


The Social Psychology of Intimacy



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Purdue University
Laura E. VanderDrift



Macro Perspectives

- How do society, culture, and gender impact short term mate selection?
- Do these effects carry over into long term mate selection?



Short-Term Mate Selection

- Males are more likely to report that they would enter into a short-term sexual relationship than are females.
- The sexes are more similar in what they prioritize in their partners for such relationships.




Mate Budgets



- Men and women given “mate budgets” to design short-term mates, and asked whether they would actually mate with their constructed partner.


Physical attractiveness, social status, creativity, kindness, and liveliness

(Li & Kenrick, *JPSP*, 2006)



How they Budgeted "Mate Dollars"

| Study 1 (Li & Kenrick, 2006) | Women | Men |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Physical Attractiveness | 40.80 | 52.30 |
| Social status | 20.20 | 13.30 |
| Creativity | 6.10 | 6.00 |
| Kindness | 17.10 | 13.70 |
| Liveliness | 15.80 | 14.70 |



Self Reported Reasons

- Highest rated reason: "I was physically attracted to the person, and I thought it would feel good."



Forced Choice Method

- By using forced choice method, Li & Kenrick concluded that physical attractiveness was a necessity for both males and females for short-term partners



Sex Differences in Seeking a Short-term Relationship

- Whether** to enter into a short term sexual relationship (Hatfield & Clark, 1989)
- What % of men said yes to sex?
- What % of women said yes to sex?



Sex Differences in Short-term Mating: Why?


- Cultural factors
 - Men as Agentic; Women as Passive
 - Cultural Double Standard

- Evolutionary factors
 - Minimum obligatory parental investment (Trivers, 1972)




Micro Perspectives


- What social psychology happens within a relationship (short or long term) that influences intimacy?



The Role of Arousal

- Feelings that include arousal or passion go beyond simple liking.
- Arousal is relatively undifferentiated







Lust on a Bridge

- Dutton & Aron (1974)
- Misattribution of Arousal
 - High Suspension Bridge
 - Low Sturdy Bridge






Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love



- Sternberg (1986)
- Intimacy**
- Passion**
- Decision/Commitment**



Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love

- Nonlove** (*absence of all three*)
- Liking** (*intimacy only*)
- Infatuated love** (*passion only*)
- Empty love** (*decision/commitment only*)




Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love

- Romantic love** (*Intimacy & passion*)
- Companionate love** (*Intimacy & Decision/Commitment*)
- Fatuous love** (*Passion & Decision/Commitment*)
- Consummate love** (*all three*)



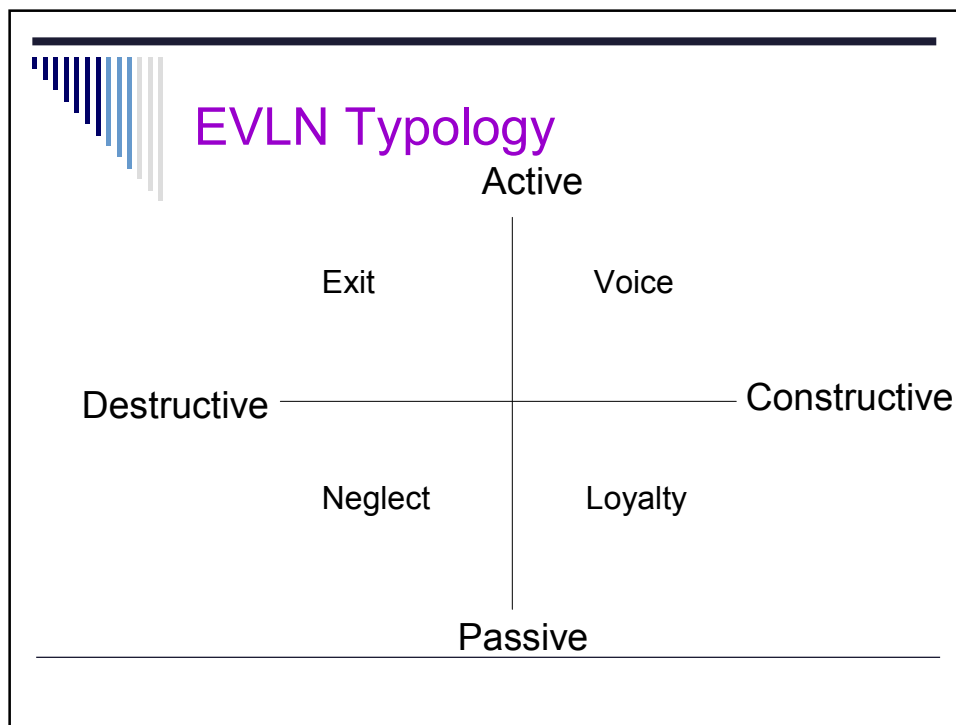
Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love


- What predicts a “successful relationship?”**
 - Doesn't have to be consummate love
 - Both people don't have to “match”
 - But, what does predict success, is that the partner's conception of love matches what s/he *thinks* is the other partner's conception of love



Relationship Maintenance – EVLN Typology

- **Exit** – Actively harming or terminating a relationship.
- **Voice** – Actively and constructively attempting to improve conditions.
- **Loyalty** – Passively but optimistically waiting for conditions to improve
- **Neglect** – Passively allowing for conditions to deteriorate





Interaction Principles

- Good Manners
- Accommodation
