

Research Articles

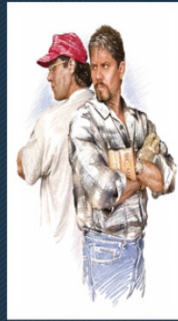
Colleges and Hookups
Family Style Slippery Slopes
Bachelors and Gender Roles
Involuntary Celibacy
Five Love Languages



JOURNAL QUESTION

Reflect on the many things we've covered here:
Functionalism Theory, Symbolic Interaction Theory, Social Exchange Theory, Life Course Theory, Systems Theory, Conflict Theory, Dating & Mating, Infidelity, and Cohabitation

Talk about which week's material will have the biggest impact on a) understanding yourself within your family of origin, b) understanding your family of origin more broadly, and c) thinking about how your future family will look and operate. Also, are there things you've discussed outside of class?



Colleges and Hookups



Rachel Allison & Margaret Ralston 2018
“Opportune Romance: How College Campuses Shape Students’ Hookups, Dates, and Relationships”

The article looks at the effects of student body size, density, and racial composition on students’ hookups, dates, and committed relationships. They find that big schools lead to more hookups and dates, but (somehow) less partnering with people in the same school. White percentages shape hooking up for all of the races and genders.



It seems that Whiteness (especially White men) are big drivers of racialized effects of hooking up on campuses. What happens on a campus like ours where Whites are only 20% of the population, but Asians are 50%?

Do dating apps change any of this? Do they change what proximity means? Maybe even better, do they change what propinquity means (especially for thinking about “density”)?

They recruited students from social science and humanities courses. Our “UC Socially Dead” nickname is partially a result of it being a STEM heavy school. If they recruited more broadly, or exclusively from STEM classes, would the findings be different?

Community colleges, a big thing in California, are almost guaranteed not to be “dense” even though they are large (ELAC has 48000 students). Do those schools have lots of hookups as “large” schools (proximity) even without that density (propinquity)?

Family Style Slippery Slopes?



Elisabeth Sheff 2011

“Polyamorous Families, Same-Sex Marriage, and the Slippery Slope.”

The article examines two “new” forms of family formation—polyamorous families with more than two people and same-sex families with only one sex—and whether or not they are actually contributing to a shift in traditional family ideals and values. They explain ways these families differ from traditional families.



The people who predicted that allowing people to build same-sex families was a “slippery slope” would lead to things like polygamy seem to have been right. So, won’t that make them right about other things like liberalizing bestiality, child marriage, and incestuous marriage?

I get why same-sex families might not be the best family structure if monocentrists believe kids need *one* male and female parent. But why are polyamorous families with *at least one* male and female parent bad for kids?

People are born gay or straight [or bisexual]. It makes sense that we would allow people to marry the one person they’re born to love. We aren’t born “polyamorous”, right? **[Answer: NO!]** Can’t we all be sexually/romantically attracted to more than one person? Why do we insist on monogamy as natural?

Polyamory (consensual nonmonogamy) can exist outside of “marriage”. We judge open relationships differently than closed polyamorous ones. Why?

Bachelors And Gender Roles



Richard Pitt & Elizabeth Borland 2008
"Bachelorhood and Men's Attitudes
About Gender Roles."

The article examines the relationship between bachelorhood (i.e., the amount of time a man lives independently) and the likelihood that he agrees or disagrees with the notions that men should share housework and that a woman's role is fulfilled in the household rather than at work.



The study measures bachelorhood, but doesn't measure if the men are doing housework. It wasn't as easy in the 80's to outsource housework as it is now. Would an update require more about if housework is being done?

Mexican Machismo culture is central to everyday living. How does bachelorhood affect Mexican men or do they still have the same old traditional thinking? [*Dr. Pitt note: Gender gap (lo-to-hi) is Black, White, Asian, Hispanic*]

Does this work in the opposite direction? If experience with housework makes men less traditional, would women's pro-housework socialization and then a role hiatus make them even more traditional?

This study didn't ask about sexual orientation. Would that matter? Could a similar study explain how gay men might act in gay marriages? Why would we care about gay men's gender role attitudes?

Would a divorcee who becomes a bachelor be affected by living independently?

Involuntary Celibacy



Denise Donnelly & Elisabeth Burgess 2008
"The Decision To Remain In An Involuntarily Celibate Relationship."

The article examines the partners in relationships where one of the partners has decided that they are no longer interested in or capable of having sex. Ultimately, the decisions come down to the balance of other rewards from the relationship (vs the celibacy costs) and the cost/rewards of leaving the relationship entirely.



Why does the partner who required celibacy stay, especially if some of the causes are other problems (e.g., fights, infidelity) in the relationship?

While Nick Cannon hasn't been celibate at all recently it seems, I saw something that said him and Mariah Carey practiced celibacy [*Dr. Pitt note: for 6 weeks*] before they got married; her decision. Is involuntary celibacy decision-making different before marriage than after?

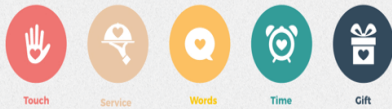
This feels really gendered (e.g., initiated by women's sexual dysfunction more often) and, therefore, also more of an issue for heterosexuals. Would this be different for same-sex relationships? Would they just open them?

What role does mainstream media (and maybe even United States' sex-positivity) play in making sex such a huge part of relationships. In other contexts that downplay the importance of sex for pleasure, would this research look different?

The authors rarely said how long relationships lasted after the decision. Shouldn't a project like this disclose how successful different strategies are?

Five Love Languages

the LOVE
LANGUAGES



Anthony Coy & Lindsey Rodriguez 2023
“Affection Preference, Enactment, and
Relationship Satisfaction: A Dyadic
Analysis of Love Languages.”

This article looks at how accurately partners understand each other's preferred modes of affection and how this understanding influences expression and relationship satisfaction. They found that people assume partner's share their preferences and a more accurate understanding of preferences is associated with higher relationship satisfaction.

The 5 Love
Languages



The article doesn't explain how love languages develop. Presumably, we'd develop them as a result of interactions (with our families of origin). If interaction is the mechanism, can love languages change as a result of romantic relationships?

How might pressure to prefer (or offer) a different love language than one “naturally” does affect relationship satisfaction. Similarly, does outright refusal to give a partner what they want reduce satisfaction?

The authors don't look at gender differences. Are there differences in who has which love language or who is more or less likely to be biased? Are the actions required for successful responsiveness (understanding, validating, caring) gendered?

The authors say that physical touch is the love language most often assumed (and accurately so), arguing that it might be more regularly negotiated and discussed. What does this say about how we view intimacy in our society?

THEORIES

Structural Functionalism Theory

Symbolic Interaction Theory

Social Exchange Theory

Life Course Theory

Systems/Ecological Theory

Conflict Theory

TOPICAL AREAS

Dating and Courtship

Infidelity

Cohabitation



Lens



Language



License

Encounter Material: Attendance (8%)

Explain Material: 20 Article Memos (17%)

You've read more than 350 pages of material and written more than 7000 words describing what you've read

Engage Material: 10 Journal Entries (25%)

You've written more than 6000 words unpacking ways these ideas inform your understanding of you and your families

Exhibit Erudition I: 4 Quizzes (17%)

Exhibit Erudition II: Final Exam (33%)

Even if you haven't all "mastered" this material, 3/4 of you have gotten at least 70 percent of these questions right and 45% have gotten a 9 or 10 on at least two of these quizzes in a class with no prerequisites.

What We'll Cover