results from regression analyses suggested that all three dimensions of parenting processes had a significant effect on adolescents’ academic success. In particular, school-specific involvement had a stronger effect than general parental support and parental expectations. Further, parenting processes were indirectly associated with academic achievement later in young adulthood, partially through academic achievement in adolescence. Findings suggest that, in order to improve their adolescent children’s academic performance, parents’ direct involvement in school-related activities is critical. As such, it is imperative that educational programs aimed at improving adolescents’ academic achievement include parents and help them to realize that what they can do with their children in school-related activities (i.e., parent involvement) has a powerful effect on their children’s academic achievement, now and into the future.
Empathy in Romantic Relationships: Measurement in Mexico

Rozzana Sanchez-Aragon (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)
Magali Martinez-Perez (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)

Empathy has been called it the “spark of human concern for others, the glue that makes social life possible” (Hoffman, 2000, p. 3). Empathy has been linked with helping, moral behavior and concern for others (Batson, 2009, Hoffman, 2000). The lack of it has been linked to psychopathology, autistic spectrum disorders and antisocial behaviors (Baron-Cohen & Wheelwright, 2004; Blair, 1995; Lauterbach & Hosser, 2007). For this reason, psychologists have tried to develop reliable and valid instruments that measure it and discover individual differences in empathy (Davis, 1996). In Mexico, Diaz-Loving, Andrade-Palos & Nadelsticher-Mitrani (1986) measured this construct obtaining four dimensions: disturbance, empathic compassion, indifference and cognitive empathy. However, the empathy research isn’t complete if it doesn’t apply to the context of romantic relationships, because this is the main scenario for understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another. Based on these ideas, the present research was concerned with the development of a Likert format scale to measure empathy in romantic relationships. To do this, 467 participants in a current relationship, answered to 47 items based on the main theoretical dimensions on empathy. Results show four factors: emotional empathy with 11 items ($\alpha=.82$), cognitive empathy with 14 items ($\alpha=.80$), own disturbance with 12 items ($\alpha=.83$) and compassionate care with 10 items ($\alpha=.76$). Outcomes will be discussed with regard to other measures psychometric characteristics and literature about empathy in close relationships.

When Good Deeds Look Bad: The Perception of Sacrifices by a Partner with Low Self-Esteem

Joanna E. Anderson (University of Waterloo)
John G. Holmes (University of Waterloo)
Joanne V. Wood (University of Waterloo)
Denise C. Marigold (Renison University College, University of Waterloo)

A major part of romantic interdependence is doing things for the benefit of one’s romantic partner (Kelley & Thibault, 1978). However, when one partner makes a sacrifice for the other, the recipient has to interpret that behavior: Does it indicate caring, or another motive? In a series of studies, we tested the prediction that individuals with low self-esteem (LSEs), who have less faith in their partners’ love than those with high self-esteem (HSEs; Murray, Holmes, & Griffin, 2000), would be more cautious in the attributions they make for their partners’ sacrifices, and less willing to assume their partners were motivated by caring. We expected that, the larger the sacrifice, the more likely LSEs would worry about whether they need to repay their partners. In a correlational study investigating how people elicit sacrifices from their partners, we found that LSEs were more likely than HSEs to promise their partners an exchange of favors, an effect that was mediated by a tendency to worry about the partner’s reaction. A followup experiment demonstrated the differing levels of threat associated with sacrifices of different sizes: LSEs, but not HSEs, felt less deserving of a large than a small sacrifice, and perceived their partners as less motivated by caring when the sacrifice was large. Two final experiments demonstrated that LSEs are driven by uncertainty about their partners’ expectations for repayment. Together, these
studies suggest a process by which low self-esteem can undermine the positive efforts of one romantic partner for another.

**Partner Status in Prison as a Predictor of Loneliness, Sexual Satisfaction, and Quality of Life**

Rodrigo Carcedo (University of Salamanca)  
Daniel Perlman (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)  
Begoña Orgaz (University of Salamanca)  
Felix Lopez (University of Salamanca)  
Noelia Fernandez-Rouco (University of Cantabria)  
Richard Faldowski (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)

This study investigated the differences in loneliness, sexual satisfaction, and quality of life among three groups of prison inmates: inmates in a heterosexual romantic relationship with a fellow prisoner, inmates with a partner outside the prison, and inmates without a partner. In-person interviews with 70 male and 70 female inmates from the Topas Penitentiary (Spain) were conducted. These inmates lived in the same facility but in gender-segregated modules. After controlling for age, nationality, total time in prison, actual sentence time served, and estimated time to parole, the results showed a lower level of romantic loneliness, and a higher level of sexual satisfaction and global, psychological, and environment quality of life for the group of inmates with a heterosexual partner inside prison. These findings highlight the positive attributes associated with heterosexual romantic relationships between inmates inside the same prison.

**First Love Experience Transferred to the Second One**

Candace Edwards (Grand Valley State University)  
Victor Karandashev (Aquinas College)  
Megan Benton (Michigan State University)  
Vanessa Wolters (Roosevelt University)

How does the first love experience transfer to the second one? Does an individual’s love style depend on that? The study focused on romantic relationships in early adulthood. Undergraduate students from introductory psychology classes completed an autobiographical survey describing the two most significant partners of their romantic relationship history. Each student rated his or her love style (Eros, Ludus, Storge, Pragma, Mania, Agape) and described the personality characteristics of his or her first partner, and then repeated the same procedure of rating and describing for the second partner. Participants also described the events that occurred in the relationship and rated their feeling of intimacy, passion, commitment and attachment before and after each of these events. Results obtained with regression analysis revealed that the preference for love styles during one’s first love is predictive of the second love: the participants with dominance of Storge, Pragma, Mania love attitudes were the most consistent in this respect. Some of the physical and psychological characteristics of the first partner were also predictive to certain love attitudes (mostly for Eros and Agape) and will be discussed in our presentation. The romantic feelings experienced during events are much less influential in the transference of one’s first love experience to one’s second love experience.
How involved should I be? Father’s Role in the Breastfeeding Family in Botswana

Lynn Rempel (Brock University)
John Rempel (St. Jerome's University)
Motshedisi Sabone (University of Botswana)
Norman Carl Swart (University of Botswana)
Kenalepe Molefi (Ministry of Health)

The impact of cultural norms on relationship functioning is readily acknowledged but rarely studied. Yet culture-specific traditions can profoundly influence partner interactions. In North America, caring for infants and babies has traditionally been perceived as women’s work, especially when the mother is breastfeeding, but fathers are becoming increasingly involved in the lives of their children and often have a teamwork perspective on childcare and breastfeeding support. To explore cross-cultural perspectives on fathering, a qualitative study of 22 couples from urban and rural Botswana was conducted regarding the fathers’ role in the breastfeeding family. Separate interviews with both mothers and fathers revealed a parenting culture in transition. Some couples described significant father involvement and role sharing as was found in Canadian couples but others maintained strong traditional roles. For example, fathers’ prominent role as family providers ranged from concrete instrumental support through to emotional support for mothers and direct involvement in breastfeeding promotion. Another strong example of cultural influence involved the traditional practices of Botsetse, during which mothers and infants are confined from fathers and other visitors and cared for by female relatives. The traditional fathering role of family protector has transitioned to include HIV testing for mothers and themselves in addition to engagement in sexual practices understood to protect the infant—often involving traditional periods of postpartum sexual abstinence. Thus, in a culture transitioning toward greater teamwork approaches to parenting, the contrast between traditional and contemporary beliefs highlight the impact that cultural beliefs can have on intimate partner interactions.

Wedding Proposals, Marital Satisfaction, and Commitment

Chelsea Lamb (California State University San Bernardino)
Kelly Campbell (George Mason University)
James Kaufman (California State University)

The present study examined whether characteristics of the wedding proposal were associated with marital satisfaction and commitment. Participants (N= 872 married individuals) completed an online questionnaire. The mean participant age was 29.8 years (SD = 10.1 years), and a majority were European American (47%) or Latina/o American (36%), Christian (66%), and residing in the western U.S. (70%). The average length of time married was 6.67 years (SD = 8.0 years). Regression analyses indicated that general satisfaction with the wedding proposal was associated with higher retrospective commitment (β = .351, p = .000), and present day commitment (β = .312, p = .000). Present day satisfaction was predicted by not only satisfaction with the proposal (β = .312, p = .000), but also by whether an engagement ring was presented at the time of the proposal (β = -.135, p = .001). Satisfaction and commitment (retrospective and present day) were unrelated to whether the proposal was expected versus unexpected. A variety of explanations can be offered for the negative association between marital satisfaction and having an engagement ring. Possibly, dissatisfaction emerges for partners who lack this symbolic representation of their relationship, particularly in a culture such as the U.S., which emphasizes materialism. Another explanation is that financial well-being, rather than the engagement ring itself, accounts for the association. In other words, couples with fewer resources are more likely to become
engaged without a ring, and these same couples are more likely to encounter financial stressors that negatively impact marital satisfaction.

The Effect of Self-Disclosure on Sleep Behavior in Couples

Heidi Kane (University of California Los Angeles)
Richard Slatcher (Wayne State University, Department of Psychology)
Bridget Reynolds (University of California Los Angeles)
Rena Repetti (University of California Los Angeles)
Theodore Robles (University of California Los Angeles)

An emerging literature provides evidence for the association between relationship processes and sleep, an important factor in health and well-being (Troxel, Robles, Hall & Buysse, 2007). However, we still know very little about the specific relationship processes that affect sleep behavior or how sleep behavior affects relationship processes on a daily basis. Therefore, the goal of this study is to examine how self-disclosure, an important relational process linked to relationship satisfaction, perceived partner responsiveness and health, is associated with sleep behavior. As part of a larger study of family processes, mothers (n=27) and fathers (n=22) from 27 families completed 56 consecutive days of daily diaries assessing self-disclosure, relationship satisfaction, perceived partner responsiveness, and mood. Sleep behavior was assessed via morning reports of the previous night. Preliminary results revealed an association between daily fluctuations in self-disclosure processes and sleep outcomes for mothers, but not for fathers. On days when mothers reported higher levels of disclosure to their partners their sleep quality and sleep efficiency that night improved, controlling for the prior night’s sleep quality and efficiency, respectively. This association remained consistent even after controlling for daily relationship satisfaction, daily mood and day of week. Relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness were examined as potential mediators. These results suggest that self-disclosure may be an important relational process through which marital relationships influence sleep behavior. The implications of these findings in regards to gender differences in the effect of relationship processes on health-related outcomes will be discussed.

Approach and Avoidance “Goggles”: Goals, Perceptions, and Behavior at Speed Dating

M. Joy McClure (Columbia University)
Lisa Linardatos (McGill University)
Vanessa C. Evans (McGill University)
John E. Lydon (McGill University)

Forming a new romantic relationship necessitates balancing approach goals (e.g. meeting new people, developing intimacy) and avoidance goals (not presenting oneself poorly, not getting hurt). We measured participants’ approach and avoidance goals in new relationships with potential partners (adapted from Elliot, Gable, & Mapes, 2006) before two heterosexual speed dating events (N = 82). Men and women did not differ in their tendency towards approach goals or avoidance goals, and neither approach nor avoidance goals were associated with participants’ own attractiveness. We examined goals in regressions including participant attractiveness and gender. An individual’s goals influenced their perceptions at speed dating: Participants with more approach goals perceived potential partners as more attractive, while participants with more avoidance goals perceived potential partners as less attractive. In addition, participants with more approach goals were more optimistic about the prospect of relationship initiation and development: They were happier about the prospect of being contacted by potential partners, they more strongly endorsed having felt a special connection with potential partners, and they foresaw greater
inclusion of potential partners into their sense of self. Participants’ goals also predicted their behaviour: Having more approach goals increased participants’ attempts to pursue further contact with potential partners, while having more avoidance goals decreased these attempts. Perceptions of potential partners’ attractiveness partially mediated the effect of approach and avoidance goals on pursuit behaviour, and optimism about relationship initiation and development mediated the effect of approach goals. Goal-consistent perceptual biases encouraged goal-consistent behaviour.

Irritations in Empty-Nest Relationships: Identifying Themes and Understanding the Role of Relational Uncertainty and Interference from Partners as Predictors of Severity

Mary Nagy (Rutgers University)
Jennifer Theiss (Rutgers University)

The transition to the empty-nest phase of marriage involves a renegotiation of relationship norms, which may give rise to challenges and conflicts between spouses. The first goal of this study is to identify sources of irritating partner behavior during the transition to the empty-nest phase of marriage. The second goal of this study is to identify relationship characteristics that are heightened during the empty-nest transition and may predict the perceived severity of irritating partner behavior. The relational turbulence model provides the theoretical framework for this study and points to relational uncertainty and interference from partners as two qualities of empty-nest relationships that may heighten the perceived severity of irritating partner behavior. Survey data was collected from 50 empty-nest couples (N = 100) who had entered the empty-nest phase of marriage within the past 18 months. Respondents provided a list of irritations they had about their partner and rated each irritation in terms of its severity. To address the first goal of this study, trained coders analyzed open-ended responses from participants regarding their partner’s irritating behaviors. A first team of research assistants identified themes of irritating partner behavior and a second team of research assistants applied the themes to categorize the responses. To address the second goal of this study, we examined relational uncertainty and interference from partners as predictors of the perceived severity of the irritations. Results supported our hypotheses that irritations are more severe under conditions of relational uncertainty and interference from partners.

Forming Expectations for One's Own or Others' Pro-relational Behavior

Johanna Peetz (Carleton University)
Lara Kammrath (Wake Forest University)

Expectations in relationships are consequential. Expectations about how much or what kind of behaviors the partner should do can determine whether a pro-relational behavior is viewed as a pleasant surprise or as shortcoming. This research examines what information people draw on when forming expectations about relationship behaviors. We compare expectations for immediate behaviors such as performing small positive behavior changes on the same day (which tend to be predicted by positive feelings for the partner) and sustained behaviors such as performing behavior changes over the course of a week (which tend to be predicted by a conscientious personality)(Kammrath & Peetz, 2011). Two studies (Study 1: N=80 adults; Study 2: N=149 students) showed that when predicting their own pro-relational behavior, people incorporated only information about their feelings for their partner, and ignored their knowledge about their own personality, regardless of the type of behavior. In other words, the more positively they felt about the relationship, the more immediate and sustained behaviors they predicted. In contrast, when forming expectations of a close friend's relationship behaviors (Study 1) or their partner's relationship behaviors (Study 2), they accurately distinguished between factors contributing to immediate behaviors (considering the actor's feelings for the partner more) and factors contributing to sustained behaviors (considering the actor's personality more). These studies suggest that self-directed and other-directed
prospective cognitions about pro-relational behavior are generated differently, and that people's expectations about others draw on more accurate and relevant information than expectations about themselves.

A Case for Friendship: The Unique Role of Platonic Relationships in Daily Adult Life

Molly Metz (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Nancy Collins (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Although the developmental and gerontology literatures are filled with discussions of the importance of friendship in adolescence and old age, there is a vast gap in our understanding of the psychology of friendship in early adulthood and midlife. Research on other adult relationships is thought to generalize to friendships, but an evolutionary perspective would predict that friendships would be unique compared to relationships based on kin or reproduction. Social support is one domain in which the uniqueness of friendship can be investigated. The present study used diary methods to study social support processes in daily life, with two primary objectives. The first was to establish normative patterns of support-seeking in response to different types of life events: who do people typically go to for different support needs – friends, family, romantic partners? Do certain relationship partners specialize in certain types of support? Do men and women differ in patterns of support-seeking from friends versus other close relationship partners? The second was to examine the psychological outcomes of different patterns and types of social interaction: what is the impact of friendship (vs. other relationships) on daily health and emotional well-being? To explore these questions, participants (single and coupled) completed a nightly diary for 14 days reporting on their mood, health and vitality, feelings about self and social relationships, specific negative and positive events, and support interactions around these events. Data collection is underway. Multi-level modeling will be used to explore within-person and between-person effects. Normative patterns and individual differences will be reported.

Can Narcissus Ever Maintain a Relationship: Relationship Characteristics as Mediators

Joseph Salib (California State University)
Kelly Campbell (California State University San Bernardino)

Are modern narcissists doomed to suffer the lonely and pitiful fate of Ovid's mythical Narcissus? Can certain relationship characteristics, such as satisfaction and commitment, help us to understand why narcissists often fail to maintain their relationships? A large, ethnically diverse sample from regions across the U.S. responded to several online questionnaires that measured how narcissistic they were, how satisfied and committed they felt in their current relationship, and how often they engaged in relational maintenance behaviors. The Investment Model of Commitment guided the formulation of the proposed multiple mediation model. It was expected that higher narcissism would predict lower satisfaction and commitment, which in turn would predict lower engagement in relational maintenance behaviors. Narcissism was not associated with satisfaction, commitment, or engagement in relational maintenance behaviors. Satisfaction and commitment also did not mediate the relational narcissism-relational maintenance behaviors link. Higher satisfaction and commitment did predict greater use of relational maintenance behaviors. This suggests that modern relational narcissists are as likely as everyone else to be satisfied with and committed to their current relationships, and to engage in daily relational maintenance behaviors. However, results also indicated that relational narcissism was negatively associated with relationship length. Therefore, the current findings may only explain the effect of these relationship characteristics (i.e., satisfaction and commitment) at the beginning of the narcissist's relationships. Findings are discussed with regard to relational and theoretical/empirical implications, along with suggestions for future research.
Relational Inqueery: Queer Theory and Relationship Research

Derek Bolen (Wayne State University)

The field of personal relationship studies is dominated by post-positive and post-positive-oriented research perspectives. While the result may be a wide variety of approaches and theories, the overall body of extant research remains methodologically homogeneous and heteronormative. Research of this nature reifies erasure of non-normative relationships in relationship studies while subjugating such relationships as “understudied” or “inappropriate.” This ultimately positions non-normative or queer relationships as not normal and therefore inferior to normative relationships. Queer relationships are relationships that defy the dominant mode of heteronormative or homonormative relating (i.e., not all same-sex relationships are queer, not all queer relationships are same-sex). The current paper works to queer the study of personal relationships by critiquing the oft-accepted modes of operation through reviewing and re-imagining the impact and limitations of the dominant paradigm in relational understandings and inquiry. A queer treatment is applied to existing relationship research constructs creating a space for queer relationships. The critique extends beyond the dominant paradigm of relationship research to the dominant mode of relating. Methods of relational inqueery are forwarded in the hope of creating new ways to talk about relationships in order to promote new relational futures.

When Does Disbelief in Free Will Promote Extradyadic Sexuality?

Caitlin Duffy (Northwestern University)
Eli Finkel (Northwestern University)

One laboratory study and one online study examined the combined influence of relationship commitment, ambiguity of relationship threat, and belief in free will on tendencies toward extradyadic sexuality. These data allowed for tests of the hypothesis that tendencies toward extradyadic sexuality are especially strong when three conditions are met: (a) people are moderate (vs. high) in relationship commitment, (b) relationship threat is subtle (vs. blatant), and (c) people disbelieve (vs. believe) in free will. In both studies, romantically involved participants who were either highly or moderately committed to their relationship experienced either a determinism or a free will belief prime before imagining a hypothetical encounter with either an attractive alternative partner who either was or was not sexually assertive (relationship threat ambiguity manipulation). In both studies, highly committed individuals reliably exhibited minimal inclinations toward extradyadic sexuality, but moderately committed individuals exhibited relatively strong inclinations when (a) the alternative was not sexually assertive (subtle relationship threat) and (b) participants had experienced the determinism prime. These results suggest that relationship-specific macromotives interact with both situational cues of relationship threat and primed determinism beliefs to predict tendencies toward extradyadic sexuality.

An Exploratory Analysis of Repairing Processes of Close Relationships of Japanese Undergraduates: How Their Closeness Recovered and When?

Masahiro Masuda (Kochi University)

The present exploratory research is aimed at uncovering typical trajectories of relationship repair of close relationships. An open-end questionnaire was constructed and administered in a university in western Japan. Forty-eight (13 male and 35 female, 18-23 year-old) Japanese undergraduate students agreed to fill out the form asking them to recall a real-life experience of successful or unsuccessful repair of a close
relationship and draw a chronological line chart representing its ebb and flow. Participants were also requested to indicate turning points in their repairing process and make accounts of each point, which were inductively analyzed for classification. The majority of the participants referred to their success in relationship repair, that is, maintenance and reestablishment of their relationship with a same-sex friend their age. On the other hand, although the number was small, some other reported exemplary of various repair such as repair of relationships with a romantic partner or a family member, or unsuccessful repair. Most frequently reported were repair of temporary breakdown during short-term periods within two months. Some of such cases did not contain substantial amounts of accounts of changes in closeness; however, participants briefly noted that they took advantage of an opportunity for reunion with their partner shortly after the turning point indicating the least intimacy. In terms of long-term repairing processes presented by other participants, dialectical tension between separation and connectedness was described. Further analysis compares and contrasts those relationships that successfully improved their relationship quality by getting through relationship repair, with those did not.

**Daily Rumination: Short and Long-term Effects in Couples**

Andrea B. Horn (University of Zuerich)
Anik Debrot (University of Zuerich)
Meinrad Perrez (University of Zuerich)

Rumination can be seen as an avoidant emotion regulation strategy and is a risk factor for depression. Not much is known about episodes of rumination in daily life and its impact on the romantic relationships. In this study we investigated rumination in everyday life and its associations with momentary affect of the ruminating individual and the romantic partner as well as longterm effects on depressive symptoms of both. 102 young couples reported in a computer-assisted ambulatory assessment framework 4 times a day during one week their momentary affect and feelings of intimacy towards the partner and, whether they had been ruminating in the last 4 hours. Furthermore, they reported depressive symptoms at the beginning of the assessment week as well as 6 months later. Multilevel APIMs reveal associations of daily rumination with current negative affect in the actor even if controlled for prior affect, but not with momentary affect one assessment point later. Female rumination shows a significant partner effect on male current affect. However, this association disappears if controlled for intimacy. Habitual daily rumination is associated with depressive symptoms not only in the actor but again there are partner effects of female rumination on male depression. On the long-term there is a partner effect of male depression on female depression 6 months later. The results show that interpersonal emotion regulation strategies have immediate and indirect longterm effect also on the partner’s affective life and suggest that this might be due to changes in momentary relationship quality.

**Support Visibility and Relatedness in Friendships: A Socio-Cultural Perspective.**

Katie D. Garner (University of Houston)
Linda K. Acitelli (University of Houston)

There are known benefits of receiving social support, but such support has also been shown to produce negative effects. Invisible support has been introduced (e.g., Bolger, Zuckerman, & Kessler, 2000) to resolve these conflicting findings. Invisible support is argued as a type of social support that buffers against the negative effects of visible support; however, recent research on the visibility of support and its positive and maladaptive effects is conflicting. The current study, an extension of past research on the benefits of invisible support (Bolger & Amarel, 2007), provides another effort to manipulate the visibility of support and suggests a new perspective. Caucasian (n=21) and non-Caucasian (n=33) undergraduate students participated in an experimental manipulation of support visibility with their friends. A two-way
between groups analysis of variance was conducted to explore the impact of support visibility and ethnicity on levels of relatedness in friendships. Relatedness, a term derived from basic needs theory, is defined as the desire to be connected to and care for others. Results revealed an interaction between support visibility and ethnicity in predicting relatedness. This interaction suggests that receiving overt support may reduce relatedness in non-Caucasians while increasing relatedness in Caucasians. This finding is contrary to previous arguments for invisible support as the key to unlocking the incongruity within the social support literature. Interestingly, cultural background may moderate the effects of invisible support on relationship outcomes. Reasons for the findings are discussed with a focus on individual cultural differences in collectivism/individualism orientation.

Much Ado about Money: Parent and Child Reports of Parent Financial (Non) Disclosure

Lynsey Kluever Romo (University of Texas at Austin)

Children primarily learn about money and finances from their parents. As this knowledge is critical for financial stability, parent-child communication about money matters is important to study. Previous separate investigations have examined parent reports of financial communication as well as children’s perceptions, but because family members often view their communication differently, examining the accounts of both members of the parent-child dyad could provide a divergent and telling portrayal of family financial communication. Framed by Communication Privacy Management theory, the present study examined reports of financial communication by parents and children in 27 dyads (children’s ages ranged from 8-17 years; \( M = 10.5 \)). Specifically, parents were asked what financial topics they disclosed to their children or kept secret and what motivated these (non) disclosures. Children were questioned about the money matters they perceived their parents revealed and/or concealed and why. Although parents and their children reported several financial topics that parents had revealed and/or concealed and offered reasons for the (non) disclosures, these matters and motivations did not always align. Indeed, the findings indicate several inconsistencies between dyad members’ accounts of financial communication. An understanding of the similarities and differences with respect to parent-child perceptions of their financial communication could help shed light on children’s financial knowledge and the extent to which children become co-owners of the information their parents reveal. Additionally, the degree to which children are aware of their parents’ (non) disclosure motivations as well as the permeability of the boundaries parents enact around financial information could be elucidated.
Poster Session 5

Saturday, 3:45 – 5:00 (Palmer House)

Friends and Health: Relationship Characteristics, Shared Health Behaviors, and Influence in Emerging Adults’ Friendships

Elizabeth Lozano (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth)
Mahzad Hojjat (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth)
Brian Ayotte (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth)
Clare Mehta (Emmanuel College)

The impact of friends on young individuals’ risky behaviors such as smoking (Phua, 2011) is well documented. Lesser known is the association between peer influence and positive behaviors. The goal of the present study was to examine the relationship between friendship characteristics and health-related behaviors/cognitions in the context of friendships. Participants were 166 emerging adults (56% female) between the ages of 18 and 26. Participants completed measures assessing: (a) friendship characteristics (e.g. length of friendship, shared activities, and closeness), (b) perceived influence on friend’s health (e.g., how much influence do you think you have on your friend’s dietary behavior?), (c) perceived influence of friend on their own health (e.g., does your friend try to influence what you eat?), (d) comfort discussing health issues with friends, and (e) shared health behaviors (e.g., how often do you exercise with friend?). A hierarchical multiple regression indicated that sex moderated the association between friendship characteristics and health behaviors/cognitions. For females, but not males, the more activities that friends did together the more comfortable they felt discussing health issues. Also, more shared activities were related to increased perceived mutual influence between female friends. However, closeness of friendship was positively related to shared health behaviors for both sexes. These findings suggest that health-related interventions targeting social networks should account for the sex of the participants as well as relationship characteristics.

Sexual Attitude Similarity and Respect for Partner in Dating Relationships

Vanessa Coca-Lyle (Texas Tech University)
Susan Hendrick (Texas Tech University)
Clyde Hendrick (Texas Tech University)
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Relationship satisfaction is important in romantic relationships. Poor relationship functioning has been linked to numerous psychological and physiological problems (e.g. Kiecolt-Glaser et al., 1993; Whisman & Uebelacker, 2006). Respect for partner is highly correlated with relationship satisfaction and is becoming an important avenue of study in close relationship research (Hendrick & Hendrick, 2006). Attitude similarity, part of close relationship research for decades, is also important in relationships. Building on previous research, such as Cupach and Metts’ (1995) study of sexual attitude similarity and Chen and Kenrick’s (2002) findings concerning assumed similarity, the current research incorporated constructs such as respect for partner to broaden the lens through which partners’ sexual communication is viewed. The present study involved 39 dating couples at a large southwestern university. Each partner rated her or his romantic relationship on measures of relationship satisfaction, respect for partner, sexual communication, and the participant’s personal attitudes toward sex. Along with additional analyses, two sets of 2 x 2 ANOVAs examining the effects of sexual communication and sexual attitude similarity on both partner respect and relationship satisfaction were performed. For couples, significant main effects
were found for partner respect with both sexual attitude similarity \((F(1, 35) = 4.90, p < .05)\) and sexual communication \((F(1, 35) = 5.12, p < .05)\). Similar significant patterns were also found for relationship satisfaction. The implications and importance of these and related findings will be discussed in depth.

**Facebook Networks and Local Population Parameters**

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Kristin Mickelson (Kent State University)
Michal Kosinski (University of Cambridge)
David Stillwell (University of Cambridge)

Existing research indicates that interpersonal connections on social network services (SNS) – e.g., Facebook “friends” – are generally representations of users’ offline relationships, which are often restricted by geography. However, the international reach of Facebook allows its users to interact with individuals regardless of where they live. It is therefore unclear whether or not characteristics of where a person lives affect the composition of their Facebook network. Although it seems likely that people residing in less densely-populated areas have smaller online social networks because they have real-world contact with fewer people, it may be that Facebook users in these areas expand the size of their networks by connecting with geographically distant individuals with whom they would normally have very little contact. The present study is a preliminary examination of how population and population density affect Facebook users’ social networks in terms of size and density (how interconnected their network is), using a large dataset (N=9,560). Results indicate that while raw population size is not associated with egocentric Facebook network size or density, population density is significantly correlated with Facebook network size, although the effect size of this relationship is small. These findings suggest that while local characteristics play a small role in determining an individual’s online social network structure, Facebook users may attempt to expand their networks beyond the people with whom they have interactions on a regular basis, or that other factors such as personality guide the size of Facebook networks, irrespective of how densely populated a person’s locale may be.

**Sexual Sex-Role Stereotypes:**

**An Exploration of Stereotypic Beliefs Regarding Sexual Attitudes, Values, and Behaviors**

Gregory Morrow (Edinboro University of Pennsylvania)
Susan Boon (The University of Calgary)

The purpose of this study was to explore sex-role stereotypes of sexual attitudes, values, and behaviours among North American college students. Participants (680 undergraduates) judged the extent to which 66 statements concerning sexual attitudes, values, and behaviours were characteristic of one of four targets: a masculine male, masculine female, feminine male, or feminine female. A series of 2 (Target Sex) X 2 (Target Sex Role) X 2 (Participant Sex) ANOVAs performed on the three factors that emerged in analysis of participants’ judgments revealed that beliefs concerning the degree to which sexual desire, discomfort with sexual activity, and homosexuality/comfort with homosexuality were considered typical of a target varied with the target’s sex and sex role (the effects of participant sex were largely nonsignificant). Participants rated sexual desire more characteristic of masculine than feminine targets with the difference particularly pronounced for ratings of male targets. In contrast, they rated discomfort with sexual activity more typical of feminine than masculine targets, with the difference particularly pronounced for female targets. Finally, they rated homosexuality/comfort with homosexuality more typical of feminine than masculine males and more typical of masculine than feminine females, again with the discrepancy
greatest for ratings of males. Explanations for these differences and possible implications will be discussed.

Predictors of the Transition from Initial Attraction to Relationship Initiation: A Theoretical Analysis

Marie Chelberg (Stony Brook University)
Arthur Aron (Stony Brook University)

Relationship initiation is typically a process that encompasses becoming attracted to someone, deciding a relationship with this person would be desirable, engaging in behaviors to begin a relationship, and the desired partner reciprocating. Although initiation is a crucial stage in relationship development, most relationship research has focused either on initial attraction or on processes that occur once a relationship has been established, leaving the intermediary step almost entirely unstudied. Indeed, we have not been able to locate a single study directly addressing the factors involved in whether or not an initial attraction develops into a relationship. Here, we apply existing theory and extrapolate from indirectly relevant research, in order to propose a model of how this process may operate. Specifically, based on aspects of three major theoretical models (interdependence, attachment, and self-expansion), we propose a model of the ways and the degree to which established predictors of initial attraction, “falling in love”, and mate choice lead to the decision to act on an initial attraction, as well as the likelihood of that decision’s success. These factors include physical attractiveness, earning potential, similarity, familiarity, perceived reciprocal liking, own and potential partner’s perceived mate value, own and potential partner’s readiness and interest in entering into a relationship, and social network support. An analysis of these predictors would be an important step towards improving our understanding of relationship development.

Attachment Styles and Power in Couples

Sofia Rivera Aragon (National Autonomous University of Mexico)
Rolando Diaz-Loving (National Autonomous University of Mexico)
Nancy Montero-Santamaria (National Autonomous University of Mexico)
Ana Maria Verde-Martinez (National Autonomous University of Mexico)
Paula Alejandra Rodriguez-Nogales (National Autonomous University of Mexico)

In the personal relationships research there is substantial evidence that positive attachment styles give couple relationships better more stable and satisfying interactions (Mikulincer & Goodman, 2006). In other studies it is reported that attachment is a predictor of personal schemas, romantic relationship quality, sexual motivation, and reactions towards rupture and loss (Gillath & Shaver, 2007; Mikulincer & Shaver, 2007). Attachment styles also impact attitudes, emotions and behavioral strategies in couples (Gillath & Shaver, 2007). Given the pattern, in order to study the effects of attachment on Mexican couple relationships, 400 volunteers, responded to a Spanish version of the ECR (Experiences in Close Relationships: Adult Attachment Questionnaire) validated by Arbiol, Balluerka y Shaver (2007) and the power styles scale (Rivera & Díaz Loving, 2002). Results indicate that both males and females with an avoidant attachment use negative power styles. However, there are marked differences for the anxious attachment; males show a strong tendency towards negative expressive styles, while females show a mixture of instrumental negative styles and passive negative strategies such as submission. Data are discussed in terms of gender attributes and their relationship to cultural trends in power use.
From Connection to Coercion: Development and Validation of the Roles of Sex Inventory (RoSI)

Amanda Shaw (University of Rochester)
Ronald Rogge (University of Rochester)

Although physical intimacy is one of the defining factors that distinguishes romantic relationships from close friendships, there has been a relative paucity of research examining the roles that sexual behavior plays in relationships. To address this, the current study sought to develop a multidimensional inventory assessing the roles of sex. A pool of 115 items was generated from over 3000 open-ended responses in a preliminary survey of 380 respondents. Those items were then given to over 4,000 online respondents. Exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses revealed 8 main ways that people used sex: 1) to control their partners, 2) to bond with their partners, 3) to ease tension, 4) to add excitement to the relationship, 5) as an incentive to get something, 6) to lash out at their partners, 7) to understand each other better, 8) to trap a partner in the relationship. Item Response Theory (IRT) analyses were then used to identify the most effective set of items for assessing each dimension. The new subscales demonstrated meaningful patterns of association with a set of anchor scales from the literature: relationship satisfaction, sexual satisfaction, sexual behavior, affectionate behavior, and with the costs and benefits of sex, suggesting that they represented distinct constructs. These new scales also demonstrated unique predictive variance across 1 and 2-month follow up assessments for those anchor scales, suggesting their importance in understanding change in relationships over time. Implications will be discussed.

Recovery from Conflict: Attachment Security and Couples' Attempts to Reconcile

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Marissa Pullum (The University of Texas at Dallas)
Forouz Shirvani (The University of Texas at Dallas)
Karen Prager (The University of Texas at Dallas)

To sustain intimacy and satisfaction through many disagreements, a couple must re-establish their intimate bond after a conflict. Research shows that attachment security eases couples’ recovery from conflict (Sullivan et al, 2011). Possibly, attachment security affects intimacy by interacting with couples’ reconciliation efforts, with more effective efforts softening the negative effects of attachment insecurity. We examined the moderation effects of two reconciliation strategies—compromising and apologizing—on the relationship between partners’ attachment security and their post-conflict intimate relating. We tested 100 cohabiting couples who kept 21-day diaries about their interactions, and tested for connections between compromising and apologizing after conflict, partners’ attachment avoidance or anxiety, and recovery of intimate relating after conflict. Poor recovery was operationalized as intimate relating that was less than normal on the day after conflict. We found some evidence of “softening effects” from reconciliation strategies. Recovery of intimate relating was better for avoidant husbands who were willing to apologize than it was for other avoidant husbands. Further, anxious-attached wives were more disclosing following conflict if their husbands had apologized. There were also “canceling out” effects, however, when insecure attachment resulted in less post-conflict intimacy despite partners’ attempts to reconcile. Anxiously attached husbands who apologized were less self-disclosing following conflict. Also, anxiously attached husbands and their wives, when either compromised, were less likely to have sexual contact following conflict. Overall, reconciling behavior enhanced post-conflict intimacy. Both husbands and wives experienced better recoveries if their partners compromised during conflict.
Chronic Stress and Capitalization: The Moderating Role of Forgiveness

Jill Logan (Simon Fraser University)
Kristy Tymos (Vancouver Island University)
Rebecca Cobb (Simon Fraser University)

Individuals who disclose good news to their partners and perceive an enthusiastic partner response (i.e., capitalization) report greater relationship satisfaction and stability (Gable et al., 2004). Although there are clear benefits to engaging in capitalization and perceiving positive partner responses, little research has examined possible predictors of positive capitalization experiences. We hypothesized that greater chronic stress and a tendency towards nonforgiveness would independently predict less positive capitalization perceptions. We also predicted that forgiveness would moderate the strength of the association between chronic stress and capitalization. Participants (n = 136) in ongoing romantic relationships completed online measures of forgiveness (McCullough et al., 1997), chronic stress (Hammen et al., 1987), and capitalization perceptions (Gable et al., 2004). Regression analyses indicated that greater chronic stress (β = -0.27, p < .01) and less forgiveness (β = -0.19, p < .01) predicted more negative capitalization perceptions. Results also indicated a significant interaction between forgiveness and chronic stress such that less forgiveness was associated with a stronger negative association between chronic stress and capitalization perceptions. Thus, it may be the case that stressed partners who harbor grudges and ill feelings towards their partner may be more sensitive to negative or ambiguous partner behavior, thereby leading to less positive evaluations of partner reactions to capitalization attempts. These results highlight how intrapersonal experiences and dynamics (e.g., chronic stress and forgiveness) contribute to individuals’ perceptions of their partners, which may in turn influence individuals’ ability to benefit from the capitalization process.

The Effects of Priming Attachment Security on Depressed Mood

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Evidence suggests that it is possible to temporarily induce a sense of attachment security in experimental settings (e.g., Rowe & Carnelley, 2003) and that the effects of doing so can be relatively long lasting (e.g., Carnelley & Rowe, 2007). On the basis of research findings reporting an association between attachment insecurity and depression (e.g., Cyranowski, Bookwala, & Feske, 2002), the aim of our research was to explore the effects of attachment security priming on depressed mood. In Study 1 participants (N = 105) were allocated to either a secure, avoidant or anxious prime condition online. Participants primed with attachment security reported less depressed mood than those primed with avoidance. We suggest that the temporary feelings of loneliness and low satisfaction within relationships activated by the avoidant prime might have mediated the relationship between primed attachment avoidance and depression. Those primed with attachment anxiety reported similar levels of depression to those primed with attachment security, perhaps due to the temporary activation of relational ambivalence associated with attachment anxiety (Mikulincer, Shaver, Bar-On, & Ein-Dor, 2001). In Study 2, participants (N= 180) were primed with either a secure, avoidant or anxious attachment prime or a neutral prime. Preliminary results show that participants primed with insecure attachment styles report higher depressed mood than those primed with secure and neutral primes. We are planning to conduct a follow up study to explore whether repeated security priming (versus repeated neutral priming) in the lab and via text messages can decrease depressed mood over time.
Transference in Everyday Life:
Roommate Closeness as a Function of Resemblance to a Loved One

Elizabeth Przybylinski (New York University)
Nikolas Block (New York University)
Patrick Shrout (New York University)

Research on the social-cognitive process of transference and the relational self has shown that when an individual meets someone new who resembles a significant person in his/her life, the significant-other representation in memory is activated and applied to the new person (Andersen & Chen, 2002). Accordingly, the individual then infers that the new person has characteristics of the significant other, likes (or dislikes) the new person in a similar way, and behaves toward the new person in a manner specific to the prior relationship. Although considerable research has tracked the process and its consequences in the lab, little work has explored the real-world implications of this phenomenon. Over the course of an academic semester, we tracked self-reported relationship closeness of 142 first-year college roommates as a function of how much the roommate resembled a positive significant other from an individual’s life. Results indicated that greater self-reported significant-other resemblance in a roommate predicted more closeness with this roommate over time. These results held over and above the predictive value of one's more general attachment style and point to the significance of transference in everyday life. In particular, resemblance to a significant other has important implications for how new relationships develop.

Attachment Style, Attributions, and Recovery from Conflict in Couples

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Karen Prager (University of Texas at Dallas)

This study examines how couples recover from conflict by comparing relationship satisfaction on days when partners report having a conflict with satisfaction for the day after conflict and for days when no conflict was reported. Differences in conflict recovery are further explained through differences in attachment style and individual attributions about each conflict. Both variables have been associated to relationship satisfaction, but less is known about their relation to recovery from conflict. Additionally, looking at recovery from conflict across days gave us the opportunity of studying conflict and recovery as it unfolds in its natural setting, in contrast to previous laboratory studies that only looked at recovery a few minutes after conflict. We tested our hypotheses with HLM. Results showed that, compared to other days, on conflict days there was a reduction in relationship satisfaction for men and women. There was also a reduction in satisfaction for the day after conflict for women. Additionally, the more conflicts women experienced during the 21 days of the study, the less satisfied they were with their relationships. Women with a tendency to make negative attributions of causality or responsibility experienced drops in satisfaction on days of conflict. On the day after conflict, anxiously attached women and women with a tendency to make negative responsibility attributions showed decreases in satisfaction, indicating less recovery from conflict. These effects were found even when accounting for the global reduction in satisfaction experienced by anxiously attached women.
Prototypic Interpersonal Coping and Relationship Quality among Romantic Couples: An APIM Analysis

Chong-Man Chow (University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh)
Duane Buhrmester (Deceased)

The current research introduced the prototypic interpersonal coping framework to conceptualize and measure three typical patterns in which people involve, or avoid the involvement of, their romantic partners when coping with non-relational stress: dismissive, adaptive, and ruminative patterns. The dismissive prototype involves individuals’ tendencies to be compulsively self-reliant and to actively avoid the involvement of their partners when faced with stress. The adaptive prototype involves individuals’ tendencies to use problem-focused coping strategies and seek comfort and support from their partners, but to also retain a sense of autonomy and self-efficacy. Finally, the ruminative prototype involves individuals’ tendencies to use emotion-focused coping (e.g., rumination) and to seek excessive reassurance from their partners. In this research, we focused on examining the effects of these prototypes of interpersonal coping behaviors on romantic couples’ relationship quality. Data from 113 couples were analyzed with Kenny’s (1996) Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (APIM). The actor effects suggested that individuals’ dismissive coping was related to lower relationship closeness but higher discord. In contrast, individuals’ adaptive coping was related to greater relationship closeness but lower discord. Ruminative coping, however, was related to greater relationship discord. Most importantly, the partner effects suggested that individuals’ dismissive coping was related to their partner’s lower relationship closeness but higher discord. Individuals’ adaptive coping was related to their partner’s greater relationship closeness. Finally, individuals’ ruminative coping was related to greater partner’s relationship discord. Taken together, how individuals communicate stress with their partner is systematically related to their own and partner’s perceptions of relationship quality.

Obsessive Thoughts in Romantic Relationships

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Taylor Klein (Western Washington University)
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The experience of obsessive thoughts in romantic relationships has been highlighted with recent neuroimaging (Acevedo et al., 2008; Xu et al., in press) and meta-analytic research (Graham, 2011). Obsessive thoughts of one’s romantic partner are associated with early stage romantic relationships, and may be related to poor relationship quality. The present studies seek to explore the function and role of obsessive thoughts in romantic relationships. In Study 1, 195 participants completed self-report measures of adult attachment security, romantic jealousy, relationship satisfaction, love, and romantic obsession. The results suggest that romantic obsession can be measured reliably as a construct distinct from passionate love. Romantic obsession was related to insecure attachment styles, jealousy, and early-stage relationships. While obsession was unrelated to relationship satisfaction when considered alone, it acted as a suppressor variable when entered with the other variables in a multiple regression analysis. This suggests that the portions of jealousy and attachment that predict relationship quality are unrelated to obsession. In Study 2, we randomly assigned participants to think and write about a positive, negative, or neutral event in their romantic relationship. Following a distracter task, participants were asked to rate the frequency and content of intrusive thoughts about their romantic partner during the distracter. The results
suggest that while obsession is common in early-stage romantic relationships, the content of the obsessive thoughts is important in determining relationship outcomes.

Communal Shifts in Mate Preferences over the Lifespan and Across Cultures

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Decades of research on romantic attraction have led to many insights about what makes people desirable as partners. However, this area of work has focused primarily on the preferences of only college-aged individuals; there is an amazing paucity of research on how mate preferences change over the course of the lifespan. Our goal in the current study was to delve deeper into the nature of attraction by considering how age plays a role in who people find desirable. Importantly, we also examined the generality of these patterns from a cross-cultural perspective. Participants completed an online questionnaire pertaining to their age, country of residence, preferences in mates, and personality. Next, they rated the attractiveness of 98 photographs. Using the photo ratings, we adopted a revealed preferences methodology to measure attraction. In short, participant ratings of photographs were correlated with ratings of various physical and psychological features of the photographs that were obtained independently by the researchers. The findings of this study demonstrated that people at older ages show increased attraction to people who display communal characteristics, and that this pattern exists fairly consistently across the world. Observing these preference shifts across the globe gives good evidence that such proclivities are beneficial and adaptive, and are robust against varying cultural conditions.

Two Ways to Understand Non-Verbal Communication in Romantic Relationships

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Since the 90's research in the area of interpersonal communication increased. However, the importance of nonverbal communication has been highlighted (Guerrero, Andersen & Afifi, 2007) particularly in the context of romantic relationships. Since the accuracy in decoding nonverbal messages is more important than the verbal message encoding (Gottman & Porterfield, 1981; Noller, 1992), two scales were developed and validated for Mexican couples (Miranda- Hernandez, 2012). The first scale operationally defines nonverbal communication channels that assess the perception of a partner over the other in terms of body language. It contains –after a validation process- 38 Likert-type items with a Cronbach’s Alpha of .88. The second scale, measures participant’s interpretation about the attitudes and communication behaviors of his/her partner. It comprises 41 Likert-type items with a Cronbach’s Alpha of .92. Based on this, the purpose of this study was to explore the association between the perception and interpretation non-verbal communication in 367 Mexican participants with a current romantic relationship. Findings reveal that to the extent in which one partner is perceived as in a negative-distant stance, bothered, nervous, unselfish and of visual evasion, reduces the transference of interest and trust, intimacy and communication balance and increases appreciation of avoidance, anger and alienation. In addition, to the extent that the person is perceived to use more direct eye contact tends to communicate more interest, trust, intimacy and balance and less avoidance, anger and alienation.
Hand in Hand. Psychological Intervention for Women Newly Diagnosed with Cancer and their Partners. A Randomized Controlled Trial

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Christoffer Johansen (Unit of Survivorship, Danish Cancer Society, Research Center)

A diagnosis of breast cancer affects both the patient and her partner. Partners can be a great resource and provide emotional and practical support during treatment and in the rehabilitation process. However, it can be difficult for the patient to express her needs. For the partner it may be challenging to support her while at the same time having needs of his own. This RCT evaluates whether a psychological intervention can enhance well-being in couples dealing with breast cancer. A total of 220 women recently diagnosed with breast cancer and their partners will be randomised to the intervention group or the control group that receives current hospital practice. Couples are recruited at two departments of breast surgery in Denmark. The inclusion criteria are women newly diagnosed with breast cancer, having a cohabiting partner and no former history of cancer. The intervention is based on attachment theory (Bowlby; Ainsworth) and consists of six to eight couple sessions. An experienced psychologist conducts the sessions one to five months after the breast cancer diagnosis. The intervention advises and supports the couples to talk about and respect each other’s feelings regarding their new life situation with cancer. It will support the couple in strengthening an emotional bond. Data will be obtained by questionnaires for both patients and partners at baseline, 2 weeks post-intervention and 10 months follow-up. The study is currently recruiting couples. Enrollment is expected to last until July 2012. Study design and participation rate will be presented.

Reluctance to Communicate Concern about Eating Disorders in Emerging Adult Relationships

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Amanda Jablon (University of Connecticut)
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Amy Hecht (University of Connecticut)

Despite increased notoriety in the popular media, emerging adults struggle with eating disorders every day. Part of this struggle may arise from a lack of social support, as peers may be unsure of how to manage a conversation regarding EDs. This study looked at reluctance to communicate eating disorder concerns with regards to intimacy levels in emerging adult relationships, expecting to find a positive correlation between relational closeness and likelihood to communicate, and offering reasons to change their behavior as a communication tactic. After being administered a questionnaire concerning intimacy levels in a peer relationship, participants were randomly assigned to one of three conditions, based on the clarity of symptoms in a scenario depicting an ED. The participants read five scenarios of the same friend displaying symptoms from different EDs, and were asked about their likelihood to communicate and indicate what they might say. Results suggested that regardless of condition, higher levels of intimacy
were associated with less apprehension to communicate. Additionally, participants were most likely to offer reasons to change as a communication tactic. This may be because the closer two people are in a relationship, the more significant reasons they are able to offer to change, and the more likely they are to feel it is their place to communicate. However, this implies that young adults without many close relationships are particularly vulnerable to untreated eating disorders, and further tactics ought to be identified to motivate those with moderate intimacy levels to communicate.

Examining Differences in the Value Systems and Work-Family Conflict among Employed Spouses in Croatia

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Jelena Milakovic (Elementary School 'Zupa Dubrovacka')
Antonia Salvesani (Elementary School 'Policnik')

The roles that an individual performs throughout his life are not always equal, nor equally important. They vary depending on the period of life and one or two roles are highlighted, usually those related to work and family. Given that values affect the individual's choice of careers and to some point, of the family context, and that the influence may also be vice versa, the goal of this study was to determine any differences between spouses in the level of perceived work-family conflict and their value systems when both are employed. The research was conducted on 176 couples in cities in Croatia: Sibenik, Split, Zadar, and Osijek, and in Mostar (a city in Bosnia & Herzegovina). Questionnaires were distributed to respondents who met the conditions of being employed and having children. The results indicate similar value systems for spouses, with the most important being health, parenting, marital and family relationships, and solid friendships. This similarity is probably a result of their common life and belonging to the same culture where it has already been shown that health, family, and marriage are most valued. There were no obtained differences between spouses in the perception of work-family conflict. This suggests that differences in the size of the perceived conflict are not primarily related to gender, but to the different attribution of the importance of work and family roles.

Parenting Perfectionism and New Parents’ Well-Being across the Transition to Parenthood

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Sarah Schoppe-Sullivan (Ohio State University)
Claire Kamp Dush (Ohio State University)

Parenting Perfectionism is the degree to which an individual strives to reach excessively high standards for parenting. We examined how parenting perfectionism may impact new parents’ well-being, as measured by parenting self-efficacy, parenting stress, and parenting hassles, using three dimensions of parenting perfectionism: self-oriented, or personal standards for perfection, societal-oriented, or perceptions of societal expectations for perfection, and partner-oriented, or excessively high expectations for one’s partner’s parenting. Data were collected from 182 heterosexual expectant couples at four time points: the third trimester of pregnancy and 3, 6 and 9 months postpartum. Latent growth curve modeling in AMOS 19.0 was used to examine how parenting perfectionism, measured in the third trimester, was associated with initial levels of (intercepts) and change in (slopes) aspects of parents’ well-being across the transition to parenthood. Data from both partners were included together in the models because of partners’ interdependence. Self-oriented and societal-oriented parenting perfectionism were estimated as predictors of individuals’ well-being, whereas partner-oriented parenting perfectionism was estimated as a predictor of the partner’s well-being. Preliminary results indicated that fathers with higher levels of self-oriented parenting perfectionism perceived initially lower levels of daily hassles in parenting, but
perceived an increase in hassles from 3 to 9 months postpartum. When fathers had higher levels of self-oriented parenting perfectionism and mothers had greater partner-oriented parenting perfectionism, fathers had higher initial levels of parenting self-efficacy but experienced greater declines in self-efficacy over time. The mixed impact of perfectionism on new fathers’ well-being will be discussed.

Attachment-Related Differences in Emotional and Neuroendocrine Responses to Intimacy

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Robin Edelstein (University of Michigan)
Sari van Anders (University of Michigan)
William Chopik (University of Michigan)
Katherine Goldey (University of Michigan)

Intimacy is thought to be a central component of highly rewarding and enduring relationships, and there is growing evidence that the experience of intimacy has important physiological correlates and consequences. In the current research, we assessed “real-world” intimate interactions to better understand whether and how individual differences in adult attachment influence emotional and neuroendocrine responses to intimacy. Forty couples completed a laboratory session to assess baseline hormone levels and attachment orientations. They then engaged in three at-home activities varying in the degree and nature of intimacy: cuddling, conversation, and time together (without physical contact or communication). Activities were completed in a random order over approximately one week. Before and after each activity, participants reported their current mood and provided saliva samples that were used to assess hormones. Participants also reported their feelings about each activity. We found that cuddling increased positive mood and feelings of closeness; however, these changes were attenuated among women partnered with avoidant men. Avoidant men and men partnered with anxious women also reported less enjoyment of cuddling. Among women, pre- to post-cuddling increases in closeness were associated with decreases in testosterone, a hormone that is negatively associated with pair-bonding. Controlling for changes in closeness, avoidant women showed post-cuddling increases in testosterone. Our findings provide “real-world” experimental evidence that intimacy has positive implications for emotion and physiology in close relationships, but these effects are moderated by individual differences in attachment. More generally, these findings provide critical and novel insight into the neuroendocrinology of intimacy in romantic relationships.

Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Sensitivities in Committed Relationships

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Reuma Gadassi (Psychology Department, Bar Ilan University)
Eshkol Rafaeli (Psychology Department, Bar Ilan University)

We examine the link between emotional complexity (affective synchrony and emotional differentiation) and empathic accuracy (EA) within intimate relationships. Emotional complexity (i.e., intra-personal sensitivity) is the ability to distinguish between and within different mood states. EA (i.e., inter-personal sensitivity) is the ability to infer others' thoughts and feelings (Ickes, 1993). Previous studies have shown that intra-personal sensitivity is beneficial to one’s self, but the associations of intra-personal sensitivity with inter-personal sensitivity have not been explored. Forty-four heterosexual couples completed a daily-diary procedure which yielded indices of affective synchrony, differentiation, and EA. Additionally, couples participated in a lab procedure to further assess EA in a second, established, way. We expected the emotional complexity of both partners to influence EA. The findings revealed that female perceivers’ asynchronous affective pattern and male targets’ de-synchronous affective pattern were associated with
greater perceivers' EA. Additionally, greater differentiation of the perceivers’ negative moods was associated with greater EA for both men and women. Finally, greater differentiation of targets’ negative moods was associated with greater EA for women perceivers (but not for men). Whereas the differentiation of negative moods have a clear association with inter-personal sensitivity, the differentiation of positive moods does not. This suggests that differentiation of negative moods and differentiation of positive moods have distinct roles not only intra-personally, as previously found, but also inter-personally. Our findings also show that intra-personal sensitivity is more strongly associated with inter-personal sensitivity among women than among men.

Coping Processes as Mediators of Parent-Child Interactions and Romantic Relationship Outcomes

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Lorey Wheeler (Arizona State University)
Nancy Gonzales (Arizona State University)
Larry Dumka (Arizona State University)

The quality of parent-adolescent relationships has been found to be important for adolescents’ developing romantic relationships. Yet, there is little research that has explored the mechanisms that account for this association. Thus, the goal of this study was to investigate the mediational role of coping efficacy on the link between parent-adolescent interactions and adolescents’ romantic relationship outcomes. The study was informed by Conger’s DEARR model that purports that individuals’ characteristics acquired from the family of origin are later associated with young adult relationships (Bryant & Conger, 2002). Participants included 189 Mexican-origin families with adolescents (M_{age}=12.29, SD = .50; 54% female), who were in the 7th grade, from a longitudinal study investigating the efficacy of a culturally sensitive intervention program. Adolescents reported on general coping efficacy and romantic relationship outcomes (e.g., attachment, duration, and satisfaction). Parents reported on parent-adolescent conflict, consistent discipline, and harsh parenting. Highlights from preliminary findings showed that general coping efficacy meditated the association between maternal harsh parenting and three romantic relationship outcomes (e.g., attachment, satisfaction, and duration). Therefore, adolescents whose parents report low levels of harsh parenting in early adolescence are more likely to believe in their ability to cope effectively, which is linked to higher quality romantic relationships in 12th grade. The discussion will highlight the importance of investigating processes linking parent-adolescent interactions and relationship outcomes.

The Influence of Attachment Avoidance on Responses to Social Comparisons Between Romantic Partners

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Penelope Lockwood (University of Toronto)
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Jenny S.H. Kang (University of Toronto)

A growing body of literature suggests that individuals respond more positively when outperformed by their partner (an upward comparison) than when they outperform the partner (a downward comparison; e.g., Lockwood et al., 2004; Pinkus et al., 2008). In some cases, however, individuals may respond negatively to a superior partner. In two studies, we examined avoidant attachment as a moderator of social comparison outcomes: We predicted that highly avoidant individuals would respond more negative to upward than downward comparisons with their partner. More specifically, we predicted that avoidant individuals would push their partner away by distancing themselves (reducing closeness) and disengaging
from the relationship (reducing commitment). In two studies, dating undergraduate participants completed a pretest measure of attachment avoidance (Brennan, Clark, & Shaver, 1998). Participants in Study 1 were asked to recall either an upward or downward comparison with their partner. In Study 2, participants were randomly assigned to imagine an upward or downward comparison with the partner in an academic, social, or organizational domain. Participants then rated their perceived closeness to their partner and their commitment. As predicted, avoidant attachment moderated the impact of comparison type (upward or downward) on the outcome measures: More avoidant participants reported less closeness and less commitment, especially after being outperformed by their partner. Thus, not all individuals respond positively to upward comparisons with their partner; for avoidant individuals, upward comparisons may be harmful to their relationship.

A Linguistic Word Count Analysis of Unrequited Love Stories

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Words are a window to the heart and mind. The primary aim of this study was to examine the words people use to describe unrequited love experiences. We were particularly interested in how the difference of social role (i.e., would-be lover vs. rejector) affects the psychological experience of rejection. College students (n = 265) wrote an autobiographical narrative about a time when they were in the role of would-be lover (WBL, n=156) or rejector (n=109). The narratives were transcribed and analyzed using a text analysis program, Linguistic Inquiry Word Count (LIWC), that generates about 80 categories of words. Based on previous research, we limited our comparisons of WBLs and rejectors to categories about emotion, social relations, and cognitive-style words. Main findings were that WBLs used more words than rejectors about positive emotion, sadness, social process (talking), cognitive mechanisms (insight, certainty), and perceptual processes (seeing, feeling). Taken together, would-be lovers, more so than rejectors, appear to construe unrequited love with mixed emotions (i.e., hope and sadness), cognitive complexity, and perceptual depth. Rejectors, in contrast, appear to be emotionally and cognitively distancing the self from the experience. Women used more words overall than men to describe the unrequited love experience; but no gender differences were found in the use of emotion, cognitive process, or style words. Implications for the understanding of unrequited love will be discussed.

College Students' Use of Communication Technology with Parents: Links to Students' Attachment, Loneliness, and Relationship Quality with Parents

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Communication technology is beneficial to maintain important close relationships, particularly if parties are separated by distance. However, not all findings suggest that communication technology use between college students and their parents is indicative of positive adjustment or relational qualities. A study conducted in 2009 found that only 24.2% of college students used a social network site (SNS) to communicate with a parent, yet those students reported more loneliness, anxious attachment, and conflict
with their parent (Gentzler et al., 2011). In contrast, more frequent telephone communication with the parent was associated with more positive relationship qualities. Because technology and trends in use change rapidly, we investigated a cohort of college students (N=216) two years later to determine if type of communication with parents and if the links between communication technology frequency and students’ reported levels of loneliness, attachment, and relationship quality changed. Mean-level comparisons between the 2009 and 2011 samples indicated that in-person contact and phone calls did not vary across cohorts, whereas texting and SNS use with parents became more common and using e-mail with parents declined. Consistent with 2009 data, students’ phone use with parents was related to positive relationship qualities (satisfaction, intimacy, support, instrumental aid), and email was linked to aid. However, the present findings indicate students’ SNS use with parents is no longer linked to maladaptive outcomes. The study highlights how quickly the use and implications of communication technology changes, and suggests that communication patterns may reflect broader psychosocial adjustment for adolescents managing the transition to adulthood.

Self-Efficacy for Anger Control as a Mediator between Depressive Symptoms and Teen Dating Violence (TDV) Perpetration

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Dating Violence (the physical, psychological, and/or sexual abuse of an intimate partner) is prevalent among adolescents (Teen Dating Violence or TDV). One hundred and ninety participants (ages 12-17; M = 15.11, SD = 1.52) who had dated in the past year (criteria) were selected from a larger study. Participants (103 girls, 87 boys) completed paper and pencil questionnaires in a classroom environment. It was hypothesized that self-efficacy for anger control would mediate the relationship between depressive symptoms and TDV perpetration. For boys, higher scores in depressive symptoms were associated with higher scores in TDV perpetration (β = .27, p = .012) and higher scores in self-efficacy for anger control (β = .23, p = .04). The impact of depressive symptoms on TDV perpetration for was not attenuated after controlling for self-efficacy in anger control (β = .350, p < .001). For girls, higher scores in depressive symptoms were associated with higher scores in TDV perpetration (β = .38, p < .001) and lower scores in self-efficacy for anger control (β = -.34, p < .001). The impact of depressive symptoms on TDV perpetration was attenuated after controlling for self-efficacy in anger control (β = .26, p < .006). Sobel’s test of the indirect effect showed depressive symptoms partially mediated the relationship between depressive symptoms and TDV perpetration (z = 2.72, p < .05) among girls. The current study provides a mechanism to better understand TDV perpetration and may contribute to prevention/intervention efforts and program implementation/evaluation.

Space as a Desired Means of Support in Relationships: The Role of Attachment Style, Personality, Coping Techniques, and Perceived Social Support

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Balancing closeness and distance in relationships is challenging. The current study investigated dyadic support processes, and coded if individuals wanted space from their partner when distressed. Two hypotheses were tested: (1) Individuals might want space from their partner when distressed; (2) Stable
relationship-relevant person characteristics are associated with wanting space. Participants (95 heterosexual couples living together for at least six months) reported their dyadic support processes in questionnaires. The current study supported the hypotheses: One in four male partners and one in twenty female partners mentioned wanting space when distressed. Participants who wanted space were higher in dismissive attachment style (odds ratio = 1.35, \( z = 7.85, p < .01 \)), more emotionally stable (odds ratio = 2.08, \( z = 7.42, p < .01 \)), coped by suppressing their emotions (odds ratio = 1.50, \( z = 7.61, p < .01 \)), and did not desire emotional support from others (odds ratio = .63, \( z = 15.19, p < .01 \)). These individuals also perceived less available social support from their partner (odds ratio = .29, \( z = 10.83, p < .01 \)) and others (odds ratio = .48, \( z = 6.02, p < .01 \)) than those that did not seek space. These results provide new insight into the type of individual for which space is a desired means of support.

Getting Some and Giving Some: The Association between Sexual Activity and Support Provision in Romantic Relationships

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Over the past two decades, relationship research has paid much attention to social support in intimate relationships, which has been found to be a strong predictor of many important relationship outcomes (e.g., marital satisfaction and relationship stability). Most of the studies on support focused on its consequences, and only few have examined its predictors (i.e., what promotes support provision). One possible predictor is sexual activity. The present study tests the hypothesis that sexual activity promotes support provision. Forty-four cohabitating couples participated in a 3-week daily-diary study. Each day they reported sexual activity, as well as support behaviors. The diary inquired about both emotional and practical support provision and receipt. As hypothesized, we found that sexual activity predicted practical support provision by both men and women. Additionally, sexual activity predicted emotional support provision, but only by men. Finally, when looking at support across both types of support, sexual activity predicted reciprocity (i.e., days following sexual activity tended to be ones on which both partners provided support). This study is one of the first to empirically test the association between sexual activity and support provision, two fundamental aspects of intimate relationships.

Why not? Examining the Experiences of US Same-Sex Couples who Choose not to Marry

Pamela Lannutti (Boston College)

The battle for and against legal recognition for same-sex relationships in America forms a new and dynamic context for enacting relationships that may be challenging for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals and their social networks to navigate. Most same-sex couples who marry in the early period of the legal recognition of marriage in their location have been in a committed romantic relationship for a significant period of time before legal recognition was available. As such, they have already established means of communicating their commitment to each other and their social networks outside of legal relationship recognition. Thus, the decision to legally marry or not may be a complex process unique to same-sex couples. While previous research (Lannutti, 2008) has examined the attractions and obstacles to getting married reported by married and engaged same-sex couples, the decision making experience of committed same-sex couples who have the opportunity for legal relationship recognition but choose not to legally marry has not been previously examined. For this study, 37 same-sex couples (20 female-female, 17 male-male) who chose not to marry were interviewed. Data were analyzed using an inductive coding method. Results describe couples' decision making process, couples' reasons for choosing not to marry, and interactions between couples and their social
Increasing the Explanatory Power of Vested Interest by Redefining Hedonic Relevance: A Conceptual Expansion of Vested Interest Theory (VIT)

Ian Johnson (Claremont Graduate University)

Traditionally, vested interest theory has categorized individuals as highly vested only if the attitude-object was important and directly affected the person. Sivacek and Crano (1982) referred to the latter as hedonic relevance. We propose the predictive strength of vested interest theory could be increased by expanding the definition of hedonic relevance to include individuals who are both directly or indirectly affected. The proposed expansion is derived from interpersonal scholarship indicating that as interpersonal closeness increases, so does inclusion-of-the-other-in-the-self. Two experimental studies focusing on two different issues (depression and tobacco), using two different modes of data collection (pen and paper versus online surveys) indicate the proposed expansion of the definition is warranted. In study 1, a conceptual replication of Sivacek and Crano’s (1982) seminal vested interest study was conducted. The predictive power of the vested interest construct was amplified as a result of expanding the definition of hedonic relevance to include individuals indirectly affected by the attitude object. Study 2 replicated this experiment as well as empirically assessed the theoretical foundation for the proposed expansion of hedonic relevance. With external validity in mind, this study was conducting using a different sample, mode of data collection, and issue (insurance for tobacco smokers) than Study 1. We hope this expansion to hedonic relevance increases the utility of vested interest theory for scholars and practitioners.

Nursing Home Residents' Role in Establishing and Maintaining Relationships with Nurse Aides

Amanda Runyan (Wichita State University)
Louis Medvene (Wichita State University)

A growing body of literature indicates resident/aide interpersonal relationships in long-term care are an important source of resident (Bowers et al., 2001) and aide satisfaction (Mittal et al., 2009). Most recent work has been directed at seeking to identify, measure, and increase the aides’ person-centered abilities. Innovatively, the present study was intended to highlight the resident’s role in creating and maintaining relationships with primary caregivers. This study adapted two operational coding measures previously used to assess aide’s person-centered behaviors, the Person-Centered Caregiving Behavioral Inventory (PCBI) and the Global Behavioral Scale (GBS; Lann-Wolcott et al., 2010). Participants were 12 independent, distinct nursing home resident/aide dyads, who were videotaped in 34 segments during completion of an activity of daily living. Satisfaction and closeness surveys were administered to both resident and aide following each taping. The videotapes were coded by independent coders to assess predictive validity of instruments. Good support was found for the concurrent validity of the two instruments used to measure residents’ person-centeredness, the PCBI-R and GBS-R: $r (12) = .59, p < .05$. Support for predictive validity of the PCBI-R was also demonstrated for resident satisfaction with care, $r (12) = .61, p < .05$, and residents’ feelings of closeness and mutuality with their aide, $r (12) = .56, p = .06$. These results provide some preliminary support for the hypothesis that residents’ relational skills can impact their satisfaction with care, and also highlight the complexity of the relationship between nursing home residents and their primary caretakers.
A Relational Approach to Responding to Racial Discrimination

Lisa Hanasono (Bowling Green State University)

Racial discrimination is a pervasive problem that can harm targets’ physical, psychological, and relational well-being. Ranging from hate speech and violence to obtrusive stares and social exclusion, acts of racial discrimination can be performed by strangers or people who are relationally close to the targets (e.g., friends, parents). Research indicates that targets tend to struggle to make sense of acts of racial discrimination when the perpetrators are in their close social network. In addition, targets often struggle to respond effectively to acts of racial discrimination. Prior research indicates that coping alone can have serious drawbacks: targets are often viewed as complainers, hypersensitive, or socially withdrawn. Instead of dealing with discrimination alone, research suggests that targets may cope more effectively through the social support of others. This study uses expectancy violation theory to investigate how relational closeness affects targets’ interpretations of (a) acts of racial discrimination and (b) subsequent support messages. Racial minority participants read hypothetical scenarios in which they imagined they were the targets of acts of racial discrimination by either a stranger or a close friend. After reading the scenarios, they assessed the acts’ severity and offensiveness. It was hypothesized that acts would be perceived to be more offensive and severe when they were performed by strangers instead of close friends. Next, participants were instructed to imagine they subsequently received supportive messages from an acquaintance or close peer. Finally, participants completed several measures to assess the supportive messages’ quality. It was hypothesized that supportive messages would be evaluated more favourably when they came from a close peer instead of an acquaintance. Results, implications, and directions for future research are provided.

Down Memory Lane Together: Nostalgic Interactions in Close Relationships

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Research indicates that nostalgia is an inherently social emotion that serves important interpersonal functions: nostalgic memories focus on close-others (Wildschut et al., 2006) and nostalgia reduces loneliness and bolsters social-connectedness (Wildschut et al., 2010; Zhou et al., 2008). However, no research has examined how nostalgia occurs in real social interactions, what is special about those interactions, or what functions nostalgia serves for real relationships. The present study begins to do so. Forty pairs of long-term friends, romantic partners, or family members came to the lab and discussed either a shared nostalgic or shared ordinary event in their relationship (10-min). Afterward, each participant rated the interaction, and completed state measures of nostalgia-functions identified in past research (positive affect, self-worth, self-continuity, social-connectedness, meaning in life), with parallel measures of perceived worth, continuity, and meaning of their relationship. Multilevel analyses indicated that dyads who discussed a shared nostalgic (vs. ordinary) event perceived their interaction to be significantly more natural, emotionally deep, supportive, and self-disclosing. Following past research, nostalgic interactions induced significantly higher individual positive affect, self-continuity, social-connectedness, and meaning. Moreover, perceptions of the relationship were significantly more positive after nostalgic (vs. ordinary) interactions. The effect of nostalgic interactions on relationship perceptions was mediated by emotional depth and self-disclosure. Findings suggest that sharing nostalgic memories with a relationship partner is a meaningful experience that boosts perceptions of the relationship and may contribute to relationship maintenance. Observational analysis of interactions, and further studies, will help to clarify how, when, and for whom these processes occur.
Identifying Mother-Child Conflict Styles Using a Person-Centered Approach

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Parent-child conflict in the context of a supportive relationship has been discussed as a potentially constructive interaction pattern that may socialize adaptive problem-solving and regulation in children (Deutsch, 1973; Dunn, 2004; Laursen & Hafen, 2010). The current study is the first empirical test of this conflict style using a holistic analytic approach. Conflict styles, defined as mother-child conflict in the context of maternal sensitivity, were identified, and associations between conflict style and demographic, psychological, and relational characteristics of mothers and children were explored. Participants included 814 partnered mothers with a child in the first grade. Latent profile analysis was used to identify positive, dynamic, and abrasive mother-child conflict styles. Mothers that reported low intimacy with their partner, high depressive symptoms, high anger, and that their child had little self-control were likely to belong to the dynamic style, characterized by high sensitivity and high conflict. Despite the sensitivity of these mothers, findings suggest that they experience many psychological and relational stressors, likely explaining the frequency of conflict in these pairs. Mothers with the most traditional beliefs about raising children were likely to be members of the abrasive style, characterized by low sensitivity and moderate conflict. Positive pairs, characterized by high sensitivity and low conflict, tended to have the highest family incomes and the most positive maternal and child adjustment of the three styles. Findings are discussed with regard to how demands of the family context shape parent-child interaction patterns.

Relationship-Focused Coping in Japanese Dual-Earner Couples

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Michiyo Kato (Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University)

Previous studies identified ways that individuals in dual-earner couples use to cope with their own role strain (e.g. Skinner, 1980). Stanfield (1998) interviewed dual-earner couples and divided couples’ coping style into Flexible and Rigid. His qualitative study showed that how couples work together to cope with the competing demands of home life and careers. The present study aimed to examine the coping process within dual-earner couples by quantitative method. We focused on relationship-focused coping (Coyne & Smith, 1991) in the context of work-family spillover (Crouter, 1984), because effective relationship-focused coping is beneficial for couples (Hinnen et al., 2008). 36 dual-earner couples in two day-care centers completed our questionnaire. The questionnaire was consisted of relationship-focused coping in child-rearing parents (active engagement, protective buffering, and escape-avoidance), work to family spillover (negative spillover & positive spillover), marital satisfaction, and well-being. There was a significant positive correlation in marital satisfaction, well-being, work to family positive spillover within couples. Husband’s well-being and work to family positive spillover was positively related to husbands’ active engagement. Furthermore, husband’s well-being was also positively related to wives’ active engagement. Wives’ marital satisfaction and work to family positive spillover was positively related to wives’ active engagement. We found the relationship between more frequency of escape-avoidance and lower marital satisfaction in both husbands and wives. Our findings indicated the linkage of positive side in dual-earner couples. Furthermore, from perspective of interpersonal coping, we could suggest that wives’ active engagement is beneficial to not only themselves but also their husbands.
Friendships: Intimacy throughout Life

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Several studies have been made to identify different factors which are associated to accomplishing proximity between friends, exploring aspects such as interaction guidelines, selfdisclosure, proximity, and intimacy. The process of achieving closeness in friendships is clarified by examining the relationship characteristics at different levels of intimacy, as indicated by Jourard, (1971) and Rubin & Shenker (1978) confidence leads to intimacy with whom we share it. Friend interactions are characterized by a great physical proximity, affective expression and pro social behavior. Considering that friends play different roles through life, the characteristics of a friendship depend on the age of the ones involved, i.e. kids look for a game partner, when they grow and become adults they now look for helping and trustworthy friends (Blieszner y Adams1992). With the objective of determining whether intimacy varies according to age, the intimacy scale (López y Rivera 2007) was applied to 505 participants between 18 and 80 years old. Results show that adolescents develop behaviors which strengthen the relationship with their best friend such as sharing activities, being sympathetic, sharing intimate and emotional aspects, compared to young, intermediate and old adults. This proves that intimacy in a friendship includes positive emotions, the ability of communicating and sharing, and proximity and close physical contact between the ones involved.

Measuring Perceived Social Norms: The Dating Violence Descriptive Norms Scale

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Teen relationship violence (TRV) is a widespread social problem that can result in serious consequences. Research has shown that involvement in TRV can be influenced by one’s environment and the perceived acceptability of such behaviors. However, the majority of the research on social influences of TRV has been focused on injunctive norms (perceived acceptability of behavior). The literature has largely ignored descriptive norms (perceived behavior of others). In fact, no scale currently exists to measure descriptive norms of TRV. The current study describes the development of a scale measuring descriptive norms: The Dating Violence Descriptive Norms scale (DVDN). A development sample of 458 participants completed test items. Exploratory factor analysis, using principle components extraction and varimax rotation, revealed a factor structure composed of three components: Minor abuse, Severe abuse, and Sexual Abuse. Further, a “short version”, comprised of five items, was created for each component and subjected to the same analyses as the original components. Cronbach’s alphas indicate that each component has high internal-consistency reliability. All scales were moderately correlated demonstrating that the components measure similar, but different constructs. The only components which correlated so highly as to suggest they measure the same construct were short and long versions of each scale. The DVDN also yielded acceptable convergent validity with other scales of abuse and mental distress. These results provide evidence that the DVDN is a valid and reliable scale. With this tool researchers will be able to investigate an individual's beliefs about their social environment.
Associations between Neighborhood Disadvantage and Couple Communication

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Existing research provides conflicting evidence regarding the importance of one’s neighborhood on marital behaviors. Some posit that neighborhood economic disadvantage is directly related to lower levels of warmth (Cutrona et al., 2003). However, others have found that effects of neighborhood disadvantage can be explained entirely by the husband’s income (South, 2001). The current study seeks to reconcile this inconsistent evidence and determine whether neighborhood disadvantage is associated with observed communication behaviors in marital discussions, controlling for personal characteristics and selection effects. We studied a sample of 414 first-married newlywed couples (75% Hispanic) recruited from marriage licenses in Los Angeles County. Neighborhood disadvantage was measured using the 2010 Census estimate of the median neighborhood income of the census tract in which the couple resides. Communication behaviors (positivity, negativity, and effectiveness) were assessed with videotaped problem-solving and social support discussions, coded with a macrocoding system. Analyses revealed that lower median neighborhood income is related to lower levels of observed positivity and effectiveness in husbands; however, this effect is fully mediated by the husband’s self-reported financial strain. Additionally, the results showed that after controlling for possible neighborhood selection effects (income, financial strain, education, parents’ education, and the presence of children), and personal characteristics (relationship satisfaction, stress, depression, and family of origin experiences), lower median neighborhood income continues to be associated with increased levels of negativity in husbands and wives. These results highlight the need for policies aimed at supporting low-income marriages to acknowledge constraints that disadvantaged neighborhoods may impose on effective communication.

A Narrative Psychology Analysis of Relational Rituals in Books about International Adoption

Jacki Fitzpatrick (Texas Tech University)
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The purpose of the present study is to examine the portrayal of rituals within fictional books about international adoption. Rituals are meaningful behaviors in which individuals, couples and families engage (Campbell, Silva & Wright, 2011). Rituals matter because they reflect and define relational identity (Crespo, Davide, Costa & Fletcher, 2008). Relational rituals can reflect issues such as boundaries, cohesion, and intimacy. Some rituals focus on general events that are common to many families, such as holiday meals. In contrast, some families enact processes that are unique to their family formation process, such as adoption. The transition (from pre-adoptive to post-adoptive families) requires changes in roles, routines, identities and interactions. There remains a lack of clear societal guidelines for adoption family identity, and identity issues can be more challenging in international adoptive families (e.g., Docan-Morgan, 2011). One source of information about these issues is fictional stories. According to narrative psychology (Fiese & Spagnola, 2005), stories serve as a guide or mirror to relational processes. Prior narrative analyses have identified commonalities between fictional and actual relationships (e.g., Contarello & Volpato, 1991; Grice, 2005). This study addressed the following research question: What types of rituals are portrayed in international adoption children’s books? To address this question, 27 books were coded independently by two researchers. The qualitative analysis indicated that both individualized and dyadic (e.g., parent-child, sibling) rituals were evident. For example, some families looked at the stars and expressed gratitude to birth families in another country. Implications for future research will be noted.
Jealousy is a complex of interrelated emotional, cognitive and behavioural responses to the threatened loss of a valued relationship to a real or imagined rival. In evolutionary terms, jealousy triggered in response to adult relationship threat, i.e. romantic jealousy, functions specifically to protect the pairbond and enhance reproductive success. Using the sex steroid hormone, testosterone, as a putative biological marker, we investigated between-sex differences in romantic jealousy that are proposed to be sex-specific psychological adaptations on account of different reproductive challenges facing men and women in our ancestral past. We report the results of our initial study and our ongoing research program in which men for whom salivary testosterone concentrations increased reported greater levels of jealousy and were more inclined to forgive an emotional infidelity compared with a sexual infidelity compared with men for whom circulating testosterone decreased. The same was not reported for women. In line with previous research, an additive effect was reported for avoidant attachment orientation in distress at sexual infidelity. These results are discussed within the psychobiological literature that points to an association between testosterone and status-seeking behaviours and may be partially explained by the antagonistic effects of testosterone on pro-social behaviour, e.g. empathy, trust and fairness.
Gender Identity: A Predictor of Health Related Behaviors with Peers

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Mahzad Hojjat (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth)
Clare Mehta (Emmanuel College)
Brian Ayotte (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth)

Several social cognitive factors influence health beliefs and health behaviors. Research suggests that socialized gender roles lead to males taking greater health-related risks and females taking a more preventive approach to health. Our study extended this research by examining if gender identity is related to shared health behaviors, perceived influence, and comfort talking to friends about health-related issues in the friendships of emerging adults, and if sex moderates these relationships. Data were collected from 166 (44% male) emerging adults ranging from 18 to 26 years old. Participants completed measures assessing shared health behavior, perceived influence on friend's health behavior, perceived influence that friends have on one's own behavior, and comfort talking about health issues. In addition, participants completed the Gender Identity Scale (GIS; CITE), which assesses gender positivity, salience, and identity. Results of a hierarchical multiple regression found that sex moderated two relationships. Specifically, among males gender salience was negatively related to comfort discussing health-related issues with friends but among females salience was positively related to comfort levels. Further, males with higher gender positivity thought they had more influence on their friend's health behaviors; among females, positivity was not related to perceived influence. These results imply that emerging adults with a more masculine gender identity are less comfortable discussing health behaviors with peers than those with a more feminine gender identity. They also indicate that males with a positive attitude towards their gender feel they influence their friends' health behaviors.

The Benefits of Giving the Benefit the Doubt

Amanda Edwards (Texas Tech University)
Susan Hendrick (Texas Tech University)

Being able to overlook small transgressions that occur during daily life is an important part of maintaining a satisfying romantic relationship (Kachadourian et al., 2005). This study examined “giving the benefit of the doubt” as a buffer against transgressions that may affect relationship satisfaction. Seventy college students enrolled in Introductory Psychology classes and who identified as being in a romantic relationship completed a series of web-based questionnaires. Participants were randomly assigned to either an experimental group, which received a transgression prime (to describe a time when their partner transgressed in some way) before completing dependent measures, or a control group, which was asked to complete the dependent measures before receiving the transgression prime. Multiple regression revealed that participants in the experimental group who initially had a higher tendency to give their partner the benefit of the doubt were buffered against the negative effects of the transgression on relationship satisfaction, when compared to participants who initially scored lower on their tendency to give their partner the benefit of the doubt \( R^2 = .131, F (1, 68) = 3.42, p = .038 \). The study serves as an important initial examination of how giving the benefit of the doubt relates to other constructs (such as forgiveness, partner idealization, and appraisal of interpersonal qualities of one’s partner) as well as
provides evidence that an individual’s tendency to give the benefit of the doubt to the relationship partner serves as a protective factor in the face of transgressions.

Clusters of Love Styles

Randy Overbeek (Texas Tech University)
Clyde Hendrick (Texas Tech University)

The love styles have been used in relationship research for decades, usually as correlates for individual differences and relationship outcomes (C. Hendrick & Hendrick, 1986; Lee, 1973). The typical approach treats each of the six styles (Eros, Ludus, Storge, Pragma, Mania, and Agape) as separate dimensions, allowing correlations to be made with subscales for each style. Another way to use the styles, one arguably closer to the intent of the original typology, is as a single categorical variable. In this way, each individual person can be assigned to a single style that best describes him or her, rather than receive a profile of six scores. Although both uses of the love styles have merit, the categorical approach has not been adequately pursued. I will present a k-means cluster analysis of the six love style subscales. Groups of participants with similar love style profiles will be identified empirically. I will describe the groups, including the styles that constitute them, their prevalence in the sample, and how to identify them. I will further reflect on the diagnostic value of each love style and discuss how the categorical approach might open up new opportunities for the love style paradigm.

"Yesterday, All My Troubles Seemed So Far Away."
How Secure Attachment Styles Benefit from Temporal Distancing

Marian Morry (University of Manitoba)
Christine Hole (University of Manitoba)
Brianna Bogucki (University of Manitoba)

Temporal distancing refers to perceiving negative events as further away and positive events as closer in time than they actually were. Temporal distancing research has examined positive or negative events in general but not behaviors such as praise or criticism from another person or how one’s attachment style effects reactions to this feedback. We tested how praise or criticism from a dating partner or another person (teacher, boss, co-worker) influenced temporal distancing, relationship satisfaction and commitment. Participants (N = 370, 126 men, 244 women) wrote about a time when they were praised or criticized by one of the two targets. 2(Target) x 2(Behavior) x 3(Attachment: secure, anxious, avoidant) ANOVAs on behavioral distancing indicated main effects for behavior and attachment qualified by the behavior by attachment interaction. Secure individuals perceived the praise event as having occurred more recently than the criticism event. This effect was smaller, marginally significant, for anxious individuals but non-significant for avoidant individuals. A similar pattern was found for how important individuals perceived the event to be currently. The behavior by attachment interaction was also significant for how often individuals thought about the event. Secure individuals thought about praise more than criticism, there were no differences for anxious or avoidant individuals. Finally, the behavior by attachment interaction was significant for relationship satisfaction but not commitment. Contrasting the two behaviors in each attachment style indicated no effects. Avoidant individuals reported lower satisfaction than anxious individuals who were lower than secure individuals. The target had few effects on the results.
Validating the Couples Satisfaction Index and Dyadic Adjustment Scale in 13 Countries Using Item Response Theory

Jonathan Beber (eHarmony Labs)
Gian Gonzaga (eHarmony Labs)
Erina Lee (eHarmony Labs)

Before comparing any construct across cultures, measurement invariance of the assessments being used must be established. A study with 15,065 couples from thirteen countries was designed to explore the applicability of two of the most widely used measures of relationship satisfaction, the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS) and the Couple Satisfaction Index (CSI), across cultures. Because the CSI was developed using Item Response Theory (IRT) and provides more precision and information across the entire range of satisfaction levels, we predicted this higher precision and information of the CSI would be found in each country. In addition, because of its roots in IRT, we predicted the CSI would show less differential item functioning (DIF) across comparisons across all countries, as well as less differential test functioning (DTF). Using the United States as a reference group, pairwise comparisons were made for each country including both assessments. The results successfully replicated those of Funk and Rogge (2007) in each comparison, showing the CSI provides a higher precision of measurement and greater ability to discern levels of satisfaction than the DAS in every country. DIF analysis revealed varying amounts of DIF in each assessment in all countries, but found the CSI had fewer instances of DIF overall. The overall test bias was found to be lower in the CSI as well. Methods to control for these biases are discussed, as well as implications for future cross-cultural research of relationships.

Perfection at what Cost?: Associations between Attachment, Type A, and Health

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Type A behavior pattern is characterized by a high need for achievement, time urgency, competitiveness, and hostility (Jamal, 2007). Like attachment representations, Type A behaviors are proposed to be rooted from our early caregiving relationships (Gerhardt, 2004). Interestingly although both Type A and attachment insecurity have been linked to health behaviors and illness, to date no published studies have explored the link between attachment, Type A and health. In this study, we investigated whether Type A mediated the association between attachment and health. Undergraduate students completed a series of questionnaires to assess attachment, Type A behaviour, and health including depressed mood, sleep quality, health promotion, and health risks. The associations between health and attachment as well as health and Type A are well established and our preliminary analyses provided support for the association between attachment and Type A behavior. Specifically, attachment security was negatively associated with state and trait anger (significant correlations ranging from -.12 to -.44) and hostility (significant correlations ranging from -.33 to -.38), while insecurity (preoccupied, fearful and dismissing) was positively associated with anger and hostility (significant correlations ranging from .10 to .45). We proposed that the association between insecurity and health will decrease when the Type A is added as a mediator, indicating that Type A is key in explaining how attachment and health are associated. Our findings could provide insight into how interpersonal mechanisms, specifically attachment, hostility, and overly competitive natures, influence how we care for ourselves and others.
Still Friends: Relationship Nature and Quality Following Romantic Relationship Breakup

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There is little research on the nature of relationships between individuals following the termination of a romantic relationship. It is largely unknown, for example, the extent to which former couple members interact following breakup or the relative quality of the post-breakup relationship. The present research sought to assess both the nature and the quality of post-breakup relationships. Specifically, we examined the general nature of such relationships, as well as how characteristics of the romantic relationship prior to the breakup predicted the relative positivity of the relations after the breakup. Our basic hypothesis was that, among those individuals whose romantic relationships eventually ended, those whose romantic relationships were characterized as more positive while intact would (a) be more likely to be in some sort of relationship with their former romantic partner (as opposed to having no contact), and (b) experience relatively positive emotions and behaviors in the new type of relationship with their former partner. As part of a larger longitudinal study of relationship dynamics and sexual risk behaviors, 255 individuals involved in heterosexual romantic relationships were surveyed regarding a current romantic relationship. Approximately four months later, breakup of that relationship was assessed. Results revealed that higher relationship satisfaction, higher commitment, more closeness, and lower attachment avoidance prior to breakup predicted closer friendship quality after breakup. After the breakup, closer friendship predicted more positive and less negative emotions toward the ex-partner, more contact, and higher perceived likelihood of romantic reunification.

Social Network Dynamics in Fan-Celebrity Parasocial Relationships: Fans’ Reactions to Celebrity Divorces

Nora Phillips (Texas Tech University)
Jacki Fitzpatrick (Texas Tech University)

The purpose of this study is to explore dimensions of parasocialism among individuals’ reactions to celebrity divorces. Parasocialism refers to individuals’ psychological connectedness to fictional characters or celebrities (Cole & Leets, 1999; Derrick, Gabriel & Tippin, 2008). This connectedness is reflected in identification (Greenwood, Pietromonaco & Long, 2008), curiosity about future events (Cohen, 2004; Fitzpatrick, Fischer, Floyd & McCourt, 2003), and emotional reactions and behavioral changes in response to celebrity actions (Casey et al., 2003). Celebrities are aware of parasocial processes and work to entice fans’ engagement. They share aspects of their personal and professional lives with fans via media (Horton & Wohl, 1956; McNamara, 2011; Meyers, 2009). These conditions create a sense of intimacy, such that individuals can have strong reactions to events such as celebrity death or divorce (e.g., Golfman, 1994). Yet, it should be noted that reactions are not likely to be uniform. Giles (2002) stated that there is a broad range of experiences. Parasocialism can vary by features such as intensity (e.g., weak vs. strong) and valence (e.g., positive vs. negative). Indeed, it is possible for individuals to view/hear the same celebrities and have quite different responses (e.g., Schiappa, Gregg, & Hewes, 2005). Thus, this study examined individuals’ reactions to celebrity divorces. The reactions were listed on publicly accessible websites/blogs. The comments are being coded independently by two researchers. Consistent with the literature (e.g., Giles, 2002), several dimensions of parasocialism are evident in the comments. Implications for future parasocial (and actual) relationship research will be noted.
First Comes Sex and Then Comes Commitment? Causes and Consequences of Hooking Up Before the “Real” Relationship Begins

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We investigated whether age at sexual debut predicts the likelihood of hooking up (i.e., having sex outside of a committed relationship) during late adolescence and whether romantic relationships that evolve from hook-ups differ from relationships that evolve more traditionally. Sexually-active undergraduates (N = 73; Mrelationship length = 30 weeks [range = 4-53 weeks]; Mage = 20.8 years) specified their age at sexual debut (age at first intercourse), when their relationships with their current romantic partners began, and the date they first engaged in sexual intercourse with their partners. Participants also completed standard measures of relationship quality, including relationship satisfaction, commitment, passion, and sexual satisfaction. One-third (31%) of the sample indicated that they had sex with their partners before they considered themselves to be in a relationship (i.e., they hooked up); hooking up was more likely for those reporting earlier sexual debuts (B = -.41, p < .01, OR = .67). Interestingly, romantic relationship quality, including current sexual satisfaction, did not differ as a function of whether or not the relationship initiated via hooking up (all ps > .20). Thus, although it is uncommon for hook-ups to evolve into romantic relationships (e.g., Paul et al., 2000), our results suggest that hooking up does not necessarily negatively impact future relationship functioning for those committed relationships that do materialize. Of course, it is possible that our pattern of results reflects a selection effect such that only very high quality hookup-initiated relationships progress to committed romances. These ideas and others will be discussed.

Romantic Break-Up among College Students: What Helps and What Doesn't

Anca Mirsu-Paun (University of South Florida)

Romantic breakups are often associated with depression (LaGreca & Harrison, 2005). The strength of this association was examined among college students, as moderated by (a) gender; (b) relationship/breakup variables (e.g., relationship quality, emotional reaction, initiator status, etc.), and (c) cognitive-emotional regulation strategies used to cope with the breakup (as measured using the Cognitive-Emotional Regulation Questionnaire, Garnefski, Kraaij, & Spinhoven, 2002). A total of 267 college students who attended mental health services at a university counseling center (129 females, 31 males, 107 unknown) agreed to participate and anonymously answered the online assessment battery. (a) Males and females did not differ in levels of depression (t[153]=.06, p=.95). (b) Self-reported emotional reaction to the breakup (i.e., how soon “over it”) was the only significant predictor of depression among the breakup variables (adjusted model R²=.062, F(2,179)=6.91, p < .01, and standardized β = .245, p < .005). (c) Cognitive-emotional regulation strategies predicted depression (adjusted model R²=.41, F(5,170)=24.93, p < .0001). Standardized β coefficients were as follows: self-blame (5.93, p <.0001); rumination (-26, p < .0001); and getting perspective (24, p < .0001). Noteworthy, other cognitive-emotional strategies (acceptance, planning, catastrophizing, etc.) were not significantly associated with levels of depression. Also, unlike prior findings, breakup initiator status (i.e., self vs. other) was not a significant predictor. Focusing on self-blame, rumination, and getting perspective might be an effective clinical intervention for students dealing with a breakup. Further research is needed to replicate these studies with a larger sample of college students and within specific ethnic groups.
Compassionate Love for a Romantic Partner and Motivations for Caregiving

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Cynthia Khan (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Molly Metz (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Nancy Collins (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Social support has been linked to positive outcomes for romantic partners, but many factors affect a caregiver’s ability and desire to provide effective support to a partner in need. For example, support providers might provide support out of obligation (a self-focused, egoistic motivation), or their motivation to help a partner might be more altruistic in nature. We believe that one form of altruistic motivation in close relationships – compassionate love – might contribute to different motivations that underlie support provision in couples when one partner is undergoing stress. To test this idea, we recruited couples to come into the lab and asked one participant to perform a stressful counting task (N=86). The other partner, the support-provider (SP), was asked to watch the performance over a video display from another room and then completed measures assessing their cognitive and emotional responses while watching their distressed partner. The SP was also given an opportunity to write a private message to his/her partner after the task. Finally, we assessed the SP’s chronic and situation-specific motivations to provide support and the support-recipients’ rating of partner responsiveness in the private message. Preliminary analyses indicate that, as predicted, support providers high in compassionate love were more likely to report altruistic motives for providing support to their partner. They also reported feeling emotionally closer to their partner and wrote messages that were rated (by support-recipients) as more responsive. Findings will be discussed in terms of larger theoretical implications for the study of compassionate love and social support.

The Effects of the Pheromone Androstadienone on Judgments of Physical Attractiveness, Sexual Attraction, and Personality

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Leatra Tate (Edinboro University of Pennsylvania)
Gregory Morrow (Edinboro University of Pennsylvania)

This study explores the influence of the pheromone androstadienone on participants’ judgments of the physical and sexual attractiveness of male and female targets. The study also examines whether or not judgments of target personality traits are affected by androstadienone exposure. Participants were female and male undergraduates who rated the physical and sexual attractiveness of 6 target individuals (3 females, 3 males) and completed the Ten Item Personality Inventory for each target. The three targets for each gender consisted of photographs of individuals who had been previously rated as high, moderate, or low in physical attractiveness. Participants in the experimental group completed their ratings on questionnaires impregnated with androstadienone dissolved in propylene glycol. Participants in the control group completed their ratings on questionnaires impregnated only with propylene glycol. The study tested two hypotheses. First, past research has found females to be more sensitive than males to androstadienone. Thus, we predicted that the target ratings by female participants would be more strongly influenced by pheromone exposure than will the ratings of male participants. Secondly, we predicted that pheromone exposure would have more influence on female participants’ ratings of male targets than female targets. Specifically, we expected females exposed to androstadienone (versus those not exposed to this pheromone) to find male targets more physically and sexually attractive.
Heterogeneity of Friendship: A Weakness or Strength?
Ruth Sharabany (University of Haifa)
Milet Pilosof-Parnas (University of Haifa)

There are two prototypes of friendship - one is having a single friend who is an addressee for most friendship needs and activities, well integrated in one’s life. The other is where one enjoys different friends for different needs often compartmentalized friendships. We hypothesized that each pattern is related to attachment style, to self-monitoring style, controlling for marital status (single vs. married). Specifically – we expected that heterogeneity of friendship would be related to secure attachment, and to high self monitoring. 258 participants age 18-35 were recruited through university advertising and snowball method. 55 were married, 203 single, and 80% were men. Measures included Self Monitoring Scale (Snyder, 1974); Experience in Close relationships (Brennan, Clark & Shaver, 1998); Network of Relationship Inventory (Furman & Buhrmester, 1985). Heterogeneity was calculated using the variance among descriptions of three friends on the NRI. Analysis included ANOVAs, Pearson correlations as well as Stepwise Regressions. Central findings were that overall, higher self monitoring was related to reporting anxious-attachment. Singles and married differed in their patterns of friendships. Attachment was a more powerful predictor for the singles. Heterogeneity of friendship was related to reports of insecurity among the singles (and not of security as hypothesized). Implications are for viewing styles of friendship as adaptive to the context (single vs. married), and attachment style playing out differently in this context. Future research should investigate the transformation of friendship during the transitions from singlehood to marriage – how these close relationships are interwoven.

Treating Couples Who Exhibit Situational Violence:
Reducing Behaviors that Show a Susceptibility for Violence

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Renay Bradley (Relationship Research Institute)
John Gottman (Relationship Research Institute)

This study evaluated the efficacy of a psycho-educational, group-based, conjoint treatment for couples experiencing situational (i.e., common couple) intimate partner violence. One hundred fifteen situationally violent couples were screened in and randomly assigned to a no-treatment control group or to participate in the Creating Healthy Relationships Program, which was designed to bolster relationships and reduce violence. The ability of the treatment program to reduce violence between partners was evaluated via a multi-method, multi-informant, multiple time point experimental design. Procedures were completed at four times: baseline/pre-treatment, post-treatment, ~six months post-treatment, and ~12 months post-treatment. At each time point, couples individually self-reported on violence in the relationship and participated in a conflict discussion during which behaviors that show a propensity toward violence (i.e., contempt, belligerence, domineering, anger, and defensiveness) were observed. Results show that the program had no direct impact on violence reported by either males or females. However, the program did impact observed behavior. Findings from a repeated-measures ANOVA showed a significant group by time interaction. Over time, males in the treatment group showed a significant decline in behaviors that show a propensity toward violence. Additionally, treatment group males exhibited those behaviors significantly less than control males at post-intervention time points. Although the model for females was not significant, the pattern for females was comparable to that of males. Results suggest that couples' interaction patterns and conflict resolution behavior may have been
modified for the better via program participation, despite the fact that no significant reductions in violence were directly reported.

Examining the Socio-Demographic Factors that Shape and Influence the Function of Interpersonal Behaviors and Implicit Attitudes

Dev Crasta (University of Rochester)
Janette Funk (University of Rochester)
Ronald Rogge (University of Rochester)

For over four decades marital and relationship researchers have examined romantic relationships primarily by looking at how individual factors and dyadic processes within these relationships influence change in relationship functioning over time. However, relatively few studies have examined the larger environment in which all relationships must function. Environmental factors, such as neighborhood quality (or lack thereof) have been shown to impact both specific behaviors and overall relationship well-being in a variety of ways (Cutrona et al., 2003; Mannon & Brooks, 2006; Wickrama et al., 2010). It is therefore reasonable to believe that the relationships between certain processes and outcomes may be altered by these factors. The current study utilized objective census and crime data as well as self-report measurements of neighborhood quality to investigate how the neighborhood in which couples live might moderate the impact of various interpersonal processes (e.g., conflict, social support, heavy drinking) and implicit attitudes (using a partner-GNAT; see Lee, Rogge & Reis, 2007) on outcomes over the first 4 years of marriage. A sample of 298 newlywed couples was given an extensive initial assessment battery with shorter follow-up assessments every year for 4 years. Analyses suggest that behaviors traditionally viewed as maladaptive in middle-class samples (e.g., negative conflict behavior) take on more adaptive roles in crime-ridden and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Thus, the function or meaning of specific relationship processes would seem to be dependent on the larger socio-demographic context. Possible interpretations and implications for future research will be discussed.

The Dating Experiences of University Students

Sonia Ip (Australian National University)
Bernd Heubeck (Australian National University)

Dating, the social activity between 2 persons with romantic interest that takes place prior to the commencement of a romantic relationship, is an integral part of emerging adulthood. However, few studies have investigated the interpersonal and intrapersonal processes that operate in this phase of romantic relationship development. This qualitative study aimed to (1) explore university students’ experiences of dating and (2) investigate the extent to which the Relational Turbulence Model (RTM; Solomon & Knobloch, 2001) – a conceptualization of processes in pre-marital relationships - applies to dating. 45 university students aged 18-25 years participated in semi-structured interviews and the data was analysed using a hybrid thematic approach (Boyatzis, 1998). Participants’ experiences support the view that dating is a phase of relationship development characterised by expectations, dyadic assessment, and relational escalation/de-escalation. Furthermore, consistent with the parameters of RTM, individuals who were engaged in dating courtship also experienced uncertainty and interdependency. This study contributes to the relationship literature by elucidating the dating processes of young adults and extending the application of RTM to the initial stages of romantic relationship development.
Nonverbal Behavior and Satisfaction: The Mediating Role of Intimacy

Sarah Myers (Purdue University)
Susan South (Purdue University)

Marital dysfunction is a wide-spread problem associated with a host of negative outcomes; thus, researchers have spent a great deal of time trying to understand risk and protective factors. Both intimacy and conflict have been strongly linked to marital satisfaction, although they appear to be regulated by two different systems. Researchers have predominantly focused on finding ways to reduce conflict among couples, hoping this will increase intimacy and satisfaction. Few studies have instead focused on whether increasing intimacy, even in the presence of continued conflict, may in fact increase satisfaction. Intimacy is achieved through self-disclosure and responsiveness to one’s partner. Nonverbal behavior is a more consistent means of self-disclosure than verbal disclosure, in which emotions are filtered through cognitive processes. In the current study, newlywed married couples were recruited for a longitudinal study of personality and well-being. As part of the baseline assessment, they completed a two-week diary study measuring nonverbal behavior, supportiveness, verbal disclosure, commitment, intimacy, and satisfaction. For the second week, participants were divided into two groups in which they either increased nonverbal behavior or behaved normally. It was hypothesized that there would be equal conflict in both conditions, which would suggest more self-disclosure does not decrease conflict. Further, it was hypothesized that levels of satisfaction would improve in the increased nonverbal condition as a function of intimacy increasing via self-disclosure. Findings are discussed with regard to increasing awareness of supportive nonverbal communication, as it can affect couples’ intimacy level and may ultimately improve marital outcomes.

Couple Commitment, Romantic Attachment and Jealousy in a Community Sample of Adults

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Audrey Brassard (University of Sherbrooke)
Anne Brault-Labbé (University of Sherbrooke)

Couples are facing many uncertainties regarding the future of their relationship. As such, jealousy can be used to protect the relationship (White, 1984). Jealousy may facilitate couple commitment (Buss, 2000) and commitment may reduce jealousy (White, 1999). Higher commitment, however, is related to higher levels of jealousy-related distress (White, 1981). Researchers have proposed that the attachment system, activated by the threat of separation, may influence both jealousy (Guerrero, 1998) and commitment (Simpson, 1990). Considering the links between commitment, attachment, and jealousy, this study aimed to explore the relation between these variables, using a new conceptualization of commitment: the multimodal model of couple commitment (Brassard, Brault-Labbé, & Gasparetto, 2011). A community sample of 317 adults currently involved in a relationship completed online questionnaires, including a measure of jealousy (emotional, behavioral, cognitive), romantic attachment (anxiety, avoidance), commitment (optimal, undercommitment, overcommitment), and social desirability. Hierarchical regression analyses showed that attachment anxiety is positively related to the three dimensions of jealousy, positively related to overcommitment and undercommitment, and negatively related to optimal commitment. Attachment avoidance was negatively related to emotional jealousy, optimal commitment, and overcommitment, and positively related to undercommitment. Optimal commitment was negatively related to cognitive jealousy. Overcommitment was positively related to the three dimensions of jealousy, whereas undercommitment was positively related to cognitive and behavioral jealousy. The discussion addresses clinical implications and future research.
Child Abuse and Resilience: Psychological Mindedness and Emotional Awareness as Protective Factors for Intimate Relationships

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Yoav Lavee (University of Haifa)

Whereas child abuse is a risk factor for revictimization in intimate relationships, studies show that some women manage to avoid these negative consequences. Psychological theories suggest that psychological mindedness and the ability to describe and identify feelings may serve as protective factors for intimate partner violence among child abuse survivors. Despite the importance of understanding resilience in the context revictimization, this topic has rarely been studied. Therefore, this study examined the extent to which psychological mindedness and the ability to describe and identify emotions moderate the relationship between child abuse and both marital violence and marital quality. A sample of 425 graduate students, aged 25 or more, married or in cohabitation for at least one year completed a structured self-report electronic questionnaire. Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ), Toronto Alexithymia Scale (TAS-20), Psychological Mindedness Scale (PMS), Marital Quality Scale (MQS-I), and the Conflict Tactic Scale (CTS-2) were used to measure the research variables. Structural Equation Model analysis showed that child abuse was associated with increased marital violence and decreased quality of relationship. Psychological mindedness and the ability to understand and identify feelings moderated the relation between child abuse and marital violence. However, none of the protective factors moderated the effect of child abuse on marital quality. Higher level of psychological mindedness was associated with lower marital quality. The findings are discussed in terms of their implications to theory, future research, and practice.

The Roles in Romantic Relationships and Their Quality

Dariusz Kuncewicz (Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities)

Shaver and Mikulincer (2006) suggest that smooth interplay between three behavioral systems, i.e. attachment, caregiving and sex system, is essential to maintain romantic relationship satisfaction. To explore this thesis more broadly, a new pictorial scale The Roles in a Romantic Relationship (RRR) was constructed. This tool is designed to measure the roles based on these three aforementioned systems, i.e. the role of child (a person receiving care from a partner), caregiver (a person taking care of a partner), and partner (a person maintaining a sexual relationship with her partner). The aim of this study was to examine, to what extent the roles of a child, caregiver and partner are interdependent among men and woman. In particular, the optimal role patterns for efficient handling of conflicts and for satisfaction with the relationship we’re looking for. The questionnaire-based study involved 150 participants (75 men and 75 women) being in a romantic relationship for at least 1 year. In this study the RRR scale, the Conflict Resolution Strategies Questionnaire (Kriegelewicz, 2003) and the Relationship Assessment Scale (Vaughn and Baier, 1999) were used. The main results showed that taking the role of partner correlated negatively with taking the role of child for both men and women and also with taking the role of caregiver only for women. It also turned out that the predominance role of partner over child among men and predominance role of partner over caregiver among women promotes the constructive conflict resolution strategies (dialog and loyalty) and relationship satisfaction. The theoretical and clinical implications of the results were discussed.
Attachment Style as a Predictor of HPA-Axis Reactivity to Marital Conflict

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Paula Pietromonaco (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
Sally Powers (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

Dating partners’ attachment styles predict their physiological stress responses to conflict; a link that may be important in predicting the outcomes of such conflict (Powers et al., 2006). Research on relational conflict has focused primarily on understanding responses of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal cortical (HPA) axis, using its end product, cortisol, as a biomarker of stress reactivity. However, research on responses to other psychological stressors has begun to place greater emphasis on examining the interrelated nature of such biomarkers in determining the reactions of stress response systems to stressful stimuli. This work has focused on cortisol as well as another end product of the HPA axis, dehydroepiandrosterone (e.g., Mendes et al., 2007). Higher ratios of dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA-S) to cortisol—or anabolic balance—in response to a stressor is thought to be an indication of a challenge orientation to the stressor and lower anabolic balance an indication of a threat orientation. The current research applied this approach to examine whether more securely attached newlyweds would show greater anabolic balance reactivity to conflict in their relationships than those who were more insecurely attached. As predicted, more securely attached husbands showed a more reactive pattern of anabolic balance compared to more anxiously attached husbands, and the same held for wives. Avoidant attachment, however, was not related to anabolic balance. These findings suggest that securely attached partners may be more challenged by conflict discussions whereas anxiously attached partners may be less challenged or even threatened.

Mutuality of Commitment in Romantic Relationships: Consequences of Seeing Partner Commitment as Too Much, Too Little, or Just Right

Dan Weigel (University of Nevada)
Bret Davis (University of Nevada)

Mutuality of commitment is a key element people look for in their close relationships and people want to be in relationships where their partners feel the same way and have the same expectations about the relationship. In the present study, two perspectives on mutuality—equity theory (Walster, Walster, & Berscheid, 1978) and error management theory (Haselton & Buss, 2000) are compared in terms of predictions of perceived mutuality, relationship quality and commitment-related communication. Data were collected from 121 romantically involved couples. Counter to error management theory, no gender differences were found in terms of perceptions of mutuality. Results indicated that individuals, regardless of gender, who believed that their partners were less committed than they were reported lower relationship quality, were less likely to communicate their commitment to their partners, and were less like to report that their partners expressed commitment to them. Likewise, in the majority of cases, those individuals who believed that their partners were more committed also reported lower relationship quality, communicated less, and perceived less commitment-related communication from their partners. In all cases, those that perceived mutual levels of commitment with their partners reported higher relationship quality and greater commitment-related communication on the part of themselves and their partners. The findings lend greater support to an equity approach to mutuality than an error management approach. Furthermore, the findings indicate that beyond simply being present in romantic relationships, mutuality of commitment appears to play a role in people’s perceptions of relationship quality and communication.
Links between Spouses’ Gender-Typed Attitudes, Wives' Employment Status, and Marital Satisfaction among Mexican-Origin Couples

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Yuliana Rodriguez (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)
Heather Helms (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)
Yoonhae Joo (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)

This study examines the intersection of spouses’ gender-typed attitudes and wives’ employment status as a predictor of marital satisfaction among Mexican-origin couples. This focus is particularly salient given theoretical assertions regarding the gendered nature of Mexican family relationships, the necessity of wives’ employment in many immigrant families, and the inattention to the study of marriage for this group (Cauce & Domenech Rodriguez, 2002; Helms, Supple, & Proulx, 2011). Data were gathered during home interviews with 120 Mexican-origin, legally married and “living as married” couples recruited via cultural insiders in pre-determined census tracks in emerging immigrant communities in North Carolina. Husbands’ and wives’ marital satisfaction as predicted by wives’ employment status, husbands’ and wives’ gender-typed attitudes about marital roles, and the interaction between these factors was examined with hierarchical regression analyses (controlling for legal marriage status). Results showed no support for wives’ employment, spouses’ attitudes, or the interaction between them as predictors of wives’ marital satisfaction. In contrast, main effects and a significant three-way interaction were found for husbands’ marital satisfaction. Husbands of employed wives reported lower marital satisfaction than husbands whose wives were not employed. In addition, husbands’ gender-typed attitudes were negatively related to husbands’ satisfaction; the more traditional husbands’ beliefs about marital roles, the less marital satisfaction they reported. A significant three-way interaction between wives’ employment, husbands’ attitudes, and wives’ attitudes further qualified the main effect findings. Husbands’ marital satisfaction was lowest in marriages where both spouses’ espoused traditional attitudes about marital roles and wives were employed outside the home.

Weight and Body Image Disturbance as Predictors of Women’s Perceived Romantic Relationship Quality

Carolyne Lee (University of Windsor)
Cheryl Thomas (University of Windsor)

The purpose of the current study was to assess the extent to which weight and body image disturbance predict global and specific components of romantic relationship quality. Participants were 139 female undergraduate students between the ages of 18 and 25 ($M = 20.7$ years, $SD = 1.9$) who reported being involved in a romantic relationship of at least three months duration ($M = 28.0$ months, $SD = 18.2$). All participants completed a package of self-report instruments that assessed demographic characteristics, body image variables, and romantic relationship quality. Height and weight were objectively measured. Consistent with hypotheses, women with greater body image dissatisfaction reported poorer overall romantic relationship quality. Body dissatisfaction also predicted lower levels of satisfaction, trust, and love, more specific aspects of relationship quality. Contrary to expectations, the effect of body dissatisfaction on overall relationship quality was not more pronounced among overweight and obese women. In fact, weight was unrelated to global relationship quality, although overweight and obese participants did report lower levels of passion in their partnerships. Results suggest that women’s perceived romantic relationship quality has more to do with their feelings about their appearance than their actual body weight. The current findings support existing research linking body image disturbance to...
romantic relationship outcomes, and indicate that body dissatisfaction has specific implications for the way that intimate partnerships are experienced.

“Family Hopes” as one of the Main Contextual Effects on Youth Career Development: A Triple-Culture Study for Southeast Asian Youth

Jack Chih Ming Chou (Department of Psychology, Fu Jen Catholic University)
Chin Lun Tsai (Department of Psychology, Fu Jen Catholic University)

Recent years, more and more theories, practices, or conceptual frameworks demonstrated that context played an important role during youth transition from school to work (e.g. social class of Furlong, 2009; relational based opportunity structure of Roberts, 2009; agency within social structure of Heinz, 2009). We collected career history from graduating or senior college students, including Asia Americans, Filipinos, and Taiwanese, by narrative inquiring in this study. The results showed that the main drives in career passages of these youth are the hope to change social and economic conditions for their original families. For Asia American youth, second generation from Thailand and Vietnam, they tend to consider the medical or hospital relates expertise, because the related occupations would make the original family turning upward class. For Taiwanese, the youth tend to have higher education, because the more education implied the higher social prestige occupations, which make original family or clan better life or parenting credits. For Filipinos, the youth tend to consider computer or medical relates expertise, because it facilitates to work abroad easier, and they will gain higher money to turn their original family living in a better economic environment. Concluding above, the “family hopes”, which mean that the members are partial of family and the retracing regulations are moral and connoting, contribute to the drives across parenting, and the decision points are autonomy underlying the family hope.

Do Couples’ Conflict-related Communication Patterns Moderate the Effect of Relationship Stress on Well-being? A Comparison of Couples in Different Age Groups

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Guy Bodenmann (University of Zurich)
Mike Martin (University of Zurich)

Previous studies have shown that relationship stress, as being a major cause of conflicts, adversely affects the well-being of both partners in a couple (e.g., Rook, 1984). To date, there is little research about the moderating role of conflict-related communication patterns in relation to subjective well-being. Moreover, even though many relationships last for decades, the literature on intimate relationships mostly entails the study of relatively young couples. The aims of this ongoing prospective longitudinal study are to (a) examine the association between relationship stress and well-being in young (N = 120), middle-aged (N = 120), and old (N = 120) couples, to (b) determine if couples’ conflict-related communication patterns moderate the association between relationship stress and well-being, and to (c) analyze if the links between relationship stress, conflict-related communication patterns, and well-being vary depending on the different age group of the couples. In addition to self-report data (well-being, relationship stress), observational data on conflict-related communication behavior are collected. It is expected that the harmful effects of relationship stress on well-being is evident across all age cohorts, that positive conflict-related communication patterns buffer these negative effects, and that positive conflict-related communication patterns, as a stress buffer, are of great importance for well-being especially in older couples. Preliminary results on the assumed associations will be presented. The implications of the findings will be discussed in terms of therapeutic interventions with couples.
Coping and Relational Infidelity across the Lifespan:
The Role of Commitment during Relational Distress

Ladori Lara (Southampton Solent University)

Studies in areas such as counseling psychology, social psychology, and sociology have extensively covered infidelity, including gender differences for initiating the behavior, predictors for relational satisfaction, and the trust issues associated with infidelity (see Treas & Giesen, 2000). Although communication studies have begun to examine infidelity from a perspective that differs from other areas of social science, we are still left wondering what the role of communication may be for coping with a transgression and its effects. In order to understand the role of communication in romantic relationships following infidelity, adults ranging in age from 18-84 (N = 288) who were presently involved in romantic relationships were surveyed for commitment to the relationship, and possible strategies for coping with the transgression. A research question regarding variance in coping strategies across the lifespan yielded significant results, indicating that coping strategies do vary according to age. In addition, open-ended data revealed differences in specific responses to infidelity, including relational dissolution and forgiveness.

Situational and Dispositional Optimism as Predictors of Relationship Satisfaction

Julia Koch (Claremont Graduate University)

Previous research has established a link between dispositional optimism and relationship satisfaction (Assad, Donnelan, & Conger, 2007). However there is a general lack of research related to interpersonal aspects of optimism. One important way in which interpersonal relationships may positively influence individuals is by creating specific contexts in which individuals are situationally optimistic. The present study examined situational and dispositional optimism within mentor-protégé relationships. It looked specifically at the contrast between dispositional optimism (measured by the LOT-r, Scheier, Carver, & Bridges, 1994) and situational optimism regarding the protégés’ academic and professional future (measured by adapted situational optimism scale, Reed et al., 1999; Segerstrom et al. 1998), as predictors of relationship satisfaction within the mentoring relationship. Participants were graduate students (n = 113) and professors who serve as advisors in academic departments within the life sciences (n = 121). For both students and advisors, individual situational optimism was a better predictor of relationship satisfaction than dispositional optimism. The results have implications for the study of optimism in interpersonal contexts. Though the analysis was simple, the results contribute to the literature on optimism because it is usually viewed as a trait-level characteristic. Interpersonal relationships may create a context in which specific attitudes can be more predictive than dispositional variables.

Couple Similarity in Attachment Style and its Association with Relationship Satisfaction

Fay Julal (Southampton Solent University)
Jodie Bellchambers (Southampton Solent University)
Katie O'Shea (Southampton Solent University)
Lara Webber (Southampton Solent University)

Compared to other personality constructs, attachment style similarity is a strong predictor of relationship quality (Luo & Klohnen, 2005). Preference for similarity in attachment style may be more salient at different points in a relationship (e.g., initial attraction vs. longer term; Holmes & Johnson, 2009). In the present study, we used a couple-centred approach to examine the extent to which actor (own) and partner’s attachment style (avoidance, anxiety) and similarity in attachment style within couples (assessed
with profile similarity correlations; PSC) predicted actor’s relationship satisfaction. Further, we examined whether relationship length moderated the association between similarity in attachment style and relationship satisfaction. Each member of a heterosexual couple (N = 105 couples; M relationship length = 46.08-months) completed the ECR-Short Form and the PRQC relationship satisfaction scale. For actors (male and female couple members, separately) low avoidance and high PSC–anxiety predicted relationship satisfaction. Partner’s attachment style did not predict actor’s satisfaction. Relationship length did not moderate the attachment similarity-satisfaction relationship. The extent to which couple members were similar in attachment anxiety predicted relationship satisfaction. Actor’s avoidance predicted relationship satisfaction. These findings suggest that each attachment dimension contributes to relationship functioning in distinct ways (e.g., intra- and interpersonal processes). Findings are discussed in terms of the salience of attachment anxiety and avoidance beyond initial attraction in predicting relationship quality.

Can't We Just be Friends?: Relational Investment Predicts Motivations to Remain Friends After an Expression of Unrequited Love

Michelle Hasan (Saint Louis University)
Katheryn Blankmeyer (Saint Louis University)
Jana Hackathorn (Murray State University)
Anna Pope (Saint Louis University)
Daniel Weidler (Northern Arizona University)
Eddie Clark (Saint Louis University)

Unrequited love refers to passionate love felt by one person (would-be lover/pursuer) toward another individual (rejector/target) who does not desire romantic involvement with the pursuer (Bratslavsky, Baumeister, & Sommer, 1998). Though it is underrepresented in relationship literature, unrequited love is a common phenomenon, such that 80% of people have experienced unrequited romantic attraction (Motley, Reeder, & Faulkner, 2008). The current study attempts to identify which relationship variables most strongly predict motivations to remain friends after such an experience. 147 participants from a private Midwestern university completed a narrative account online, in which they were asked to write about a time when he/she confessed romantic interest to a friend and was rejected. This priming activity was used to make the rejection salient. Afterward, participants completed online measures of relationship variables including investment in the friendship before and after the profession, identity with the crush before the profession, heartbreak after the rejection, coping strategies after the rejection, friendship maintenance behaviors after the rejection, current investment in the relationship, general demographics, and relationship demographics. As predicted, higher investment in the relationship before the profession predicted higher motivation to remain friends, higher breakup distress, and higher investment in the relationship now (at the time of the study).

Linking Differentiation with Parents, Communication Processes, and Dyadic Adjustment in Young Adult Couples

Elizabeth Bell (University of Connecticut)
Shannon Weaver (University of Connecticut)
Nicholas Koberstein (University of Connecticut)

In this study a moderated mediation model tests the relationship between differentiation in one’s family of origin, communication processes, stress, and dyadic adjustment of young adults in romantic relationships. Murray Bowen’s (1978) construct of differentiation, in which a person balances both closeness and
individuality in relationships, has been linked to relationship skills such as interpersonal competence in young adults and adjustment in long term marriages. Bowen theory suggests that a well-differentiated person will relate and communicate in ways that enhance relationships. Such skills include conveying understanding of others’ points of view, suppressing verbal hostility, engaging in less conflict, and being able to communicate feelings of closeness. Individuals who are less well-differentiated are thought to have greater difficulty in these areas (Bowen, 1978). The differences between communication of individuals who are well-differentiated and those that are not are thought to be exacerbated during times of stress (Bowen, 1978). However, these communication processes are a neglected but significant link between differentiation that is developed in the family of origin and dyadic adjustment in one’s current romantic relationship. Thus this study examined whether specific communication processes mediate the relationship between differentiation and dyadic adjustment. Further, it is assumed that this mediation is moderated by perceptions of current stress level. Most young adults are in a stage of both increasing individuation and developing intimate dyadic relationships, making it an excellent period for the study of differentiation, communication, and dyadic adjustment. Partial support was found for the influence of differentiation on communication processes and for stress as a moderator.

The Role of Beliefs and Expectations in Predicting Dating Violence in Adolescence

Nika Sušac (Social Work Study Centre, Faculty of Law)
Ajana Löw (Department of Psychology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)
Željka Kamenov (University of Zagreb)

A study on dating violence in adolescent romantic relationships was conducted with a sample of 12 grade students (N=1225; 52.7% male) from secondary schools throughout Croatia. The aim was to determine the contribution of different cognitive variables, such as beliefs and romantic expectations, in predicting perpetration of dating violence and victimization. Six questionnaires developed for this study were used: Beliefs about healthy romantic relationships (k=18; α=.73), Importance of own rights in a relationship (k=10; α=.82), Setting own boundaries (k=12; α=.94), Recognition of violent behaviors (k=26; α=.91), Victimization (k=30; α=.92) and Perpetration of dating violence (k=30; α=.92). The sociodemographic variables included: gender, type of school (vocational vs. grammar school), academic achievement and relationship duration. Hierarchical regression analyses with victimization and perpetration of dating violence as criterion variables were done. While controlling for other variables, the model that included male gender, inaccurate beliefs about relationships and higher importance of own rights predicted more frequent victimization (6.8% of variance explained), while longer duration of the relationship, inaccurate beliefs about relationships, higher importance of own rights and poorer recognition of violent behaviors predicted perpetration of violence (12.9% of variance explained). Some significant interactions between gender and other predictors were also observed. Introduction of victimization variable into the predictive model for perpetration substantially increased the amount of explained variance (49.1%).

I know why you want it: Divergent and Predictive Validity of Empathic Accuracy Towards Sexual Motivations in Daily Life

Eran Bar-Kalifa (Bar-Ilan University)
Reuma Gadassi (Psychology Department, Bar-Ilan University)
Eshkol Rafaeli (Psychology Department, Bar-Ilan University)

Empathic accuracy (EA; Ickes, 1993) is the ability to accurately infer the specific internal states of another person. This ability has been found to be mostly beneficial within intimate relationships (Simpson & Ickes, 2004). EA is typically assessed using a lab-based procedure. Recently,
complimentary approach for assessing EA using a daily diaries has been put forward (Howland & Rafaeli, 2010; Wilhelm & Perrez, 2004). This approach makes possible an ecologically valid examination of EA regarding intimate domains of couples’ everyday life. The current study utilized this approach and applied EA to a new and important domain of intimate relationship - their sexual aspect - which goes beyond the traditional focus of EA on thoughts and feelings. We hypothesized that EA regarding moods and EA regarding motives for engaging in sexual activity would be distinct, and that they would play a different role in intimate relationships. Forty-nine heterosexual cohabiting couples participated in a 2-week diary study. As predicted, EA regarding moods and EA regarding sexual motives were only moderately associated. Moreover, utilizing the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (APIM; Kashy & Kenny, 2000), we found evidence for differentiated roles of these accuracies: Whereas women’s EA regarding moods predicted theirs and their partners’ relationship satisfaction, men's and women's EA regarding sexual motives predicted their partners' sexual satisfaction. Our findings highlight the importance of being empathically accurate not only to emotional aspects but also to sexual ones.

Mother’s Adjustment, Marital Quality and Family Communication Patterns as Predictors of Child Adjustment in Families that have used Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) to Conceive

Ascan Koerner (University of Minnesota)
Laurel Davis (University of Minnesota)
Amy Walkner-Spaan (University of Minnesota)

This study investigates the association between Mothers’ adjustment, marital quality, family communication patterns, and child adjustment. Based on a review of the literature on child adjustment, we predicted that mothers’ adjustment, marital quality, and family communication would affect child adjustment. Hypotheses were tested using data from 217 mothers who had used assisted reproductive technologies (ART) to conceive and reported on themselves, their pregnancies, and their children. Results confirmed that mother’s adjustment (assessed by the Adult Self Report) was a strong predictor of child adjustment (assessed by the Child Behavior Check List). Mothers’ externalization and internalization predicted children’s total problem score, as well as their externalization and internalization scores, respectively. In particular, mothers’ intrusive and withdrawing behaviors were predictors of seven of the eight children’s problem scales. Only child withdrawal was predicted by mothers’ aggressive and rule breaking behaviors. Marital quality was also a good predictor of child adjustment in all eight problem areas of the CBCL, child social competence, and of conversation orientation in families. Family communication patterns only had indirect and mediated effects on child adjustment problems. However, conversation orientation was positively associated with child social competence, whereas conformity orientation was negatively associated with child social competence. These results are compared to results obtained from general population families. Implications for our understanding and the specific family dynamics and challenges of ART families are discussed.

Uncovering Power in Dual-Traveling Couples

Anisa Zvonkovic (Virginia Tech)
Andrea Swenson (Virginia Tech)
Kyunghee Lee (Virginia Tech)

Work-related travel represents a unique demand on workers and their personal lives. Couples in which both partners travel for work encounter a situation in which they have to balance not only their own high job demands, but also those of a partner. Using a multi-method study on families who travel for work, this
study attempts to uncover patterns of power in couples who experience high work demands. As part of a larger study on work-related travel, this study uses a subsample of 23 couples in which both partners simultaneously experience frequent work-related travel (defined as at least 20 nights per year). Using both qualitative and quantitative research strategies, analysis centered on uncovering what aspects of family and work relate to power dynamics within the couple. Using transcriptions from separate interviews (46 total interviews), we assessed how the couples talked about their relationship as well as how travel was organized and preferred within the couples. Couples discussed the ability to control their travel and travel schedule in order to meet the needs of the family. Preliminary quantitative analysis examines the division of household labor using daily diary reports on behaviors. Using time when couples were at home together, results indicated that women did the majority of the housework when home together. We conclude that relative income, gender, and presence of children played an important role in the negotiation of high work demands among couples with high work demands.

Impression Management, Negative Self-Conscious Emotions, and Information Management: A Motivated Information Management Model of Self-Presentation

Jenny Rosenberg (Kent State University)

Impression management, in part, consists of managing information between oneself and one’s interaction partners, as individuals at times seek or avoid information related to the impressions others have of them, especially when they perceive that a self-presentational predicament or failure has occurred. This paper proposes a Motivated Information Management Model of Self-Presentation (MIMMS), which draws on various theoretical frameworks, including the Theory of Motivated Information Management (Afifi & Morse, 2009; Afifi & Weiner, 2004) and appraisal theory of emotion (Lazarus, 1991). This theoretical synthesis argues that one’s uncertainty discrepancy about the probability of creating a desired impression is what leads to a self-presentational predicament, which offsets the appraisal process and generates social anxiety. Further appraisal of the predicament can lead an individual to perceive that a self-presentational failure has occurred, which causes the generation of one of three negative self-conscious emotions (i.e., shame, guilt, or embarrassment). In other words, the paper suggests that social anxiety mediates uncertainty discrepancy (the difference between actual and desired level of uncertainty; Afifi & Weiner, 2004) about the probability of creating a desired impression and the experience of negative self-conscious emotions. The primary goal of MIMMS is to clarify the positions of uncertainty, and its discrepancy, and how it relates to emotional experiences, and cognitive evaluations (i.e., outcome expectancies and efficacy assessments) by proposing a three-phase process of motivated information management in the context of self-presentation.

The Better I Feel, the Less I Cling to You All: Posture, Self-Esteem, and Closeness of Attachment Figures

Angela Rowe (University of Bristol)
Charlotte Parnes (University of Bristol)
Christine Mohr (University of Lausanne)

Pretending to feel a certain way can facilitate the experience of that feeling, and influence how others perceive you. The extent to which proprioceptively produced experience might also influence thoughts and feelings towards others, however, is yet to be established. In a within-participants experiment, across two separate sessions, 30 women reproduced subtle positive and negative postures. After this, they reported on self-esteem and completed a hierarchical mapping task measuring subjective interpersonal closeness between the self and attachment figures. Self-esteem was lower and subjective closeness to
attachment figures was higher after reproducing negative as compared to positive postures. The self-esteem finding confirms previous studies. The interpersonal closeness finding suggests that proprioceptively mediated negative affect results in the activation of proximity seeking goals and symbolic “clingy” behavior. Correlational analyses between self esteem and subjective closeness indicated that individuals’ self esteem difference between sessions was unrelated to individuals’ subjective closeness difference between sessions.

The Impact of Father Residential Absence on Adolescent Adjustment, Attachment, and Relationships

Ross Wilkinson (The Australian National University)

Over 20% of Australian teenagers live in sole-parent families. National data indicates that adolescents in these families have approximately twice the rate of behavioural and emotional problems compared to adolescents from dual-parent families. The effect of a parental residential absence on patterns of relationships and relationship expectations, however, is relatively less known. The current study reports the results of a cross-sectional survey of adolescents living with both parents (n = 950) and those living with their mother but not their father (n = 245). Adolescents living without their father reported more depression and negative affect and less self-esteem and positive affect. They also reported a more negative attitude towards school, lower quality family interactions, and more problems in their social environment. In terms of relationship expectations, those living without their father reported a more negative model of self. As expected, father attachment was higher for those living with their father. There was some evidence that father's residence decreased the relationship of peer attachment to depression. Overall, absence of the father from the family home was associated with increased psychological and social dysfunction and with decrements in expectations of security in relationships with others. Ideas for extending this research and implications for both social policy and clinical interventions are discussed.
Poster Session 7

Monday 10:00 - 11:15 (Palmer House)

Sex Segregation and Gender Identity in Emerging Adulthood

Nicole Silva (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth)
Brian Ayotte (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth)
Mahzad Hojjat (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth)
Clare Mehta (Emmanuel College)

Sex segregation, the tendency for males and females to form friendships with same-sex peers (Thorne & Luria, 1986) is typically studied in childhood (Mehta & Strough, 2009). As such, we know little about sex segregation in emerging adulthood. Gender identity refers to the extent to which a person identifies with their own sex (Michealieu, 1999). Research indicates that gender identity is associated with sex segregation in adolescence (Mehta & Strough, 2010). As such, gender identity may also be associated with sex segregation in emerging adulthood. The present study investigated whether a) sex segregation exists in emerging adulthood and b) whether gender identity is associated with sex segregation in emerging adulthood. Two-hundred and thirty-four undergraduates completed a questionnaire that included Michealieu’s gender identity scale (measuring gender salience, public gender positivity, and same-sex gender identity) and two sex segregation measures. One measure was a restricted measure of sex segregation, where participants nominated and indicated the sex of 5 friends they would invite over to their house to hang out with. The other measure was an unrestricted measure of sex segregation, where participants nominated and indicated the sex of all their closest friends. A t-test suggested that sex segregation does exist in emerging adulthood. A hierarchal multiple regression indicated that gender identity was positively related to sex segregation measured using both restricted and unrestricted sex segregation measures. These results lend support to theoretical suppositions that sex segregation exists across the lifespan (Mehta & Strough, 2009).

“Keeping it Realistic”: How Low Self-esteem Individuals Use Temporal Self-appraisal to Maintain Their Low Self-Regard

Christine Hole (University of Manitoba)
Marian Morry (University of Manitoba)
Brianna Bogucki (University of Manitoba)

Temporal self-appraisal theory states that individuals maintain self-regard through a propensity to remember positive events as feeling closer in time and subjectively distanc ing memories of negative events. We explore the boundaries of temporal self-appraisal theory to determine if similar results are found for people with low self-esteem (LSEs). In line with self-verification theory, we predict LSEs would feel more uncomfortable than HSEs when remembering events incongruent with their generally negative self-views and thus would subjectively distance themselves from memories of praise. HSEs, however, should be more likely than LSEs to remember negative events as “feeling” further away in time. Participants (N = 370, 126 men) wrote about a time when they were either praised or criticized by one of two targets; their dating partner or an acquaintance. LSEs, regardless of target, tend to show no significant differences in subjective distancing. HSEs, however, show significant biases for keeping good memories close and making bad ones seem further away. LSEs think significantly more about, and find it easier to recall a memory of being criticized rather than praised. Also, LSEs report liking themselves more when recalling a moment when they were criticized versus praised. Interestingly, LSEs are more committed to
their romantic relationship than HSEs when recalling events of criticism. While HSEs seem to use temporal appraisal to sustain high levels of self-regard, LSEs appear to use temporal appraisal as a strategy to “keep it real” - maintaining what they believe to be a more accurate representation of their “true selves”.

The Moderating Role of Distance in the Link between Social Support and Mental Health in the Transition to Parenthood

Alexandra Chong (Kent State University)
Kristin Mickelson (Kent State University)

Although family members often contemplate moving closer to one another for added support during the transition to parenthood, little has been investigated on how distance from family may influence adjustment to first-time parenting. In the current study, we examined (1) how geographic distance from couples’ parents and in-laws influences social support processes and (2) whether geographic distance moderates the relationship between social support and mental health. For the current study, we interviewed 92 couples at 1-month postpartum. We measured distance from participants’ own parents and in-laws, types of support received, as well anxiety and depression. Preliminary ANOVA analyses indicated mothers whose in-laws were located more than 300 miles away reported less emotional support and less minor tangible support than mothers whose in-laws were located within 60 miles. Fathers whose own parents were located more than 300 miles away reported less negative interactions. Stratified regression analyses indicated distance was a stronger moderator for mothers than for fathers. For mothers, there was a curvilinear relationship of distance on the association between various types of support and mental health. Specifically, it appears that for mothers who live 60 – 300 miles from their parents and in-laws show a stronger link between support and mental health than mothers who live either less than 60 miles or more than 300 miles from their parents and in-laws. The current findings show the importance of how geographic distance from support members can play a role the social support process and the mental health outcomes for new parents.

The Relationship between Shyness and Loneliness in Ethnic Minority College Students: Friendship Quality as a Moderator

Angela Calvin (Illinois State University)
Nina Mounts (Northern Illinois University)

Shyness among college students has been found to be associated with feelings of loneliness (e.g., Mounts, Valentiner, Anderson, & Boswell, 2006), but few studies have investigated whether having a high quality friendship buffers this association. Furthermore, although many studies have assessed shyness during the college transition (e.g., Asendorpf, 2000), less research has examined shyness specifically among ethnic minority students. Therefore, the purpose of the current study was to examine whether friendship quality mitigates or exacerbates loneliness among shy ethnic minority college students. Eighty-three (40% women) ethnic minority students from a large, public, Midwestern university that is predominantly White (approximately 70% of the student population) completed self-report questionnaires of shyness (Cheek & Buss [1981] Shyness Scale), loneliness (Russell, Peplau, & Cutrona, 1980), and the friendship quality of one of their close friends they have made since coming to college (Mendelson & Aboud, 1999). Results indicated that shyness was positively associated with loneliness. Friendship quality, however, was negatively associated with loneliness. Inconsistent with predictions, a hierarchical linear regression revealed that friendship quality did not significantly moderate the association between shyness and
loneliness. The results support the importance of shyness and high quality friendships among ethnic minority students during the college transition.

Drawn to Collaborate: How Couple Characteristics Influence Joint Activities

Brittany Sirtonski (Trent University)
Elaine Scharfe (Trent University)
Willow Burns (Trent University)
Kristen Morrison (Trent University)
Gillian Tibbetts (Trent University)

Over the past few decades, researchers have supported Bowlby’s proposal that attachment is associated with our interpretation of the social world. In romantic relationships, attachment has been linked to couple characteristics such as conflict styles and relationship satisfaction but little work has explored couples’ ability to collaborate. In this study, we used the Joint Drawing Method – a technique used in art therapy – to measure couples’ ability to collaborate on a task and explored the association between attachment and collaboration. Couples in established relationships (> 1 year in length) visited a lab and were separated for an hour while they completed questionnaires including several assessments of attachment. Before being reunited, participants were asked to list either positive or negative qualities about their partner and to complete the PANAS to determine if this task influenced their mood. Participants were then reunited to complete the videotaped Joint Drawing Task. The recordings were coded to rate collaboration of each member of the couple. We expected that secure participants would display higher levels of collaboration regardless of postive or negative condition compared to insecure participants. As attachment differences are proposed to become more pronounced during times of stress, we expected an interaction such that secure participants in the positive condition would display the highest level of collaboration and insecure participants in the negative prime condition would display the lowest level of collaboration. Further analyses will expand our understanding of couple collaboration as well as the effects of collaboration on conflict resolution and relationship satisfaction.

Why Does Someone Who is High in Commitment Initiate a Breakup?:
The Role of Perceived Relative Commitment

Emily Short (Purdue University)
Christopher Agnew (Purdue University)
Laura VanderDrift (Purdue University)
S. Marie Harvey (Oregon State University)

Past longitudinal research has established that individuals who are highly committed to their relationship are unlikely to end their involvement (e.g., Le et al., 2010), but the involvement may still end. Of course, one’s partner may have low commitment and end the relationship, but it is also possible that a person who has reported high commitment to a romantic relationship subsequently initiates the breakup of that relationship. The current research was aimed at understanding these latter instances, with a particular interest in examining the influence of perceived relative commitment. We hypothesized that, despite having high own commitment (i.e., greater than the scalar midpoint), individuals who perceived their partner’s level of commitment was lower than their own might move to dissolve the relationship, perhaps “preemptively” as a way of protecting the self. As part of a larger longitudinal study of relationship dynamics and sexual risk behaviors, 66 heterosexual participants at Time 1 reported their own level of relationship commitment to a sexual partner and the perceived commitment of their partner. At Time 2 approximately 4 months later, participants indicated whether the relationship remained intact. Both
logistic regression and Chi-square analyses revealed that participants who were highly committed at T1 were significantly more likely to initiate a breakup by T2 when they perceived that their partner had lower commitment relative to the self. Results have implications for delineating the conditions in which an individual’s own level of commitment does not predict whether that individual chooses to stay in or leave a relationship.

The Influence of Traditionalism on the Evaluation of the Functionality of Close Relationships

Luz Maria Cruz-Martinez (National Autonomous University of Mexico)
Sofia Rivera-Aragon (National Autonomous University of Mexico)
Rolando Diaz-Loving (National Autonomous University of Mexico)

Social culture determines the beliefs, norms, values, and behaviors of the individuals in that society (Diaz Guerrero, 1994a, 1994, 2003; Gudykunst & Ting-Toomey, 1988; Triandis, 1972, 1994) through premise, socialization and socially assigned roles. Due to these circumstances, the objective of this study is to evaluate the relationship between traditionally associated beliefs such abnegation and machismo and the functionality of close relationships. A random sample of 447 volunteers between the ages of 18-71 was used, of which 221 were male and 224 female. (ME=41.013, DE=57.15). Volunteers were asked to respond to the Historical-Socio-Cultural Premises Inventory (PHSC) of the Mexican Family (Diaz Guerrero, 2003), the Abnegation Scale (Avendaño Sandoval & Diaz Guerrero, 1992), The Family Functionality Scale (Garcia-Mendez, Rivera-Aragon, Reyes Lagunes & Diaz-Loving, 2006) as well as the Inventory to Evaluate the Attributive Dimensions of Instrumentality and Expression (EDAI) (Diaz-Loving, Rocha Sanchez & Rivera-Aragon, 2007.) For each of the inventories a second-order factual analysis was implemented using an orthogonal rotation in order to reduce its size. Later a Pearson product-moment correlation analysis was used to identify the relationship of these intra-scale factors to the functionality of close relationships. Results indicate a tendency on the part of the male participants towards the traditional, the status quo, while female participants seem immersed in a process of social transition moving away from the more rigid socio-cultural norms.

Interpersonal and Family Difficulties Predicting Depression among College Students

Anca Mirsu-Paun (University of South Florida)

Interpersonal relationships represent a fundamental dimension of college students’ social functioning and interpersonal difficulties are most frequently invoked by students seeking university counseling center services (Johnson, 2008). Both social isolation (van Orden et al., 2010) and limited family support (Sheeber, Hops, Alpert, Davis, & Andrews, 1997) were associated with increased vulnerability to depression among college students. However, few studies specifically targeting college students have examined both these variables. Participants: 1,916 college students (mean age of 23.4 years old; 1,338 female and 570 male). Measures: The College Adjustment Scale (CAS) (Anton & Reed, 1991) to measure levels of depression, family difficulties, and interpersonal difficulties. Results: Multicollinearity between interpersonal and family difficulties was not an issue (r = .54, p < .001). A multiple regression predicting levels of depression from interpersonal problems and family problems revealed that R² was .39, p < .0001, Cohen’s effect size was .63, and the root mean square error was 8.30. The standardized β coefficient for interpersonal difficulties was .485 with t(1912)=22.90, p < .0001 and for family difficulties was .212 with t(1912)=10.01, p< .0001. The regression equation was: depression = 22.95 + .477*interpersonal + .237*family + error. Conclusion: Both interpersonal and family
difficulties have a significant impact on feelings of depression among college students but the first has a larger impact than the latter. Further research is needed to examine (a) specific dimensions of interpersonal difficulties as related to depression (i.e., conflict, rejection, etc.), and (b) other possible mediators (i.e., self-efficacy, personality traits, and social skills).

Support Seeking, Provision and Perception in Maritally Distressed and Nondistressed Couples: A Multi-Method Analysis

Lesley Verhofstadt (Ghent University)
Gilbert Lemmens (Ghent University Hospital)

We will report of two studies (Study 1 = 140 couples; Study 2 = 40 couples) in which we examined the lack-of-support patterns that take place in maritally distressed couples. More specifically, we made descriptive comparisons between maritally distressed and nondistressed couples of their way of seeking, providing, receiving, and perceiving support. Global self-reports were used in both studies to assess spouses' support behaviors and perceived support. These measures were supplemented in study 2 with measures of observed support behavior and interaction-based perceived support (so-called on-line perceived support), as assessed during specific support interactions. As compared to nondistressed couples, distressed couples displayed lower levels of positive support provision behavior (instrumental, emotional, and other positive support provision) and higher levels of negative support provision behavior. Our results also indicated that, relative to satisfied couples, dissatisfied couples exhibited significantly less positive and more negative support seeking behavior. Furthermore, distressed spouses reported lower levels of perceived support across interactions, as well as during actual support interactions. Our findings were consistent across studies and support the notion that ineffective social support is an important indicator of marital distress. Implications for couples' therapy will be discussed.

Interracial Dating in a "Color-Blind" Society: Romantic Attraction and the Ideologies of College Men

James Brooks (University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign)

At their core, interracial romantic relationships are both intimate partnerships and microcosms of intergroup interactions. As such, research seeking to expand our understanding of interracial relationships should integrate knowledge in each of these fields. Few studies have explored interracial relationships in a way that explores some essential mechanisms of romantic attraction in tandem with individuals’ systems of belief about relations between racial groups. The current study seeks to fill this void by exploring the intersections of relationship concepts such as similarity, physical attractiveness, and familiarity with racial ideology. Using a vignette design, 130 Black and White men indicated their romantic attraction toward the profiles of six women (three Black and three White). The project also assesses participant’s endorsement of Color-blind Racial Ideology (CoBRAS; Neville, 2000), multiculturalism (MIS; Barry, 2011), and political ideology and contact with members of another race. Data collection is scheduled to be completed in February 2012 and the findings will be discussed in terms of the impact of similarity (intraracial vs. interracial ratings), and familiarity with members of another race (interracial contact) on ratings of romantic attraction. Analyses will also explore the main effect of ideologies on interracial romantic attraction as well as the interaction of race of the participant and the endorsement of each ideology on their willingness to date a member of another race.
‘I like you both the same, but for different reasons’: Differences between Communication Mediums Related to Self-Disclosure, Responsiveness, and Self-Awareness

Kevin Wallpe (Illinois State University)

Relationship researchers have long been interested in initial interactions. Recently, researchers have given particular attention to factors that predict smoothness and success of first interactions, including whether the interactions lead to the desire for and development of relationships. Certain types of social deficiencies, however, can possibly impede initial interactions. These include a fearful attachment style and social anxiety. Other personal characteristics, such as a secure attachment style and being an “opener” (ability to elicit disclosure from others), conversely, should facilitate initial interaction. Few researchers, however, have examined how such individual difference variables affect behaviors, cognitions, and feelings in the very early stages of relationship initiation, including first interactions. In a laboratory experiment, previously unacquainted pairs of students (N = 59 dyads) interacted over a webcam using a structured closeness-generating task. Before the interaction, they completed several individual difference measures, including assessments of their attachment style and level of social anxiety. Analyses examine how self and partner’s attachment style, social anxiety, and other individual difference variables predict various indicators of success and smoothness of the get-acquainted interaction, including level of self-disclosure, closeness generated, enjoyment of the interaction, liking for the other, and desire to see the other again. Analyses indicate that a person’s attachment security was associated with feelings of closeness for the other; fearful attachment was associated with a lower level of self-disclosing. Furthermore, those who were paired with an avoidant reported less liking than others. Social anxiety was negatively related to closeness, enjoyment, and desire to see the other again.

Intimacy, Conflict, and Aggression across Three Phases of Romantic Relationship Development

Marla Reese-Weber (Illinois State University)
Heather Hyman (Illinois State University)
Ashley Johnson (Illinois State University)
Michael Nigro (Illinois State University)
Kera Widmer (Illinois State University)
Julie Carlson (Illinois State University)

The present study examined three different phases of romantic relationship development. The first phase, labeled the honeymoon phase, is characterized as being new and exciting when partners try hard to appear their best and tolerate the other’s faults. Next, the defining phase includes a period when partners become comfortable enough to discuss issues of disagreement and begin to define the relationship. Finally, the established phase includes feeling secure in the future of the relationship. The sample used in preliminary analyses included 113 college students (34 men; 79 women) currently in a romantic relationship (final sample will include 100 men and 100 women). Participants were predominantly Caucasian (85%) with a mean age of 19.6 years. The participants completed questionnaires assessing intimacy levels, conflict strategies, and psychological aggression. Based on short descriptions of the three phases, participants chose the relationship phase that best represented their current relationship. The results of one-way ANOVAs found that intimacy levels were not significantly different between the honeymoon and defining phases, but there was a significant increase in intimacy between the defining and established phases (p = .048). Positive conflict strategies followed the same pattern as intimacy levels with an increase between the defining and established phases (p = .052). Both negative conflict strategies and psychological aggression were found to increase between the honeymoon and defining phases (p = .016;
Communication Differences by Sex, Sexual Orientation, and Target Dyad

Christopher Marosi (Illinois State University)

One of the most important processes in close relationships is self-disclosure. Through disclosure, people, even complete strangers, can build intimacy and closeness with one another (e.g., Aron et al., 1997). Of course, there are multiple attributes of both the discloser and listener that influence the degree of disclosure that is exchanged. In this study, I focused on such attributes. Specifically, I examined the joint influence of gender, sexual orientation, and relationship type (parent vs. friend) on the degree to which young adults reported self-disclosing in the relationship and their perception of the other’s responsiveness in the relationship. As prior researchers have found, women tend to disclose more than men, and disclosure is greatest within personal relationships (e.g. friends or parents) vs. with strangers (Dindia, & Allen, 1992). Furthermore, Peplau and Ghavami (2009) recently noted that heterosexuals receive the most social support from family whereas homosexuals receive the most support from peers. Based on these findings, I proposed that women and heterosexuals would disclose more and perceive more responsiveness in a close relationship than men and homosexuals. In preliminary analyses based on 93 participants from a USA Midwestern university, I found that women disclosed more and perceived more responsiveness than men; heterosexuals disclosed more and perceived more responsiveness than homosexuals; and participants disclosed more and perceived more responsiveness from friends than from parents. Furthermore, I found an interaction between sexual orientation and relationship type: homosexuals disclosed and perceived more responsiveness from friends whereas heterosexuals disclosed more and perceived more responsiveness from parents. Additional data collection will be conducted in Spring of 2012.

Rejection Sensitivity as a Function of Attachment, Parental Rejection, and Romantic Breakup Initiation

Martin Gallegos (Illinois State University)

A goal of this study was to synthesize previous findings of rejection sensitivity in relation to different social realms (intraperso-nal, familial, and romantic) while considering attachment theory, parental acceptance/rejection theory, gender differences, and the effects of romantic relationship breakup initiation in predicting rejection sensitivity among young adults. A sample of 147 (102 females) university students was assessed on self-report measures of rejection sensitivity, generalized dispositional attachment anxiety and avoidance, perceived parental rejection, and romantic relationship history. Romantic relationship history in this study included whether or not one had previously experienced a romantic relationship breakup; the length of time since one’s most recent romantic relationship breakup; the length of time of one’s previous romantic relationship; and the degree to which one’s most recent breakup was distressing. The majority of students (n = 128) had previously experienced a romantic relationship breakup. Generalized dispositional attachment anxiety and avoidance, as well as paternal rejection, correlated significantly with rejection sensitivity. No significant differences between males and females were found on rejection sensitivity scores. No significant differences were found between rejection sensitivity scores in regards to differing styles of initiating recent romantic relationship breakups (self-initiated, mutual, or partner-initiated). Among the factors considered, a stepwise hierarchical regression demonstrated that generalized dispositional attachment anxiety was most significant in predicting rejection sensitivity. Results from the study support implications of prior theories of rejection sensitivity, parental
acceptance/rejection, and symbolic interaction. Limitations and practical implications are discussed for counselors and therapists who work with emerging adults in university settings.

Attachment Orientations as Mediators in the Intergenerational Transmission of Marital Satisfaction

Amber M. Jarnecke (Purdue University)
Susan C. South (Purdue University)

Previous research suggests that there is an intergenerational transmission of marital satisfaction, such that parents’ marital satisfaction predicts their adult child’s marital satisfaction. The mechanisms that explain this phenomenon remain relatively unknown. In the current study, we examined the role of parent-child attachment orientations and romantic relationship attachment orientations as mediators in the intergenerational transmission of marital satisfaction. Data from the current study come from an ongoing longitudinal investigation of individual differences and marital functioning. Participants were cohabitating newlywed couples who had been married for 12 months or less, recruited from advertisements, electronic media, and publicly available marriage license information. Each member of the couple separately completed several self-report measures via computer administration. Participants’ own marital satisfaction was assessed, as measured by the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS; Spanier, 1976). An adapted version of the DAS assessed perceptions of parents’ marital satisfaction. Participants’ attachment orientations to romantic partners was measured by the Experiences in Close Relationships-Revised Questionnaire (Fraley, Waller, & Brennan, 2000) and participants’ attachment orientations to rearing parents was assessed by the Relationships Structures Questionnaire (Roisman et. al., 2007). Data was analyzed using the actor-partner interdependence model in a structural equation modeling framework to account for the non-independent nature of the data. This allowed for examination of gender differences and provided overall fit of the hypothesized model. Findings have implications for understanding the effects of attachment orientations on marital relationships.

A Dyadic Examination of the Intergenerational Transmission of Conflict Resolution Skills

Renee Dennison (Saint Mary's College of Maryland)
Brian Ogolsky (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

How couples manage conflict in the early critical years of marriage is an important relationship process -- past studies of couples in early marriage have shown that conflict resolution style predicts both concurrent and future marital satisfaction (Schneewind & Gerhard, 2002). Moreover, there is evidence in the extant literature that relationship skills (or lack thereof) can be linked to family of origin experiences (e.g., Amato, 1996). The current study extends the existing research by examining the intergenerational transmission of conflict in a sample of 176 newlywed couples, recruited through marriage records in five US counties. Couples in the current sample were in their first marriages, married within the last 24 months ($M = 12.56, SD = 3.72$), ranged in age from 18-37 ($M = 27.13, SD = 3.67$), and were 70% Caucasian and 20% African American. Conflict in the family of origin was measured with the Perceptions of Interparental Conflict Scale (Kline, Wood, & Moore, 2003) and conflict in the newlywed couple was assessed with the Conflict Resolution Styles Inventory (Kurdek, 1994). The overall intergenerational transmission of conflict styles and skills, as well as the strength of actor effects and partner effects were assessed using the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (APIM: Cook & Kenny, 2005). The current results provide evidence that conflict is “transmitted” across generations, and that a spouses’ experience of interparental conflict may be an even more significant predictor of an individual’s current constructive and destructive conflict strategies than their own family of origin experience.
The Impact of Close Person Visualization on Emotions Depending on Interpersonal Perspective Adoption and Individual Traits

Dariusz Kuncewicz (Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities)

The first objective was to investigate which emotions the visualization of a close benevolent person affects, depending on the type of interpersonal perspective: egosystem (focused on self-image) or ecosystem perspective (oriented to the collaboration in meeting the needs) (Crocker, 2009). The second objective was to test whether this effect is moderated by individual features such as: attachment style, zero-sum beliefs on relationship, self-image goals and self-pity. Firstly, the participants (N = 112) filled out questionnaires to measure individual features. Then the subjects imagined a close friendly person and – depending on the experimental condition – were describing what that close friendly person thinks about the subject (the egosystem perspective adoption) or describing the situation of friendly exchange between one another (the ecosystem perspective adoption). At the end, the subjects estimated the intensity of positive and negative emotions. The results showed that the ecosystem visualization of a benevolent close person, compared with egosystem visualization, had a stronger impact only on positive emotions: nonspecific (satisfaction and joy), and specifically directed to others (sympathy and love). This impact has proved to be independent from the individual features. In turn, individual traits proved to be responsible especially for the intensity of negative emotions (vulnerability, fear, sadness and anger) experienced after benevolent close person visualization – regardless of the type of induced perspective. The theoretical and clinical aspects of the results were discussed.

Participation in a Longitudinal Study of Couples Dealing with Breast Cancer

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Dorte Gilså Hansen (University of Southern Denmark)
Mariët Hagedoorn (University of Groningen, University Medical Center Groningen)
Anne Nicolaisen (University of Southern Denmark)
Hanne Würtzen (Unit of Survivorship, Danish Cancer Society, Research Center)
Pia Veldt Larsen (University of Southern Denmark)
Niels Kroman (Department of Breast Surgery, Rigshospitalet, University of Copenhagen)
Henrik Flyger (Department of Breast Surgery, Herlev Hospital)
Christoffer Johansen (Unit of Survivorship, Danish Cancer Society, Research Center)

Large, longitudinal studies are needed to better understand the role that relationship characteristics and processes play when couples adjust to breast cancer. However, such studies may suffer from selection bias and hence produce results that cannot be generalized. To examine and discuss participation and generalizability in a longitudinal questionnaire study of couples living with breast cancer. A nationwide, population-based cohort of women diagnosed with breast cancer and their cohabiting partners is being established in Denmark (inclusion period 07/2011-07/2012). Patients and partners fill out questionnaires on individual adjustment, dyadic coping and relationship characteristics at diagnosis, at 5 and at 12 months after. The developmental-contextual model of couples coping with chronic illness (Berg & Upchurch 2007) provides the theoretical framework. A total of 800 couples are expected to participate. Preliminary analyses on participation rate, patient-reported reasons for non-participation, and a comparison of participants and non-participants will be presented. As of December 8 2011, 378 couples participate (participation rate of approximately 35%). Old age, lack of energy, the feeling of not being ill, participation in other research projects and the intimate character of the questionnaire are some reasons patients state for non-participation. Further analyses will show whether participants and non-participants differ regarding socio-demographic and clinical characteristics. These results will allow us to evaluate the
study’s external validity. This in turn will help us draw valid conclusions on adaptation and relationship processes in the context of breast cancer, results that can be used to improve care for both patients and partners.

Is Spiritual Attachment Associated with Active, Constructive Coping with Hurtful Relationship Events?

Albert Tuskenis (Governors State University)

In response to hurtful relationship events, reliance on spiritual coping, such as drawing strength from and coping collaboratively with God, is related to better coping outcomes. Similarly, individuals with secure human attachment cope constructively by expressing emotions and discussing hurtful relationship events with offenders. The link between relying on God and the kinds of constructive non-spiritual coping related to secure human attachment is unknown: do people who rely on God for support use more constructive non-spiritual coping with hurtful relationship experiences? Might constructive non-spiritual coping mediate between attachment to God and successful resolution of hurtful relationship events? Participants wrote accounts of a hurtful relationship experience and how they coped with it. They also completed measures of attachment to God and resolution of the hurtful relationship event. Examination of the non-spiritual coping descriptions suggested these themes: positive re-framing; communicating with the offending partner; processing emotions; seeking social support; self-distraction or avoidance; using alcohol or drugs; and retaliation or aggression. The non-spiritual coping accounts were rated on the above themes and assessed for correlations with attachment to God and resolution of the hurtful relationship event. Results showed associations between attachment to God and use of non-spiritual coping methods interpreted as “active” or “constructive,” such as communicating with partner, seeking social support, and processing emotions. These active and constructive coping methods were correlated with resolution of the hurtful relationship event. Results suggest implications regarding non-spiritual coping in the connection between attachment to God and resolution of hurtful relationship events.

The Ties that Bind: Examining the Use of a Former Partner as an Attachment Figure

Daphna Ram (Cornell University)
Barbara Koslowski (Cornell University)
Marianella Casasola (Cornell University)
Joseph Mikels (DePaul University)

The use of a romantic partner as an attachment figure during the course of a romantic relationship has been well examined. However there is little research assessing whether individuals use their former partners as attachment figures following relationship breakup across the adult life span. In the current two studies, we examined whether individuals use their former partners to fulfill attachment functions. The first study examined whether individuals used their former partners to fulfill attachment functions, compared to close friends or acquaintances. The second study examined whether perception of permanence of the breakup influenced the ability for individuals to use the former partner as a secure base. Findings indicate that older individuals experiencing high levels of negative affect do use the former partner as a secure base. Individuals primed to feel high perception of permanence with regard to the former relationship used the former partner as a secure base compared to individuals who were primed to feel low perception of permanence. Our findings are considered in the context of the adaptive nature of maintaining a tie to the former partner following loss, and the implications of the ties that bind with regard to an individual’s changing attachment hierarchy following relationship breakup.
A Gay Identity Crisis: An Autoethnographic Case Study of a Gay Male’s Identity Formation Influenced by Relational Experiences

Mark Generous (Texas State University)

Interpersonal relationships of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals have been studied from a variety of different perspectives – empirical, interpretive, and critical. Each methodological approach offers new insight into the formation and maintenance of LGBTQ members’ friendships (both intergroup and in-group) and romantic relationships. Unlike their heterosexual counterparts, sexual minorities’ relationships are impacted significantly by their identity formation as a member of the LGBTQ community. Conversely, the close relationships these individuals engage in influence their’ identities and self-images in distinct, unique ways. Using an auto-ethnographic methodology, the intergroup and in-group friendships, as well as the romantic relationship experiences, of one gay man over the course of adolescence and young adulthood are examined to offer support and critique of past LGBTQ relationship research. Personal experiences led the author to discover that relationships act as the vehicles for how people order the world. More importantly for sexual minorities, particular communicative choices within relationships influence personal and relational well-being.

Cross-Cultural Study of Control in Relationships

Ivelina Naydenova (Gardner-Webb University)

The purpose of this project is to advance the cross-cultural study of control in relationships. One hundred and two Belgian, 115 Bulgarian and 197 American students completed measures of relational control (CIR; Naydenova & Jones, 2009), forgiveness, perspective taking, loneliness, jealousy, satisfaction and adult attachment. We expected CIR to be positively related to anxious attachment, jealousy, and loneliness, and to be inversely related to perspective taking, relationship satisfaction, and forgiveness. As expected, in the American sample, CIR was correlated with jealousy (r = .34, p < .01), loneliness (r = .24, p < .01) and anxious-ambivalent attachment style (r = .39, p < .01) and inversely associated with perspective taking (r = -.34, p < .01), relationship satisfaction (r = -.29, p < .01), and forgiveness (r = -.21, p < .01). Similarly, in the Bulgarian sample, CIR was associated with jealousy (r = .36, p < .01), loneliness (r = .45, p < .01) and anxious-ambivalent attachment (r = .36, p < .01), and inversely associated with perspective taking (r = -.35, p < .01) and relationship satisfaction (r = -.45, p < .01). However, in the Bulgarian sample, the desire to exert behavioral control over one’s partner was not significantly associated with forgiveness (r = .10, ns). In the Belgian sample, CIR was associated with jealousy (r = .29, p < .01), anxious-ambivalent-attachment (r = .42, p < .01) and perspective taking (r = -.49, p < .01) but not with the other measures. Potential cultural differences that can account for the different pattern of results are discussed.

The Relation between Shame and Marital Satisfaction in Women and Men

Mahsima Pourshahriari (Alzahra University)
Sara Raissi Tousi (Alzahra University)

Critical literature assumes that shame have a negative effect on interpersonal relations. The present study aims to examine this assumption empirically within the context of marriage. Data were collected from 119 women and 50 men working in offices in Tehran. TOSCA_2 and Maudsley Marital Questionaire (MMQ) were used on line to measure shame and marital satisfaction. As assumed by the researchers, results indicated that there was a significant relation between the variables for men (r=0.35, p<0.05), showing
that an increase in shame would be associated with a decrease in marital satisfaction. Unlike men, for women participating in this study shame was not shown to be significantly related to marital satisfaction ($r=0.08$, $p>0.05$). Probable causes for the difference between results for men and women were discussed according to literature and the research that has been done in the world.

Attachment, Hypersexualisation, and Intimacy among Emerging Adults

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Audrey Brassard (University of Sherbrooke)
Sarah Bruyninx (University of Sherbrooke)
Melanie Bourassa (University of Sherbrooke)
Emmanuelle Dupuy (University of Sherbrooke)
Christine Gagnon (University of Sherbrooke)

In 2007, the American Psychological Association (APA) published a report on the sexualization of young girls, marking hypersexualisation as a major concern. While scientific literature abounds on teenagers’ hypersexualization, the phenomenon is still poorly documented among emerging adults (Caouette, 2011). As young adults face the major developmental tasks of consolidating their identity and forming intimate relationships, they are concomitantly exposed to unreachable standards of beauty and sexual performance (Beyers & Seiffge, 2010). Therefore, it seems relevant to examine whether hypersexualisation is associated with the ability to develop intimate relationships as adults. This study aimed to investigate the links between hypersexualisation and couple intimacy in emerging adults. Participants’ attachment insecurities were also considered because they could constitute a risk factor for the development of hypersexual behaviors. To do so, 587 French-Canadian participants, aged between 18 and 29 and engaged in a couple relationship for at least six months were recruited across the province of Quebec. They voluntarily participated in a cross-sectional correlational study by completing online validated questionnaires assessing hypersexualisation, adult attachment, and romantic intimacy. Hierarchical multiple regression analyses showed that adult hypersexualisation is related to lower levels of couple intimacy (emotional, social, intellectual, sexual, and recreational). In addition, attachment insecurities (anxiety and avoidance) were positively related to hypersexual behaviors. The discussion focuses on the social and clinical implications, as well as avenues for future research.

The Impact of Cyclicality on Cohabiting and Married Relationships

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Kale Monk (Kansas State University)
Rebekah Adams (Kansas State University)
Amber Vennum (Kansas State University)

Recent research with young adults has found that 30-40% of current undergraduates report that they have broken-up and renewed their current dating relationship at least once (labeled cyclical relationships; Dailey, Pfiester, et al., 2009), and partners in these relationships report lower relationship quality. Researchers have not explored the impact of cyclicality in cohabiting and married relationships. The present study uses a nationally representative sample from a larger study conducted by the National Center for Family and Marriage Research to examine the patterns of cyclicity, the difference in characteristics between cyclical and non-cyclical relationships, and constraints operating in cohabiting (n=323) and marital (n=752) relationships. Findings indicate about 25% of cohabiting couples report cyclicity, 21% of spouses were cyclical prior to marriage, but only about 6% of spouses have experienced a separation and renewal during marriage. Additionally, through all relationship stages,
partners who experienced any cyclicality reported lower satisfaction, more uncertainty in the future of
their relationship, and greater disillusionment with their partner. Cyclic cohabiting partners reported that
help with childcare was a factor in their decision to cohabit and were less likely to have decided to get
married in the future prior to cohabiting than non-cyclical cohabiting partners. An APIM model revealed
both actor and partner effects of disillusionment on satisfaction for both cohabiting and married partners.
Differences in the association between disillusionment and satisfaction were found for cohabiting couples
who experienced cyclicality compared to those who did not.

Determinants of Social Support Seeking Decisions

Benjamin F. Armstrong (Wake Forest University)
Lara Kammrath (Wake Forest University)

Social support research has largely been focused on either the amount of support received (for health and
clinical outcomes) or the quality of support in intimate relationships. In this study we sought to
investigate how personality factors and measures of affect and well-being related to the ways in which
people make support seeking decisions across the range of their relationships. Toward this end we
conducted a longitudinal diary-style study in which participants were asked to answer questions about
issues that arose each day. For selected issues, participants were asked questions about those potential
support sources that they did and did not seek support from (a list of support sources was made at intake).
Our aim was to investigate the thoughts and expectations that went in to choosing or not choosing a given
source of support. Our focus was both on what led participants to seek support from one person over
another for a given issue and how that decision-making process was related to personality and well-being
measures. We were able to distinguish the overall amount of support-seeking from the number of support
sources sought and identified personality factors related to both of these variables. We also found that
attachment-style in particular was related to the amount and variety of support sought. For individual
issues, we found different decision-making patterns for needs of different support-types.

Young Adult Romantic Relationship Development in Mainland China:
A Cross-Cultural Application of the DEARR Model

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Wenli Liu (Beijing Normal University)
Fuming Zheng (South China Normal University)
Rachel Lindstrom (Kansas State University)

Using the Development of Early Adult Romantic Relationships (DEARR) Model (Bryant & Conger,
2002) as a guide, the current study tested whether family of origin functioning was associated with
romantic relationship success in a sample of 224 young adults from Mainland China. In addition, we
tested whether the association between family of origin functioning and romantic relationship success was
mediated by depressive symptoms and relationship problem solving skills. Results from the SEM analysis
using Mplus 6.0 indicated a good fit between the model and the data: χ² (49) = 82.276, RMSEA = .055,
CFI = .972, TLI = .962. Higher levels of family dysfunction were related to higher depressive
symptomatology (β = .43, p < .001), lower problem solving skills with his or her partner (β = -.33, p < .01),
and lower levels of relationship success (β = -.23, p < .10). Depressive symptoms were associated
with lower problem solving ability (β = -.34, p < .01). Higher levels of problem solving ability were
related to higher levels of relationship success (β = .68, p < .001). Overall, this model accounted for 67%
of the variance in relationship success. The results of the bootstrap test for mediation (Preacher & Hayes,
indicated that both indirect effects were significant: family dysfunction to problem solving to relationship success (\(\beta = -0.23, p < .01, CI = -0.38, .07\)) and family dysfunction to depressive symptoms to problem solving to relationship success (\(\beta = -0.10, p < .01, CI = -0.17, -.02\)).

Reluctance to Describe Disliked Others: Support for Socioemotional Selectivity Theory

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Marissa Wachlarowicz (Wichita State University)
Carissa Coleman (University of Kansas)
Britania Latronica (Wichita State University)
Louis Medvene (Wichita State University)

Socioemotional selectivity theory proposes that as we age we engage in emotional self-regulation with the goal of seeking positive emotional responses and avoiding negative responses (Carstensen et al., 1999). The present studies extend this line of research to a social perception task: assessing individuals’ ability to perceive others in relatively complex ways. The Role Category Questionnaire (RCQ) has been used to measure the number of psychological constructs people use to describe a “liked” and a “disliked” other. The RCQ is correlated with person-centered communication – an ability related to satisfaction in romantic relationships (Burleson, 2009) and caregiving relationships (Grosch, Medvene & Wolcott, 2008).

Participants in the first study were 24 residents of two geriatric care facilities and 23 certified nurse aides (CNAs). Results showed CNAs used a significantly greater number of constructs on the RCQ than residents, with residents and CNAs using a comparable number of constructs to describe a “liked” other. However, residents and CNAs responses significantly differed for “disliked” responses. Residents used fewer constructs to describe “disliked” others: \(M = 1.75\) versus \(M = 5.79\), \(p < .05\). Participants in the second study were 40 undergraduates at a mid-western university and 37 senior adults recruited from the university’s Center for Aging and Physical Activity. The results followed exactly the same pattern statistically. These results are consistent with previous findings regarding the effect age has on the goal of optimizing positive emotional experiences and suggest that as we age we use fewer cognitive resources to process information about disliked others.

Bridging the Gap between Survey and Qualitative Methods in Couple Research: A Natural Language Processing Approach

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Jason Carroll (Brigham Young University)

One of the central weaknesses of the survey method for gathering data is the forced response. These forced responses may give a valid and reliable way of measuring relationship functioning but they do not allow individuals to provide answers that they think are most important and that have more depth and breadth. Unfortunately, the time it takes to code qualitative studies often prohibits the use of large samples and is difficult to replicate with new samples. New methods using Natural Language Processing (NLP) of textual language could provide a method for coding open ended responses that would bridge the gap between the large sample but forced response of surveys and the small sample but open ended choices of qualitative studies. In this paper we utilize an NLP approach using SPSS text analytics for surveys (SPSS Text Analytics, 2004) to code open ended responses from 2,379 individuals who are in romantic relationships and then investigate whether these codes are predictive of common couple outcomes used in surveys. An open ended question was used that asked respondents to “Briefly describe the weaknesses you see in your current relationship with your partner.” The NLP approach effectively
distilled from the open ended question weakness categories consistent with those found in the literature. Furthermore, categories extracted using this approach predicted differences in relationship stability, satisfaction, effective communication, and relationship problems. Specifically, individuals whose descriptions of their weaknesses were predominately about finances, work, time, and family issues, reported the highest levels of stability, satisfaction, and effective communication, and the lowest levels of relationship problems. Individuals whose descriptions of their weaknesses were predominately about intimacy, both sexual and otherwise reported the lowest levels of stability, satisfaction, and effective communication, and the higher levels of relationship problems.

Out of the Box: Relationship and Reconciliation through Face-To-Face Confession in the Catholic Church

Trey Guinn (University of Texas at Austin)
Elizabeth Goins (University of Texas at Austin)

Initiatives by the Vatican underscore that reconciliation (i.e., Catholic Confession) is not to be confused with a “psychiatrist’s couch.” Priests have been issued a handbook on how to remind their parishioners of the sacrament’s true intentions (Kington, 2009). Anecdotal evidence suggests that the formal process that grants assurance of God’s forgiveness—particularly, in its change from confessional booth to face-to-face exchange between priest and penitent—likely serves multiple purposes beyond reconciling penitent with the Divine. Yet there is a dearth of literature identifying communicative and interpersonal components at play in the process of reconciliation. Using grounded theory methodology and the Wheel of Wellness model (Myers, Sweeney, & Witmer, 2000), we examined the interplay between spirituality, wellness, and human-communication that takes place during the act of reconciliation. We discovered that the “confessional conversation” is a dynamic interpersonal phenomenon often associated with spiritual wholeness. We analyzed transcripts from interviews with various people associated with the Catholic faith (N=30), including former priests and parishioners of varying age cohorts, and discovered three core descriptive categories of how communicative acts during the sacred act of reconciliation is related to spirituality and wellness. These categories—spiritual fulfillment, therapeutic counseling and improved sense of wellbeing, informed our reframing of the Wheel of Wellness model, and the present study advances a practical model for communication researchers exploring spirituality and wellness. In addition, specific applications for both health and organizational communication researchers are also discussed.

Infidelity and Parental Conflict: Differences among Frequency, Intensity, and Resolution in Comparison to Other Topics

Allison Thorson (University of San Francisco)

This study examined whether or not children’s reports of their parents’ conflict surrounding parental infidelity differed in comparison to the conflict they witnessed in their parents’ relationship surrounding other topics. Comparisons were based on 359 young adults’ retrospective accounts of the conflict surrounding parental infidelity or other memorable conflicts in their parents’ relationship. After identifying the topics of interparental conflict other than parental infidelity which adult children deemed most memorable (i.e., marital status, money, abuse, health, parenting, relocation, extended family, work, general arguing, and multiple topics), a series of ANOVAs were conducted to compare the qualities of these conflicts to the conflict surrounding parental infidelity (via children’s experiences). Findings indicated that adult children did rate the interparental conflict surrounding parental infidelity as more frequent, intense, and having less resolution than other topics of interparental conflict. Implications for future research surrounding interparental conflict are discussed.