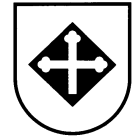




The International Association
for Relationship Research



The Australian
Psychological Society



Australian
Catholic University

Generations of Relationships and Relationships Across Generations

The Combined 7th Annual Conference of the
Australian Psychological Society's Psychology
of Relationships Interest Group and International
Association for Relationship Research
Mini-Conference

Australian Catholic University
115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, Victoria 3065.

November 10 & 11, 2007

WELCOME

Welcome to this first ever combined annual conference of the Australian Psychological Society's Psychology of Relationships Interest Group (PORIG) and mini-conference of the International Association for Relationship Research (IARR). This is the seventh annual conference of the interest group and it has now become well established as one of the most important forums for the dissemination of knowledge of both research and practice in the field of relationships in Australia. This year the PORIG has joined forces with the IARR, the peak international body in the area, to enable us to bring together researchers and practitioners from around the world to showcase the latest developments in research on the psychology of relationships and how it is being put into practice.

We are particularly delighted to have the participation at our conference of three internationally renowned keynote speakers. Professors Shaver, Simpson, and McCabe are all leaders in developing and communicating knowledge on the psychology of relationships. Each of the keynote presenters addresses a core aspect of the day-to-day experience of human relationships. It is a privilege for us to have them gathered together at our conference and we are sure that conference participants will be both informed and inspired by their presentations.

The broad theme for this conference is 'Generations of Relationships and Relationships across Generations' and there is a strong program of papers, forums, and posters which is related to this theme and the broader field of relationship research and practice. The presentations cover the entire lifespan — from birth through childhood and adolescence and onto adulthood and older age. The presenters come from a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives and include both researchers and practitioners. It is also very pleasing to welcome such a strong international representation at our conference this year.

Based on feed-back from our previous conferences, we have programmed three 'forums' which give an opportunity for participants to be directly interacting and discussing important issues. Two of the forums are focussed on particular audiences with one designed for postgraduate students and one for those interested in the aims and goals of our interest group. The third forum has been kept open so that issues generated by participants at the conference can be highlighted and openly discussed.

An essential goal of the Conference Committee was to continue our tradition of organising an intellectually stimulating and informative conference that is characterised by a genial and friendly atmosphere. On behalf of the Committee I warmly welcome you and hope you enjoy this conference.



Ross Wilkinson, *PhD MAPS*
Chair, Conference Organising Committee

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

Conference Chair

Ross Wilkinson *Australian National University*

Conference Organising Committee

Terry Bowles *Australian Catholic University*

Barry Fallon *Australian Catholic University*

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Neil Welch *Flinders University*

Alexandra West *Flinders University*

Ross Wilkinson *Australian National University*

HOUSEKEEPING

Presenters of papers are asked to attend the theatre in which they will be presenting during the break prior to their presentation so that their presentation requirements can be attended to, e.g., putting their power point file on the hard drive.

Chairpersons for each session have been asked to ensure that each paper starts on time. We have 3 papers for most sessions so you should be able to move between the parallel sessions to listen to your presentation of choice.

Refreshments during the day will be served in the Foyer of the theatres and lunch will be served in the Cafeteria in the nearby Main building of ACU.

If you need assistance with any matters, please do not hesitate to ask.

APS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POINTS

Participants who wish to claim APS PD points for attending the conference and/or giving presentations should use the 'self-assessment' process for points allocation. Please consult the APS website for more information.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Conference Committee would like to specially acknowledge the following people for their assistance in planning and administering the conference.

Ms Catherine Pasula (APS National Office)

Ms Kirsten McVean (APS National Office)

Dr Leanne Knobloch (IARR)

SPONSOR SUPPORT

This conference could not occur without the support of its major sponsor organisations. We would like to thank the Australian Psychological Society for its ongoing support of this group and the International Association for Relationship Research for lending its name and support to this event. A special thanks to the Australian Catholic University for providing the venue and its continuing support over a number of years. Thanks also to Life Resolutions for their contribution.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Professor Marita McCabe

Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia

Professor McCabe is a Professor of Psychology at Deakin University in Melbourne. Professor Marita McCabe is a Professor of Psychology at Deakin University and also Foundation Director of the Health and Wellbeing Research Priority Area. Professor McCabe's research area is in body image, obesity prevention treatment, eating disorders and depression and dementia among older people, and has published extensively in these areas. She is the Associate Editor of an international journal and on the editorial board of 3 other journals. Professor McCabe is regularly invited to give keynote addresses at international conferences in her areas of research.

Distinguished Professor Phillip Shaver

University of California, Davis, USA

Internationally renowned attachment researcher Professor Shaver is the Director of the Adult Attachment Laboratory at the University of California, Davis (UC, Davis). Professor Shaver has published extensively (over 200 papers and book chapters combined) in the area of attachment, relationship processes and social psychology over the last 35 years. He has also edited or co-written 5 books. He has been awarded numerous grants from funding bodies including the NIMH, NSF, National Institute of Aging (NIA) and the Fetzer Institute. He is on the editorial board of international journals such as *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Personal Relationships*, and *Attachment and Human Development*. Professor Shaver has been a member on various executive committees and working groups associated with the NIMH and NSF. He, along with Professor Mario Mikulincer, has recently published an authoritative text of attachment title *Attachment in Adulthood: Structure, Dynamics, and Change*. The text has received wide acclaim in the area of personal relationships.

Professor Jeffrey Simpson

University of Minnesota, USA

An internationally recognised expert in relationship research, Professor Simpson has over 20 years experience in the field of close personal relationships having published over 100 peer reviewed papers and edited 8 books. His research expertise spans evolutionary, attachment and social cognition approaches to the study of relationships. Having conducted some of the pioneering research in linking attachment theory to adult relationships, he along with Professor Garth Fletcher has also developed the Ideal Standards Model of relationships. His work has been funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and National Science Foundation (NSF) and is currently chair of the social psychology personality panel of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He is on the editorial board of numerous international journals and is the current Associate Editor of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

Conference Program

SATURDAY 10th November, 2007

8.00-9.00	Registration (Theatre Foyer)		
9.00-9.30	Conference Welcome and Opening Ceremony <i>Interest Group Chair: Dr Terry Bowles</i> <i>Conference Chair: Dr Ross Wilkinson</i>		
9.30-10.15	Keynote Address: Professor Phillip Shaver (Christ Theatre) Attachment phenomena at three levels: Individuals, couples, and groups. Chair: Dr Terry Bowles		
10.15-10.45	Morning Tea & Posters* (Theatre Foyer)		
	Christ Theatre	Mercy Theatre	Recital Room
10.45-12.15	Session 1a Relationships and Personality Chair: Julie Fitness	Session 1b Symposium - Attachment and Caregiving Chair: Gery Karantzias	Session 1c Relationships and Adjustment Chair: Zoë Pearce
	FLETCHER, G. Self perceptions of mate value: Their nature, function, and origin	GONCALVES, C. & KARANTZAS, G. C. Contextualising attachment and caregiving in the dynamics of romantic relationships	FALLON, B. J. & BRAMWELL, A. Differences in satisfaction and wellbeing for those dating casually, dating exclusively, and married
	SMITH, L. & HEAVEN, P. Trait emotional intelligence, conflict communication patterns and relationship satisfaction in cohabiting heterosexual couples	COLE, S. & KARANTZAS, G. C. Attachment bonding and the receipt of care in the face of chronic illness	ZIMMER-GEMBECK, M. J. Romantic experiences and depressive symptoms: Testing the intensifying roles of rejection sensitivity and relationship commitment
	FULTON, C. & FLETCHER, G. Regulation strategies in intimate relationships	GILLATH, O. & KARANTZAS, G. C. Predicting prosocial personality from attachment facets: What are the critical facets?	HORNSBY, Z. & BOWLES, T. The impact of social exclusion on depression, alexithymia, and perceived control of internal states

* All posters can be displayed for the duration of the conference. Poster presenters should make themselves available near their posters during the morning and afternoon breaks.

12:15 – 1:15	Lunch (Cafeteria)		
1.15 - 2.00	Keynote Address: <i>Professor Marita McCabe</i> (Christ Theatre) Changes in Sexual Functioning and its Association with Relationship Functioning in Older Age Chair: <i>Professor Barry Fallon</i>		
2:00 – 3:30	Session 2a Childbearing Chair: <i>Ross Wilkinson</i>	Session 2b Negative Aspects of Relationships Chair: <i>Terry Bowles</i>	Session 2c Emotions Chair: <i>Neil Welch</i>
	PEARCE, Z. The influence of preterm birth on intimate relationships in adulthood	MURPHY, K. Adolescent girls' experiences of and responses to non-physical abuse within relationships: Implications for preventing intimate partner violence	FITNESS, J. Thinking about hurt feelings: When do people feel hurt, as opposed to angry or sad, in close relationships?
	EISEN, L. N. & YOUNAN, R. How well do mothers know their premature infants?	GALLATY, K. & ZIMMER-GEMBECK, M. J. Interpersonal sensitivity: Are adolescents maltreated by their partners more affectively reactive to interpersonal events than non-maltreated adolescents?	CALTABIANO, M. L. & MAVER, J. Adult attachment style and the construction of anger scripts
	WHITE E. & PEARCE, Z. Predicting perceptions of attachment bond in mothers of children with autism	FLETCHER, G. & WISTERNOFF, M.* Unwanted pursuit and stalking following intimate relationship dissolution	
3:30 – 4:00	Afternoon Tea and Posters (Theatre Foyer)		
4:00 – 5:30	Session 3a Postgraduate Forum	Session 3b Individual Papers Chair: <i>Torrey Orton</i>	Session 3c Aging and Loss Chair: <i>Ross Wilkinson</i>
	PEARCE, Z. & KARANTZAS, G. C.	FALLON, B. J. The supervisor or the organisation? Which has the most significant impact on perceptions of justice, organisational citizenship behaviour, and commitment?	BOOKWALA, J., PASTERNAK, C., PRUCHNO, R., & NEWSOM, J. Effects of parent-care transitions on adult son's and daughter's marital relationships
		WELCH, N. A relationship-based theory of resilience and adaptation	COUPE, T. & WILKINSON, R. B. Attachment networks and functions in older adults

		MALE, L. & CALTABIANO, N. You're not the boss of me! Discipline within stepfamilies	JERGA, A., WILKINSON, R. B. & O'KEARNEY, R. Attachment dimensions and the identification of at-risk individuals following the loss of a loved one
5:30 - 6:30	Complimentary Drinks (Foyer)		
7:00	Dinner (Ticket Required)		

Sunday 11th November, 2007		
8:30 – 9:00	Registration Tea & Coffee (Foyer)	
9.00 – 9:45	Keynote Address: <i>Professor Jeffrey Simpson</i> (Christ Theatre) Working Models of Attachment and Reactions to Different Forms of Caregiving from Romantic Partners. Chair: <i>Dr Julie Fitness</i>	
	Christ Theatre	Mercy Theatre
9:45 – 10:45	Session 4a - Interest Group Forum	Session 4b - Free Forum
	Orton, T. What should the interest group be doing now and what should we be saying to various communities?	Eisen, L. N.
10:45 – 11:15	Morning Tea & Posters (Including Remembrance Day Observation[†]) (Theatre Foyer)	
11:15-12.45	Session 5a - Adolescents Chair: <i>Alex West</i>	Session 5b - Individual Papers Chair: <i>Zoë Pearce</i>
	TUFFIN, K. & ROUCH, G. Constructing adolescent fatherhood: Positive transformations	PETERSON, J. & FITNESS, J. Punishment in close relationships: Does it exist and why?

[†] Remembrance Day is the day Australians remember those who have died in war. At 11am on the 11th of November we pause to remember the sacrifice of those men and women who have died or suffered in wars and conflicts and all those who have served during the past 100 years.

	GOH, D. & WILKINSON, R. B. Attachment transfer and the importance of romantic partners in predicting adolescent psychological health	MUSGROVE, E. & BOWLES, T. Social phobia in romantic relationships
	WILSON, J. M. & WILKINSON, R. B. Measuring adolescent attachment relationships: A quantitative review	
12:45 – 1:45	Lunch (Cafeteria)	
1:45 – 3:15	Session 6a - Practice Chair: Lisa Eisen	Session 6b - Attachment Chair: Neil Welch
	SZARSKI, L. Family Relationship Centres, their vision and service to future generations of relationships	SCHMITT, D. P. Gender differences in romantic attachment across cultures and generations: A 56-nation study
	STAIGER, P. K., TUCCI, J. & MITCHELL, J. GREAT Kids: Improving parent-child interactions via a relationship focussed parenting program	BOWLES, T. An extension of the theory of attachment that failed and validated the original four-fold model
	WOOD, C. D. & DAVIDSON, J. A. Tom Gordon's (1970) Theory of Healthy Relationships and PET: Why it matters for families today	GRAY, C., WILKINSON, R. B. & SCHURMANN-STEKHOVEN, J. B. Attachment and the need for certainty and discovery: The development of information orientations
3:15 – 3:45	Afternoon Tea and Posters (Theatre Foyer)	
3:45 – 5:15	Session 7a – Couples Chair: Barry Fallon	Session 7b – Practice Chair: Gery Karantzias
	HOWELLS, A. & MCGILLIVRAY, J. Couple attachment interview: Theoretical discussion and sample narratives.	STEWART, S. & EISEN, L. N. Do clients understand the difference between a therapeutic relationship and a friendship?
	WEST, A. E. & FALLON, B. J. A couple analysis of rules and expectations in romantic relationships	RILEY, P. The first dyad: Teachers, students, and reciprocal attachment relationships
	WEST, A. E. & FALLON, B. J. Tit for tat? The 'worst' things we do to each other in intimate relationships	FERGUSON, A. E. Theoretical predictors of successful relationship transitions and associated personal development and satisfaction for current and future generations
5:15 - 6:00	Presentation of Awards and Annual General Meeting (Christ Theatre)	
6:00 onwards	Farewell Drinks (Foyer)	

Posters Program

Posters will be displayed throughout the duration of the conference.

Author/s	Title
Barbosa, D. R.	<i>Romantic Love and Links with Love Styles, Attachment Styles and Relationship Satisfaction in Brazilian Stable Couples</i>
Hughes, N. L. & Zimmer-Gembeck, M. J.	<i>Measuring Intimacy and Self-focused Identity Dating Goals in Late Adolescence: A Revision of the Social Dating Goals Scale.</i>
Lovett, N.	<i>Family as helpers. Using digital Storytelling to Explore the Help-Seeking Behaviour of Adolescent Girls</i>
Morgan, A.	<i>Digital Storytelling as a Way of Enhancing Reflection on Relationships</i>
O'Connor, E., Chambers, S. & Staiger, P.	<i>The Role of Social Relationships in Adjustment to University</i>
Peplinski, C. & Schmitt, D. P.	<i>Religion and the Links between HIV Knowledge and HIV Risk across Cultures, Genders, and Generations</i>
Rice, S. M. & Burton Smith, R. M.	<i>The Impact of Romantic Partnership on Relationship Quality in Close Same- and Opposite-Sex Platonic Friendship</i>
Sampia, J. & Schmitt, D. P.	<i>Psychopathy Related to Relationship Aggression across Cultures, Genders, and Generations</i>
Subhi, N. & Geelan, D.	<i>Religiosity/Spirituality as a Resilience Factor: A Qualitative Study Among Gay Men</i>
Sulaiman, S. M. A.	<i>Satisfaction Level on Academic Supervision Services, and the Relationship with Sense Variables Among Sultan Qaboos University Students in Sultanate Oman</i>
Ward, N. & Zimmer- Gembeck, M. J.	<i>The Association of Parental Psychological Control and Rejection Sensitivity in the Context of Traditional Parenting Dimensions</i>

The Australian Psychological Society Psychology of Relationships Interest Group Awards Recipients 2007

Research Award

Associate Professor Julie Fitness, Macquarie University.

Thesis Awards

Doctor Alexandra West, Corrections Victoria.

Relational Standards- Rules and Expectations in Romantic Relationships

Doctor Lauren Breen, Edith Cowan University

Silenced Voices: Experiences of Grief Following Road Traffic Crashes in Western Australia

The Abstracts of the Combined 7th Annual
Conference of the Australian Psychological
Society's Psychology of Relationships Interest
Group and International Association for
Relationship Research Mini-Conference

*Generations of Relationships and Relationships
Across Generations*

10—11 November 2007

The Australian Catholic University, Fitzroy, Melbourne, Australia

Abstract Editor: Ross Wilkinson
The Australian National University

Organising Committee

Terry Bowles
Barry Fallon
Julie Fitness
Zoë Pearce
Gery Karantzas
Neil Welch
Ross Wilkinson (Chair)

Keynote Addresses

Changes in sexual functioning and its association with relationship functioning in older age

MCCABE, M. P. (Deakin University)
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This paper presents data on sexual functioning among men and women as they get older. The contribution of the partner to sexual functioning, as well as the association between sexual functioning and relationship functioning is also examined. Studies demonstrate that over 50 percent of men over the age of 50 years experience erectile dysfunction (ED). This research has demonstrated that ED impacts on the man's level of self-esteem, masculinity and his relationship. Other studies indicate that menopause leads to problems in the sexual functioning among many women. However, the nature of these changes vary in different cultures, which seems to reflect the attitudes held by these societies towards older women being sexual beings. Studies also indicate that sexual dysfunction in one partner can have an impact on the sexual functioning of the other partner. In fact, sexual dysfunction may be best conceptualized as a couple problem. Evidence to support this view of sexual functioning is reviewed, particularly in relation to older people. It certainly appears that female partners have a major impact on treatment seeking behaviour for sexual dysfunction among their male partners, and that treatment is more likely to be effective if the female partner is involved in the treatment process.

Attachment phenomena at three levels: Individuals, couples, and groups

SHAVER, P. R. (University of California, Davis)
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Attachment theory (Bowlby, 1982) is one of the most scientifically generative conceptual frameworks in the history of psychology. Beginning as a revision of "object relations" psychoanalytic theories – a revision focused on the ethological concept "behavioral system," the cognitive concept "internal working model," and a pressing clinical issue, "maternal deprivation" – attachment theory gradually transformed the study of parent-child relationships; infant, child, and adolescent development; romantic relationships; and marriage. Recent research has extended the theory's range of application to religion, organizational leadership, and intergroup relations. In this talk, I will show how the theory has been creatively tested with diverse, probing research methods to yield new insights into the individual mind (and brain), dyadic relationships, and relationships in groups and organizations. I will summarize some of the book I coauthored this year with Mario Mikulincer, *Attachment in Adulthood: Structure, Dynamics, and Change* (Guilford Press, 2007). I will also present a few recent findings and suggest directions for further research.

Working models of attachment and reactions to different forms of caregiving from romantic partners

SIMPSON, J. A.*, WINTERHELD, H. A. (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus),
RHOLES, W. S. (Texas A&M University), & ORIÑA, M. M. (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Campus)
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We tested a series of theoretically-derived predictions about connections between attachment working models (attachment to one's parents assessed by the Adult Attachment Interview; AAI) and the effectiveness of specific types of caregiving spontaneously displayed by dating partners during a stressful conflict resolution discussion. Each partner first completed the AAI. One week later, each couple was videotaped while they tried to resolve a current problem in their relationship. Trained observers then rated each interaction for the degree to which: (a) emotional, instrumental, and physical caregiving behaviors were displayed, (b) care recipients appeared calmed by their partners' caregiving attempts, and (c) each partner appeared distressed during the discussion. Individuals who had more secure representations of their parents were rated as being more calmed if/when their partners provided greater emotional care, especially if they were rated as more distressed. Conversely, individuals who had more insecure (dismissive) representations of their parents reacted more favorably to instrumental caregiving behaviors from their partners, especially if they were more distressed. The broader theoretical implications of these findings are discussed.

Symposium

Further insights into complementary behavioural systems of interpersonal functioning: Attachment and caregiving

KARANTZAS, G. C.* (Deakin University) & GILLATH, O. (University of Kansas)
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This symposium brings together studies that examine the intersection between the attachment and caregiving behavioural systems across a diverse set of contexts. Extending on past limitations research, the first study by Goncalves and Karantzas reports an Actor-Partner Interdependence Model of couple functioning. The relationship between attachment and caregiving (conceptualised as spousal support) is examined alongside factors such as communication, intimacy and relationship satisfaction. In particular, the findings suggest that communication acts as an intervening variable in the relationship between attachment and spousal support. The second study applies attachment processes to the area of chronic illness. Cole and Karantzas investigated whether attachment bonds with three distinct attachment figures – parents, best friends and romantic partners influenced arthritic young adults' receipt of care. This preliminary investigation revealed that the frequency and type of care received by young arthritis sufferers was associated with the degree of attachment anxiety and avoidance reported across the three attachment figures. In the final study, Gillath and Karantzas report on the associations between attachment and prosocial personality. A multi-faceted nested model of attachment is presented and shown to provide a better explanation of the relationship between prosocial personality and attachment compared to the bi-factor model of attachment.

Attachment bonding and the receipt of care in the face of chronic illness

COLE, S.* & KARANTZAS, G. C. (Deakin University)
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The relationship between social support and the mental health outcomes of chronic illness sufferers is regarded as complex with inconsistent findings across studies. More recently, researchers have argued that these inconsistencies may be explained by attachment theory. However, chronic illness studies have examined the links between attachment and care-receiving. In this preliminary study, we aimed to explore how attachment bonds with three distinct attachment figures – parents, best friends and romantic partners influenced arthritic young adults' receipt of care. Forty-one arthritis sufferers aged between 18 and 33 years were administered an online questionnaire which included measures of attachment and the receipt of emotional and instrumental care. Arthritis severity and living arrangements were associated with the receipt of care from attachment figures. However, significant differences were found in young adults' attachment avoidance and anxiety ratings across parents, best friends and romantic partners. These differences were associated with differences in the frequency and type of care received by young arthritis sufferers across the three attachment figures. Consistent with research literature on attachment and caregiving, attachment avoidance was negatively associated with young arthritis sufferer's receipt of both emotional and instrumental support, while attachment anxiety was generally positively associated with both forms of care-receipt.

Predicting prosocial personality from attachment facets: What are the critical facets?

GILLATH, O.* (University of Kansas) & KARANTZAS, G. C. (Deakin University)
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Research across various countries and relationship contexts suggests that attachment anxiety and avoidance are associated with people's prosocial feelings, tendencies, and behaviors (Gillath et al., 2005; Karantzas & Evans, 2007). Recently, the two dimensional model of attachment has been expanded to include a series of nested facets. It is argued that these facets may provide a better understanding of the attachment components that predict situational and/or dispositional helping (i.e., prosocial personality). The aim of the study was to examine whether the multi-faceted nested factor model provided a better explanation of the relationships between attachment and the components of prosocial personality compared to the bi-factor model. Three hundred and eighty participants, aged 18 to 33 years were administered self-report measures of attachment and prosocial personality. The nested model provided a better fit to the data and explained a significantly larger proportion of the variance in prosocial personality than the bi-factor model. The attachment facets were found to make distinct contributions to prosocial personality beyond the broad attachment dimensions (e.g., the preoccupied facet was

uniquely associated with personal distress). Implications across various prosocial contexts are discussed, as are the limitations of using the ECR to test a multi-facet attachment model.

Contextualising attachment and caregiving in the dynamics of romantic relationships

GONCALVES, C.* & KARANTZAS, G. C. (Deakin University)
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Many romantic relationship studies have identified associations between the attachment and caregiving behavioural systems. However, a number of these studies have suffered from two critical limitations. Firstly, the associations between attachment and caregiving have not been examined in concert with other factors known to influence romantic outcomes such as communication and intimacy. Secondly, most of these studies have used the individual rather than the dyad as the unit of analysis. The aim of the present study was address these two limitations by developing an Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (APIM) of couple functioning. Seventy-five long-term married and cohabiting couples aged between 19-73 years participated in the study. Couples were required to complete questionnaire booklets containing a battery of self-report measures including attachment, communication, spousal support, intimacy and relationship satisfaction. Partner effects were identified with husbands' avoidance associated with women's communication patterns and husbands' anxiety negatively related to women's caregiving sensitivity. Husbands' and wives' spousal support was influenced by their partner's communication pattern. Communication was found to be an important intervening variable in the effects of attachment on spousal support. Furthermore, husbands' spousal support and intimacy influenced wives intimacy and relationship satisfaction, while wives coercive practices were negatively associated with men's intimacy.

Papers

Effects of parent-care transitions on adult son's and daughter's marital relationships

BOOKWALA, J.*, PASTERNAK, C. (Lafayette College), PRUCHNO, R. (University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey), & NEWSOM, J. (Portland State University)
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We examined the impact of transitioning into and/or out of the parent-care role on adult children's marital quality over a 15-year period using data from the US National Survey of Families and Households. Using 3-way mixed-MANCOVAs (controlling for age and ethnicity), we compared four groups of adult daughters and sons with varying parent-care transition experiences (recent-caregivers, veteran-caregivers, former-caregivers, and non-caregivers) over time on three marital quality indicators (marital happiness, marital disagreement, and projected quality of life [PQOL] if separated from spouse). Marital happiness declined over time and veteran- and former-caregivers reported significantly less marital happiness than recent-caregivers. Marital disagreement also declined over time and adult caregiving-daughters reported less than adult caregiving-sons. Finally, participants' ratings of PQOL if separated from their spouse became more positive at T2 but declined to below baseline levels by T3. Simple-effects tests following the significant caregiving-transition group X caregiver gender interaction indicated that for daughters (but not sons), there was a significant difference across caregiving-transition groups such that compared to recent-caregiving-daughters, former-caregivers and non-caregivers believed that they would be less negatively impacted if they were to become separated from their spouse. The impact of parent-care transitions on adult children's marriages appear to be delayed in time.

An Extension of the theory of attachment that failed and validated the original four-fold model

BOWLES, T. (Australian Catholic University)
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Early research associated loneliness with the conventional four-fold model of attachment by explaining that lonely young adults were unsuccessfully seeking secure romantic attachments. In an era where it is possible to experience saturation of human contact it is possible that people seek detachment as a way of maintaining a positive view of other and the corresponding negative view of other is still characterized by aloneness and alienation. Thus, the four-fold model was expanded to include a third dimension of a neutral model of self between the previously hypothesized positive and negative model of self. A 48-item operationalization of the

hypothesized 6 factor model using an adjective checklist was analyzed using a principal component analysis. The scree plot and subsequent analyses indicated that the original four-fold model reflected the best structure. The alpha reliability of the items was satisfactory or better. Comparison with the four paragraph version of the model showed that there was low correlation between the two operationalizations suggesting that they are measuring different aspects of attachment.

Adult attachment style and the construction of anger scripts.

CALTABIANO, M. L.* & MAVER, J. (James Cook University)
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This study sought to determine whether anger scripts are constructed in relation to the affect regulation strategies underlying one's adult attachment style. Anger is motivated by both positive and negative goals, and can therefore be expressed in both functional and dysfunctional ways. Of interest in this study were individual differences in the construction of functional and dysfunctional anger scripts. The subjects for the study were 55 (13 male and 42 female) university students. A lexical decision task was used to measure participant reaction times to functional and dysfunctional anger words, following relational transgression primes. The lexical decision task was constructed according to a 2x2x4 mixed factorial design defined by attachment style (secure, insecure), prime word (transgression, non-transgression) and target word (functional, dysfunctional, control, non-word). Results indicate that relational transgression primes facilitate identification of functional and dysfunctional anger words, with insecure adults holding an overall quicker reaction time. Anxious and avoidant participants did not show a contingency effect for dysfunctional targets. Reaction times were quicker for females for both functional and dysfunctional anger targets following a relational transgression prime. The main conclusion from this study is that relational transgressions and anger are projected as an if-then contingency, thereby forming a script.

Attachment networks and functions in older adults

COUPE, T.* & WILKINSON, R. B. (Australian National University)
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Although Bowlby emphasised the applicability of attachment across the lifespan, there has been limited research on attachment in older adult populations. Recent research has gone beyond focussing on just attachment in dyadic relationships to include the multiple attachments that exist in our familial and social environment. This extension of attachment theory has included the study of both hierarchical attachment networks and purported attachment functions. Building on this work, and incorporating proposals from Socio-Emotional Selectivity Theory and the Convoy Model of Social Relations, the present study examined the network of relationships and associated attachment functions in 213 older Australians (117 females, 96 males: 50 to 96 years). The results indicate that women report a significantly higher number of people in their attachment network than men and that, in order of importance, partners, children, friends and siblings feature as main attachment figures for both sexes. In terms of attachment functions, men have their attachment needs met almost exclusively by their partners, while women have attachment needs met by both their partner and other relationships. The implications for the assessment of attachment and the conceptualization of the relationship between attachment and psychological health in older adults are discussed.

How well do mothers know their premature infants?

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Guided by a transactional model, the aim of this research was to empower mothers with knowledge about premature infant's capabilities, distress signals and cues for interaction. It was hypothesised that there would be a reduction in maternal anxiety levels and a change in any inaccurate beliefs around parenting premature infants, following 10 days of practicing infant massage and reading the material provided on preterm infants. Eighteen mothers were recruited from a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and were randomly assigned to an intervention (n=9) or delayed intervention control group (n=9). Mother's confidence in mothering their infants increased and their beliefs about what behaviour to expect of their premature infant was positively altered. However, there was no change in mother's state anxiety levels following the intervention and no differences were found between the intervention and delayed intervention control group. Methodological limitations included small sample size and a failure to recognise the variability in parent psychological adjustment post the birth of a premature infant. The research findings highlight the need to first assess the parent's knowledge base

and their stage of psychological adjustment in order to custom design an intervention which will be most effective in enhancing the mother - infant relationship.

The supervisor or the organisation?: Which has the most significant impact on perceptions of justice, organisational citizenship behaviour, and commitment?

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The purpose of the current study was to investigate whether the supervisor's relationship with the employee or organisational factors such as organisational support and organisational rewards were more important in predicting perceptions of organisational justice, organisational citizenship behaviour (OCB) and organisational commitment. The participants were 276 female and 196 male employees from a multinational telecommunications corporation. They responded to a survey in which measures of procedural and interactional justice, (OCB), affective commitment, perceived organisational support, organisational rewards and supervisor support were provided. Perceived organisational support, organisational rewards and supervisor support were used as predictors of each of procedural and interactional justice, (OCB), and affective commitment. While supervisor support was not a significant predictor of affective commitment, it was a significant predictor of procedural and interactional justice, and (OCB). This study highlights the importance of the interpersonal relationship between the employee and the supervisor for broader employee perceptions of organisational processes and for the employees contributions "beyond the call of duty".

Differences in satisfaction and wellbeing for those dating casually, dating exclusively, and married.

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A convenience sample of 76 females and 24 males responded to a survey about their relationship. Of particular interest was their response to measures from the positive psychology approach. There were 27 participants who were dating casually, 42 who were dating exclusively and 26 who were married. There were insufficient males to enable appropriate testing for gender differences. An initial testing of the relationship between the variables of interest and age was conducted to examine if age should be included as a covariate in subsequent analyses. The results of this preliminary test indicated that it was not necessary to use age as a covariate. While a MANOVA between the three groups did not yield a significant multivariate effect there were differences between the groups at the univariate level. Those who were casually dating had the highest negative affect on the PANAS while those who were married were the highest on environmental mastery and purposive living from the psychological well-being scale. It was those who were in an exclusive dating relationship who reported the highest relationship satisfaction score. The results provide support for the notion that psychological health and well-being is higher for those in a committed partnered relationship.

Theoretical predictors of successful relationship transitions and associated personal development and satisfaction for current and future generations

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Recent generations have witnessed dramatic changes in romantic relationships. Only two generations ago a marriage for life was the norm, whereas now it is most likely to fail, and second marriages even more likely to do so. In our current era, most people will spend more of their lifetime out of a committed relationship than in one. Research predicts that increasing numbers of people will eschew marriage and favour short-term relationships, showing that committed long-term relationships are becoming less important to new generations. Romantic relationships have a significant impact on adult development and adaptation. Developmental trajectories are enmeshed with relationship trajectories. Hence, individuals, and their therapists, will need to become increasingly competent at how to negotiate transitions between relationships, and gain personal development and satisfaction. Relationship transitions and the associated personal development are considered from four theoretical bases: social constructionism, attribution theory, attachment theory, and theories of loss and renewal. Predictors of successful transitions are discussed; 'success' in transitions is here defined as leading

to or resulting from personal growth. Suggestions are made for future research and approaches to aid therapists working with current and future generations in negotiating relationship transitions, self development and satisfaction.

Thinking about hurt feelings: When do people feel hurt, as opposed to angry or sad, in close relationships?

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According to cognitive appraisal theories of emotion, it is the interpretation of an event that elicits the experience of a particular emotion. For example, anger is elicited by appraisals that an other-caused event is unfair and breaks important rules. Interestingly, however, the nature of the link between cognitive appraisals and hurt feelings is still unclear. Some have even argued that hurt feelings are generated with virtually no conscious, cognitive processing at all. In an exploratory study of the kinds of cognitive appraisals that generate hurt, a sample of 50 students wrote detailed accounts of hurt-eliciting events in their relationships. They were asked to distinguish their experience of hurt from experiences of anger and sadness and to rate their remembered cognitive appraisals along 18 scales previously identified as important in the elicitation of emotions such as anger and hate. Participants clearly distinguished between hurt and the experience of other emotions. Hurt-eliciting events were appraised as highly unexpected, important, effortful, and difficult to understand. They were also associated with strong feelings of confusion and distress. The results are discussed in relation to cognitive theories of emotion and the conceptualization of 'hurt feelings' as a discrete emotional state.

Self perceptions of mate value: Their nature, function, and origin

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This talk describes four studies concerned with self-perceptions of mate value. Study 1 used free-responses from student and community samples to generate 60 items. The next study used exploratory factor analysis (n = 200), which produced the same 6 factor solution. Study 3 confirmed the same 6 factor structure using confirmatory factor analysis (n = 200 students), and showed that the structure replicated across gender and relationship status. Study 4 revealed the predicted pattern of discriminant and convergent validity correlations between self ratings of mate value and several other scales, including Big Five personality ratings. As predicted, the six self mate-evaluation factors overlapped with the Big Five factors (Outgoing, Caring, and Stable) but also included three distinctive categories (Status/Resources, Openness, and Attractiveness). The importance, functions, and origins of self perceptions of mate value are discussed in relation to evolutionary and social psychology.

Unwanted pursuit and stalking following intimate relationship dissolution

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Research looking at stalking in the context of relationship dissolution looks at a continuum of behaviours that ex-partners engage in, and has found that unwanted pursuit behaviour and stalking are common following relationship break-down. This study sought to replicate these similar high rates, and to further investigate possible reasons as to why people engage in unwanted pursuit behaviour and stalking following the break-down of intimate relationships. 200 participants who met the criteria of having experienced the break-down of a serious, non-marital, intimate, heterosexual relationship within the last three years were recruited from the University of Canterbury. Each participant filled out a questionnaire detailing the type and frequency of behaviour that they engaged in towards their ex-partner, and that their ex-partner engaged in towards them, after their relationship ended. The questionnaire also examined motivations behind these behaviours. In addition, this study looked at the influence of attachment, three domains of self-esteem (global, self-perceived mate value and narcissism) and intense emotions on stalking behaviour. The contribution of investment in the relationship, satisfaction and relationship alternatives were also examined. The findings of this study will be discussed in detail.

Regulation strategies in intimate relationships

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The current study was designed to investigate the strategies used in relationship regulation. This study elicited open-ended responses from 150 university students who described how they tried to change either their partners, themselves, or their relationships, in the last six months. The free-responses were coded by two people blind to condition into (a) focus (self versus partner versus relationship) and (b) change-target content (warmth/trustworthiness, attractiveness/vitality and status/resources). The results were generally as expected and consistent with predictions drawn from the Ideal Standards Model (Simpson, Fletcher, & Campbell, 2001): (a) The regulation strategies fell mainly into the three categories described previously, (b) Overall, factors associated with warmth/trustworthiness were most commonly targeted followed by attractiveness/vitality then status/resources, (c) Men reported trying to change their own status and resources more than their partners', whereas women showed the opposite pattern, (d) In contrast, men reported trying to change their own levels of attractiveness/vitality less than their partners', but women again showed the reverse pattern, (e) The experimental conditions primed participants to describe self, partner, and relationship-level aspects they wanted to change to a greater extent. These results have implications for social and evolutionary models of regulation in intimate relationships.

Interpersonal sensitivity: Are adolescents' maltreated by their partners more affectively reactive to interpersonal events than non-maltreated adolescents?

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This study investigated if young people maltreated by their romantic partners are more interpersonally sensitive compared to their non-maltreated peers. Interpersonal sensitivity was defined as the tendency to be affectively reactive to daily hassles and uplifts with their romantic partner, family, and friends. Participants were 67 first year university students (late adolescents aged 17 to 22) who completed the Psychological Maltreatment Inventory (PMI, Kasian & Painter, 1992) and end-of-day measures of affect, self-esteem, interpersonal hassles, and uplifts for 7 consecutive days. Multilevel modelling was used to test partner maltreatment as a moderator of the associations between daily affect and self-esteem, and interpersonal daily hassles and uplifts. Results showed that across the 7 days, compared to non-maltreated adolescents, adolescents maltreated by their romantic partner reported greater increases in negative affect and greater decreases in positive affect and self-esteem in response to increasing hassles with family, friends, and romantic partners. Also, inclines in family uplifts were associated with inclines in positive affect for non-maltreated adolescents, and declines in positive affect for maltreated adolescents. Results indicate that maltreated adolescents are more affectively reactive to interpersonal hassles and do not seem to get the same benefits from positive family interactions as their non-maltreated peers.

Attachment transfer and the importance of romantic partners in predicting adolescent psychological health

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The media and popular culture seem to emphasize the critical importance of romantic relationships to healthy adolescent adjustment. This cross-sectional study takes an attachment transfer perspective in examining the impact of romantic partners on the patterns of major attachment relationships and the psychological health of older adolescents. Self-reported attachment to mothers, best-friends, and romantic partners is examined in relation to self-esteem and psychological distress in a sample of 546 upper high-school students (161 males and 386 females). Although the results support a transfer of attachment to romantic partners in longer term relationships (> 1 year), there was no difference in psychological adjustment between those with and those without partners. Further, the prediction that attachment to partners in a longer term relationship would have a greater impact on self-esteem and distress was not supported. Implications for understanding the role of different relationship figures for the psychological well-being of adolescents is discussed.

Attachment and the need for certainty and discovery: The development of information orientations.

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Recent attempts have been made to link research in individual differences in information orientation and psychological attachment. To examine the relationship between information approach styles and attachment working models the present study employed the newly developed Need for Certainty and Discovery Scales (Schuurmans-Stekhoven, 2005) and both dimensional and categorical self-report measures of attachment. Differential predictions were made for the relationship between the information approach dimensions (Need for Certainty and Need for Discovery) and attachment dimensions and styles. A cross-sectional survey of 704 older adolescents and young adults indicated only a weak relationship between attachment dimensions and information approach styles. Using the categorical attachment measures, Secure and Dismissing styles showed higher Need for Discovery compared to Fearful and Preoccupied styles. Dismissing styles were the only group to indicate a low Need for Certainty. The results indicate that high attachment anxiety and negative self views may inhibit exploratory behaviour in adults. Although the results of the current study are promising, the relationship between individual differences in information orientation and attachment remains unclear. Ways to clarify the relationship between these constructs in future research are suggested.

The impact of social exclusion on depression, alexithymia, and perceived control of internal states

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The need to belong is a fundamental human striving. When this need is revoked individuals may shift into a defensive state of cognitive deconstruction, which among other constructs is characterised by a lack of emotion. Theoretically, cognitive deconstruction is the response that occurs when an individual is socially excluded which subsequently threatens their need to belong. The aim of the current research was to investigate cognitive deconstruction following social exclusion through analysing self-reports of depression, alexithymia, and perceived control of internal states. Strictly following the experimental design of previous studies, 50 participants (40 females and 10 males) undertook the experimental manipulation in which 25 participants were excluded by their peers and the remaining 25 participants were accepted by their peers. Participants completed the Zung Self-Rating Depression Scale, the Perceived Control of Internal States Scale, and the 20-Item Toronto Alexithymia Scale. In line with previous theory, accepted and rejected participants did not differ in their levels of depression, suggesting the presence of the deconstructed state. In regards to alexithymia and perceived control of internal states, no significant difference between the accepted and rejected participants was found. The findings of the current study and future research regarding the adverse impact of social exclusion will be discussed.

Couple Attachment Interview: Theoretical discussion and sample narratives

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Most measures of adult attachment can be divided into two categories: self-report questionnaires and interviews. This paper presents a theoretical discussion of the Couple Attachment Interview (CAI; Silver & Cohn, 1992). The CAI, which is based upon the Adult Attachment Interview, assesses attachment patterns within couple relationships. A distinguishing feature of this interview is the Couple Attachment Interview Coding System (CAICS; Cowan, Cowan, Alexandrov, Lyon, & Heming, 1999), a unique scoring system that assesses attachment in both a categorical and dimensional manner. Relationships between CAI and other measures of adult attachment are discussed. Procedures for transcribing and coding the interview are presented in the context of sample narratives. These narratives, which are drawn from an ongoing longitudinal study of attachment, relationship satisfaction, and psychological functioning, will demonstrate the complexity and richness of the measure.

Attachment dimensions and the identification of at-risk individuals following the loss of a loved one

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The purpose of this study was to investigate intrapersonal factors that identify at-risk individuals following the loss of a significant relationship using an attachment theory perspective. Research has consistently demonstrated that attachment anxiety is associated with greater grief symptoms but there is scarce evidence supporting a relationship between attachment avoidance and increased grief symptoms. In fact, there is some evidence that dismissing-avoidant individuals cope as well as securely attached individuals, with both exhibiting a resilient trajectory following bereavement. The present study examined whether previous findings relating to attachment anxiety and grief symptoms were replicable and to further explore the relationship of dismissing-avoidant attachment to adjustment following loss. 204 individuals (138 females, 66 males) aged between 18 to 80 years completed a survey that included measures of attachment style, mindfulness, autobiographical memory, symptoms of grief, depression, trauma, and psychological growth. Findings showed that attachment anxiety was positively related to grief symptoms for romantic non-death loss, while attachment avoidance was positively related to grief symptoms for non-romantic death loss. These findings highlight the importance of considering the type of relationship as well as the circumstances surrounding the loss. These findings will be discussed and a summary of future research direction will be given.

Discipline within stepfamilies

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Stepparents have been vilified in literature and fairy tales; however, research about stepfamilies and stepchildren is relatively limited. Second marriages have a higher rate of failure than first marriages and those with children have the highest failure rate. Family systems theories focus on interactions between family members and can inform the challenges facing stepfamilies. When children pre-date the union, conflicting loyalties, values and traditions must be negotiated at the beginning of the relationship. A major source of potential conflict within these families is discipline. This study examined factors that could influence the types of discipline used within stepfamilies. Stepparents completed an on-line questionnaire and the resulting data were analysed using logistic regression techniques. Results indicate that the child's age when meeting the stepparent, the number of past relationships and the percentage of time spent with the other biological parent influence the types of discipline used. The role of the stepparent was perceived very differently by the stepparents and the stepchildren.

Adolescent girls' experiences of and responses to non-physical abuse within relationships: Implications for preventing intimate partner violence

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This study explores adolescent girls' experiences of and responses to seven domains of intimate partner behaviour that are considered to be 'early warning signs' of relationship violence. A questionnaire has been purpose-built to elicit responses in relation to partner behaviours stemming from each domain: perceived seriousness, estimated frequency, hypothetical response, reported exposure, and reported display. It is expected that 300 girls aged 14-18 years will complete and return the questionnaire. Participants are being recruited from the semi-rural Lower Hume region of Victoria. Although data collection is ongoing, preliminary data analyses show that a substantial proportion of girls 1) lack awareness particularly of the problems associated with possessive and highly dependent partner behaviours, and 2) regardless of their level of risk awareness, lack knowledge of behavioural responses that might discourage problematic beliefs and behaviours by their partners. The implications of these and other findings for youth-targeted relationship violence prevention will be discussed.

Social phobia in romantic relationships

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The literature indicates that for individuals with social phobia their romantic relationships are characterised by mild to moderate impairment. However, to date research examining the interpersonal expression of social phobia has focused predominantly upon stranger interactions and the difficulties socially phobic individuals experience in meeting new people. Furthermore, the extant literature has challenged the notion of cross-situational stability of socially phobic interpersonal behaviours. Recent research suggests that the behaviour of individuals with social phobia is strategic and differs largely as a function of two distinct goals; the avoidance of negative evaluation and the maintenance of interpersonal closeness. Within the context of intimate relationships, it is postulated that interpersonal behaviour is characterised by the latter. The present paper presents an evaluation of the current research on social phobia in intimate relationships. It provides an analysis of the interpersonal expression of social phobia and in particular its association to adult attachment styles. Suggestions for future research and the management of socially phobic individuals will also be made.

The influence of preterm birth on intimate relationships in adulthood

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Clinical evidence suggests that babies born very preterm are at risk for the development of insecure attachment in infancy, yet there is an absence of research evidence to support these claims for older children and adults. This study assessed the extent to which attachment-related risk factors have contributed to the long-term social and emotional development of an Australian sample of adults born either preterm or fullterm. Participants were questioned about their experience of maternal sensitivity, bonding, and family environment as a result of their preterm birth status to determine if preterm birth status posed a risk for the development of long-term attachment insecurities. It was hypothesised that attachment insecurity will be more prevalent in adults born preterm compared to adults born fullterm, and will be reflected in both attachment to parents and romantic attachment. Furthermore, attachment insecurity in preterm adults was hypothesised to be a reflection of the long-term impact of the retrospective recall of poor affect regulation and low parental sensitivity and responsiveness, whereas fullterm adults will not be as vulnerable to these risk factors. Data is still being collected.

Punishment in close relationships: Does it exist and why?

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Close relationships have both the capacity to make us supremely happy or deeply miserable. Unfortunately, despite our best intentions, we often hurt the ones we love and are hurt by them in turn. As a result, close relationships can be a source of great pain and distress. So how do suffering partners make themselves feel better? One important strategy used to relieve this distress is to punish or inflict pain on the person thought to have caused the distress. Recent empirical research has demonstrated the potency of punishment after a perceived relationship betrayal. 64 participants participated in a blind experiment. After a priming task, participants were given the opportunity to punish their partner in an aggressive and punitive way by the administration of hot chilli sauce. The experimental group allocated more hot sauce to their partner after recalling a relationship betrayal. Thus aggressive punishment did occur. It was also found that women punished more than men and that the severity of punishment was inversely related to the participant's reported levels of relationship satisfaction.

The first dyad? Teachers, students and reciprocal attachment relationships

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The conceptualisation of the teacher-student relationship as an attachment bond is gaining support. However, the relationship is more complex than the traditional unidirectional attachment model of teacher as care-giver and student as care-seeker. To maintain a professional identity, teachers are to some degree dependent on student's

mental representations of, and interactions with, them. This affords students relational power over the teacher: a teacher without students is not a teacher. In the school context this may invoke a unique form of attachment dependence in some teachers. This extends the existing model to a teacher-student dyad, one that most closely resembles, but is not the same as, adult dyadic attachment. The teacher is care-giver, and sometime care-seeker. Students are care-seekers, some are care-givers, and some play both roles. Previous studies have indicated that some teacher's insecure attachment has been associated with classroom management difficulties. In the present study approximately 300 pre-service teachers completed the Experience in Close Relationships Questionnaire (ECR). Participants used the results to explore the emotional dynamics of classroom relationships, relational style(s) with students and personal reactions to classroom incidents, via reference to adult attachment concepts. Implications for classroom relationships, management and teacher education are discussed.

GREAT Kids: Improving parent-child interactions via a relationship focussed parenting program

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Many of the most widely adopted parent education programs focus almost exclusively on how parent-child interaction episodes can be managed so as to secure parental control over the child's immediate behaviour, particularly where matters of discipline are concerned. The GREAT Kids program was developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation and aims to support parents to review and change their patterns of communicating with their children which promotes more respectful interactions and encourages children's positive self-identity. This paper reports on an evaluation of this program. Thirty-nine parents (majority were female) participated in the program ranging from 23 – 53 years of age, with the average age being 37.4 years. Participants completed a questionnaire at pre, post and 2 months after program completion. The measures included: a measure of parenting self efficacy, family functioning and program satisfaction. Analysis indicated that parent's reported a significant reduction in family conflict, significant increase in parental confidence and 85% reported very high levels of satisfaction with the program. These evaluation findings are promising and suggest that the GREAT kids parenting program may be an effective intervention in building positive child-parent relationships.

Gender differences in romantic attachment across cultures and generations: A 56-nation study

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Gender differences in adult romantic attachment were investigated as part of the International Sexuality Description Project—a survey study of 17,804 people from 62 cultural regions. Contrary to research findings previously reported in Western cultures, men were not significantly more dismissing than women across all cultural regions. Gender differences in dismissing and preoccupied forms of romantic attachment were evident in most cultures, but were typically only small to moderate in magnitude. Looking across cultures, the degree of gender differentiation in insecure romantic attachment was predictably associated with sociocultural indicators. Generally, these associations supported evolutionary theories of romantic attachment, with smaller gender differences evident in cultures within high-stress and high-fertility reproductive environments. Social role theories of human sexuality received less support in that more progressive sex-role ideologies and national gender equity indexes were not cross-culturally linked as expected to smaller gender differences in dismissing romantic attachment. The effect of age on the degree of gender difference in attachment security is also discussed.

Trait emotional intelligence, conflict communication patterns and relationship satisfaction in cohabiting heterosexual couples

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We examined the links between perceptions of trait emotional intelligence, perceptions of conflict communication patterns and relationship satisfaction in cohabiting heterosexual couples. Participants were 82 couples (N=164) who completed the Trait Emotional Intelligence Questionnaire – Short Form (TEIQue-SF)

(Petrides & Furnham, 2006), the Communication Patterns Questionnaire (Christensen & Sullaway, 1984), and the Perceived Relationship Quality Components (PRQC) Inventory (Fletcher, Simpson & Thomas, 2000). All variables were analyzed at the dyad level. Results showed that self-rated perceptions of the avoidance and withholding conflict communication pattern and estimations of one's partner's Trait EI were the strongest predictors of relationship satisfaction. However, self-rated Trait EI and partner's self-rated Trait EI, as well as perceptions of the constructive communication and demanding and withdrawing patterns, were not significant predictors of relationship satisfaction. Possible explanations for these results are discussed in the context of previous research findings.

Do clients understand the difference between a therapeutic relationship and a friendship?

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The therapeutic relationship has been generally accepted as playing a critical role in psychotherapy outcome. It is therefore of interest to examine the factors which contribute to the development of a positive therapeutic relationship. One such factor is the expectations that potential clients bring to this relationship. This study aimed to investigate client expectations regarding the therapeutic relationship in terms of whether potential clients distinguish the psychologist-client relationship from a friendship. Participants (N = 80) completed a questionnaire regarding expectations about counselling, which included expectations regarding the boundaries of the relationship. Participants felt the relationship would be similar with regard to how open they would be with either a psychologist or friend and how empathic a psychologist/friend would be towards them. In all other areas statistically significant differences in expectations were found between the two kinds of relationships. For example, participants expected psychologists to be more directive, confrontational and provide more guidance than a friend. Interestingly, participants expected to like a friend more than a psychologist but expected a friend to like them more in spite of their faults. These expectations will be considered in light of the fact that client expectations may contribute to client behavior in therapy.

Family Relationship Centres: Their vision and service to future generations of relationships

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The new Family relationship centres have now opened their doors, and are gearing up to provide a variety of service to the families in various stages of vulnerability and crises. As the hallmark of the Family Law Act reforms the Family Relationship Centers are charged with providing a less adversarial service for families in dispute. Their charter is to strengthen, help and restructure fragmented relationships focusing on the children and their significant persons. This covers not only their parents, but grandparents, their siblings and new family forests. How do their services deal with the variety of issues that face the children and their parents? Has the Family Law reforms refocused families on rebuilding fractured relationships, have they forged the Family Relationship centres into assisting the breakdowns into less acrimonious relationships and are they trying to change societal expectations of relationships by imposing the Compulsory nature of family dispute resolution?. This paper considers the success and expectations of clients, and staff of the FRCs and considers what type of service is successful and how the FRCs are responsive to helping the generations of relationships that will be passing through their doors.

Constructing adolescent fatherhood: Positive transformations

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The parenthood literature has paid scant attention to adolescent fathers. Negative stereotypes portray these young men as delinquents, unwilling to participate in the lives of their children. This study seeks to extend recent research that has challenged negative stereotypes by suggesting that adolescent fathers are involved and interested in their children. Adolescent fathers were interviewed and the data analysed discursively in order to further explore the meaning of fatherhood. The current analysis highlights positive constructions that cast fatherhood as a significant life-changing event. Fatherhood has the power to transform directionless teens into mature young men who acknowledge their parental responsibilities, seek intergenerational repair and seem

acutely aware of the difficulties associated with parenthood. The implications for practice are discussed in the context of promoting a more critical agenda and challenging taken for granted assumptions.

A relationship-based theory of resilience and adaptation

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Based upon an extensive review of the research literature, and his own research and practice as a psychologist, the author will outline a relationship-based theory of resilience and adaptation, that attempts to contribute to a convergence of work in the area. Underpinning this theory is the assumption that resilience and adaptation are socially shaped processes, where relationships and social processes play an active and pivotal role in shaping a person's exposure to and experience of difficulties, and in their adapting to adverse life events and evolving circumstances. Resilience and adaptation is not just about coping with adverse life events, it also involves managing the practical and social difficulties and events that follow in their aftermath, as well dealing with the challenges posed by pre-existing problems and circumstances. Factors that influence the development, maintenance, dissolution and substitutability of close relationships, and of exposure to and experience of difficulties and social support, are critical components of the theory.

A couple analysis of rules and expectations in romantic relationships

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The current research is the final study in a series of studies that explored rules and expectations in romantic relationships. Rules and expectations, or relational standards, serve to guide and define our interactions by providing guidelines about what is appropriate and inappropriate behaviour within a given relationship. The previous studies in this series used both qualitative and quantitative methods to explore relational standards, and 16 categories of rules and expectations were developed and then tested with a sample of individuals. The current study aimed to extend this research and test the 16 categories with a sample of couples. All relationships consist of two people who are interdependent, and who act in ways that reciprocate and accommodate a partner's behaviour, therefore an important aspect of this research was accounting for this interdependence, and examining couples' responses for level of agreement. Forty-five couples completed questionnaires asking about their endorsement of the categories, ratings of importance, and forgivability of breaches of standards in each category. The results provided support for the previous studies. Results demonstrated that there was wide variability in the level of agreement between partners, and despite partner's interdependence, partners did not always endorse the same response.

Tit for tat? The 'worst' things we do to each other in intimate relationships

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Our relationships are defined by the way we interact with our intimate partners, and the rules and expectations that guide these interactions. Such standards in relationships helps partners identify what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour within that relationship. The current study was part of a series of studies exploring rules and expectations in intimate relationships. Participants were asked about the types of unacceptable behaviours that may affect a relationship and would constitute a breach of such relational standards. Participants were presented with a series of open-ended questions asking about the worst things intimate partners could do to each other in casual, committed/exclusive dating, engaged and married heterosexual relationships. Qualitative analysis of responses involved identifying themes about these 'worst' things, and resulted in six categories: Deception, Infidelity, Violence/Harm/Abuse, Neglect, Acts of Disregard and Disrespect, and Demandingness/Possessiveness. Infidelity was seen to be the worst offence in dating, engaged and married relationships, while deception was the worst offence in casual relationships. Differences in responses between the different relationship types, as well as differences between what is done to another and what is done to oneself is further discussed, as well as the role of these categories in helping to understand relational standards.

Predicting perceptions of attachment bond in mothers of children with autism

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Mothers of children with autism face greater amounts of parent stress in caring for their child than mothers of other children. At least part of this stress is related to the social and communication impairments characteristic of autism, which threaten the development of a reciprocal attachment relationship between mother and child. The presence of secure attachment bonds within this population suggest there may be protective factors facilitating the development of effective attachment within this population, and this study aimed to identify which protective factors promote more favourable maternal perceptions of mother-infant attachment. A mother's attachment representation, an effective and collaborative parenting alliance and parenting self-efficacy were proposed as potential moderators of the relationship between degree of autism severity and maternal perception of attachment relationship with the child. Participants were mothers of children between the ages of three and 12. Responses were compared across three groups: mothers of children with autism, mothers of children with other disabilities and mothers of children with no disabilities. Results are still being analysed to determine whether level and type of disability has an effect on mothers' perceptions of the attachment bond, and which of the proposed variables can moderate this relationship.

Measuring adolescent attachment relationships: A quantitative review

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Controversy over the self-report assessment of attachment abounds with several recent reviews of instruments for adults and children. However, there is a lacuna with regard to assessing attachment in adolescence. Theoretical and methodological considerations regarding the measurement of adolescent attachment are discussed in the current paper. It is argued that theoretical and empirical developments in the area of adolescent attachment are limited by the paucity of measurement tools specifically designed for this age group. Results of a comprehensive PsycInfo literature search are reported with regard to the measurement of adolescent attachment. 762 citations were retrieved for the years 1990 to 2007 with descriptive results reported for the measure of attachment used, sample size, age range, and key outcome variables. Following this, the most commonly used measures of attachment for adolescents are reviewed and critiqued. Finally, several necessary conditions for a psychometrically sound, theoretically coherent measure of adolescent attachment are formulated.

Tom Gordon's (1970) theory of healthy relationships and PET: Why it matters for families today

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This paper aims to provide a conceptual framework for understanding the development of Parent Effectiveness Training (PET) from Gordon's (1970) Theory of Healthy Relationships, and to show how, in order to do this, he combined the fundamental skill of active listening with parental assertiveness, self-awareness, and emotional self-regulation to underpin the process of family conflict resolution. Based on his clinical experience of working with troubled teenagers and their parents and his years of intensive research with Carl Rogers at the universities both of Ohio and Chicago, Gordon saw that major problems lay in the power relationships the parents had with their children and the way they talked to each other. His program set up training for parents in the three skills of active listening, parental assertiveness and conflict resolution. Empirical research showing the effectiveness of the PET skills is discussed, as well as the benefit to the community of their dissemination in a world of apparently increasing conflict.

Romantic experiences and depressive symptoms: Testing the intensifying roles of rejection sensitivity and relationship commitment

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In the current study, we tested temporal associations between romantic relationship satisfaction and dissolution, rejection sensitivity, and depressive symptoms using structural equation modeling. Models were founded in theories that describe how relationships influence functioning, and how rejection sensitivity is a dispositional vulnerability associated with relationship and mental health problems. Depression and rejection sensitivity were tested as the outcomes and the “drivers” of relationship satisfaction and dissolution. Participants were late adolescents (aged 17 to 21, N = 179) in steady couple relationships. Participants completed two questionnaires with a 6-month lag between assessments. Those who were more satisfied and had lengthier relationships were less likely to experience dissolution. After accounting for earlier depressive symptoms, rejection sensitivity was directly associated with increasing depressive symptoms. Additional model pathways were significant after those low or high in rejection sensitivity or relationship commitment were compared. Rejection sensitivity accompanied a greater chance of relationship dissolution among those high in relationship commitment. Greater relationship satisfaction was associated with increased depressive symptoms over time among those high in rejection sensitivity. Findings suggest that negative thoughts and behaviours of high-rejection-sensitive persons may be most activated when there is elevated personal satisfaction or commitment to their romantic relationships.

Posters

Romantic love and links with attachment, love styles and satisfaction in Brazilian couples

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This study explores links between attachment, love-styles and satisfaction in 117 Brazilian heterosexual committed couples with mean age of 28,66 (SD=6,06). The goal was verify gender differences and couples differences or similarities. The subjects completed a shortened version of the Love Attitudes Scale designed to assess six love styles; the Relationship Questionnaire that measures adult romantic attachment; and the measure of Relationship Quality. The results indicated no significant differences in men and women’s behaviors related to the attachment styles and relationship satisfaction. Eros love style was predominant, followed by Storge and Agape. Ludus was the most rejected one. The intra-couple results showed an association tendency between Eros-Eros and Storge-Storge styles. Related to Attachment Styles, they described themselves more closely with Secure and Preoccupied. Dismissing and Fearful were the most rejected ones. According to intra-couples analysis, it was observed a union trend between Secure’s men and women, and between Fearful men with Preoccupied women and vice-versa.

Measuring intimacy and self-focused identity dating goals in late adolescence: A revision of the Social Dating Goals Scale

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For most late adolescents (aged 18 to 22), meeting potential partners and developing close dating relationships are important pursuits. However, individuals may approach the task of social dating differently, depending on their goals. Some may have higher intimacy dating goals (i.e., focused on developing exclusive, committed, close relationships with a single partner and seeking mutual dependence, open communication, self-disclosure and emotional attachment). Others may view dating as an arena to realise prominent self-focused identity goals (e.g., self-reliance, self-exploration, sexual experimentation, autonomy from the family and identity formation). Sanderson and Cantor (1995) conceptualised intimacy and identity social dating goals as opposite ends of a single continuum, and developed The Social Dating Goals Scale to assess such goals. The primary aim of these two studies was to expand this measure to address shortcomings. The factor structure, reliability and validity of the revised measure were examined. Study 1 included 156 first year undergraduates. Study 2 included 200 participants from the same population. In Study 2, two clear factors emerged after some modification to items

after Study 1. Intimacy and identify social dating goals do not appear to be two ends of a bipolar scale, but are different goals that can exist simultaneously.

Family as helpers: Using digital storytelling to explore the help-seeking behaviour of adolescent girls

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This paper outlines the findings of a qualitative study on adolescent help-seeking behaviours. The participants, seven adolescent senior secondary school girls from Adelaide, created personal digital stories to describe how they seek help. Data from the study add to the existing literature relating to young people's choices regarding help seeking. This particular inquiry supports previous indications that adolescents are inclined to choose informal rather than professional sources for help. Although evidence suggests that adolescents turn to peers more so than to parents for support, most participants in this specific study did choose at least one family member from whom they sought help. Girls, it appears, do sporadically seek help from their parents, particularly their mothers, a finding that is congruent with other studies. Some participants in this study perceive familiarity, helper characteristics, past experiences and accessibility, as potential criteria for seeking help from family members. The majority of participants do not generally seek support from their fathers. This study points to brothers, sisters, cousins, godmothers, grandmothers and even the family dog as contributing to the help-seeking stories of the participants.

Digital storytelling as a way of enhancing reflection on relationships

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This research was conducted as part of a Doctoral program in counselling. Seven women were taught to use a digital storytelling program to develop a story depicting their interest in returning to adult education. This paper describes how most of the women embedded personal stories of relationships into the topic and used these stories to reflect on past events. The women made their own stories, showed them to family and friends and then were interviewed about their responses. Most of the stories focused on key events in their lives and how they had overcome difficulties to develop strengths and abilities. Their relationship with others was both the cause of these difficulties and the support required to overcome them. This research points to the potential for digital storytelling to be used to facilitate reflection on relationship issues. It also offers a model for the use of digital storytelling in a therapeutic context.

The role of social relationships in adjustment to university

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Studies of university students' subjective well-being indicate that well-being levels may be lower for students than for the general adult population. This study examined the subjective well-being levels of 201 full-time, first-year university students, in an attempt to uncover the salient factors in the prediction of low subjective well-being in university students. Results confirmed that students had significantly lower subjective well-being than a normative adult sample. Further, results revealed that loneliness made the largest unique contribution to the prediction of students' subjective well-being, while satisfaction with support from existing friends made the second largest unique contribution. These findings indicate that strong social relationships are a key aspect of students' adjustment to university. Future research should endeavour to develop strategies for increasing university students' social relationships and support networks.

Religion and the links between HIV knowledge and HIV risk across cultures, genders, and generations

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In the present study, the relationship between religion, religiosity, HIV risk, and HIV knowledge was examined. Previous research has shown that more religious individuals have lower HIV risk, and that HIV risk correlates positively with HIV knowledge. This study explored whether higher religiosity correlates with both lower HIV risk and lower HIV knowledge across diverse cultures, genders, and age groups. Data were collected through self-report surveys administered to college students from 14 nations. It was found that higher religiosity was correlated with lower HIV risk in most nations and across genders and ages. In addition, religiosity negatively correlated with HIV knowledge in almost all nations. Although HIV risk was positively associated with HIV knowledge in most nations, significant exceptions to this trend were found in Ethiopia and Germany.

The impact of romantic partnership on relationship quality in close same-, and opposite-sex platonic friendship

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Gender differences in young adults' relationship quality within close same- and opposite-sex platonic friendship were explored in the light of heterosexual romantic partnership. Data were analysed from 300 young adults comprising equal groups according to gender and the presence of a current romantic partner. It was hypothesised that the commitment and intimacy experienced in romantic relationships would displace opposite-sex friend relationship quality for participants in romantic relationships. Relationship quality was measured by Wright's Acquaintance Description Form (ADF-F2; Wright, 1982). Repeated measures MANOVA indicated a near significant multivariate effect ($p = .051$). Follow-up univariate ANOVAs reported significant three-way interactions for the Maintenance Difficulty and Interpersonal Reward subscales, supporting the hypothesis in a gender specific manner. Males with a current romantic partner indicated greater Maintenance Difficulty in their opposite-sex friendships in comparison to their same-sex friendships, a pattern which held for females without romantic partners. Furthermore, males in a current romantic relationship experienced greater Interpersonal Reward in their same-sex friendships when compared to their opposite-sex friendships. Findings are suggestive that romantic partnership may weaken platonic opposite-sex friendships for males. This is considered in relation to gender differences in social comparison and emotional closeness.

Psychopathy related to relationship aggression across cultures, genders, and generations

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This study examined the relationship between psychopathy and relationship aggression, hypothesizing a persistent positive correlation between psychopathy and relationship aggression across cultures, genders, and generations. Psychopathy was assessed in terms of four facets: antisocial behavior, impulsive thrill-seeking, interpersonal coldness, and shallow affect. Relationship aggression was assessed using standard measures of intimate partner violence and sexual coercion. College student samples from 14 cultures completed all measures. Results showed the expected persistent links, even after controlling for social desirability. Discussion focuses on why the link between psychopathy and relationship aggression was stronger in some cultures and age groups than in others.

Religiosity/ spirituality as a resilience factor: A qualitative study among gay men

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This qualitative study aimed to explore the conflict between religiosity and sexual orientation faced by self-identified Christian gay men (or self-identified gay men who were once Christian) by utilizing the resilience

framework as a means of understanding the factors and processes involved in resolving the conflict. This study focused solely on the finding reported in Subhi, Geelan & Oei (submitted for publication) which identified religiosity/spirituality as one of the strong individual themes which emerged as a resilience factor compared to the original factors in Olsen's (Olsen et al., 2003) resilience framework which identified of individual, family and social environment level resources. This study was comprised of 10 respondents living in the Brisbane City area and its surrounding suburbs, who participated through participation in a face-to-face interview. The results indicated that the majority of respondents acknowledged that religiosity/spirituality was an important aspect in their lives together with their homosexuality and that to live with one without the other would diminish their lives.

Satisfaction level on academic supervision services, and the relationship with sense variables among Sultan Qaboos University students in Sultanate Oman

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Sultan Qaboos University is a leading government university in Sultanate of Oman was opened in 1986. This study aimed to investigate the level of satisfaction for academic supervision services among Sultan Qaboos University students in light of gender, college (Education, Art & social sciences, Commerce, Science, Engineering, Agriculture & marine sciences, and Medicine) studying year level and achievement variables (GPA). The sample of the study consists of 767 students (M = 359, F = 408). The questionnaire of satisfaction level on academic supervision services by the academic advisors was developed, which consists of 29 items covering three subscales, measuring the relationship between the academic advisor and the student, academic advising skills, and benefits from the supervision services. Results show that general student's satisfaction level on academic supervision services is in the low range; the results also revealed that satisfaction level on academic supervision services came in favor of male students, and also for students in college of arts, science, and medicine. The results also revealed an effect for achievement on satisfaction level of academic supervision services in favors of students who have average cumulative grade point average. Finally, results didn't reveal an effect for the academic year level on the means of satisfaction level on academic supervision services.

The association of parental psychological control and rejection sensitivity in the context of traditional parenting dimensions

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Theory suggests that the tendency to anxiously expect rejection from others ("rejection sensitivity") is associated with experiences of parental rejection. Parental psychological control is one form of parental rejection that has been demonstrated to be associated with rejection sensitivity in adolescents and university students. This study extends on previous research by examining whether the combination of parental psychological control, warmth and autonomy granting significantly accounts for young university students' rejection sensitivity. Participants were 256 first year Griffith University students. Parental psychological control was positively associated with rejection sensitivity, whereas parental warmth and autonomy granting were negatively associated with rejection sensitivity. In addition, the association between parental psychological control and rejection sensitivity was conditional on parental warmth, with parental psychological control having a weaker association with rejection sensitivity when parents were relatively higher in warmth. However, the interaction between parental psychological control and autonomy granting was not associated with rejection sensitivity. The findings identify specific aspects of parenting that are associated with the development and manifestation of rejection sensitivity in young university students.