

Jackman, Mahalia. 2015. "Understanding the Cheating Heart: What Determines Infidelity Intentions?" *Sexuality & Culture* 19:72-84

PRIMARY ARGUMENT: The author argues that favorable attitudes, social approval and higher perceptions of alternatives are found to be associated with increased levels of infidelity intentions and with that, higher levels of unfaithfulness.

IMPORTANT DEFINED CONCEPTS:

- Extradynamic Behaviors: Behaviors that occur outside of a committed relationship. Such behaviors can be perceived as a violation to the initial understanding of a monogamous relationship.
- Theory of Planned Behavior: Behaviors of individuals are shaped by people's intentions towards, and attitude surrounding, that behavior.

PRIMARY FINDINGS:

1. Individuals who expressed favorable views on the topic of infidelity have higher infidelity intentions. Likewise, individuals who believe they have easy access to alternatives or that believe that their social network would be supportive despite being unfaithful also hold higher infidelity intentions.
2. There exists a contrast between men and women's view on monogamy. In this same aspect, men are more likely to hold non-negative perceptions towards infidelity.
3. Religiousness has an influence on individuals' views on infidelity. As a result, highly religious people are more likely to view infidelity negatively, therefore, are less likely to be unfaithful than secular groups. Such contrast can be explained by the liberal views on infidelity by religiously unaffiliated people.
4. Individuals who have been unfaithful in the past are more likely to hold liberal views therefore increasing their likeliness of doing it again. Consequently, individuals who have been cheated on are more likely to experience distress as a result of infidelity.
5. Surprisingly, a bunch of demographic factors (H5), including income, education, age, and marital status, are not found to be significantly related to infidelity attitudes.

KEY QUOTE: "Consistent with a priori expectations, this study reports that males in this sample were found to be more accepting of infidelity. More than this, the standardized coefficient suggests that gender is the most significant factor in predicting attitudes towards infidelity. It serves as some evidence that men and women approach the idea of being monogamous very differently with men being more likely to view monogamy negatively." (79)

QUESTION: One can argue that hegemonic masculinity and emphasized femininity plays a role in the patterns of infidelity found in the study, but does sexual orientation/identity alter these patterns? Do we continue to see masculine and feminine patterns influence how infidelity plays out in these relationships?