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# PSYCHMATTERS

Special Issue  
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*The Quarterly Newsletter of Psychology at Oakland University*

## Student Research ~ Something To Brag About



by Prof. Robby Stewart, Ph.D

On May 19, 2000 six faculty and thirty-nine (39!) students from the Department of Psychology attended the eighth annual Meeting of Minds conference hosted by the University of Michigan - Dearborn. The purpose of this conference is to highlight the accomplishments of undergraduate students and their interactions with faculty members at the three universities who take turns hosting the event. The 2001 Meeting of Minds (MOM) conference will be hosted by the University of Michigan - Flint, and the 2002 conference by Oakland University.

Of the oral and poster presentations made at this year's conference, 56 were created by Oakland University students and faculty, and 19 of the 56 were from the Psychology students and their mentors. Go ahead, and do the math...over one third of the OU presentations, and over 13% of all presentations, came from our Department of Psychology. This is an amazing accomplishment and one that clearly demonstrates the commitment of this faculty to mentoring students through field experiences, reading and research projects, and research apprenticeships.

A large number of OU Psychology majors have attended previous MOM conferences before launching their own careers in psychology or other related fields. A somewhat smaller number of students have used MOM as a safe testing ground before moving to larger and more prestigious conferences such as those held by the Conference on

Human Development, the Society for Research in Child Development, the Society for Research in Adolescence, the American Psychological Society, and the American Psychological Association. On a number of occasions I have met students at CHD or SRCD conferences who make a point of saying that their experiences with MOM gave them the confidence to go on to do more research, and to present it to a larger audience. It is times like this that an educator knows they have been successful.

This special issue of PsychMatters has been assembled to highlight the 1999 - 2000 accomplishments of student researchers from the Department of Psychology. In the pages that follow you will find the abstracts of the 19 MOM presentations mentioned above. You will also find abstracts of papers presented by students at the biannual meetings of the Society for Research in Adolescence and the Conference on Human Development, and those presented at the annual meeting of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters.

These abstracts and presentations do not tell the whole story. Attending a professional conference is a learning experience in and of itself. The eight students who accompanied me to Memphis, Tennessee to attend the Conference on Human Development not only had two and a half days of poster and paper sessions, but also the opportunity to hear researchers such as Robert Emery from the University of Virginia deliver an invited address about his research on the stress and resilience of child experiencing divorce, or Nicki Crick from the University of Minnesota discuss her latest research on aggression in young girls, or Peter Ornstein from the University of North Carolina speak about his ongoing research on memory development. And in addition to the academic activities, they got to experience Memphis barbecue, Beale Street blues, and the grandeur of the Peabody Hotel (at conference rates of course). Such experiences rarely show up

on course syllabi, but they all important play an important role in becoming truly educated.

There is a second purpose to this special edition on PsychMatters...one that focuses on our critical need to find financial support for the work highlighted here. Over the past two decades we have been able to take part in the OU Telefund to call former students and benefactors and ask them to make a donation to support activities of the sort described here. For reasons that we do not completely understand, we are no longer allowed to be a part of the Telefund. (Charlie, Greg, Vince, Judy, Yaffa, Linda, and all the others, I missed our annual phone call this year...sorry.) It is important for readers to understand that the faculty who mentor students in field experiences, readings and research projects, and research apprenticeships do so in addition to their regular teaching load. Moreover, we often cover many of the costs associated with these activities through funds available to our own respective laboratories, and then depended on the funds from the Telefund to take care of the rest. Much of this activity is potentially at risk without these Telefund monies.

At the end of this newsletter is a small form that you can cut out and return to the Department indicating your willingness to support activities such as those described in the following pages. I especially encourage those of you who once enjoyed the experience of a MOM or other conference to now do your fair share to permit the students who follow you to have the same experience. Help us show the University community not only that our students are among the best at OU, but that our alumnae and benefactors truly value the work we are doing. Do so, and next year this time I will be able to send you another special edition PsychMatters that highlights the 2000-2001 research accomplishments. ♦

# Meeting of Minds VIII

## Undergraduate Research Matters

Effects of Sexy Magazine Ads on Emotional Responses and Impressions  
Kimberly Brakefield  
(with Professor Christine Hansen)

**S**exy images are a mainstay of magazine advertising, but their impact on perceivers of different genders is largely unknown. The present study investigated the effect of twelve ads altered to advertise an identical, but false, brand of clothing. Ads featured a man, a woman, or a male-female couple. The models in the ads were either fully-clothed or appeared to be nude (sexually-related body features were not visible). Judgements of emotional responses, content, effectiveness, and target audience were measured. Many gender differences were produced. For example, participants judged the unclothed ads of opposite-genders models sexier than same-gender models. Participants reported high levels of sexual feelings when viewing the unclothed couple ads; however, the highest levels were reported by men viewing women who appeared to be nude. Ads were liked significantly more and judged to be much more effective for their targeted gender than for the other gender. ♦

A Content Analysis of Music Videos on BET  
Christine Agar, Lisa Catenacci, Candy DuBord,  
Patrick Faircloth, Bina Giaimo, Rachel Hayden,  
Richard Lucido, & Tracy Zacharek (with Professor  
Christine Hansen & Ranald Hansen)

**P**revious content analysis of music videos shown on MTV, BET, CMT, and VH-1 have documented high levels of antisocial and sexist content. Earlier research conducted in this laboratory (1995-1998) found that highest incidence of antisocial and sexist content occurred in music videos shown on BET (Black Entertainment Television). In consequence, a new content analysis was conducted on a set of 83 current BET videos. While some types of antisocial and negative content appeared less frequently, BET videos still contained a high incidence of socially-negative content (e.g., smoking, alcohol, drugs, gambling, crime, weapons, tattoos, and body-piercing), particularly in rap and hip hop videos. ♦

When pictures were taken of the three universities represented this year at M.O.M. VIII. The Oakland University Representatives totaled more than the other two Universities combined!

Perceptions of Factors Influencing the Development of Serial Killers  
Brian Mavis (with Professor Christine Hansen)

**P**revious research suggests that serial killers share similar dispositional, behavioral, and parental characteristics. The present study investigated perceptions of personal and other factors that might contribute to the development of a serial killer. In addition, the study included two individual difference variables, machiavellianism and religiosity, to investigate their influence on such perceptions. Thirteen factors representing possible contributory influences were extracted from a fifty-item scale. Both machiavellianism and religiosity affected participants' perceptions. For example, participants high in machiavellianism judged that religious influences and lack of friends were less important for the development of a serial killer than did low mach participants. Highly religious participants believed that lack of a religious upbringing and pornography were more important causal factors than did less religious participants. ♦

Effects of Gender, Machismo, and Machiavellianism on Content Judgments of Music Videos  
Christine Agar, Candy DuBord, Julia Harkins,  
Tandy Jurgensens, Marisa Kudyba, Richard Lucido,  
Lea McCandliss, Christina Mitzel, Stacy Nelkin,  
John Ovies, Michelle Pelker, Dylan Siegal, Leah Smith,  
Darrell Stokes, and Candace Wylie (with Professor Christine Hansen & Ranald Hansen)

**P**ast research has demonstrated that the content of music videos can produce strong and highly predictable effects on the attitudes and behaviors of viewers. It is not known, however, whether all individuals perceive music video content in the same way. The present study investigated the influence of three individual difference characteristics (machismo, Machiavellianism, and gender) on judgements of video content. Subjects rated the content of three music videos with sexual, sexist, or antisocial themes on 46 semantic differential scales. Twelve content factors were extracted. Gender, machismo, and Machiavellianism produced significant differences in content judgements. For example, in the antisocial video women judged the content to be significantly more dangerous than did men, and male and female subjects high in Machiavellianism judged the content to be significantly more appealing and less antisocial than did low Machiavellian subjects. ♦

# Meeting of Minds VIII

## As reprinted from the Meeting of Minds VIII collection of presentations Undergraduate Research Matters

### The Psychology of Serial Sexual Murder Brian Mavis (with Professor Ralph Schillace)

**S**ummary: Serial Murder is a topic that elicits fascination from the general public. However, scholarly literature concerning this phenomenon is harder to find than fiction books of the same subject. In this literature review, characteristics of serial sexual murder are discussed in terms of the offender, motivation, modus operandi, and victims involved in these crimes. Offender characteristics covered ties to anti-social personality disorder, narcissistic personality disorder, and biological abnormalities. Motivational aspects such as role of fantasy, sexual sadism and addiction, and high control needs are discussed. Characteristics of modus operandi as well as signature, crime scene typology and victim typology will be discussed as they relate to the serial sexual murder. The study of the psychology of serial sexual murder informs us about the development of violence and the importance of personality disorders. ♦

### Predicting Development Among Infants of Adolescent Mothers: A Strengths-Based Approach Marianne Key-Carniak and Sheila M. Murphy (with Professor Cynthia Schellenbach)

**S**ummary: Research suggests that intensive home visitation programs are effective in reducing the negative developmental consequences often associated with adverse conditions such as poverty, low educational achievement, and adolescent parenthood. This research examines the impact of a home visitation prevention program designed to promote positive physical health among young mothers and their infants. Results indicated that mothers in the home visitation group demonstrated significantly lower rates of emergency room use and significantly higher rates of preventive well-child care in comparison to mothers in a short-term discussion group. Regression analyses revealed that maternal quality of parenting and self-reports of the quality of social support predicted positive developmental status at 12 months of age. Results will be discussed within a strengths-based conceptual framework, highlighting the interaction of multiple constructs within the model for predicting physical health and developmental status among infants of young mothers. ♦

### Examining Risk Factors for Adolescent Mothers and Their Infants

Mary Calvano and Jessica Denstedt (with Professor Cynthia Schellenbach)

**S**ummary: Research suggests that three domains of risk factors are implicated in early pathways to maladaptive outcomes for children of adolescent mothers. This study examined the relative impact of three domains (social risk, life stress, and psychological risk) on infant health outcomes and developmental status measured at four months and twelve months of age. A series of regression analyses suggested that social risk was more important in predicting health outcomes of infants at four months of age. Life stress and psychological stress appeared to be more important in status at twelve months. Specifically, the adolescent mothers' difficulty in coping with separation in a relationship in their own lives was strongly related to the developmental status of their infants. Results will be discussed within a conceptual framework, highlighting the salience of developmental risk in the mothers as a predictor of negative outcomes in their infants. The role of protective factors in mediating the effects of risk will also be discussed. ♦

### New Dimensions in Sex Role Stereotypes Teresa Falzarano, Leyla Spahich, Donald Swain, Andrea Goldman (with Professor Ron Butzlaff)

**S**ummary: The measurement of sex role stereotypes has been difficult and controversial. Sandra Bem and Janet Spence initiated two similar programs of research in the 1970's seeking to demonstrate the multiple factor structure of masculinity and femininity. They devised methods for gathering, discriminating, and validating the attributes associated with masculinity and femininity. The initial results of their work were the Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI) and the Personal Attributes Questionnaire (PAQ).

This presentation describes a new methodology that allows for the collection and analysis of attributes associated for the collection and analysis of attributes associated with sex role stereotypes. A free-response methodology for collecting attributes is combined with the objective, statistical criteria to select the attributes most strongly associated with typical men, women, gay men, and lesbians. Examinations of the types of people subjects think best represent the typical man, woman, gay man, or lesbian suggest differences in subjects' personal knowledge. ♦

# Meeting of Minds VIII

## Undergraduate Research Matters

What's love got to do with it?: A Canonical Correlation of Intimacy, Satisfaction, and Perceptions of Experiences in Close Relationships  
Cheryl Peters and Sabrina Avripas (with Professor Robby Stewart)

This study examined the organizational patterns within three sets of measures assessing Experiences in Close Relationships (Brennan et al., 1998), expressions of Intimacy (Stewart et al., 1998), and relationship Satisfaction (Hendrick, 1998). A canonical correlation was performed to determine the strength of association between each pair of canonical variates (Satisfaction & Experiences, Satisfaction & Intimacy, and Intimacy & Experiences). The overall organizational pattern was the same for women and men; however, there were differences in the degree of associations {i.e. Excitement is associated with Experiences for women (.57) and for men (.37)}. Experiences in Close Relationships accounted for the most variance in both the Satisfaction and Intimacy sets. Collectively, these analyses show that despite similarities between women and men's organizational patterns, there are sufficient differences {i.e. Self-Reliance was significant for women (-.30) and not for men when examining Intimacy and Experiences: Tough-Minded Independence was significant for men (-.44) and not for women when examining Satisfaction and Experiences. ♦

What a Difference a Love Makes: A Validation of Attachment Type  
Cheryl Peters and Cheryl Stayer (with Professor Robby Stewart)

The purpose of this project was to validate the gender-specific attachment types found when a k-means (seeded) procedure was utilized to classify adults by their responses on the Experiences in Close Relationships (Brennan, Clark, & Shaver, 1998) scale. The validation procedure used expressions of Intimacy (Stewart, Kirkland, & Bimler, 1998) and Relationship Satisfaction (Hendrick, 1988), and MANOVA analyses revealed significant differences between attachment groups. The clustering of attachment groups was validated by the Intimacy scale (n(2)=.30 women, n(2)=.28 men) and the Relationship Satisfaction scale (n(2)=.52 women, n(2)=.46 men). Hotellings T(2) tests revealed significant gender differences within comparable attachment types on a variety of variables. Eight attachment types (4 women, 4 men) were verified by the validation procedure, which is a departure from traditional adult attachment typologies where women and men are combined. Differences between attachment types within gender and between genders within an attachment type are discussed. ♦

What Kind of Lover Are You?: Multiple Techniques for Classifying Adult Attachment Styles in Intimate Relationships  
Cheryl Stayer and Cheryl Peters (with Professor Robby Stewart)

The experiences in Close Relationship (ECR) scale (Brennan et al., 1998) provides two sets of measures to classify adult attachment styles. One set uses 2 factors (Anxiety and Avoidance) and the other set uses 12 subscales. Brennan, Clark, and Shaver (1998) used both scales in the creation of discriminate function equations, but neither worked well in classifying our sample. This may be due to differences in the samples; their sample largely included college-aged students in dating relationships and our sample included older adults with established relationships. Therefore means from the 12 subscales were used as seeds in a k-means clustering procedure to form 4 clusters for women and 4 clusters for men. This resulted in secure and fearful groups, each of which were similar across gender; preoccupied groups which displayed gender-specific characteristics for men and women; and two blended groups: a male secure/dismissive group and a female dismissive/secure group. Descriptions of the attachment types are dismissed. ♦

You're Still the One: Experiences, Satisfaction, and Intimacy in Relationships Across Time  
Cheryl Peters, Lauryn Rosta, Jacquelyn Watters, and Michelle Pelker (with Professor Robby Stewart)

This study examines the effects of relationships duration of Experiences in Close Relationships (Brennan et al., 1998), Intimacy (Stewart et al., 1998), and Satisfaction (Hendrick, 1998). Couples (n=273) were partitioned into four quartiles using length of relationship: less than 3 years, 3-10 years, 10-20 years, and more than 20 years. Experiences in Close Relationship differed across relationship duration (n(2)=.30). Results revealed that Trust and Lovability increase and Uncertainty, Fear of Abandonment and a Repellent Desire to Merge declined with greater relationship duration. Between group differences on Intimacy were also revealed at the multivariate level (n(2)=.16) suggesting that overall Intimacy varies across time, but this difference was never significant at the univariate level. Satisfaction in relationships increased slightly over the four periods (n(2)=.07) with univariate assessment of Satisfaction with Love showing a significant increase. ♦

Of the presentations made this year at M.O.M. VIII, more than 1/3 of them were made by

# Meeting of Minds VIII

## Undergraduate Research Matters

### Love the One You're With: Looking at Early and Middle Adult's Intimacy

Michelle Pelker, Jacquelyn Watters, and Lauryn Rosta (with Professor Robby Stewart)

Perceptions of intimacy in enduring relationships of men and women at Early and Middle phases of adulthood were evaluated by using three relationship assessment scales: Experiences in Close Relationships (Brennan et al., 1998), Intimacy (Stewart et al., 1998), and overall Relationship Satisfaction (Hendrick, 1988). Significant differences in life phase were found with ECR, but not with Intimacy or Satisfaction scales; gender differences were detected with ECR and Intimacy, but not Satisfaction. Gender differences revealed that males scored higher on Discomfort With Closeness and Tough-Minded Independence and lower on Trust. Those in early adulthood scored higher on Separation Anxiety, Uncertainty, Repellant Desire to Merge and Fear of Abandonment and lower on Trust, Lovability and Relational Self-Esteem than did middle adults. Females scored higher than males on Intimacy variables such as Calm, Warmth, Love and Commitment. Although gender and phase of life effects were not found with total satisfaction, multiple regression techniques revealed significant between group differences. ♦

### He said She said: Male and Female Perceptions on Intimacy, Satisfaction, and Interpersonal Experiences

Sabrina Avripas and Paul Carlin (with Professor Robby Stewart)

A series of stepwise multiple regression were used to explore the perceptions males and females have towards enduring, intimate relationships. To assess whether males and females conceptualize constructs in comparable ways responses on Relationship Satisfaction, Intimacy and Experiences in Close Relationship scale were used to predict criteria such as overall Relationship Satisfaction, Love, Commitment, and perceiving the Partner as a Good Attachment Figure. In the regression models derived for the males, Uncertainty was a key variable that governed their overall appraisal of the close relationship, i.e., to experience greater Love or Commitment males would need to experience lower levels of Uncertainty. Females' perceptions were also influenced by their sense of Uncertainty about partner; however, viewing their Partner as a Good Attachment Figure and Anger at their partner were also substantial predictors. In conclusion, males and females conceptualize some variables the same way and others in a very gender specific manner. ♦

### Just What Are We Measuring?: An Exploration of Measurement Equivalence

Cheryl Peters and Cheryl Stayer (with Professor Robby Stewart)

Measurement equivalence issues appeared during data analyses pertinent to other components of this research project. Experiences in Close Relationships (Brennan et al., 1998) and expressions of Intimacy (Stewart et al., 1998) were used as predictors in a series of multiple regression analyses conducted for the criterion variable total relationship satisfaction. Differences in satisfaction vary systematically by gender, phase of life, length of time in a relationship, and attachment style. Collectively, these analyses demonstrate that satisfaction as measured by Hendrick (1998) is not capturing the same thing for everyone. Although, perceiving the Partner as a Good Attachment Figure and having low Uncertainty about Feelings for Partner were common predictors for many subgroups, other conceptually important difference in regression models were revealed. These differences are discussed. ♦

### The Influence of Tutorial Sessions on Motivation, Degree of Positiveness and Self-Efficacy with At-risk Readers

Tanya Adman, Candy Dubord, Amy Lai and Jennifer Pena (with Professor Robby Stewart)

The primary purpose of this research was to investigate the influence of individual and small group tutorials on self-efficacy, motivation, and degree of positiveness. Self-efficacy was defined as the belief in one's ability to be successful, having a positive, optimistic outlook, self-esteem and trust in one's self. Motivation was defined as a willingness to participate and take on new challenges. Degree of positiveness was defined as being happy, content, energetic, following directions and interests in reading on an affective level. Ten first grade students (8 bilingual), currently reading below expected grade level, were evaluated. The four reading tutors' maintained detailed journals of each reading session depicting the tutor' perception of the child's sense of motivation, degree of positiveness, and perceived level of self-efficacy. Each journal entry was rated by the other tutors using a 7-point scale. Increase in the children's levels of self-efficacy, motivation and degree of positiveness were found. ♦

Over 13% of the presentations made by students at M.O.M. VIII were made by Oakland University psychology students!

# Meeting of Minds VIII

## As reprinted from the Meeting of Minds VIII collection of presentations Undergraduate Research Matters

The Mediation Role of Parental Rejection in the Association between Inter-parental Conflict Properties and Affection toward Parents  
Jennifer L. Davies (with Professor Mary B. Eberly)

The present study examined ways in which daughters' perceptions of parental rejection and inter-parental conflict contributed to the frequency of their affectionate and considerate behavior toward parents. Research in family functioning posits that intense parental conflict spills over into parent-child relationship thereby affecting adolescent adjustment. Because previous research on adolescent prosocial behavior revealed that attachment to parents, parental acceptance, and relationship interdependency were associated positively with prosocial behavior (affection and helpfulness), we hypothesize that such inter-parental conflict would correlate with daughters' affection and helpfulness toward parents because of its effect on parent-child relationships. College women (n=175) between 17 and 25 years completed questionnaires measuring perceptions of parental conflict (CPIC), prosocial behavior toward parents (APBI), and parental behavior (CRPBI-rejection subscale). Results supported our hypothesis. Parental rejection (lack of acceptance) mediated the relationship between the parental conflict and the affection shown towards parents. ♦

The Influence of Sex-of-Sibling on Gender Development  
Christine Agar (with Professor Mary Eberly)

Summary: Two theories dominate the study of sex-of-sibling influence on the development of gender. Sibling deidentification (SD) posits that children polarize traits to avoid negative comparison and competition. Sibling Gender Assimilation (SGA) theorizes that siblings model each other's gender behaviors, thereby becoming more masculine in the presence of a brother and more feminine in the presence of a sister. For the present paper, existing research are reviewed to create a cohesive picture of the influence sex-of-sibling has upon gender development. Family constellation, parental attitudes, and societal influences are examined as potential moderating factors of the development of gender identity. In conclusion, both SD and SGA are complimentary theories in understanding sex-of-sibling influence when additional moderating factors are taken into account. ♦

You may ask if the professors of the Department of Psychology are committed to undergraduate research?

The mediational role of attachment in the association between parental behavior and eating disorder symptoms  
Amy Lai (with Professor Mary Eberly)

Summary: The present study examined the role that college women's attachment representation played in the relationship between perceptions of parental behavior and the presence of eating-disorder symptoms. Attachment theory posits that a sense of security, that is, being comfortable with dependency and with closeness while lacking anxiety about abandonment, becomes internalized as attachment representations. These representations influence perceptions and guide behavior. Existing research showed that parental overprotectiveness related positively and parental nurturance related negatively to the number of eating disorder symptoms. We hypothesized that such associations depended on college women's attachment representation security. College women (n=259) between 17 and 25 years completed questionnaires measuring attachment representation, parental overprotectiveness, parental nurturance, and presence of eating disorder symptoms. Results revealed that variables correlated in expected directions and that attachment representation mediated the relationship between parental overprotectiveness and eating disorder symptoms as well as between parental nurturance and eating disorder symptoms. ♦

In fact, you may ask any of the students listed in this newsletter, but then you know what the answer will be! YES, OF COURSE!!!

# Oakland University

## Faculty Research Matters

The Role of Attachment Qualities in the Link between Marital Discord and Parent-Daughter Relationships

Mary B. Eberly (Oakland University) and Lisa D. Settles (University of Indianapolis) Presented at Society for Research on Adolescents Chicago, Illinois

The purpose of the present study was to examine the direct association of late-adolescent daughters' perceptions of marital conflict and their report of parental rejection and the indirect association through daughters' attachment representation. Late-adolescent college women ( $n=289$ ) from intact families completed measures of perceptions of interparental conflict (conflict properties, perceived threat, self-blame), attachment representations, and parental rejection in a small classroom setting or in their home. Results revealed that daughters' perceptions of maternal and parental rejection was negatively associated with lower levels of interparental conflict and lower attachment security. The association between interparental conflict and maternal and paternal rejection also was found to be mediated partially by daughters' attachment representations. Findings imply that daughters' perceptions of the relationships with parents are connected to concurrent family interactions, such as the marital relationship, and historical factors, such as the established attachment representation. ♦

Adult attachment styles: A focus on intimacy, satisfaction and interpersonal experiences. Robert Stewart, Cheryl Peters, Michelle Pelker, Cheryl Strayer, Sabrina Avripas, Paul Carlin, Jacquelyn Watters, and Lauryn Rosta, Department of Psychology, Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

Self-reports of attachment experiences, intimacy, and relationship satisfaction were obtained from 273 heterosexual couples. Perceived experiences were strongly effected by attachment style ( $h^2 = .89$  and  $.67$ , women and men respectively). Secure people experienced high trust and perceived their partner as a good attachment figure, while having little uncertainty, anger, fear of abandonment and discomfort with closeness or dependence. The opposite pattern of experiences was found with fearful people. Preoccupied people reported high separation anxiety and fear of abandonment and low trust. Dismissive people showed high discomfort with closeness and dependence. Attachment style effected intimacy ( $h^2 = .30$  and  $.20$  respectively). Secure and preoccupied women had high intimacy scores, and fearful women had low scores in the nine domains. Dismissive women reported warmth similar to secure and preoccupied women, and low experiences of love, commitment, and passion like their fearful counterparts. Secure and dismissive men scored the highest on all nine domains of intimacy, with fearful and preoccupied men scoring the lowest on all measures. Attachment style also effected satisfaction scores ( $h^2 = .40$  and  $.29$  respectively). Security was associated with the highest satisfaction and fearfulness with the least. ♦

Begone attachment styles: Dimensional approaches to intimacy, satisfaction and interpersonal experiences. Robert Stewart, Cheryl Peters, Cheryl Strayer, Sabrina Avripas, Michelle Pelker, Paul Carlin, Jacquelyn Watters, and Lauryn Rosta, Department of Psychology, Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

Taxometric analyses have demonstrated adult attachment data are better represented by a dimensional rather than a typological model. Scores of experiences, intimacy, and relationship satisfaction were derived from self-reports of 273 heterosexual couples. Stepwise multiple regression procedures were conducted with satisfaction, love, commitment and passion scores of both men and women each treated as dependent variables and the 12 attachment dimension scores treated as predictors. Couple satisfaction was predicted ( $adj. R^2 = .73$ ) with the partners' senses of uncertainty, his anger toward the partner and his fear of abandonment all exerting negative influences. Her perception of her partner as a good attachment figure and tough sense of independence, and his separation anxiety and desire to merge exerted positive influences. Different predictors emerged when his and her satisfaction were considered separately ( $adj. R^2 = .65$  for each). The negative influence of uncertainty and the positive influences of separation anxiety and perceptions of the partner as a good attachment figure were found in predictions of intimacy. ♦

Intimate relationships in early and middle adulthood: Developmental trends in intimacy, satisfaction and interpersonal experiences. Cheryl Peters, Robert Stewart, Sabrina Avripas, Michelle Pelker, Cheryl Strayer, Paul Carlin, Jacquelyn Watters, and Lauryn Rosta. Department of Psychology, Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

Conceptualizations of love changes with experiences across relationships and within an enduring relationship. Heterosexual couples ( $N = 273$ ) completed self-reports of attachment experiences in close relationships, intimacy, and relationship satisfaction. All couples were exclusive for one year (mean duration = 11.5 years; range 1 to 41 years). Analyses revealed that the experiences in close relationships differed with relationship duration ( $h^2 = .30$ ). Trust increased after the initial phase of relationship development, and perceptions of uncertainty and fear of abandonment decreased. Differences in expressions of intimacy were detected ( $h^2 = .16$ ). Experiences of calmness, warmth and communion increased over four periods of relationship development. Commitment increased dramatically after the initial period and remained high. Perceived excitement in the relationship increased dramatically after the initial period, but returned to a modest level in the later periods. Relationship satisfaction increased slightly ( $h^2 = .05$ ) with most of the differences being attributed to higher perceived satisfaction by males in relationships of greater duration. ♦

# PSYCHMATTERS

Postage

The Quarterly Newsletter of Psychology at Oakland University

No. 97284  
The Department of Psychology  
Oakland University  
111 Pryale Hall  
Rochester, MI 48309-4489

To:

Research is a valuable part of a college education and is important to the Department of Psychology at Oakland University. As an alumni, you may remember research that you were involved in during your years as a student. Please make a contribution so that current and future students will be able to be involved in research and conferences, such as Meeting of the Minds VIII. Please feel free to fill out your name, address, phone number, and E-Mail so that you can receive further updates on student/faculty research in the Department of Psychology, such as the research featured here in this special issue of PsychMatters. Thank you!!!

\*Please make checks payable to Oakland University and write Department of Psychology on the memo line.

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