

**Allison, Rachel, and Margaret Ralston. 2018. "Opportune Romance: How College Campuses Shape Students' Hookups, Dates, and Relationships." *The Sociological Quarterly* 59:495-518**

**PRIMARY ARGUMENT:** The authors argue that college campuses function as key environments that influence and shape the romantic behavior, interactions, and opportunities of students at school.

**IMPORTANT DEFINED CONCEPTS:**

- Proximity: the tendency for individuals to form close relationships, including friendships or romantic partnerships, with people they encounter frequently due to spatial or functional proximity.
- Racial Homophily: People usually prefer to date someone of the same race. The racial makeup of a college affects how likely students are to date outside their racial group.
- Opportunity Structure: This can be how a college campus creates chances for students to meet and form relationships with one another, like through groups of social events.
- Hookup: Spontaneous sexual activities that take place outside of exclusive relationships with no expectation of future contact.

**PRIMARY FINDINGS:**

1. Students at schools with larger and denser—measures as percent living on campus—student body sizes have higher rates of hookups and dates for both men and women. Gender seems to affect actual “relationships” with women on larger campus having more of them. Size doesn’t have an impact on men’s “relationship” formation.
2. Ironically, students on large campuses are less likely to have relationships with fellow students. Once proven wrong, the authors seem to abandon propinquity and switch to cultural explanations (i.e., students don’t perceive the campus as the only dating market,
3. Racial composition has a big influence on relationship patterns on different races and genders. The percentage of White undergraduate students is negatively associated with the number of hookups for White and Black women and Asian and Black men, but positively associated with the number of hookups for White men, Asian women and all Hispanic students, regardless of gender.
3. Campus culture influences romantic norms. For example, large universities with more liberal or party-oriented cultures often see a higher prevalence of casual hookups, while smaller, more conservative campuses may be more traditional and long-term relationships.

**KEY QUOTE:** “Our findings also show that campuses shape students’ hookups and dates more than their committed relationships ... size and density measures are consistently associated with the number of and partner student status on hookups and dates, but infrequently related to committed relationships.” (517)

**QUESTION:** Does the quality of relationships decrease along with opportunities when you are a student from a marginalized group in a smaller student body?