

IDENTITY SENTIMENTS AND EMOTION SIGNALS IN CONTEMPORARY
RELATIONSHIPS:
MODELING RELATIONAL CHANGE THROUGH AFFECTIVE EXPECTATION

by

CHELSEA RAE KELLY

(Under the Direction of Dawn T. Robinson)

ABSTRACT

This dissertation uses a mathematical and culturally-based theory of emotion and identity to examine the behavioral and mental health consequences of participation in different types of structured relationships. Online-administered surveys gathered identity and emotion semantic differential scale measures from a primary two-wave longitudinal sample (N=93) of young adult college students in stable (defined relationships) and mutable (hookup culture's "undefined" relationships) romantic relationships. Through MANOVA, two-sample t-test, regression, and structural equation model analyses conducted using variables of respondent identities and emotions, affect control theory-computed emotions, and variables of respondent *identity discrepancy* (squared Euclidian distance between personas (true selves) and relational selves (selves in relationship)) and *emotion discrepancy* (squared Euclidean distance between respondent emotion expectations and respondent emotion experiences), I find (1) evidence for statistically distinct labels for relationship types within hookup culture; (2) that respondents in undefined and defined relationships (a) seek to affirm personas rather than relational

selves, (b) assess undefined relationship identities as evaluatively lower than defined relationship identities, and (c) have similar personas but dissimilar relational selves; and (3) that relationship emotional optimism (evident in computations for both defined and for undefined relationship participants) is justified in defined, but not undefined, relationship experiences. Finally, I find that (4) affirming one's relational identity actually *increases* relationship dissolution likelihood when that relational identity is affectively dissimilar to one's persona identity (accounting for a 17% reduction in direct effect of relationship type on dissolution likelihood). This research documents a previously overlooked relationship type within hookup culture, provides empirical validation for affect control theory and affect control theory of self, and presents empirical evidence that emotion signals in the present significantly influence relationship behaviors in the future.

INDEX WORDS: Emotion, Hookup culture, Affect control theory, Relationships, Identity, Self, Mental health, Behavior

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is *not* dedicated to my husband Kevin, who would be happy to never have to read it. However, I mention him here in this section because he deserves to be. He knows what this career, my work, and the impact I can make on the lives of people through it means to me, and he sacrificed enormously and without ceremony to make sure that I achieved that dream. He is the embodiment of true love and my heart's caretaker, and I could not have done this like this without him.

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She pushed me early on to do what to me seemed over my head, and she coached me to make sure I knew how before it happened. Because of that, I could and did present and preside and network without imposter syndrome. When I had an interest in an area that did not interest her in the least, she enthusiastically employed her considerable resources to make sure that I could shine in it if I wanted to. Dawn is frank with both

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
CHAPTER	
1 INTRODUCTION, LITERATURE REVIEW, HYPOTHESES.....	1
Affect Control Theory.....	4
Self and Identity	6
Relational Identities	9
Hookup Culture.....	11
Emotions	21
Research Questions and Hypotheses, Reviewed	26
2 METHODOLOGY	31
Sampling	31
Design	34
Measures	36
3 ANALYSIS AND RESULTS.....	43
Analytic Strategy	43
Results.....	46
Investigating Robustness and Potential Confounds	78

4	DISCUSSION.....	86
	Definite Identities and Consequent Emotions.....	87
	Descriptive Statistics for Contextualized Cultural Identities.....	91
	Modeling Future Behaviors with Longitudinal Data.....	99
5	CONCLUSION.....	108
	Limitations and Future Directions.....	109
	Conclusion.....	111
	REFERENCES.....	115
	APPENDICES	
	A Electronic Study Calls.....	122
	B Recontact Emails.....	124
	C Electronic Gift Code Message.....	129
	D Surveys.....	130
	Wave 1 Defined.....	130
	Wave 1 Undefined.....	146
	Wave 2 Defined.....	164
	Wave 2 Undefined.....	183

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 1a. Descriptive Statistics: Observed Variables	47
Table 1b. Descriptive Statistics: Computed Variables	48
Table 2: Defined and Undefined Relationship Labels: Statistical Differences on the Evaluation Dimension.....	51
Table 3a: Predicted Consequent Emotions by Relationship Type and Gender (Positive Behaviors).....	56
Table 3b: Predicted Consequent Emotions by Relationship Type and Gender (Negative Behaviors).....	57
Table 4: Affectively Similar Identities from the Wider Culture for a Set of Relational Identities.....	59
Table 5: Mean Values on the Evaluation Dimension for Key Identity and Emotion Measures by Relationship Type.....	61
Table 6a: Statistical Relationships Among Evaluation Dimension Emotion Variables (Defined Relationships)	66
Table 6b: Statistical Relationship Among Evaluation Dimension Emotion Variables (Undefined Relationships)	67
Table 7: Average Structural Emotions of Personae and Relational Selves as Predictors for Ideal and Actual Emotion on Evaluation Dimension: Full Sample (N=93)	68

Table 8: Average Structural Emotions of Personae and Relational Selves as Predictors for
Ideal and Actual Emotion on Evaluation Dimension: by Defined/Undefined

Relationship Type69

Table 9: Summary Statistics for Identity Discrepancy Measure by Relationship

Framework Type and Relationship Dissolution Status at Wave 282

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1: Structural Equation Model of Identity and Emotion Discrepancies as Mediators between Relationship Framework and Relationship Dissolution Likelihood.....	46
Figure 2: SEM Presenting Effect of Relationship Type on Relationship Dissolution (Standardized Coefficients)	74
Figure 3: SEM Modeling Identity Discrepancy as Partial Mediator for the Effect of Relationship Type on Relationship Dissolution (Standardized Coefficients)	75
Figure 4: SEM Modeling Emotion Discrepancy as Partial Mediator for the Effect of Relationship Type on Relationship Dissolution (Standardized Coefficients)	76
Figure 5: SEM Modeling Identity Discrepancy-Contingent Emotion Discrepancy as Partial Mediator for the Effect of Relationship Type on Relationship Dissolution (Standardized Coefficients)	77

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION, LITERATURE REVIEW, HYPOTHESES

This dissertation explores the interconnection of self, identity, and emotion—and the attendant consequences for future behaviors and mental health—by generating and empirically testing novel theoretical predictions concerning felt-emotion feedback as an indicator of future relationship change. I use affect control theory emotion equations to predict identity-related (characteristic), relationship-related (structural), and behavior-related (consequent) emotions for individuals involved in stable and mutable romantic relationships. I theorize that greater discrepancy between predicted characteristic and structural emotion leads to greater role-relationship strain as identities receive affirmation-inconsistent feedback; this increased strain will increase the likelihood of relationship dissolution. I test these predictions using cross-sectional and longitudinal data.

We all possess identities. They help us to orient our thoughts and our emotions—and our expectations of each for ourselves and for others—as we encounter and process situations as particular iterations of ourselves. We want to know that we are correct in our assessments of how we see the world, how we see ourselves, and how we define and relate to others. As we perform actions in the world, if we get feedback that our definitions of self, others, or situation are incorrect, we modify. We might change our definitions, if the feedback is overwhelming enough, but more likely we will act to try to

reinforce our definitions to show ourselves and others that things are as we perceive them.

Identity motivates; we act to reinforce the identities we embody. If a person who sees himself as a colleague at a conference begins speaking with an acquaintance there, he will probably expect himself to feel mildly pleased and rather contented as he affirms this colleague identity with his acquaintance. If he found to his surprise that he is spoken to by this acquaintance as though he is a student subordinate, he would probably feel affronted. In behavior he might alter his mode of speech, mention a publication, refer to the presentation he is about to give, or slip a “we” into the conversation that allies him with the original speaker (or, if especially affronted, with one of the speaker’s mentors). Conversely, if he finds that he is spoken to as though he is the plenary speaker, he would probably feel flattered by the mistake, but at the same time hastily deny the honorific, perhaps protesting that is “only” a professor and “just” a “regular” presenter. Whatever our identities, we want them affirmed by those with whom we interact.

In the example above, the hypothetical conference-goer, expecting to feel contentment, felt either affront or gratification. Though very different, both were natural responses to the described scenarios, and both happened to the same identity. Different interactions with different alters who saw the conference-goer in different ways affected the emotions he felt, the actions he took, and—depending on how precarious or elevated his estimation of his activated attendee-and-presenter-at-a-conference academic identity—how “thrown” each interaction made him feel. Emotions are tied to our identities; our identities and their emotions respond to, and are affected by, the interactions that occur in relationship with others and their identities.

The impact of identity affirmation or disaffirmation for the self holding the activated identity is not equivalent for all identities that a self possesses: some are more salient than others (e.g., “woman” vs. “brown-eyed person”), some are more important to the self than others (e.g., “mother” vs. “third cousin”), and while some are more casual or professional (e.g., the above “conference-goer”), others are much more enduring and intimate (e.g., “spouse”). The more prominent and salient identities often concern personal relationships with others. Those personal relationships with the other specific, often highly valued identities and the people who hold them (e.g., “child” or “spouse”) make these identity affirmations particularly vital to the self.

In this dissertation, I explore the identity and emotion process in an especially self-referential and other-contingent interaction space: romantic relational identities and their contexts. Relational identities—those identities that generally require and are presumed based on an alter identity (such as “girlfriend” for “boyfriend,” or “child” for “parent”)—are just as much a component of a person’s identity system as more individualized identities; the feedback process of felt emotion as signal of identity affirmation leading to behavior change occurs for these as well. Depending on what type of identity pair exists, and who affirming that identity makes one feel they are at their core (“Do I like who I am (am I myself) when I’m with you?”), we would expect to see different emotions expected and felt by different identities, and would expect a mismatch in the expectation and experience of their emotions to catalyze behavioral change within their relationships.

To test and contextualize these enduring and intertwined identity and emotion processes, I gather identity and emotion data in a sample of young adult college students

involved in stable (defined) and mutable (undefined) romantic dyad connections, make predictions concerning the emotions they should expect and experience in these relationships, and use their identity and emotion data to predict relationship change over time. I am motivated by a related series of research questions: *how does the label of a relationship* (which contains affective content about the participants) *affect assessment of the associated relational identity? How does the label of a relationship affect relational identity-contingent emotions? What impact does the defined/undefined cultural framework in which relationship labels are embedded have on the evaluations of the embedded relational identities?* One of the most pressing questions of this dissertation asks: *which identity are participants seeking to affirm within their romantic relational dyads—their personas* (holistic senses of self) *or their identity-situated selves* (relational identities)? Finally, *how do activated identity-contingent emotions affect relationship dissolution?*

Affect Control Theory

Labels, whether given by society or given by the self, have real and profound effects on the mental health and subsequent behaviors of those so labeled (Becker 1963; Link et al. 1989; Link and Phelan 1999). Affect control theory (Heise 1979) harnesses this truth about the perception of a situation to make predictions about assessment of social events and the actors, behaviors, and object persons within them (including assessments of the individuals' emotional states): was that person *fighting*, or *playing*? Are we accepting of her behavior because we know she is *forthright*, or do we question her motives because we know she is a *manipulative person*? Did he *apprehend a bad guy*, or *falsely accuse a good Samaritan*?

Labels used to characterize behaviors, identities, and modifiers create different definitions of a situation, and thus different responses to ostensibly the same scenario, depending upon how that scenario and the elements within it are characterized (for instance, people respond differently to the gender-unmarked *physician* identity than to the gender-marked *lady physician* identity (Stanley 1977)). These definitions of the situation can be modeled mathematically using the tools of affect control theory ((Heise 1979; Heise 2007): a formal theory that works on the premise of human beings' desire for deflection reduction. *Deflection* is a quantification of social strangeness, the mathematical difference between social expectations and social reality. An event that follows expectations (such as *a mother kissing a baby*) has low deflection, while an event that strongly deviates from expectations within our culture (such as *a mother dropkicking a baby*) has high deflection. People are motivated by desire for deflection reduction to maintain consistency in their cultural world view and experiences and avoid cognitively jarring circumstances.

On a personal level, human beings act in order to affirm culturally-informed, personally-held sentiments by making minor or major adjustments in order to maintain the self as we understand it. This is the basis of a recent extension of affect control theory, the affect control theory of self (MacKinnon and Heise 2010). The original formulation of affect control theory focuses on event-level identity sentiments. The extension models the cybernetic process of individual-level self-sentiments in the context of social interaction. Both theories rely on the use of the three universal affective dimensions (Osgood, May and Miron 1975) of *evaluation* (goodness vs. badness), *potency* (powerfulness vs. powerlessness), and *activity* (liveliness vs. quiescence) to

numerically capture fundamental sentiments concerning concepts in society from the viewpoint of members of that culture. The set of three ratings for a given concept (each of which can vary from -4.3 to 4.3) are collectively known as the concept's *sentiment profile*¹: a numerical representation of the identity's fundamental sentiment (the affective characterization of a concept's nature along those three universal dimensions of evaluation, potency, and activity within its culture (Heise 1979:18)). Sentiment profiles stand as locations within three-dimensional affective space. For example, in the latest United States cultural dictionary, a Best Friend has a sentiment profile of 3.63, 3.10, 1.28 (Smith-Lovin et al. 2016b) —a highly good, highly potent, and mildly active identity. Different evaluation, potency, and activity profiles for different labels capture the variation in expectation and affective nature native to each label.

Self and Identity

Each person carries with them multiple, distinct identities in which they can situate themselves; these motivate behavior as people seek to affirm those identities (Burke and Stets 2009:58-59; Robinson and Smith-Lovin 1992; Swann and Hill 1982). The holistic amalgamation of these identities is what we know as the *self*. Though often used interchangeably, *self* and *identity* are conceptually distinct. The self refers to one's conceptualization of themselves, i.e., the concept thought of when one refers to oneself as a *me*. The concept of *self* encompasses all manners of referencing the *me*. Identities, which take into account social definitions, make distinctions about institutional and collective inclusion and exclusion, and involve embodiment of role definitions,

¹ Also known as the *EPA profile*.

conceptually differ from this. As Stone argues, “identity establishes what and where the person is in social terms. When one has identity, he is situated—cast in the shape of a social object by the acknowledgment of his participation or membership in social relations” (Stone 1962:93). Rather than self-meanings, identities are signs that evoke self-meanings (MacKinnon and Heise 2010:97); they are ways to categorize and conceptualize facets of the self with respect to its cultural positions.

In affect control theory of self, an identity is a “cultural category of humans whose conscious realization contributes to the objectification of self” (MacKinnon and Heise 2010:98). As a self, people possess a persona: a master identity that encompasses, and is in part informed by, the identities within it (MacKinnon and Heise 2010:107-09). Like other identities, the persona is a conceptualization of the self. But, rather than an identity conceptualization of a particular facet of the self, the persona is the holistic assessment of the nature of the whole social being that makes up the self.

Affect control theory’s operationalization allows for the quantification of all labeled social concepts along the three dimensions of affect. Like the individual identities that comprise it, a person’s persona has a unique sentiment profile. It follows, then, that if a persona has a sentiment profile, other identities within the self’s identity system may be more or less affectively similar to the persona that encompasses them. This affective proximity to the persona’s sentiment profile is a separable feature from those identities’ persona-influencing characters. All identities do not carry the same weight in contributing to an individual’s persona; some identities more strongly motivate than others (Burke and Stets 2009:133).

In different instances, people activate different identities; the activated identity with its attendant meanings and expectations helps to define the situation for the person and so orient proper responses and reactions. Whether an activated identity is the persona itself or a specific identity from within the self's identity system, individuals are motivated to affirm their activated identities. There are two distinct types of sentiments associated with each identity. *Fundamental sentiments* are about the nature of the identity itself, while *transient sentiments* capture the nature of the identity in a particular instance. In any individual social interaction event, the informative feedback from the success or failure of each identity's intended affirmation (a comparison of the identity's transient sentiment to the identity's fundamental sentiment) may be assessed (and in affect control theory, measured via deflection) through the identity's concomitant emotions (MacKinnon 1994:127).

In affect control theory of self, fundamental sentiments denote the affective meaning of concepts, just as in affect control theory. Affect control theory of self further takes into account the fundamental self-sentiment, which is the sentiment profile of the persona. This affective rating "reflects beliefs about what identities are crucial in one's life" and changes "infrequently, providing a sense of self-continuity across time and institutional settings, as well as offering some protection against disruptive events that might affect the continuity of self-conceptualizations and sentiments" (MacKinnon and Heise 2010:116). Along with the host of identities that make up a person's identity set (all roles and identities one has ever enacted, whether personally relevant or not), individuals also possess situational self-sentiments; the situational self-sentiment is the self-sentiment pertinent to the type of person one is/becomes in a particular situation

(MacKinnon and Heise 2010:117). Within defined situations, individuals work to maintain their fundamental self-sentiments from within the constraints of the situation and the specific self-sentiments that that situation calls forth.

Relational Identities

Relational identities—those that usually require a counterpart identity housed in another individual (e.g., “mother” (implies a corresponding child), “brother” (implies a corresponding sibling), or “boyfriend” (implies a corresponding girlfriend/boyfriend))—are part of the persona identity system as well. According to affect control theory of self, the affective process of enacting situational self-sentiments in situations involves “select[ing] an identity for the self to maintain her or his self-sentiment, within institutional and relational constraints. The individual’s persona would be the ideal identity, [but] in most situations the individual cannot enact the persona because of institutional demands” (MacKinnon and Heise 2010:120). When considering relational identities, the identity’s alter in the situation—and the label attendant to the nature of the relationship between the two identities—constitutes institutional demands stemming from the definition of the situation. These are nearly always embedded in a sub-context of some particular cultural framework of the relevant social institution (medicine, family, law, education, et cetera).

Identities premised on personal relationships cannot be as easily disaggregated into individual effects as may be possible for less other-contingent identities. Relational identities based on personal relationships (e.g., “spouse”) are more keenly dependent on the self’s perception of the alter than are more formal, institutionalized role pairs (e.g., “doctor” and “patient”) or more individually-navigated identities (e.g., “scholar”). These

personal relational identities are continually responsive to, and partly a product of, the actor's perception of the relationship with and nature of the relational identity alter.

Thus, they have relational identity-specific complicating factors.

Power, for instance, is one such complicating factor. Power complicates the discussion and isolation of the effects of relational identities and thus the comparison of the same types of relational identities from person to person. Power is a relational dynamic of influence; it is the ability to influence another's behavior. As such, power does not have to be exercised to exist. In this way it is different from, though related to, dominance. One must first have power in order to dominate another, but it does not also hold true that one must dominate another in order to have power. Dominance is about control, attempts to exert status, and actions designed to influence. Power does not have to be an action.

Latent power, the power imbalance that favors one actor in a dyad over the other, affects what is even brought up for discussion in a relationship (Dunbar 2015). Power imbalances affect perception of dyadic interactions such that those with less power in a dyad tend to view hypothetical or actual problems in a relationship as less severe than do those with more power (Solomon and Samp 1998), and those problems viewed as less severe are less likely to be discussed. Relatedly, those with little punitive power (the ability to inflict punishment on the other person over disagreement) see no avenue for disagreements to go in their favor. If they wish to stay in the relationship—a wish the strength of which relies on the individual's assessment of other variables, such as the availability of potential other alters—they will consequently view those disagreements as not severe enough to discuss, which allows them to avoid the conflict and an end to the

relationship. Thus, perceptions of a partner's power over oneself can affect specific aspects of a relationship that are strictly not a feature of the relationship type or the cultural identities within it, but of an individual's perception of the power balance or imbalance within that relationship.

Though certainly complicated, among other examples, by reliance on an alter and the effects of dyadic power imbalance on perception (Solomon and Samp 1998) and behavior (Dunbar 2015), relational identities nevertheless contribute their effects to the persona. In fact, as particularly close relationships (Berscheid, Snyder and Omoto 1989), romantic relationship relational identities may be especially important and informative to the persona (Reis, Collins and Berscheid 2000). Fortunately, the practice of affective ratings in affect control theory allows for an empirical amalgamation and distillation of these concerns and offers the means to compare sentiment ratings by labels and relational types across groups.

Hookup Culture

Hookup culture is now considered an "almost unavoidable part of college life" (Hayes and Boyle 2020). Sociologists have characterized the hookup culture as an amorphous, less-structured, modern take on dating (Bogle 2008). In his 2012 literature review on the topic, The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction's Justin Garcia defined hookups as "uncommitted sexual encounters" and defined hooking up as "brief uncommitted sexual encounters among individuals who are not romantic partners or dating each other" (Garcia et al. 2012). Paula England, 2014-2015 President of the American Sociological Society, refers to hooking up as "brief sexual encounters that lack the intimacy that was a part of dating" (McHugh, Pearlson

and Poet 2012), while also stressing the idea that ‘hooking up’ is a category label that encompasses a wide range of behaviors.

Research and scholarly discussion on this topic have delved into many facets of the hookup culture; we now know a great deal more about the realm than we did before. Hookup culture is a prevalent (but by no means all-encompassing) feature of most college campuses (Bogle 2008; Monto and Carey 2014), and participation in hookup culture is generally gender balanced (Owen et al. 2010). Unfortunately, despite professions of egalitarianism, a sexual double-standard persists (Currier 2013; Kelly 2012; Myers 2012; Rupp et al. 2014). Women have lower comfort levels with participation in hookup culture sexual behaviors than do men (with both genders overestimating the comfort levels of their peers and partners) (Reiber and Garcia 2010), and hooking up seems to be an overall net negative for women’s mental health, relationship prospects, and sexual satisfaction (Armstrong, Hamilton and England 2010). Hookup culture participation is also closely associated with risky alcohol use (LaBrie et al. 2014) and largely negative emotional effects for both genders (Fisher et al. 2012; Lefler 2013; Rhoads 2012).

While necessary research, this body of literature has a serious gap. The sample mentioned above contains only a small subset of the rich literature on this topic but, notably, these and other studies tend to focus almost solely on participation in hookups. The elements that constitute the culture itself, and the understanding of how the culture operates and is understood by those assumed to be a part of it, has not yet been thoroughly analyzed.

In his overview of the literature on hookup culture, Garcia highlights the continued ambiguity and breadth of the definition of a hookup and the behaviors within hookup culture among researchers studying aspects of the phenomenon (Garcia et al. 2012). Scholar Lisa Wade, in her recent popular book on the subject, explains that it is not the hookup itself—the single, one-off sexual encounter in which far fewer students are actually engaging than students and popular media believe—that is problematic, but the hookup *culture*: the very pervasive climate on college campuses that proclaims the prevailing idea that hookups are the way that romantic (or, romance-adjacent) interactions operate (Wade 2017). Hookup culture consists of more than participation in hookups. In the flurry of academic interest in assessing the outcomes and intersections of classic sociological concepts with participation in hookups, attention to navigating one's way through this hookup culture cultural scene, in the way that students actually do it, has been largely under-analyzed, left unexamined.

Undefined relationships. In their 2012 study on cultural scripts for dating, Eaton and Rose discovered that very few of their study participants (undergraduate students) labeled their most recent first encounter with a new romantic partner as a hookup. However, neither were they classified as “real dates.” The students instead utilized a new emergent lexicon created to fit these somewhere-between-hookups-and-real-dates romantic encounters. The second-most frequent encounter type was called a “hangout,” which the students described to the researchers in contrast to the more desirable “date” encounter (Eaton and Rose 2012). These types of romance realm interaction configurations are sometimes referred to as “ambiguous romantic relationships” or “undefined relationships.”

These are not singular encounters (hookups), but neither are they the defined and understood relationships to which the participants in them feel the “dating” label would apply. In popular media and lay discussions, these types of relationships are often referred to as “situationships” (e.g., Marchan 2018; Miller 2019; Page 2019). Online magazine articles and blogs give them definitions such as “not-quite-casual sexual affairs with no real label” (Marchan 2018), “a relationship that hasn’t been defined...anything that precedes the DTR (define the relationship) conversation but follows the initial first few dates” (Miller 2019), “less than a relationship, but more than a casual encounter or booty call...a romantic relationship that is, and remains, undefined,” and “that space between a committed relationship and something that is more than a friendship” (Page 2019). As dating scripts evolve and cultural frameworks for thinking of interactions under particular category labels change, participants in those interaction spaces create the necessary terminology to define their social situations and discuss them with themselves and one another.

Uncertainty and Social Interaction. People dislike and seek to minimize uncertainty and ambiguity in their social lives (Heise 1979; Heise 2007). They are particularly motivated to resolve uncertainty if the relationship or interaction is highly central to the self (e.g., Burke and Stets 2009; Hogg 2014), such as is often the case regarding individuals’ occupations, religions, and romantic relationships. Since the formative work of classic sociologists like Mead and Cooley, we have known that ambiguity makes human beings anxious and irascible (Cooley 1918; Mead 1934). Control System theories of social action such as Affect Control Theory (Heise 1979; Heise 1985; Robinson and Smith-Lovin 2006; Smith-Lovin 1990) and Identity Theory

(Burke and Stets 2009) rely on the idea of evaluation of feedback, and the understanding that people use this feedback from their social world to compare to their own views of it in a constant assessment of the definition of their social situations and selves. They are based on the premise of a feedback loop: people both desire—and require—orienting information and verification that their understandings of their place in their society, and their interpretations of the social interactions in which they are involved, are correct and commensurate with those of others. Ambiguity is abhorrent to people: when they cannot understand the parameters of the situations in which they find themselves, they are unable to act as social creatures. Even if their conceptualizations are intentionally specified as distinctly tenuous, individuals have a tendency to discern and then maintain identity and situation conceptualizations.

The concept of relational transgressions from the field of communications provides a fitting example concerning the importance of defining a situation, including a relationship situation. Relational transgressions are those instances in a relationship where at least one partner has behaved counter to or in violation of an established or assumed relational rule (Roloff, Soule and Carey 2001). As such, relational transgressions exist in relation to perceptions of the individuals within a particular relationship such that an action that constitutes a relational transgression for relationship B may not be a relational transgression in relationship A. If partners in relationship B decided that they were “exclusively dating” and had explicitly defined to one another that this was the case, neither could engage in sexual activities with an extra-dyadic other without committing a relational transgression. If relationship A had not decided together that “exclusively dating” was a rule of their relationship, one member of relationship A

engaging in sexual activity with a person other than the other member of that relationship would not necessarily have committed a relational transgression. If the other member of the partnership objected to this behavior, the first could very well use “we never said we were exclusive” as a justification or defense for his or her behavior; the objecting partner would then have to address that claim before moving forward with any type of sanctioning—emotional, verbal, physical, or otherwise—of the first person. A behavior is not a relational transgression unless it has disobeyed an assumed or explicit rule that defines and governs the relationship in which it occurs.

Responses to transgressions depend on the assumptions of the actors in the relationship and their perceptions of the relationship in which the transgression occurred. The greater the actors’ uncertainties² about the relationship, the more extreme will be the reaction to any perceived transgression and the more extreme will the transgression seem to the person who presumes their relationship transgressed upon (McLaren, Solomon and Priem 2012). In fact, most emotional responses in relational communication—jealousy, intimacy, topic avoidance, et cetera—are more extreme when uncertainty is higher (Theiss and Solomon 2006). Perceptions of relationships before relational transgressions occur also affect how people react to and process those relational transgressions. While the choice to justify or minimize transgressions in discussion with outside others is not influenced by pretransgression relationship factors (Vallade and Dillow 2014), the choice whether or not to maximize the transgression to others is (Vallade and Dillow 2014).

² “Relational uncertainty refers to the degree of confidence people have in their perceptions of involvement in romantic relationships” (McLaren, Solomon and Priem 2012) and is a latent concept encompassing self uncertainty (doubts about own involvement), partner uncertainty (ambiguity about alter’s involvement/commitment), and relationship uncertainty (ambiguity about relationship status or future) (Knobloch and Solomon 2002).

Thus, understanding one's dyadic relationships, and defining them, affects not only how one interacts with that partner and oneself in relation to that relationship, but how one interacts with outside others in their society concerning their own status and emotional response toward that relational dyad.

Definition of the situation is paramount, even when the definition necessitates a tacit acknowledgment of some level of assumed "uncertainty." This understanding helps to explain the new list of relationship labels that undefined relationship participants assign to the various types of situationships in which they may find themselves. Individuals need to define and label their interactions and relations. In much the same way that strangers, by their very definition as strangers, are familiar, even when "unlabeled" becomes an explicit component of new relationship labels' definitions, the terms provide the means to understand the parameters that govern those "unlabeled" interactions.

In 2015, Kelly and Andersen gathered information from young adults who self-identified as participants in ambiguous romantic relationships ("situationships" or "undefined relationships") of label types *talking, hanging out, hooking up, casually dating, seeing each other, having a thing, cuffing partners, dating exclusively, and other* (Andersen and Kelly 2015). Subsequent semantic network analysis utilizing the concept-coded qualitative responses concerning what it means to be in each label type was performed by this author for 230 of those respondents, yielding 49 concept codes over eight label categories. Resulting data visualizations and correlation matrices provided strong support for an emergent taxonomy of relationship labels within hookup culture that possess at least some coherent, culturally-shared meaning distinctions between labels

(Kelly 2016). While consensus about each label type and its distinctions was not absolute, there do exist distinct categories within the master category of relationships included within the hookup culture subculture of undefined relationships.

Labels for emergent cultural relations do change as the participants within them adopt and discard identity labels in the navigation and definition stages of a subculture (Mackinnon and Heise 2010:29;33). In recognition of this, and with concern that the passage of time since the above data was gathered in 2015 may have been too great to count it as true that the labels previously listed would still be current, I gathered pilot data before crafting the questionnaire used for the longitudinal dataset that provides the results I will discuss in this dissertation. This pilot data utilized meanings and responses from a sample of Amazon Mechanical Turk Workers (N=102, ages 18-22, located nationally (N=67) and internationally (N=35)). For every listed undefined relationship label, term familiarity was more widespread than was knowledge concerning term meaning. For instance, 99.02% of respondents were familiar with the undefined relationship type “talking to,” but 97.06% of respondents were certain of the term’s meaning. The same pattern was evident for “seeing each other” (91.18% and 88.24%, respectively), “having a thing” (88.24% and 84.31%), and “casually dating” (93.14% and 91.18%). Other terms, such as “cuffing partners,” relevant in the 2015 study, seem to have been discarded from general hookup culture vernacular (46.08% familiarity and 38.24% definition certainty). Those terms that have remained, however, take on cultural connotations that have meaningful distinctions for those interacting with or defining situations concerning those labels that pertain to individuals’ identities within the labeled relationships.

Humans, as social actors, have a need to define their identities, relationship alters, and relational dynamics. As discussed above, different relationship types do exist within the undefined relationships subcategory of dyadic interactions. As these relationship types emerge, potential labels arise that enable culture members to recognize and to refer to each of them. Language and culture production work together; terms emerge as concepts do and provide a firm foundation for shared meanings. As culture evolves, so does language, giving rise to neologisms that capture new cultural information (MacKinnon and Heise 2010:29-30). In nascent cultural spaces, multiple terms can emerge simultaneously; people use different labels to be clear about fine distinctions. However, people also use labels with mutually intelligible meanings when they want to communicate. As this simultaneous culture and language process occurs, a plethora of terms can emerge, then become pared down to a manageable lexical database for concepts within a subculture that strikes a balance between nuance of meaning and an overload of specialized terms (Dougherty 1978).

Terms emerge to describe new distinctions in new cultural settings and terms are discarded as they are no longer relevant to enough of the population, leaving those that are necessary. Over time, this leads to labels that are distinct enough from one another to denote affectively distinct meanings for relationship label distinctions. Taking these propositions together leads naturally to the argument that the various **undefined relationship labels signify affectively distinct** (i.e., statistically distinguishable) **cultural meanings (H1)**.

Beyond the distinct meanings I expect to find between the individual undefined relationship labels within hookup culture, I recognize that each of these labels describe

types of undefined relationships—they are all members of a distinct category of relationships. This category indicates a specific cultural framework—a way to understand, at a higher taxonomic level, all labels within the category. *Undefined relationships* is a new term that arose to capture the meaning of the “situationship” formulations that belong in the culture of hookup culture but which are not themselves hookups. They are types of ongoing relationships, yet paradoxically contain within their definitions the tacit understanding that they remain without definitions—these are relationships that are real, that do exist, but that exist temporally prior to or in lieu of the “define the relationship” conversation. From the perspective of the participants within them, these relationship types are non-ideal formulations (Eaton and Rose 2012), explicitly recognized as deviations from the more desirable “date” interactions³. I thus expect to find that the two cultural frameworks of defined relationships and undefined relationships, as a guiding categorizing feature of all relationship types within them, will lead to evaluative differences in the average affective ratings of those relationships such that **on the Evaluation dimension, average fundamental sentiments for defined relationship labels will be higher than average fundamental sentiments for undefined relationship labels (H2)**. In other words, the average rating of how “good” (compared to how “bad”) respondents assess each relationship label to be will be statistically more “good” for the relationship labels that belong to the defined relationship cultural framework than will be the average ratings for the relationship labels that belong to the undefined relationship cultural framework.

³ While Eaton and Rose’s study explicitly related to first interactions, not ongoing relationships, the terms and the affective assessments as pertain to them are applicable in this evolution of the same.

Emotions

An identity's concomitant emotions take three related but distinct forms: characteristic (identity-related), structural (relationship-related), and consequent (behavior-related). Characteristic emotions are associated with a particular identity; they are those an identity feels when being perfectly confirmed as that identity. Structural emotions (Kemper 1978) are associated with a pair of identities; they are those experienced by an actor in the context of a structured relationship with another person where both are attempting to affirm their identities. Consequent emotions are associated with a pair of identities and a behavior; they are those expected to arise with the experience of a particular interaction event. For instance, the emotion that we would expect a nurse to feel as she tends to her patient is a consequent emotion; it involves knowing about the character and the meaning of a *nurse* and a *patient* and the behavior of *tending to* someone. Consequent emotions can be identity confirming or disconfirming—they are simply those that the identity feels when experiencing a particular interaction—and they take into account the identity, the alter identity, and the behavior. The emotion that a nurse would feel when confirming her identity as a nurse averaged across all her interactions with her patient is a structural emotion; it takes into account the meanings of *nurse* and of *patient* (the identity and the alter identity). The emotion that that same nurse would feel when confirming her nurse identity in interactions with a doctor is also a structural emotion, but this one would take into account the meaning of *nurse* and of *doctor*. The emotion that that nurse is predicted to feel when being perfectly confirmed as a nurse across her interactions (with patients, with doctors, with herself, with other

nurses, with the public, et cetera) is her characteristic emotion; it takes into account the cultural meaning of *nurse* alone.

Predicting emotion is based on meanings of social concepts (identities and behaviors) as they are confirmed (characteristic), confirmed in so far as is possible given structural constraints of their relationships (structural), and confirmed or disconfirmed (consequent) in their interactions with others. Affect control theory uses equations centered on three basic elements of social interaction—an Actor, a Behavior, and an Object-person—to predict each of these emotion types. Characteristic emotions are predicted using information about the Actor. Structural emotions are predicted from information about the Actor and the Object-person, which means that the emotions may vary for the same actor depending upon the paired Object-person (a priest talking to a parishioner during confession, or talking to God during prayer, likely feels different emotions in each instance but he feels confirmed in his priest identity during both). Consequent emotions are predicted using information about the Actor, Object-person, and Behavior (MacKinnon 1994).

How an individual's felt emotions (created by transient impressions—*my identity in this instance*) vary from their expected emotions (stemming from identity fundamental sentiments—*my identity as it is*) will signal to the identity whether the identity affirmation has or has not been successful: while identities motivate, emotions inform (MacKinnon 1994:138). Affect control theory predicted emotions, derived from cultural information of culture members, represent these expected emotions. Thus, as I empirically test this proposition in this dissertation, I hypothesize that **affect control theory computed emotions for respondents will significantly predict respondents'**

reported expected emotions (H3a) and respondents' reported experienced emotions (H3b).

People are motivated to self-actualize (Mackinnon and Heise 2010:120): it is the goal of selves to affirm, through their identity activations in their interactions, their selves as they believe them to truly be (which is different from how they might wish them to be, or how they believe they might be seen by others). This is a proposition of affect control theory of self and, in a personal context, mirrors the event-level deflection reduction motivation principle of affect control theory. In effect, it states that people tend to activate identities from their identity sets that are affectively close to the fundamental sentiments of their personas. Activating the persona itself would be the optimal choice, but the activated identity must be one that falls within “institutional and relational constraints” (MacKinnon and Heise 2010:120).

Most U.S. undergraduates have a highly positive conceptualization of themselves (Smith-Lovin et al. 2016a). Undefined relationships in hookup culture are widely acknowledged as less than ideal iterations of romantic relationships (e.g., Bogle 2008; Eaton and Rose 2012; Fisher et al. 2012; Rhoads 2012; Wade 2017). Taken together, these two realities suggest that there may be more tension between the ability and the desire to affirm the persona while situated in the relational self identity for those involved in undefined relationships compared to those involved in defined relationships. I thus posit that **the discrepancy between the persona and the relational self will be greater for respondents in undefined than in defined relationships (H4a)**. In addition, if there is a tension between the ability and the desire to affirm the persona from within the relational dyad, then by extension there may also exist a greater tension for those in

undefined relationships than for those in defined relationships between desires, manifest in expectations, and abilities, manifest in experiences. I thus further hypothesize that **the discrepancy between expected and experienced emotion will be greater for respondents in undefined than in defined relationships (H4b).**

Affect control theory treats emotion as an outcome, a manifestation of the transient impression created during interaction (Heise 1987; Heise 2007:97). People experience emotions in the course of their relationships as they attempt to affirm their identities. Emotions “correspond to how events have affected the self” (Heise 2007:99); they focus on the way that an event pushes an identity from its fundamental sentiment (positively or negatively). Characteristic emotions are felt when one’s identity is perfectly confirmed (and so in affect control theory terms, the identity transient equals the identity fundamental (Heise 2007:100)). Structural emotions are those felt when one is confirmed in so far as is possible with the alter in a dyad; they are those one will experience “as a function of encountering specific others” (MacKinnon 1994:129). In social relationships that are identity confirming, predicted structural emotions will nearly equate to predicted characteristic emotions (MacKinnon 1994:131). It does not follow, however, that this is necessarily true when identities are embedded in relationships that are identity disconfirming. In identity disconfirming relationships, structural and characteristic emotions are more likely to diverge. Based on this theoretical premise, I hypothesize that **the greater the discrepancy between predicted characteristic and structural emotions for an identity** (researcher-computed variable based on respondent identity ratings), **the greater the likelihood of relationship change** (operationalized as relationship dissolution at W2) **(H5).**

An identity tension. According to the affect control theory of self, a person's identities available to a situation are arranged in a salience hierarchy in the moment, with the one that would most actualize the persona selected for that particular interaction (MacKinnon and Heise 2010:124). Other identity theorists take a structural view of identity hierarchies wherein the position of identities within the hierarchy are relatively trans-situational (e.g., Burke 1980; McCall and Simmons 1966; Stryker 1968). Research on hookup culture suggests that individuals, prevented from, or reluctant to access, the more highly valued interactions of defined relationships, may intentionally elect to adopt the hookup culture perspective and these less desirable, but more attainable, undefined identities (e.g., Eaton and Rose 2012). This suggests that individuals who self-identify as participants in undefined relationships may attempt to isolate and compartmentalize their hookup culture selves; their recognition of this altered identity will lower their expectations for identity actualization. Thus, they will be satisfied with emotions commensurate with that identity, even if that identity deviates from their fundamental sentiment.

A principle from relationship science, however, specifies that "each relationship is nested in a social environment system...embedded in a larger societal and cultural system" (Reis, Collins and Berscheid 2000). This, together with the research on the psychological distress stemming from the break-up of even undefined relationships (Rhoads 2012) and the relationship of stress and closeness (importance to the self-sentiment) of romantic relationships (Berscheid, Snyder and Omoto 1989), would suggest that compartmentalization is not occurring. It would suggest that even those in undefined relationships are using those relationships to attempt affirmation of persona, as is the

expectation for those in defined relationships. Further, the personal level drive to reduce deflection in identity system feedback as specified by affect control theory of self's proposition of self actualization would suggest that compartmentalization, even if easier to bear for the acting individual, is not a stronger behavior and emotion impetus than the fundamental motivation of self actualization. I therefore hypothesize that **persona fundamental sentiments will influence participant emotion responses (H6).**

Research Questions and Hypotheses, Reviewed

Identity, felt emotion, and definition of a situation are all deeply intertwined. Using as a foundation the theoretical premises of affect control theory and affect control theory of self, this research seeks to address the predictive power of these interconnections to understand how specific and cultural relational identities relate to personas, impact emotions, and, through emotion signals, predict relationship dissolution likelihood. The covered literature on the power and importance of a concept's semantic label and the explication of the affective cultural content encompassed within it led to my first research question,

RQ1: How does the label of a relationship affect assessment of relational identity?

Given the interrelated nature of identity and emotion and the emergence of emotion signals from the identities that guide and generate them, I ask the related question,

RQ2: How does the label of a relationship affect relational identity-contingent emotions?

Because hookup culture is now a feature of many college campuses, offers an arena of organized but highly agentic identity navigation, and provides a cultural framework that participants within it (and those outside of it) differentiate intentionally and freely as distinct from the dating realm of defined relationships, I also ask a higher-order question

concerning definition through labeling and its impact on identity, emotion, and interaction:

RQ3: What impact does the cultural framework (defined/undefined) in which the relationship label is embedded have on the evaluation of the associated relational identity?

As discussed in the section above, the relative weight of an identity, and the nature of the hierarchical position of that identity, are somewhat contested within the literature, creating the possibility of divergent predictions concerning identities individuals attempt to affirm in various structured interactions in their lives in their social worlds. This theoretical tension has primed the fourth research question that I attempt to answer with my primary data:

RQ4: what identity (persona or relational self) are participants seeking to affirm within their romantic relational dyads?

People are identity verifiers rather than identity enhancers; they seek to affirm themselves as they see themselves and are behaviorally motivated to seek out instances where this is possible to do, avoiding those where it is not (Robinson and Smith-Lovin 1992). Emotions provide feedback about the success or failure of the intended identity affirmation within the interaction. If an identity is in a structured relationship where such affirmation is not possible (predicted structural emotions are not in accord with predicted characteristic emotions), that identity receives feedback that its intended identity verification has been unsuccessful. Acting in accord with the mechanics of a control system (Powers 2005), the individual enacting that identity will seek to remedy this discrepancy through behavioral change (an alteration of the disconfirming structured

relationship). If circumstances are not amenable to that behavioral change or other factors make such a change undesirable or impossible, signals in conflict will still lead to a resolution (Festinger 1962): resolution may be accomplished through psychological change of the identity's sentiment profile (Heise 2007:3) such that the emotions it expects to feel will become closer, by a movement of the identity standard (Burke and Cast 1997), to those it does feel.

Structured relationships with specified others change the emotions an actor identity may expect to experience (e.g., a bride will anticipate feeling different emotions when interacting with her groom vs. with a pushy salesperson); these are the person's *structural emotions* (Kemper 1978). Outside of with whom they may interact, individuals may expect to experience emotions commensurate with the identities they hold (one may expect the groom and the pushy salesperson to feel different emotions from one another); these expected identity-based emotions are the person's *characteristic emotions*. In identity-confirming relationships, individuals' structural and characteristic emotions are predicted to coincide (MacKinnon 1994:131). When, however, a structured relationship is identity disconfirming, structural and characteristic emotions are more likely to differ. I connect these premises to argue that discrepancy between characteristic and structural emotions will serve as a signal for change in the structured relationship as the person registers the gap between expectation and experience. Because affect control theory is computational, relies on selected identities acting in various scenarios, and treats emotion in its distinct types as informative feedback concerning scenarios and identities, estimations and testable predictions of subsequent identities, emotions, and behaviors are possible. Thus, these tools provide me the means to answer my fifth research question:

RQ5: *How do activated identity-contingent emotions affect relationship dissolution?*

Emotions signal identity affirmation success or failure, and even indicate to the possessor of the activated identity which identity they seem like in a particular relationship or interaction. Moreover, affect control theory makes point predictions about emotions based on activated identities both in isolation and in relationship with others. Given this, I will be computing point predictions for emotions based on each respondent's reported identities in isolation (characteristic emotion) and in relationship (structural emotion). In identity confirming relationships, characteristic and structural emotions are affectively similar. However, theory does not exclude divergence of these emotion predictions for identities within and out of relationship contexts (what if the relationship is not identity confirming, will the predicted characteristic and structural emotions be affectively dissimilar? If so, what does that do to relationship behavior?). This leads to my desire to test Hypothesis 5 for relational identities in context, proposing that because emotions are signals indicating identity affirmation success or failure, a divergence of the two emotion predictions will serve as a signal of strain. The five questions above guide my research design and predictions; in the following chapter I describe how I seek to answer them through analyses of emotion and identity measures in a population of young adult participants in stable and mutable romantic relationship types.

Hypotheses. To answer the research questions above and based on the literature and theory reviewed in this chapter, I have made the following hypotheses:

- **H1: Undefined relationship labels signify affectively distinct cultural meanings**

- **H2: On the E dimension, average fundamental affective sentiments will be higher for defined relationship labels than for undefined relationship labels**
- **H3a: Affect control theory computed emotions for respondents will significantly predict respondents' reported expected emotions**
- **H3b: Affect control theory computed emotions for respondents will significantly predict respondents' reported experienced emotions**
- **H4a: The discrepancy between persona and relational self will be greater for respondents in undefined than in defined relationships**
- **H4b. The discrepancy between expected and experienced emotion will be greater for respondents in undefined than in defined relationships**
- **H5: The greater the discrepancy between predicted characteristic and structural emotions for an identity (researcher-computed variable based on respondent identity ratings), the greater the likelihood of relationship change (operationalized as relationship dissolution at W2)**
- **H6: Persona fundamental sentiments will influence participant emotion responses**

This chapter has presented the theory and body of literature that motivate the research questions detailed above and guide the longitudinal design, targeted population, measures, and planned analyses I will use in answering them. In the next chapter, I discuss my project, population and sample, method, design, and measures in detail.

CHAPTER 2

METHODOLOGY

The present study seeks to measure different types of identities' and emotions' fundamental sentiments, compare these by membership in the identities' cultural frameworks, assess whether affect control theory computed emotions based on the identities' fundamental sentiments are significant predictors of those respondent-provided emotion fundamental sentiments, draw theoretically-based conclusions concerning identity strain and emotion in relationships for the culturally-embedded individual, and make predictions concerning the likelihood of relationship dissolution. I conduct this study in order to enable greater understanding of the interrelationship of other-contingent identity and emotion for behavior, relationship, and mental health outcomes. In the previous chapter, I detailed theoretical knowledge and discussed previous studies relevant to the goals above, specified my research questions, and enumerated hypotheses. In this chapter, I detail the design and implementation of the present study, explain the population, my sample, and data collection procedures for this longitudinal study, and explain the selection and creation of all pertinent variables.

Sampling

My population consists of young adult (ages 18-22 inclusive) college students who self-report involvement in a romantic relationship, either defined (e.g., dating exclusively, engaged, married) or undefined (e.g., talking to, seeing each other, hanging

out). Though hookup culture is seen as an amorphous shift to a less scripted, more modern iteration of dating that is intentionally characterized by its ambiguity (Currier 2013), this may be a mischaracterization. While hookup culture is understood to have ambiguity and uncertainty at the core of the interactions that constitute inclusion in that subculture (Bogle 2008; McHugh, Pearlson and Poet 2012), classic arguments about the basic elements of social interaction deem uncertainty and ambiguity anathema to social interaction (Cooley 1918; Mead 1934). I suggest that conceptual and lexical variations bind various terms to particular fields of expected behaviors, thus negating the presence of ambiguity in practice, retaining it primarily in name.

A wide variety of terms and labels have emerged within the hookup culture participant population to characterize the activities and individuals within that realm (Andersen and Kelly 2015), and cultural scripts for interactions within hookup culture do differ depending on the term used to characterize that interaction (Eaton and Rose 2012). This agentic, undefined romantic relationship population has the expectation of change in variables of interest within a short time frame (fulfilling a practical concern of data collection), while also fulfilling the substantive need for relationships more likely to stimulate the necessary resultant emotion data (as relationships with a higher expectation for uncertainty and ambiguity (Kelly 2012), a greater potential exists for more intensity in the attendant emotional responses to participation within them (Theiss and Solomon 2006) than would be expected from less volatile relationships). This makes undefined romantic relationships a particularly suitable structured relationship for this test.

Following precedents set for surveys of culture and the collection of sentiment norms (Cassidy and Hall 1985), the present study utilizes a convenience sample of

undergraduate students at a large Southern University who self-identified as participants in either stable or mutable romantic relationships, had spent less than 10% of their lives outside of the United States, had English as their first language⁴, and who consented to participation in subsequent waves of this study. In an effort to keep the sample homogenous and thus conform to the best practice guidelines of an ethnological framework for data collection (Heise 2010:211), the sample was restricted to students attending the same university. Data collection for wave 1 of the study was balanced by self-reported gender and relationship framework type. At close of data collection and after removing any respondents who did not provide a wave 2 response, final sample (N=93) was 72% female (N=66) and 28% male (N=26). One respondent did not report gender.⁵ Gender balance was similar by relationship framework, with a 70/30 percent female/male ratio in defined relationships and a 74/26 percent female/male ratio in undefined relationships. Ratio was also fairly balanced for relationship framework type with 54% of participants (N=50) in defined relationships at wave 1 and 46% of participants (N=43) in undefined relationships at wave 1.

⁴ Proxy measures for adequate enculturation.

⁵ Concrete demographic information for other desirable measures, such as race, is not available for this sample. Participants in this sample pool had the option, but not the requirement, to provide such demographic measures upon entering the participant pool from which this sample was drawn. In an effort not to make salient other important identities and create noise in this relational and self identity data, that overlapping demographic information was not asked within this survey. Upon obtaining demographic information from the prior survey, response rate results were too poor to render reportable statistics on this specific sample. However, racial/ethnic demographics from the larger sona participant pool are as follows: total responses=640; Asian/Pacific Islander: 80 (12.5%), Black or African American: 68 (10.62%), Hispanic or Latino: 32 (5%), Mixed Ethnicity or Multiethnic: 22 (3.4%), Other: 4 (0.63%), White, non-Hispanic: 423 (66.09%), decline to answer: 1 (0.16%). Sex breakdown of the overall sona pool population matched fairly well to my sample: total responses: 642; female: 425 (66.20%), male: 217 (33.80%).

Design

I conducted this study as an online administered survey gathered in two waves over the course of 4.5 months in 2019-2020. Surveys were designed in and hosted using the survey platform Qualtrics. All wave 1 data was collected between September 28th, 2019 and November 26th, 2019, wave 2 between October 29th, 2019 and February 20th, 2020, using the Tailored Design Method (Dillman, Smyth and Christian 2014). This timeline was selected intentionally for its position within the semester so as to avoid artificial inflation of dissolution likelihood due to the close of a semester. This was also the reason for electing to gather data during the fall rather than the spring semester; even for those participants who delayed response in the second wave, the response would still be recorded during the same school year rather than with the close of a semester prior to a several months gap with the commencement of summer. Beginning data collection in late September also allowed returning students several weeks to renew or to begin a relationship on campus (increasing the potential respondent pool) while still ensuring that the majority of respondents answered the questions in wave 2 before the close of the fall semester.

Surveys were visible to all individuals at the university who were members of an online research pool consisting of students taking introductory and advanced level psychology and certain sociology courses. All versions of the survey (one each for defined and undefined relationship participants, each survey version presented separately to male and female potential respondents) launched on the same date, and all potential participants had the opportunity to complete the survey at their leisure until target number of respondents (63 per each of the 4 survey calls, for a total of 252 respondents at wave

1) were reached. Students who consented to be contacted again were invited to take wave 2 of the study 30 days after completion of wave 1. The majority of the sample (82%) completed their wave 2 survey responses prior to the end of the fall semester. Participants earned course credit for completing wave 1 and were individually emailed a personalized \$10 online Amazon gift code for completing wave 2.

Tailored Design Method. I utilized the Tailored Design Method (Dillman, Smyth and Christian 2014), an accepted best research practice that relies on personalization and strategic timing of reminder emails to boost response rates, for this longitudinal data collection. Every wave 1 participant who consented to be recontacted for completing a second wave of the study was automatically sent an email with a personalized link exactly 30 days after completion of the wave 1 survey. I kept manual track of when respondents had received their automated emails for the wave 2 survey link and individually sent personalized reminder emails to all non-responders: to any respondent who had consented to wave 2 but not completed the survey six days after receipt of their first link, I sent a personalized email reminding the individual of the project, their consent, and the importance of their contribution to this research via their participation in the second survey, with another personalized link. A second personalized reminder email, with slightly varied language, was sent after another six days to anyone who had still not completed the survey after the first reminder email. A third and final reminder email with personalized link was sent six days after receipt of the second reminder email. All personalized links remained active for 60 days.

A total of 255 responses to wave 1 were initiated; 246 of these responses were valid cases (4 people did not consent to wave 1 survey after reading the consent form and

5 individuals took the survey twice; these invalid/extraneous responses were dropped). Of these 246 respondents, 115 did not consent to be recontacted for wave 2. This left a potential N of 131 (62 defined and 69 undefined respondents) for the longitudinal dataset. A total of 178 individual personalized reminder emails were sent for wave 2 and a total of 98 wave 2 surveys were initiated. Three of these were empty responses and one a repeat response, leaving 94 responses at close of data collection (six weeks following the sending of the last non-responder's third reminder email). One response was dropped for data quality (did not meet inclusion criteria), leaving a final N of 93. For defined relationship participants, the valid-case response rate was 84% (52/62); undefined relationship participants' valid-case response rate was 62% (43/69). This is an overall sample valid-case response rate of 71% (93/131).

Measures

Cultural Framework. The key independent variable in this study was cultural framework—whether respondents were involved in a relationship they identified as *defined* (traditional culture paired dating relationships) or *undefined* (hookup culture). Respondents identified as being in a defined or undefined relationship (cultural framework applicable to respondent's specific relationship label) when they responded to the initial survey recruitment. Recruitment messages for each framework identified criteria⁶ for defined and undefined relationships and provided direction to the other

⁶ E.g., survey call for defined relationship framework specified, "To be eligible for this study, you must be in a defined romantic relationship (if you are in an exclusively dating relationship, are "in a relationship", are in a "serious relationship", are engaged, are married, etc. and/or refer to the other person as your partner/spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend etc., you are eligible for this study)...If the above does not describe you, but you are in another type of ongoing romantic/romance-adjacent relationship that is more ambiguous "e.g., you would say that you and the other person are "talking to" each other, or are "hanging

framework's surveys if an individual found they had accessed the wrong survey. Radio button questions within the survey, including a binary relationship type question and a multi-response relationship label question, also provided checks for this measure.

Relational identity sentiments. I used a semantic scale to capture numerical evaluation, potency, and activity ratings (sentiment profiles) for all defined and undefined relationship labels. Assessed labels within the defined relationship cultural framework were *exclusively dating, in a relationship, in a serious relationship, engaged, married,* and *other*. Those within the undefined relationship cultural framework were *talking to, hanging out, hooking up, casually dating, seeing each other, friends with benefits,* and *other*. Respondents from both relationship frameworks provided ratings for all relationship labels. Respondents rated each label on three separate semantic differential scales—evaluation (anchored by good/nice and bad/awful), potency (anchored by powerful/strong and powerless/weak), and activity (anchored by fast/noisy and slow/quiet). The bipolar scales were rated on slider bars, with intensity markers labeled slightly, quite, extremely, and infinitely on each pole, with a marker for neutral at the center. These scales capture sentiment ratings as effectively continuous ratings ranging from 0 to 100. An example of the ratings is in Appendix D.

Personal identity sentiments. Every respondent also supplied sentiment profile ratings for two personal identity measures—their personas and their relational selves—using the prompts “myself as I really am” for persona and “myself in this relationship”

out”/”hooking up”/”seeing each other”/some other related label, and you do not refer to the person as your boyfriend/girlfriend etc.), you are eligible for a different study: please sign up for...”. Survey call for undefined relationships stated a similar message in reverse fashion; see appendix “Electronic Study Calls” for screen shots of both online messages.

for relational self. Respondents rated these sentiments on the same type of semantic differential scales as used for the relational identity sentiments.

Respondents also supplied a *personal alter* sentiment profile by providing evaluation, potency, and activity scale ratings for the prompt “[respondent’s alter’s name as provided in text entry box earlier in the survey] in this relationship,” as well as *culture-level alter* sentiment profiles through their responses to the prompt “anyone in this relationship type.” Following practice in the identity and network literatures to rely on ego ratings of alters (e.g., Stets et al. 2017; Walker and Lynn 2013), I chose to gather the sentiment profile of the alters from the perception of the participants rather than by soliciting survey participation of the participants' alters: it is the individuals' assessments of the identities of those involved in their relationships—rather than the objective or ego-centric reality of those identities from the perspective of the alter identity possessors—that impact participants' projected behavioral expectations.

Emotion sentiments. Respondents answered emotion-in-relationship questions by providing sentiment profile ratings for their ideal and actual emotions using prompts “the emotion I *should* feel in this relationship” for ideal emotion and “the emotion I *actually* feel in this relationship” for actual emotion. These were measured on the same type of semantic scales as used for the personal and relational identity sentiments.

Computed variables of interest. Many of the variables necessary for this study are computed either directly from participant response variables or computed using the emotion equations of affect control theory. Variables of interest computed directly from respondent ratings include 1) *identity discrepancy*, which I calculate using squared

Euclidian distance⁷ between respondents' two ratings of personal identity and relational identity on all three sentiment dimensions, and 2) *emotion discrepancy*, which I calculate using squared Euclidian distance between respondents' ideal and actual emotion ratings on all three sentiment dimensions. These two measures involve subtracting each identity or emotion's evaluation, potency, and activity ratings from those of the other identity or emotion, squaring the result, and summing the differences:

$$\text{Identity discrepancy} = (P_e - R_e)^2 + (P_p - R_p)^2 + (P_a - R_a)^2$$

$$\text{Emotion discrepancy} = (I_e - A_e)^2 + (I_p - A_p)^2 + (I_a - A_a)^2$$

In the above equations, subscripts e, p, and a stand for evaluation, potency, and activity, respectively, while P and R stand for persona and relational self and I and A stand for ideal emotion and actual emotion (e.g., P_e stands for the evaluation rating of the respondent's persona, while R_e stands for the evaluation rating of the respondent's relational self).

I also computed *characteristic* and *structural emotions* for both personas and relational selves. These are predicted emotions, based on the emotion equations present in the affect control theory program *Interact*, which were updated in 2013 (Heise 2013). *Characteristic emotions* capture the emotions that a particular identity will feel when being perfectly confirmed, which is operationalized mathematically by the emotion predicted when transient sentiments (the identity in the situation) match fundamental sentiments (the identity as it truly is). Emotion equations utilize constants and weights on the individual values of $[Identity]_{epa}$ and combinations of them to solve for the emotion

⁷ These are directionless measures, registering deviation from fundamental sentiment's affective location along all dimensions and in all directions.

that the identity feels when being perfectly confirmed. By solving them algebraically, I arrived at the following characteristic emotion equations for male respondents:

$$x = 0.2500000000(2090 + 2599u + 162u^2 + 782w)/(550 + 181u + 9u^2)$$

$$z = 0.5000000000(550 + 221u - 24u^2 + 850w + 204uw)/(550 + 181u + 9u^2)$$

$$y = (-.17 - .38v + .05zu)/-.32$$

Where x stands for the evaluation dimension value of the characteristic emotion, z stands for the value of the characteristic emotion on the activity dimension, and y stands for the value of the characteristic emotion on the potency dimension. U , w , and v stand for the evaluation, potency, and activity ratings, respectively, of the relevant identity. For female respondents, the equations differed slightly:

$$x = (782w + 162u^2 + 2599u + 2090)/(36u^2 + 724u + 2200)$$

$$y = (-8500w + u^2(-1020w + 810v - 559) + u(-6290w + 16290v + 1194) + 49500v + 120u^3 + 13200)/(576u^2 + 11584u + 35200)$$

$$z = -1(-850w + u(-204w - 221) + 24u^2 - 550)/(18u^2 + 362u + 1100)$$

Structural emotions are those emotions an identity feels when being confirmed in so far as is possible in a structured dyad. Practically, this involves the actor performing the optimal behavior in the event *Actor [behaves towards] Alter* such that the event-level deflection for that identity in interaction with the specified alter equates to zero; the actor emotion in that scenario is the actor's structural emotion in that relationship. To compute these, I used *Interact* to solve for optimal behaviors for each respondent interacting with his or her alter as a persona and as a relational self, then ran the events in form [persona/relational self] [optimally behaves towards] [alter]. Resulting emotions for the respondent identity as actor serve as the structural emotions particular to that identity in

relationship with his or her alter. The longitudinal dependent variable of interest was a dummy variable representing dissolution of romantic dyad by wave 2⁸.

Other demographic and control variables. For use in future analyses, I included a general measure of emotion assessed by the temporal satisfaction with life scale (TSWLS) in all waves of the survey (Pavot, Diener and Suh 1998). This measure allows for the broad assessment of respondent estimations of life satisfaction in the past, present, and future. In addition, I measured a range of demographic measures (including classic culture survey questions of first language, geographic region of adolescence, and time spent in the nation) as well as relevant relationship measures such as relationship length, participant commitment ((Dillow, Afifi and Matsunaga 2012; Rusbult and Buunk 1993) as assessed by Investment Model measures of relational satisfaction, level of investment, and perceived quality of alternatives (Le and Agnew 2003; Rusbult, Martz and Agnew 1998) in the relationship), and relationship- and self-uncertainty (Knobloch and Solomon 2002). For demographic controls of gender and power imbalance in included analyses, I created dummy variables. My variable for sex indicated male or female, while prefer not to respond/other responses (N=1) were excluded from analyses. For power imbalance, I created two dummy variables indicating direction of power difference for both personas and relational selves. Those with equivalent power assessments for their own identities and their alters were coded as 0 on the binary powerless measure, as were any respondents who rated their identity as more powerful (on the semantic scale measure of the P dimension) than they rated their alter's identity. This was assessed separately for

⁸ All measures and survey questions may be seen in Appendix D.

personas and for relational selves. Magnitude of the difference was not an included component of this power control measure.

This chapter has detailed the study design, sample, and measures used in order to answer the research questions. In the next chapter, I describe the analytic procedure and present the results of that analysis.

CHAPTER 3

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

In the previous chapter, I described the design of and methodological strategy for gathering the data, as well as detailed the measurement and variable operationalization decisions made in order to provide a body of data appropriate to address the research questions and thus answer the related hypotheses. In this chapter, I describe the analytic strategy used, then present the results of the described analyses⁹.

Analytic Strategy

Guiding research questions sought to understand the interrelated and predictive nature of identity and emotion for identity, emotion, and behavior over time in different frameworks for and in specific instances of dyadic romantic relationships. I needed to know and to classify participants' activated identities, both at the micro (relationship label) and meso (cultural framework of relationship type) levels, as well as their holistic assessments of their personas. I needed to assess their emotional expectations, compare them to their emotional experiences, and determine if these align with the theoretical predictions based on the measured identities. Because half of the sample are in relationship types native to a nascent subcultural space, I also needed to assess whether each of the above measures vary across participants between specific labels and between the two overarching relationship label types.

⁹ All described analyses use the statistics program Stata.

The best way to address the above considerations involved a series of two-sample t-tests (to compare pairs of labels on a single dimension and to compare assessments by relationship framework) and MANOVAs (to compare sets of ratings—sentiment profiles—across the three dimensions by pairs of labels and between relationship framework types) to determine statistical significance between and across the relationship type labels and between and across the emotion and identity measurements (H3a-4b) of participants within each of the relationship types.

Across the three dimensions, values on the evaluation dimension provide the most readily interpretable and specific between-relationship type comparisons. The evaluation dimension gives the fundamental nature of an identity or emotion’s goodness or niceness (compared to badness or awfulness). For visual clarity and because the evaluation dimension carries the greatest weight in recognition of affective variance for rated concepts (Gollob 1968; Gollob and Rossman 1973; Heise 1979), I restrict all t-test table results to respondents’ evaluation dimension ratings.

I utilize the proposition that affect control theory consequent emotion predictions are significantly related to and predicted by their generating identities. I run a series of regressions to determine predictive and explanatory power of motivating identities for emotion expectations; this allows me to draw conclusions concerning which identity respondents are activating as they assess who they are within their relationships (“*which me am I thinking of* when I answer how I should feel in this relationship?”). I also sought to know which identity respondents were attempting to affirm, their personas or their identity-situated relational selves. To determine potentially overlapping identity activations, I created variables capturing squared Euclidian distance between the

measures of ideal emotion and actual emotion and between the measures of persona and relational self. I then conducted a regression testing whether distance between the two identities significantly predicts distance between the two emotion measures.

Because of the design of these measures (both emotion measures, as well as the relational self identity, are contextualized within the relationship, while the persona identity is not), a finding of non-significance would not necessarily indicate absence of persona affirmation motivation nor confirmation of relational self affirmation motivation (non-significance could also indicate a persona influence effect too small to be detected), but a significant result for this regression would indicate that respondents are attempting to affirm their personas rather than their identity-situated selves (addressing RQ4): it would indicate the significant influence of persona in pulling relational emotion expectations and relational emotion experiences away from one another.

My central argument stated that identity discrepancy between identity within and outside of the relationship dyad would cause strain that would be apparent to the individual through emotion signals, and that discrepancy in emotion signals stemming from those two identity positions would lead to behavior designed to resolve that deflection. Based on the high level of agency in romantic dyad participation, I predicted that that emotion discrepancy would result in relationship dissolution. To test this, I computed characteristic and structural emotions for each participant's two identities, then computed the distance between each identity's characteristic and structural emotions. This latter measure served as independent variable for a logistic regression predicting dissolution of relationship by wave 2 (H5). I also tested an alternative, more direct means to address my theoretical premise by running a structural equation model whereby

cultural framework of relationship label predicts identity discrepancy that in turn predicts emotion discrepancy; the resulting emotion discrepancy is theorized to lead to relationship dissolution (alternative means of answering RQ5). This proposed theoretical model is depicted in Figure 1.

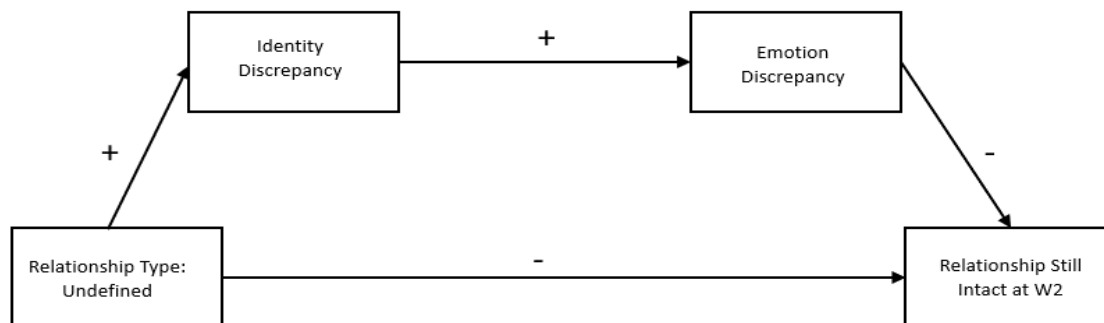


Figure 1. Structural Equation Model of Identity and Emotion Discrepancies as Mediators between Relationship Framework and Relationship Dissolution Likelihood

Results

Tables 1a and 1b below presents descriptive statistics for the pertinent variables of analyses used in this dissertation. Of the 93 respondents in wave 2, 50 self-identified as being in defined relationships and 43 self-identified as being in undefined relationships. 16 of the relationship dyads identified in wave 1 were dissolved by wave 2; 77 of the respondents remained in relationship dyads between waves 1 and 2; 16 respondents had dissolved their dyads between the two waves. Respondent's ratings of their personal identities (persona) were highly positive—ranging from quite bad (-1.9) to infinitely good (4.0), with an average of 2.52 (halfway between *quite* to *extremely* good). Notably, their ratings of their relational selves were less positive than their personas (an average of 2.08, *quite good*). Most respondents also rated their own relationship partner's

identity as positive as well—with more variation (ranging from infinitely bad to infinitely good) and only a slightly lower mean (2.39) than the average persona. The lowest-evaluated identity was the culture-level alter (“anyone in this relationship type”), with an average evaluation of 1.88 (quite good). Across the two cultural frameworks, the average ideal and expected emotions for the current relationship were quite positive (2.78 and 2.22, respectively).

Table 1a. Descriptive Statistics: Observed Variables

	Variable	N	Coding	\bar{x}	Median	Min	Max	sd
Primary Independent Variable	Cultural framework	93	0=defined relationship 1=undefined relationship	0.46	0	0	1	0.50
Primary Dependent Variable	Relationship Status at W2	93	0=not in relationship dyad at W2 1=in relationship dyad at W2	0.83	1	0	1	0.38
Identity Measures	<i>Persona</i> “myself as I really am”	93	Semantic differential scale ranging from -4 to 4	2.52	2.8	-1.9	4	1.25
	<i>Relational self</i> “myself in this relationship”	93	Semantic differential scale ranging from -4 to 4	2.02	2.4	-3.2	4	1.69
	<i>Personal alter</i> “[alter’s name] in this relationship”	93	Semantic differential scale ranging from -4 to 4	2.39	2.8	-4	4	1.65
	<i>Culture-level alter</i> “anyone in this relationship type”	93	Semantic differential scale ranging from -4 to 4	1.88	1.9	-1.6	4	1.44
Emotion Measures	<i>Ideal emotion</i> “the emotion I <i>should</i> feel in this relationship”	93	Semantic differential scale ranging from -4 to 4	2.78	3	-3.1	4	1.49
	<i>Actual emotion</i> “the emotion I <i>actually</i> feel in this relationship”	93	Semantic differential scale ranging from -4 to 4	2.22	2.4	-4	4	1.49

Table 1b. Descriptive Statistics: Computed Variables

	Variable	N	Coding	\bar{x}	Median	Min	Max	sd
Discrepancy Measures	Identity discrepancy	93	squared Euclidian distance between relational self and persona semantic profiles; ranges from 0 to 192	8.01	3.4	0.02	97.5	13.45
	Emotion discrepancy	93	squared Euclidian distance between ideal and actual emotion semantic profiles; ranges from 0 to 192	9.34	3.78	0	148.58	18.49
Predicted Measures	Persona characteristic emotion	93	Calculated affective location of emotion evaluation value (theoretically -4 to 4, practical computation allows for values off scale)	2.24	2.51	-4.75	3.21	1.13
	Persona Structural Emotion	93	Calculated affective location of emotion evaluation value (theoretically -4 to 4, practical computation allows for values off scale)	2.62	2.86	0.46	3.62	0.75
	Relational Self Characteristic Emotion	93	Calculated affective location of emotion evaluation value (theoretically -4 to 4, practical computation allows for values off scale)	1.69	2.35	-24.35	3.21	3.16
	Relational Self Structural Emotion	92	Calculated affective location of emotion evaluation value (theoretically -4 to 4, practical computation allows for values off scale)	2.43	2.81	-9.01	3.64	1.49
Control Measures	Sex	92	0=male 1=female	0.72	1	0	1	0.45
	Power Imbalanced Relationship (persona)	93	0=alter not more powerful than persona 1=alter more powerful than persona	0.53	1	0	1	0.50
	Power Imbalanced Relationship (relational self)	93	0=alter not more powerful than relational self 1=alter more powerful than relational self	0.49	0	0	1	.50

Table 1b contains a summary concerning the distributional level information about the computed variables. The methods section describes the calculation of identity

discrepancy and emotion discrepancy variables, which are on the same scale.

Nonetheless, on average, respondents reported higher discrepancies between their ideal and actual emotions (9.34) than between their persona and relational identities (8.01), with substantially more variation in the emotion discrepancy scale. The characteristic and structural emotions for respondents' personas and relational identities, as predicted by affect control theory equations, are also in Table 1b. Notably, respondents' persona identity meanings predicted much more positive emotions (2.24) than their relational identity meanings (1.69). The structural emotions (those one is predicted to experience when confirming this relationship) were even higher than these for both personal meanings (2.62) and for relational identity meanings (2.43).

Distinctiveness of Undefined Relationship Labels. My first research question sought to understand how the label of a relationship affects assessment of its associated relational identity. It sought to understand whether the various terms in use to describe undefined relationships represent affectively distinct relationship types, with consensual cultural meanings shared within a subculture, and with corresponding distinct identities for the participants within each relationship type. To answer this question I first investigated whether the various relationship labels within each cultural framework generated statistically distinct sets of sentiments. Table 2 below provides a visual representation of a series of t-tests comparing the affective assessment of specific relationship labels within and between relationships within undefined and defined cultural frameworks. The top six rows (left six columns) reference relationship labels within the hookup cultural framework. The bottom five rows (right five columns) reference relationship labels within the traditional relationship cultural framework. The

shading of each cell indicates the statistical relationship between the evaluation ratings of each pair of relationship labels.

This table speaks to H1, that undefined relationship labels signify affectively distinct cultural meanings. If this hypothesis is correct, the table will contain cells with either dark shading (evaluation of row label statistically higher than evaluation of column label) or horizontal bars (evaluation of row label statistically lower than evaluation of column label) rather than having cells filled with light solid shading (hypothesis unsupported; labels not statistically different from one another in evaluation). In the table, we see 11/15 undefined relationship label comparisons statistically distinct from one another, 30/30 undefined to defined relationship label comparisons statistically distinct from one another, and 7/10 defined relationship label comparisons statistically distinct from one another on the evaluation dimension. The results strongly support Hypothesis 1¹⁰; individual labels represent statistically distinct shared fundamental cultural meanings. Further, every defined label has an evaluation rating statistically higher than every undefined label (dark shading, not horizontal bars or light solid shading); these results fully support Hypothesis 2.

¹⁰ Though the table depicts only the evaluation dimension, it is sufficient to support this claim. The evaluation dimension carries the greatest weight in variance when using the 3 dimension affective ratings (Gollob 1968; Gollob and Rossman 1973; Heise 1979), and even were the values on potency and activity either entirely variable or nearly identical between two labels, a distinct difference on the evaluation dimension constitutes a distinct and shared cultural meaning on the affective nature of the assessed labels.

Table 2. Defined and Undefined Relationship Labels: Statistical Differences on the Evaluation Dimension

	Hooking up (-.70)	Friends with Benefits (-.59)	Talking to (-0.49)	Casually dating (0.63)	Hanging out (0.73)	Seeing each other (1.10)	Exclusively dating (2.03)	In a relationship (2.17)	In a serious relationship (2.55)	Engaged (2.76)	Married (3.01)
Hooking Up (-.70)											
Friends with benefits (-.59)											
Talking to (0.49)											
Casually dating (0.63)											
Hanging out (0.73)											
Seeing each other (1.10)											
Exclusively dating (2.03)											
In a relationship (2.17)											
In a serious relationship (2.55)											
Engaged (2.76)											
Married (3.01)											

Note: Each quadrant represents statistical relationships between category types: upper left represent each undefined relationship label in comparison to every other undefined label, lower left represent every defined label to every undefined label, lower right represents every defined label to every other defined label. Symbols represent statistical relationships between the row x column measures: light solid shaded cells indicate measures not statistically different from one another ($p \geq .05$); dark cross hatch indicates row measure statistically greater ($p < .05$) than column measure. Specific values for each measure are listed in row and column labels. Labels in the table are ordered by evaluation rating.

Cultural consensus. A subset of hookup culture labels are widely shared and known, similarly recognizable both by those whose relationships are within and those whose relationships are outside of hookup culture. A series of MANOVAs testing average sentiment profiles of undefined relationship labels showed no difference in respondent affective meaning by defined/undefined relationship type for defined relationship labels *engaged* ($F(1,92)=0.84, p=.475$), *married* ($F(1,92)=1.06, p=.369$), *in a relationship* ($F(1,91)=2.41, p=.072$), *in a serious relationship* ($F(1,92)=1.55, p=.208$), or *exclusively dating* ($F(1,92)=0.31, p=.821$), nor was there any statistical difference by respondent inclusion in defined/undefined relationship type for the undefined relationship labels *talking to* ($F(1,92)=1.43, p=.239$), *seeing each other* ($F(1,92)=0.25, p=.861$), *casually dating* ($F(1,92)=2.20, p=.093$), or *hanging out* ($F(1,91)=0.46, p=.713$). However, difference did exist by relationship type for the average sentiment profile of negatively-evaluated undefined relationship labels *hooking up* ($F(1,92)=2.86, p=.041$) and *friends with benefits* ($F(1,92)=3.04, p=.033$).

Of all the undefined relationship labels, *hooking up* has the most negative fundamental meaning (E value of $-.70$), closely followed by *friends with benefits* ($-.59$). While viewed negatively by participants in both cultural frameworks, average E value significantly differed by relationship framework such that those in defined relationships gave *hooking up* an average E rating of -1.10 , while those in undefined relationships gave it a far more neutral average evaluation rating of -0.24 . A similar pattern was evident for the negatively-evaluated relationship label *friends with benefits* ($F(1,91)=3.04, p=.03$); its E dimension rating was 1.31 points higher for those in undefined relationships compared to those in defined relationships ($t(92), p=.004$). Such findings are in keeping with those

of self-report studies on inclusion in deviant subcultures and more positive personal views concerning the behaviors within them that are evaluated negatively by the wider culture (see Heise 2007:24-25 for detailed graphical discussion of this phenomenon).

Emotions and Relationship Identities. My second research question sought to understand how the relationship-activated identity may affect the emotions felt by the actor within that relationship. To answer this question and following precedent set by MacKinnon (MacKinnon 1994:135-38), I first generated *consequent* emotion predictions for actors in dyadic relationships using four behaviors that differed in evaluation and potency. For my analysis, I selected behaviors crossing affective space on the evaluation and the potency dimensions, holding activity dimension values positive for all behaviors. Tables 3a and 3b below present predicted consequent emotions generated using male and female emotion equations for relationship labels as event actors (i.e., “*Identity 1* performs behavior X with partner Y” versus “*Identity 2* performs behavior X with partner Y”—how do Identities 1 and 2 (people in different types of defined/undefined relationships) feel?).

The premise behind these analyses is the affect control theory proposition that specific emotions result based on the specific identities within an event. Emotions that arise in a defined event are contingent on the identities feeling them (e.g., we can expect that the event-specific identities *Defendant* and *Plaintiff* will feel different emotions from one another upon experiencing the same event “[*Identity*] learns of guilty verdict”). In the context of this population and its assessed identities, Tables 2a and 2b present the sentiment profiles for the emotions experienced by each relational identity in the identical events “[*Identity*] [*performs listed behavior towards*] [*man/woman*].” If emotions are not

contingent on identities, or if there were no substantive differences in the identities' affective meanings, the table would not show patterns of emotion and deflection difference by identity relationship label. However, Tables 3 show that the predicted consequent emotions associated with these various identities do differ in valence and magnitude of their sentiment profiles and deflection levels. Each cell contains the emotion label, and the associated sentiments and the event deflection level, that each identity would be predicted to feel in the same scenario. For example, every cell in the first row shows the emotion sentiment profile and the deflection level for the event “[relationship label actor] thrills a woman,” using the male equations.

Note that the strongest predictor of emotion valence is the behavior in which an actor engages. *Thrilling* a relationship partner elicits much more positive emotion predictions than *lusting for* a relationship partner (Table 3a), which in turn produces much more positive emotion predictions than directing a negative behavior, such as *whining to* or *seizing* (Table 3b), toward a partner. However, the expected emotion valence is ordered relatively linearly by the degree of “definition” of the relationship—hookup culture-based relational identities (e.g., friends with benefits) are predicted to experience the most positive emotion from these actions, while the traditional relationship identities (e.g., married) are expected to experience less positive consequent emotions. This does not in any way imply that traditional relationship identities are not experiencing positive emotions from the positive behaviors. Rather, their positive emotional reactions to the positive behaviors are *less extreme* than those of the undefined relationship identities. The opposite trend is apparent for negative behaviors; defined relationship identities experience more extreme negative responses to negative behaviors.

While identities in neither framework are predicted to feel positively-valenced emotions in response to enacting negative behaviors, performing the negative behaviors is predicted to cause undefined relationship identities to feel less negatively than defined relationship identities; defined relationship identities find performing the negative behaviors more emotionally unpalatable than do undefined relationship identities. The converse pattern is evident in the negative behaviors depicted in Table 3b. The substantive meaning implied by the predicted emotions' concrete affective differences—and the events' subsequent varying deflection levels—are discussed in the following chapter.

Table 3a. Predicted Consequent Emotions by Relationship Type and Gender (Positive Behaviors)

behavior		<i>friends with benefits</i>	<i>hanging out</i>	<i>seeing each other</i>	<i>exclusively dating</i>	<i>in a serious relationship</i>	<i>married</i>
(+++) “thrill”	Male equations:	(3.46 3.82 1.82) no words in range 6.5	(3.16 2.65 2.34) happy, glad 4.8	(2.98 2.40 2.16) happy, glad 3.7	(2.72 1.57 1.99) delighted, elated 2.3	(2.63 1.14 2.00) amused, elated 2.3	(2.59 .61 2.11) amused 2.9
	Female equations:	(3.84 2.31 2.23) delighted, joyful 7.3	(3.13, 1.28, 2.31) gleeful, overjoyed 5.7	(2.97 1.12 2.25) gleeful, overjoyed 4.7	(2.66 .54 2.17) no words in range 3.6	(2.54 .21 2.17) no words in range 3.7	(2.46 -.20 2.20) no words in range 4.4
(++) “lust for”	Male equations:	(2.08 1.12 1.09) charmed, cheerful 1.9	(.45 2.04 1.34) no words in range 3	(.41 1.87 1.34) eager 3.1	(.33 1.25 1.39) eager, lustful 4.3	(.31 .91 1.45) eager, lustful 5.5	(.30 .51 1.53) lustful, eager 7
	Female equations:	(1.36 2.26 1.42) no words in range 3.9	(.95 1.60 1.30) no words in range 3	(.91 1.48 1.40) eager 3	(.82 1.06 1.53) eager, lustful 3.9	(.77 .81 1.57) eager, lustful 4.9	(.72 .55 1.57) eager, lustful 6.2

Note: Leftmost column represents a behavior from the represented quadrant of sentiment space (e.g., to thrill someone is a positive, powerful, and active behavior), second column indicates results using the male or female equations for that behavior. Where male equations are used, “woman” is the object-person; where female equations are used, “man” is the object-person¹¹ (e.g., “person in a hanging out relationship thrills man”). Numbers in parentheses indicate sentiment profiles of emotions experienced by event actor. Single numbers in italics represent overall deflection level of the represented event.

¹¹ This choice reflects the structure of the relationships represented in my data: 95% of the sample (88 respondents) report being in heterosexual relationships. Of the remaining 5 respondents, 4 report being in homosexual relationships and 1 chose not to report sex.

Table 3b. Predicted Consequent Emotions by Relationship Type and Gender (Negative Behaviors)

behavior		<i>friends with benefits</i>	<i>hanging out</i>	<i>seeing each other</i>	<i>exclusively dating</i>	<i>in a serious relationship</i>	<i>married</i>
(---) “whine to”	Male equations:	(-.56 -.09 .58) mad, anxious <i>3</i>	(-.88 -1.65 2.20) no words in range <i>7.6</i>	(-.94 -1.68 2.15) no words in range <i>8.6</i>	(-1.02 -1.85 2.17) no words in range <i>12.9</i>	(-1.04 -2.03 2.24) no words in range <i>15.9</i>	(-1.03 -2.28 2.35) no words in range <i>19.2</i>
	Female equations:	(.09 -1.44 2.10) no words in range <i>3.1</i>	(-.13 -1.91 2.15) no words in range <i>6</i>	(-.16 -1.87 2.20) no words in range <i>6.7</i>	(-.22 -1.83 2.29) no words in range <i>10</i>	(-.26 -1.91 2.32) no words in range <i>12.3</i>	(-.28 -2.02 2.35) no words in range <i>14.9</i>
(+++) “seize”	Male equations:	(-1.80 4.09 1.76) no words in range <i>7.8</i>	(-1.48 2.97 2.36) no words in range <i>10.9</i>	(-1.50 2.72 2.31) no words in range <i>11.5</i>	(-1.49 1.87 2.32) no words in range <i>14.7</i>	(-1.47 1.41 2.39) enraged <i>17.4</i>	(-1.44 .87 2.51) enraged <i>20.5</i>
	Female equations:	(-.54 3.66 2.19) no words in range <i>7.6</i>	(-.56 2.67 2.31) no words in range <i>9.2</i>	(-.57 2.48 2.34) no words in range <i>9.5</i>	(-.57 1.85 2.42) no words in range <i>11.4</i>	(-.58 1.49 2.46) no words in range <i>13.2</i>	(-.58 1.09 2.49) no words in range <i>15.5</i>

Note: Leftmost column represents a behavior from the represented quadrant of sentiment space (e.g., to seize someone is a negative, powerful, and active behavior), second column indicates results using the male or female equations for that behavior. Where male equations are used, “woman” is the object-person; where female equations are used, “man” is the object-person (e.g., “person in a hanging out relationship seizes man”). Numbers in parentheses indicate sentiment profiles of emotions experienced by event actor. Single numbers in italics represent overall deflection level of the represented event.

Interpreting the identity meanings. Predicted emotion differences such as those presented in Tables 3a and 3b emerge given particular relational identities because of the cultural connotation associated with each of the identity labels. To more fully illustrate the impact of these differing cultural connotations for the sentiment profiles native to each of the relational identities, a selection of the undefined and defined relational identities are listed below in the first column of Table 4. Listed in the adjoining column are the identities from the latest United States affect control theory cultural dictionary (Smith-Lovin et al. 2016b) that are closest in sentiment space to (i.e., possess fundamental sentiments most similar to) the affective location of each relational identity.

These illustrative lists describe other identities within the United States culture (roughly defined) about which we feel similarly to each of the listed identities. As analogy, we feel not quite the same way towards puppies as we do towards kittens, but we do feel that puppies and kittens have quite similar fundamental affective sentiments (they are naturally good, warm, sweet, vulnerable, and lively) to one another. Our affective sentiment concerning lizards or slugs, however, is not quite as similar to our affective sentiments concerning puppies and kittens. *Kitten* would be an affectively similar identity appearing in the sentiment list below for the identity label *puppy*, but *lizard* likely would not. In the context of the relationship label identities in Table 4, then, the correspondingly listed affectively similar identities are those identities within our culture that we judge as possessing analogous affective natures to the listed relational identities. The numbers in parentheses after each identity denote the distance, in affective space, of that listed identity to the respective relational identity. The table therefore provides a sentiment analogy cloud, sorting relational identities by their most similar

affective company. I include this table to make both the stark and the nuanced affective differences between the listed relational identities more readily comprehensible.

Table 4. Affectively Similar Identities from the Wider Culture for a Set of Relational Identities

	Relationship Label	Affectively Similar Identities
Undefined Relational Identity Labels	<i>Friends with benefits</i>	Windbag (.49), schizophrenic (.56), call girl (.56), klutz (.58), juvenile (.60)
	<i>Hanging out</i>	stenographer (.33), telephone installer (.37), rake (.39), acquaintance (.43), sister in law (.43), motel owner (.45), tv repairman (.48), transportation ticket agent (.48), stepsister (.49), classmate (.50)
	<i>Seeing each other</i>	Cabinet maker (.13), half brother (.24), son in law (.27), brother in law (.28), bricklayer (.29), classmate (.29), shopkeeper (.34), coworker (.36), barber (.37), daughter in law (.39), switchboard operator (.40), political scientist (.42), neighbor (.42), person (.44), chap (.45), landscaper (.46), insurance agent (.47), online merchant (.47), roommate (.49)
Defined Relational Identity Labels	<i>Exclusively dating</i>	Interpreter (.32), fire investigator (.33), army chaplain (.35), foster parent (.37), husband (.38), electrical engineer (.42), babysitter (.43), engineer (.44), consultant (.45), specialist (.48), foster father (.49), foster mother (.50)
	<i>In a serious relationship</i>	Skilled worker (.16), astronaut (.16), fiancé (.20), teacher (.21), beauty (.29), educator (.39), fiancée (.45), breadwinner (.46), specialist (.46), foster parent (.46), interpreter (.47), wife (.47), spouse (.47), philanthropist (.50)
	<i>married</i>	Pediatrician (.26), doctor (.36), survivor (.38), soul mate (.40), mentor (.40), lover (.48)

Note: Table contents present non-exhaustive sample of identities from across social institutions which occupy similar affective space as each relational identity; they are identities with similar fundamental sentiments. Numbers in parentheses indicate distance in affective space of listed identity from the relational identity.

The effect of cultural frameworks. My third research question sought to know what impact the overarching cultural framework (defined vs. undefined) would have on the evaluation of the associated framework-embedded relational identities and their concomitant emotions. Answering this required gathering a sample like this one, where individuals self-selected into relationships embedded within one of two particular

frameworks: defined and undefined. Like most identities for which we have labels in English, more specific identities indicate other identities higher up the language taxonomy (MacKinnon and Heise 2010:23-26). In the context of this study, each specific relationship type label (talking to, hanging out, married, in a serious relationship, engaged, et cetera) indicates another category membership higher up the language taxonomy: a relationship type that is undefined (talking to, hanging out) or defined (married, in a serious relationship, engaged). Whatever their distinct relationship label types from within their defined or undefined relationship frameworks, every respondent therefore also possesses, by merit of being in a relationship that is a native of that cultural framework, a shared identity as a member of their relationship framework's superordinate category (i.e., the either the identity *someone in a defined relationship* or the identity *someone in an undefined relationship*).

To determine the effect and reach of the situation-defining cultural framework (possession of the higher-order identity *someone in an undefined relationship* versus possession of the higher-order identity *someone in a defined relationship*), I conducted a series of t-tests comparing mean values for the evaluation dimension ratings for key measures of identity and emotion by cultural framework of each respondent. These results (average evaluation ratings of persona, relational self, ideal emotion, actual emotion, and computed characteristic and structural emotions by respondents' defined/undefined relationship cultural framework) are presented below in Table 5. This table speaks to RQ3, demonstrating the differences by emotion and identity measures as observed in the ratings of respondents in either defined or undefined relationship types.

Table 5. Mean Values on the Evaluation Dimension for Key Identity and Emotion Measures by Relationship Type

	Defined Relationship Types N=50		Undefined Relationship Types N=43		Combined Samples E value	Mean difference (undefined vs. defined)
	E value	Standard error	E value	Standard error		
<i>myself as I really am</i>	2.63	.14	2.40	.23	2.52	-.24 (<i>p</i> =.3617)
<i>myself in this relationship</i>	2.71	.12	1.22	.31	2.02	-1.49**** (<i>p</i> < .0001)
<i>the emotion I should feel in this relationship</i>	3.38	.09	2.07	.28	2.78	-1.31**** (<i>p</i> < .0001)
<i>The emotion I actually feel in this relationship</i>	2.77	.15	1.57	.25	2.22	-1.20**** (<i>p</i> =.0001)
Persona characteristic emotion	2.36	.09	2.11	.23	2.24	-.25 (<i>p</i> =.2937)
Persona structural emotion	2.90	.07	2.30	.13	2.62	-.60**** (<i>p</i> =.0001)
Relational self characteristic emotion	2.46	.06	0.80	.66	1.69	-1.66** (<i>p</i> <.01)
Relational self structural emotion	2.94	.07	1.83	.31	2.43	-1.10**** (<i>p</i> <.001)

Note: bolded numbers indicate the pertinent values for each measure—only persona and computed persona characteristic emotion do not differ by relational identity type. Mean difference column value statistical significance notation denotes difference between defined/undefined group averages.

Results from running a one-way MANOVA on the three affective dimension measures of evaluation (E), potency (P), and activity (A) by cultural framework show that *myself-in-this-relationship* ratings for undefined relationship participants are significantly lower than *myself-in-this-relationship* ratings for defined relationship participants ($F(1,91)=7.30, p<.001$). This cultural discernment and recognition of an identity difference by relationship subcultural inclusion extends to relationship participants' alters as well (MANOVA results of alter E, P, and A values $F(1,89)=7.71,$

$p=.0001$); those in undefined relationships rate their relationship alters as significantly less good (difference of -1.41) and less powerful (difference of $-.72$) than do those in defined relationships. This is a mirror of the results of my supported second hypothesis (fundamental affective sentiments are higher for defined than undefined relationship labels), but at the micro, highly personalized level. Participants in undefined relationships, guided by their culturally-informed understanding of the type of person one is when in those relationships, temper their identity assessments and emotion expectations in recognition of this difference.

On the E dimension, *self-in-relationship* ratings have an average value of 2.71 for defined relationship participants, but an average E value of only 1.22 (Table 5) for undefined relationship participants ($t(91)=4.69, p<.0001$). On average, those in defined relationships have an experienced emotion E value of 2.77, while those in undefined relationships experience emotions with a significantly lower E value—an experienced emotion average of 1.57 ($t(91)=4.22, p=.0001$). The ratings of the emotions respondents feel they *should* experience (ideal emotion) have, for those in defined relationships, an average E value of 3.38; for those in undefined relationships, the E rating's average value for ideal emotion is 2.07 ($t(91)=4.71, p=.0000$).

Additional differences. The E dimension captures the greatest variance in the fundamental sentiment of a concept (Heise 1979:42). However, values on the P and A dimensions are also informative to understanding the expected, felt, and predicted emotions for relational identities and will thus be discussed briefly here. Respondents in both relationship types expect and experience emotions more powerful than affect control theory would predict; these P dimension values for their actual emotions are statistically

equivalent to the P dimension values of their ideal emotions and the P dimension values of the persona's predicted characteristic emotion. In both relationship types, participants experience emotions that have them feeling as powerful as they do individually and as powerful as they expect to feel. In fact, participants in the two relationship types do not statistically differ from one another on any of the P dimension emotion measures.

On the A dimension, those in defined relationships experience emotions more active than those in undefined relationships (average values of 1.33 and .32, respectively ($t(91)=2.84, p<.006$)). Ideal, characteristic, and structural emotions do not significantly differ on activity by relationship label type. For those in both frameworks, ideal emotion activity ratings align with structural emotion activity dimension predictions, which for those in defined relationships also match actual experiences. Those in undefined relationships, however, experience emotions that on average are more passive than is structurally predicted ($t(41)=-2.95, p<.005$). For those in defined relationships, emotions that respondents experience are more active than their persona's predicted characteristic emotions ($t(49)=2.37, p<.02$), while for those in undefined relationships, their experienced emotions are less active than the persona's predicted characteristic emotions ($t(42)=-3.5, p<.003$)—this finding may be due to the intentional emotion work participants undertake to keep themselves intentionally detached and aloof, unemotional, in relationships and encounters within the hookup culture framework (Wade 2017). For both cultural frameworks, respondents' theoretically predicted characteristic emotions are statistically equivalent to respondents' self ratings of their expectations (*ideal emotion*).

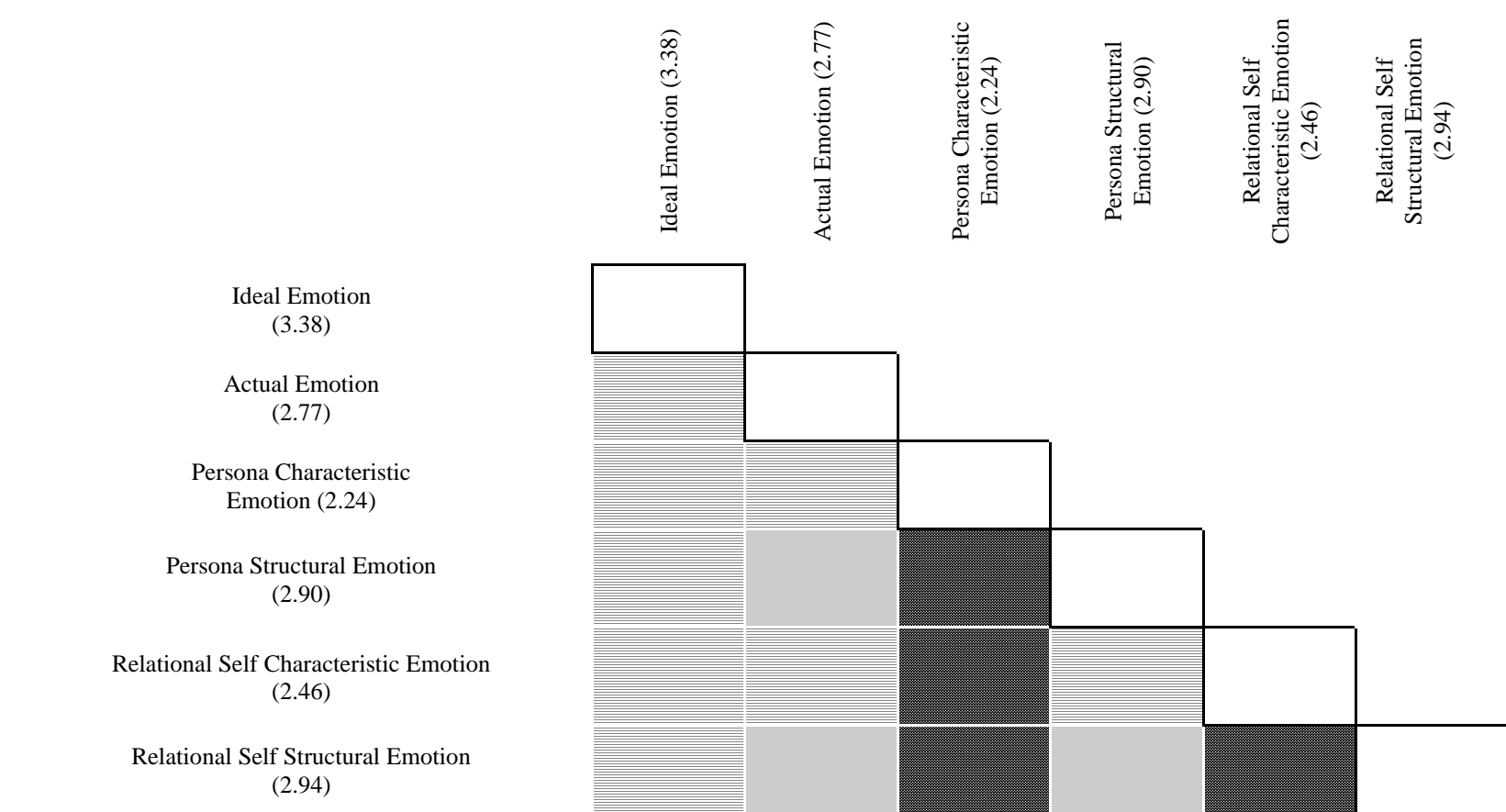
When assessed with direct measure, the same pattern emerges. Every respondent was asked to rate a holistic measure of their specific relational identity, without the

personal component, by providing a sentiment profile for “*anyone in this relationship type*.” By running a MANOVA on the three dimension ratings for this measure by relationship type, I was able to observe the collective assessment of the underlying framework identity inherent in the more specified label identities. This analysis was significant ($F(1, 91) = 5.12, p = .003$). Fitting a multivariate regression model showed that this difference by cultural framework was evident on both the E and P dimensions ($t(92) = -3.90, p < .001$ and $t(92) = -2.17, p = .03$, respectively).

The effect of cultural framework on emotion valence. These statistical differences have material weight between measures within framework as well as within measures between frameworks: Tables 6a and 6b below present statistical relationships among the various emotion measures for participants in defined (Table 6a) and undefined (Table 6b) relationship types on a series of two-sample t-tests. Just as in Table 2, Tables 6a and 6b show a visual representation of t-test outcomes and depict patterns between measures within a framework. For instance, all three cells of the third column in Table 6a have a dark cross-hatch fill, indicating at a glance that *persona characteristic emotions* (column measure) are statistically significantly less positive than the *persona structural, relational self characteristic, or relational self structural* emotions (row measures). For people in defined relationships, being in a relationship is predicted to feel better than being alone. Tables 6a and 6b also allow us to compare emotional outcomes by framework: in the first column (ideal emotion) of Table 6a (defined relationships), every cell is filled with horizontal bars, while in the first column (ideal emotion) of Table 6b (undefined relationships), every cell is filled with light solid shading—those in defined relationships have idealized expectations higher than both experiences and predictions, while those in

undefined relationships have tempered idealized expectations that are not statistically different from their experienced or predicted emotions.

Table 6a. Statistical Relationships Among Evaluation Dimension Emotion Variables (Defined Relationships)



Note: Table provides visual representation of the results from a series of t-tests. Symbols represent statistical relationships between the row x column measures: light solid shaded cells indicate measures not statistically different from one another; dark cross hatch indicates row measure statistically greater (>) than column measure; horizontal lines indicates row measure statistically less than (<) column measure. Specific values for each measure are listed in Table 4 as well as in row and column labels.

Table 6b. Statistical Relationships Among Evaluation Dimension Emotion Variables (Undefined Relationships)

	Ideal Emotion (2.07)	Actual Emotion (1.57)	Persona Characteristic Emotion (2.24)	Persona Structural Emotion (2.30)	Relational Self Characteristic Emotion (0.80)	Relational Self Structural Emotion (1.83)
Ideal Emotion (2.07)						
Actual Emotion (1.57)						
Persona Characteristic Emotion (2.24)						
Persona Structural Emotion (2.30)						
Relational Self Characteristic Emotion (0.80)						
Relational Self Structural Emotion (1.83)						

Note: Table provides visual representation of the results from a series of t-tests. Symbols represent statistical relationships between the row x column measures: light solid shaded cells indicate measures not statistically different from one another; dark cross hatch indicates row measure statistically greater (>) than column measure; horizontal lines indicates row measure statistically less than (<) column measure. Specific values for each measure are listed in Table 4 as well as in row and column labels.

Testing affect control theory emotion predictions. Table 7 and Table 8 present statistical results of the predictive relationships between computed (as independent variables) and reported (as dependent variables) emotion measures of all participants by relationship cultural framework. Results in these tables speak to Hypotheses 3a and 3b, that affect control theory computed emotions for respondents will significantly predict respondents' reported expected (H3a) and experienced (H3b) emotions. If both these hypotheses are supported, results would show statistically significant coefficients in each column of Table 7 (Table 8 presents the same data but as divided by cultural framework and includes the addition of ideal emotion as a predictor). These regression data strongly support Hypotheses 3a and 3b. Significance of these results are more fully discussed in the next chapter.

Table 7. Average Structural Emotions of Personas and Relational Selves as Predictors for Ideal and Actual Emotion on Evaluation Dimension: Full Sample (N=93)

	Ideal Emotion	Actual Emotion
Structural (Persona)	0.674*** (.198)	1.30***
	R ² : .114	.430
	Beta: .338	.656
Structural (Relational Self)	0.210* (.103)	0.694*** (.076)
	R ² : .044	.483
	Beta: .210	.695

*Note: Table represents individual regression analyses of row on column variable. Asterisks indicate statistical significance values *= p<.05, **= p<.01, ***= p<.001.*

Table 8. Average Structural Emotions of Personas and Relational Selves as Predictors for Ideal and Actual Emotion on Evaluation Dimension: By Defined/Undefined Relationship Type

	Defined Relationship Participants (N=50)		Undefined Relationship Participants (N=43)	
	Ideal Emotion	Actual Emotion	Ideal Emotion	Actual Emotion
Ideal Emotion	---	.391 (.234)	---	.108 (.138)
R ² :		.055		.015
Beta:		.235		.122
Structural (Persona)	0.406* (.171)	1.021*** (.262)	0.377 (.343)	1.247*** (.236)
R ² :	.105	.240	.029	.410
Beta:	.325	.490	.171	.640
Structural (Relational Self)	0.359* (.175)	1.14***	.029 (.149)	.593*** (.092)
R ² :	.081	.295	.001	.507
Beta:	.285	.543	.031	.712

*Note: Table represents individual regression analyses of row on column variable. Asterisks indicate statistical significance values *= $p < .05$, ** = $p < .01$, *** = $p < .001$.*

Identity affirmation. Thus far, I have presented results of two framework identities (*undefined relationship participant* and *defined relationship participant*) that separate the population, and two identities held by each of the respondents within those two subsamples (*persona* and *relational self*). My fourth research question pertains to the activation and affirmation of these identities within romantic relational dyads: which identity are participants attempting to affirm—their personas or their relational identities? This is a different question from identity activation—one may expect to feel a certain way in a relationship based on the identity the person will have in that relationship, but if the emotion expectations for the activated identity are dissimilar to the emotion feedback that would verify and validate the identity one wishes to affirm, confirming those expectations may provide negative feedback about the identity higher in the identity hierarchy.

Respondents may also know the identity they believe they should be activating when responding to questions about the relationship, but may actually be activating the identity they wish to affirm when acting in the relationship (creating a different answer for the measure *the emotion I actually feel in this relationship* than one would expect given the indicated activated identity). For example, a competitive person may expect to feel elation and triumph when in a relationship with a board game opponent against whom he feels confident of success, but feeling elation and triumph may cause deflection for that competitive person if he more strongly wishes to affirm his identity as the selfless and child-encouraging parent of his youthful opponent. Such a person may in that relationship feel dismay at his felt elation more overwhelmingly than he feels the elation; this would alter the affective assessment of the reported emotion he feels in this relationship. To determine these potentially overlapping identity motivations, I performed a series of regression analyses.

Affect control theory equations are predicated on cultural expectations for activated identities; their emotion predictions are based on the specific activated identity. If individuals are activating their personas, we would expect to see that computed structural emotions based on personas would significantly predict actual emotions. If individuals are activating their relational selves, we would expect to see that computed structural emotions based on relational selves would significantly predict actual emotions. As presented in Table 7, what we do see is that both personas and relational selves significantly predict actual emotions, though structural emotions from relational selves outperform structural emotions based on personas. Structural emotions of either kind do a poorer job of accurately predicting ideal emotion, but both are significant, and

the structural emotions based on personas explain far more of the variance (11.4%) than do those based on relational selves (4.4%).

Computed structural emotions based on personas and relational selves significantly predict ideal and actual emotion expectations (validation of affect control theory premises), but it appears as though structural emotions based on selves in relationships are a better predictor of emotion experiences than are personas, while personas are a better predictor of emotion expectations than are relational selves. The central question, however, is which identity individuals are attempting to affirm, not which identity individuals are attempting to activate. Interpretation of the above results (implications of which are discussed in greater detail in the next chapter) suggest that individuals are attempting to affirm their personas from within identity activations of relational selves.

To provide further evidence for and to check the veracity of this interpretation, I constructed two discrepancy variables—identity discrepancy and emotion discrepancy. These variables capture deviation from self-actualization in relational experience (identity discrepancy) and deviation from emotion expectation to emotion experience (emotion discrepancy). Personas, relational selves, ideal emotion, and actual emotion measures for respondents were captured using semantic differential scales gathering empirical values on three dimensions, resulting in affective sentiment profiles for each of the two identity and each of the two emotion measures. I therefore operationalized identity discrepancy as squared Euclidian distance between the sentiment ratings of a respondent's persona and the sentiment ratings of a respondent's relational identity. I operationalized emotion discrepancy as the squared Euclidian distance between the

sentiment ratings of a respondent's ideal emotion and the sentiment ratings of a respondent's experienced emotion.

To test whether respondents were attempting persona affirmations, I regressed emotion discrepancy on identity discrepancy. A significant result would indicate evidence for a persona affirmation attempt. Logic of this statement relies on the contextualized nature of three of the variables of interest (ideal emotion, actual emotion, and relational self), contrasted with the context-independent nature of the fourth (persona). The emotion measures ask respondents to think about either the emotion they should feel *in their relationship dyad* (ideal emotion) or the emotion they actually feel *in their relationship dyad* (actual emotion). One of the identity measures, relational self, also asks the respondent to situate that sentiment assessment within the relationship dyad: relational self is an identity measure of "myself *in this relationship*." In contrast, persona is a holistic measure of the self. It is context-independent; respondents provide sentiment assessments of "myself *as I really am*."

Tables 7 and 8 provide evidence to support H3a and H3b; affect control theory computed emotions significantly predict respondents' reported expected and experienced emotions. These computations are identity-specific. If the context-dependent identity (relational self) is the source of the context-dependent emotions (ideal emotion and actual emotion), the distance between the context-independent identity (persona) and the context-dependent identity (relational self) should have no effect on the distance between the context-dependent emotion expectations (ideal emotion) and the context-dependent emotion experiences (actual emotion). If, however, the context-independent identity (persona) is an influential force for the way respondents think they should feel in their

romantic relationships (context-dependent ideal emotion), then the distance between persona and relational self (activated identity's deviation from attempted affirmation identity) should significantly predict the distance between emotion expectations and emotion experiences. In other words, if persona is the identity individuals are attempting to affirm, we should see evidence of it in a significant and positive effect of identity discrepancy on emotion discrepancy.

An OLS regression model with robust standard errors¹² suggests a nearly one to one relationship (coefficient of .95, CI = .31—1.56, $p = .004$) in emotion discrepancy change as predicted by identity discrepancy magnitude. Identity discrepancy is a strongly predictive measure of emotion discrepancy and accounts for 47% of its variance. Interpretation of this result suggests that the further apart respondents' true selves and relational selves, the further apart their ideal and actual emotions. The substantively and statistically significant result therefore indicates that respondents must be attempting to affirm their personas within their structured relationship dyads (support for H6).

Cultural framework, identity discrepancy, and emotion discrepancy. Hypothesis 4a predicted discrepancy between persona and relational self will be greater for respondents in undefined than in defined relationships. The statistically significant relational self differences and non-significant persona differences for those in undefined, as compared to defined, relationships (see Table 5), are consistent with this hypothesis. To more directly test H4a, I compared the average level of identity discrepancy across the two relationship frameworks. A t-test shows ($t(91)=-2.60$, $p = .011$) that the mean identity

¹²Following recommendations by Allison, robust standard errors were a necessary precaution for a more reliable and conservative p value after a Breusch-Pagan/Cook-Weisberg test confirmed heteroskedasticity in the relationship between these variables.

discrepancy was greater, by 7.07 units, for individuals in undefined, compared to defined, relationships. Hypothesis 4b predicted that emotion discrepancy would be larger for respondents in undefined than in defined relationships. A comparison of the mean emotion discrepancy between the two frameworks confirmed this prediction as well ($t(91)=-2.25, p = .027$). These results fully support Hypotheses 4a and 4b.

Relationship dissolution. My final research question sought to understand how activated identity-contingent emotions affect relationship dissolution. Hypothesis 5 argued that greater discrepancy between predicted characteristic and structural emotions for respondent activated identity would significantly predict a greater likelihood of relationship dissolution by wave 2. Data do *not* support this hypothesis: logit models using squared Euclidian distance between predicted characteristic and structural emotions did not significantly predict relationship dissolution at wave 2 for either personas ($\chi^2=2.09, df=1, p=.149$) or relational selves ($\chi^2=2.55, df=1, p=.110$).

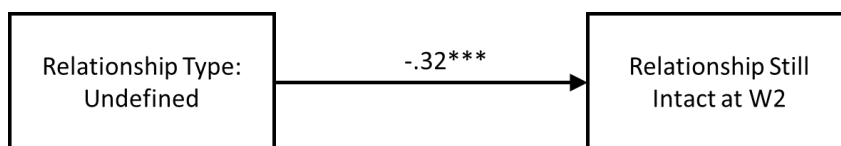


Figure 2. SEM Presenting Effect of Relationship Type on Relationship Dissolution (Standardized Coefficients)

Undefined relationships were more likely to have dissolved by wave 2 than were defined relationships (coef. $-.32, p=.000, C.I. [-.50, -.14]$; see Figure 2). As previously discussed, identity discrepancy is greater for those in undefined than defined relationship types (H4a supported); this is depicted in Figure 3. This figure also depicts the posited

(though only marginally significant, at $p=.054$) relationship between increased identity discrepancy and its effect on increased relationship dissolution likelihood using a standardized coefficients structural equation model¹³.

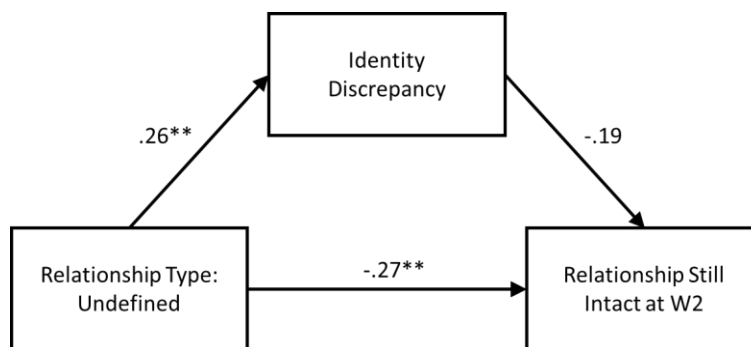


Figure 3. SEM Modeling Identity Discrepancy as Partial Mediator for the Effect of Relationship Type on Relationship Dissolution (Standardized Coefficients)

Emotions are signals of unseen underlying processes, the manifested byproduct of identity processes at work. Thus, emotion discrepancy too is highly predicted by cultural framework of relationship type—being in an undefined relationship makes the distance between ideal and actual emotions far greater than otherwise (H4b supported; see Figure 4). Further, as the mechanism by which the participant is made aware of the identity discrepancy, this manifested error signal is statistically significant ($p=.025$) in the prediction of future relationship dissolution.

¹³The author is aware that due to the binary outcome variable, GSEM would be the appropriate statistical Stata command and model for the relationships depicted in Figures II-V. Figures II-V instead depict the results of a standardized coefficients SEM model. This choice was made for SEM's ability to break down effects into direct and indirect paths (a postestimation feature not available for GSEM models) and for reader ease of interpretation with standardized coefficients. Running the same models using the more appropriate GSEM command does not change any of the paths' direction, strength, or statistical significance.

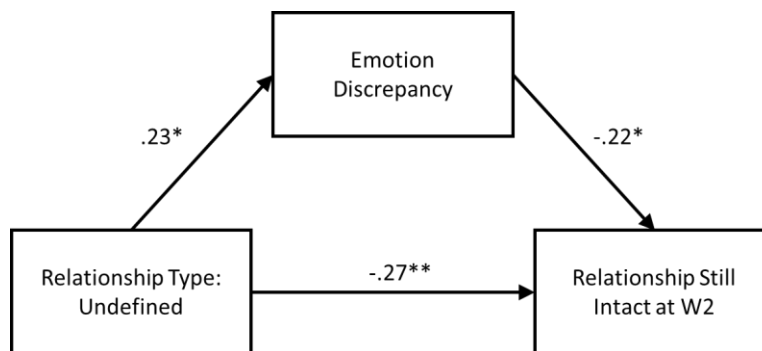


Figure 4. SEM Modeling Emotion Discrepancy as Partial Mediator for the Effect of Relationship Type on Relationship Dissolution (Standardized Coefficients)

Identities motivate; emotions inform. Emotion discrepancy, while significantly predicted by relationship type, is theoretically the product of identity discrepancy rather than relationship type. Data analysis supports this argument—identity discrepancy strongly and significantly predicts emotion discrepancy at a nearly one-to-one relationship (coefficient of .95, CI=.31-1.59, $p=.004$, $R^2=.47$). Identity discrepancy also predicts emotion discrepancy far more strongly than does relationship type (compare paths on Figures 4 and 5). In fact, identity discrepancy fully mediates the relationship between undefined relationship status and emotion discrepancy: a linear regression predicting emotion discrepancy by relationship cultural framework had a coefficient of 8.48, $p<.05$, model $R^2=.05$; the same predictor while controlling for identity discrepancy changes relationship type’s coefficient to a non-significant 1.92 ($p=.51$). With a $p<.001$ coefficient of .93 for identity discrepancy; this second model had an R^2 of .48. In interpretation, relationship framework type predicts emotion discrepancy only because relationship framework type predicts identity discrepancy; it is identity discrepancy that predicts emotion discrepancy.

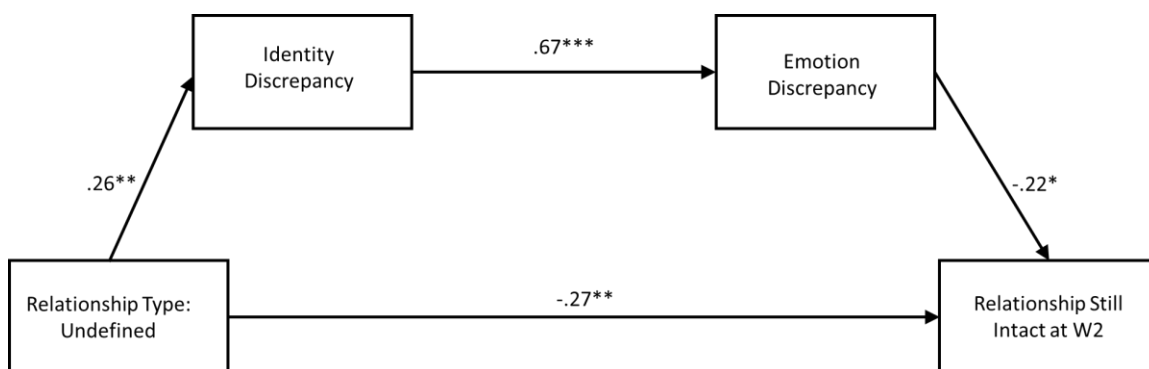


Figure 5. SEM Modeling Identity-Discrepancy-Contingent Emotion Discrepancy as Partial Mediator for the Effect of Relationship Type on Relationship Dissolution (Standardized Coefficients)

Figure 5 presents the full proposed theoretical model: relationship type \rightarrow identity discrepancy \rightarrow emotion discrepancy¹⁴ \rightarrow relationship dissolution. Fit statistics for this final model were excellent: chi square was non-significant, RMSEA was .00, CFI was 1, TLI was 1.047. These longitudinal data analyses support the theorized relationship between identity and emotion processes and the subsequent likelihood of relationship dissolution by wave 2. While the process does not operate in the manner originally proposed in Hypothesis 5 (H5 was unsupported, distances between predicted characteristic and structural emotions for respondent identities do not significantly predict relationship dissolution by wave 2), identity discrepancy, and its subsequent emotion discrepancy, does significantly predict relationship dissolution.

The above structural equation model tests, and supports, the premise on which H5 was based—that emotion, as a signal for identity affirmation or disaffirmation, would

¹⁴ Though theoretically supported, this presented model makes a causal claim (identity discrepancy \rightarrow emotion discrepancy) using cross-sectional data (both discrepancy measures are computed using wave 1 data). This was a limitation of a two wave dataset, however, additional empirical analyses support the proposed time-order: identity discrepancy remained a substantively and statistically significant predictor of emotion discrepancy when regressing emotion discrepancy at wave 2 on identity discrepancy at wave 1 while controlling for emotion discrepancy at wave 1.

predict relationship dissolution if there were an increase in the distance between emotions that would be identity affirming and emotions with the relationship. However, H5 compared predicted emotions for a single identity when within or outside of the relational context. What is instead occurring for participants is that they are attempting persona affirmations from within relational identity activations¹⁵. The distance between these two identities—the whole true self and the self in the relationship—predicts the distance between their emotion expectations and their experiences, and the greater the distance between their emotion expectations and experiences, the more likely is relationship dissolution.

Investigating Robustness and Potential Confounds

In an effort to account for potential confounding variables in the assessed statistical relationships, I used regression to check whether possessing a comparatively lower score on identity or emotion discrepancy predicts movement over time from undefined to defined relationship types. Because undefined relationships in my sample are of significantly shorter duration than defined relationships (averages of “a month or two” and “six months to a year,” respectively), I also ran a logistic regression testing the possibility that relationship duration at wave 1 may independently predict dissolution of the relationship by wave 2. However, these variables were non-significant.

¹⁵ Identity discrepancy is a measure of the distance between persona and relational self, while emotion discrepancy is a measure of the distance between ideal and actual emotion. Because both emotion measures are contextualized within relationship, as is relational self, identity discrepancy should not predict emotion discrepancy unless the location of the persona—which is not contextualized within the relationship—is a factor in the deviation between expectations and experiences of emotion within that relationship. In addition, persona structural emotions predict ideal emotion better than do relational self structural emotions (influence expectations), see Tables 6 and 7. Thus, respondents are attempting persona affirmations. However, relational selves remain their activated identities; relational selves’ computed structural emotions are better predictors of actual emotion than are computed persona structural emotions (Tables 6 and 7).

Gender and power. As a status characteristic, gender affects a wide variety of social interactions and processes, and research has found that even in especially liberal sexual contexts professing acceptance of hookup culture, gender differences in identity and behavior boundary work persist (Fjaer, Pedersen and Sandberg 2015). Thus, it was necessary to check for gender's potential confounding effect on the identity and emotion relationship I proposed. As described earlier, power can also have a profound effect on the relational dynamics and the identities involved in the relationship, affecting even whether a participant in a dyadic relationship even has the means to behave in ways that would affirm his or her activated identity or persona (Cast 2003). I controlled for power imbalance within the relationship by creating two dummy variables indicating whether each respondent rated their alter as more powerful than the respondent rated their own persona/relational self. Such a control was a necessary factor to assess because power constricts agency in relational dyads; a significant power imbalance between framework groups or on ability to choose relationship dissolution would have negated my assumption of agentic ability. However, when running t-tests by relationship type, neither gender nor power imbalance (in either persona/alter or relational self/alter pairings) were significantly associated with initial selection into relationship type framework. Nor, when using logistic regression, did either gender or relational power imbalance predict relationship dissolution at wave 2. They were also not predicted by one another (i.e., contrary to some findings in the hookup culture literature, gender was not a significant predictor of a power imbalanced relationship).

Gender does not have a direct effect on emotion discrepancy and there is no difference by gender on the average value of identity discrepancy, however, there is an

interaction between gender and identity discrepancy in the effect of identity discrepancy on emotion discrepancy. While the effect of identity discrepancy on emotion discrepancy is positive and significant for both genders, the coefficient is somewhat higher for women than for men. Likewise, while power imbalance (persona) had no main effect on emotion discrepancy and there was no difference by a binary power imbalance measure on either identity discrepancy or emotion discrepancy, there was a significant interaction effect between power imbalance and identity discrepancy in the effect of identity discrepancy on emotion discrepancy: those who rated their alter as more powerful than their own persona were more likely to have a greater discrepancy between their ideal and actual emotion values than those who did not. An identical pattern to this persona power imbalance variable was evident for power imbalance computed using the relational self. Neither gender nor power imbalance (for either assessed identity) had any significant direct or interaction effect on relationship dissolution. There is no interaction effect between gender and power imbalance (either identity) on identity discrepancy, emotion discrepancy, or relationship dissolution likelihood.

Alternative measures. Though most people hold positive conceptualizations of themselves and are therefore seeking to adopt and affirm similarly valued and positive identities, affect control theory of self does not presume that people are seeking to enhance or maximize their positive self-sentiments. Rather, people are attempting to affirm their self-sentiments, whatever the valence of their self's fundamental sentiments. To demonstrate this process in operation for deviant identities, MacKinnon and Heise (MacKinnon and Heise 2010) created binary identity discrepancy measures using distances between self-sentiments of English sociopaths and fundamental sentiments of a

variety of identities. To determine “identities most relevant for affirming one’s self-sentiment,” they used a cut-off distance of 1.75 as they computed non-squared Euclidian distance between identities and self sentiments. Identities within this 1.75 unit distance were referred to as *sustaining identities*, or identities that help respondents to fulfill their self-actualization goals. Identities within a distance of 2.50 units were referred to as *reachable identities* (MacKinnon and Heise 2010:138-140). To compare my continuous identity discrepancy measure to these binary (and, for their purposes of illustration, arbitrarily chosen (Mackinnon and Heise 2010:139)) cutoff points marking identity discrepancy, I created dummy variables for the (squared) Euclidian distances from relational selves to personas. I compared results of a chi square test for both sustainable (at a maximum distance of 1.75 from persona) and reachable (at a maximum distance of 2.50 from persona) relational identities for their effect on relationship framework inclusion and on relationship dissolution likelihood to t-tests of my continuous identity discrepancy measure on relationship framework and on relationship dissolution.

In comparing my continuous measure of identity discrepancy to binary operationalizations from the literature, I first conducted t-tests of my continuous measure of identity discrepancy by the dummy variable for relationship framework and by the dummy variable of relationship dissolution status at wave 2. Descriptive statistics for this continuous identity discrepancy variable by relationship framework type and by dissolution status at wave 2 are presented in Table 8 below. I compared these results to the results of chi square tests between those same dummy variables (relationship framework type and wave 2 dissolution status) and the dummy variables of sustainable

and reachable identity cutoff status¹⁶ (MacKinnon and Heise 2010:139-140). Relationship framework type significantly differed by the continuous identity discrepancy variable ($t(91)=-2.605, p = .011$), but not by the binary sustainable identity ($\chi^2=0.802, df=1, p=.371$) or reachable identity measurements ($\chi^2=1.022, df=1, p=.312$). A similar pattern was evident for predicting relationship dissolution status at wave 2. Statistically, the continuous identity discrepancy variable was significantly related to relationship dissolution ($t(91)=2.577, p=.012$), but sustainable identity ($\chi^2=0.042, df=1, p=.837$) and reachable identity ($\chi^2=0.458, df=1, p=.499$) were not. It is not a concrete cutoff point for identity affirmation that drives the increase in relationship dissolution likelihood, but rather an increase in the tension between the selves.

Table 9. Summary Statistics for Identity Discrepancy Measure by Relationship Framework Type and Relationship Dissolution Status at Wave 2

	Average Identity Discrepancy Value	25 th percentile	50 th percentile	75 th percentile	90 th percentile
Defined relationships (N=50)	4.75	0.98	2.47	6.99	11.24
Undefined relationships (N=43)	11.81	1.02	3.93	17.25	32.12
In relationship at wave 2 (N=77)	6.42	1.01	3.06	7.9	17.77
Relationship Dissolved by Wave 2	15.67	1.28	4.51	20.76	40.46

Note: Table presents summary statistics for continuous measure of identity discrepancy (squared Euclidian distance between persona and relational self affective locations) for sets of participants.

¹⁶ Creation of these variables involved setting sustainable identity status == 1 if continuous identity discrepancy value < 1.75 and zero otherwise; reachable identity status ==1 if continuous identity discrepancy value < 2.50 and zero otherwise. Reachable identity status is thus a more inclusive binary measure of acceptable identity distance than sustainable identity status, both of which are binary versions of the discrepancy measure captured by my continuous identity discrepancy measure (computed as the squared Euclidian distance between the affective location of each respondent's persona and relational self).

Another factor in the differences between the creation of the continuous measure of identity discrepancy I have used here and MacKinnon and Heise's binary identity discrepancy measures used in their sentiment measurement analyses (MacKinnon and Heise 2010:134) is the difference in the use of squared terms. Squared Euclidian distance (as I have used to compute identity discrepancy), as opposed to non-squared Euclidian distance (as used by MacKinnon and Heise), magnifies the effect of greater distances. Theoretically, squared Euclidian distance as a method of computation is more aligned with the conceptual definition of the concept we attempt here to operationalize. Identity discrepancy captures deviation from the persona locus, but deviation from persona's location, just like reactions to increases in deflection, are not felt strictly incrementally. Just as deflection measures have thresholds for estimations of uneasiness (Boyle and McKinzie 2015, Heise 2013), it is more theoretically appropriate for measures of identity discrepancy to allow for a magnification of larger deviations as opposed to small fluctuations. These considerations and the above analyses support my continuous measure of identity discrepancy as best practice for operationalization of this concept.

This chapter has presented the analyses used and the data results discovered in the pursuit of addressing the five research questions:

- 1. How does the label of a relationship affect assessment of relational identity?*
- 2. How does the label of a relationship affect relational identity-contingent emotions?*
- 3. What impact does the cultural framework (defined/undefined) in which the relationship label is embedded have on the evaluation of the associated relational identity?*

4. *What identity (persona or identity-situated self) are participants seeking to affirm within their romantic relational dyads?*
5. *How do activated identity-contingent emotions affect relationship dissolution?*

In the course of this endeavor, I presented the following six hypotheses:

- **H1: Undefined relationship labels signify affectively distinct cultural meanings**
- **H2: On the E dimension, average fundamental affective sentiments will be higher for defined relationship labels than for undefined relationship labels**
- **H3a: Affect control theory computed emotions for respondents will significantly predict respondents' reported expected emotions**
- **H3b: Affect control theory computed emotions for respondents will significantly predict respondents' reported experienced emotions**
- **H4a: The discrepancy between the persona and the relational self will be greater for respondents in undefined than in defined relationships**
- **H4b: The discrepancy between expected and experienced emotion will be greater for respondents in undefined than in defined relationships**
- **H5: The greater the discrepancy between predicted characteristic and structural emotions for an identity (researcher-computed variable based on respondent identity ratings), the greater the likelihood of relationship change (operationalized as relationship dissolution at W2).**
- **H6: Persona fundamental sentiments will influence participant emotion responses.**

Hypotheses 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, and 6 were supported by the data; Hypothesis 5 was not supported. In the following chapter, I provide a discussion of the results presented above and explain their implications in light of guiding theoretical principles for the understanding of participant lived experiences in dyadic relationships embedded within established cultural frameworks, noting the impact of identity and emotion for the prediction of future emotion, identity, and behavior.

CHAPTER 4

DISCUSSION

In the previous chapter, I described the analytic process for data and presented tables and statistics for all results. In this chapter, I fully discuss the interpretations of those results to explicate how they extend our concrete and theoretical knowledge of the interplay between identity, emotion, and definition of the situation. I further discuss how the intertwined processes of identity and emotion may be understood as a force governing agentic choices for relational behavior, allowing prediction of relationship dissolution over time.

Undefined relationships comprise a coherent set of identities, each label of which calls up a specified cultural framework—distinct from that native to defined romantic relationships—for the understanding of expected relational operation. This undefined relationships cultural framework is distinct from that native to defined romantic relationships just as the specific labels within each framework indicate distinct affective meanings from one another. These distinct definitions have disparate consequences for identities, behaviors, and emotions of actors and observers concerning relationships between and within the two cultural frameworks. In the sections within this chapter, I discuss the empirical evidence for these distinct differences and their divergent emotional and behavioral results.

Definite Identities and Consequent Emotions

As a subculture's arena becomes of general interest, its elaborated taxonomy of identities enters the cultural theory of people...An individual entering [a] subculture will learn the types quickly to understand conversations, to define others sensibly, and to plan for the future...Acquisition of language gives each individual a theory of people, which is to say, the conceptual resources to define and enact social situations with others, and to be aware of enduring social structures.

(MacKinnon and Heise 2010:34; 33; 44)

Language is a repository of culture: the labels that a person uses to refer to another inherently carry affective connotation; terms call up emotional responses that orient views concerning them. Two denotatively synonymous terms are seldom used interchangeably; connotations of words determine their meaning. The identity label “bastard,” for instance, has an sentiment profile of -1.66, -0.72, 0.60, while the less inflammatory “illegitimate child” label has an sentiment profile of -0.73, -0.78, -0.05 (Smith-Lovin et al. 2016b) —a more passive, and not nearly as negatively evaluated, affective attitude toward ostensibly the same identity. These two different labels would call up different emotions and different expectations toward the same person if that same person were so differentially labeled. Relationship label identities within the undefined relationship cultural framework have substantively different fundamental meanings from one another, just as do the relationship label identities within the defined relationship cultural framework (see Table 2). These meaning differences call up different associated connotations.

Labels and their associated connotations redefine situations, reorient perceptions, and potentially affect emotional reactions concerning the events in which identities with those labels act. The gradations of meaning pertinent to undefined relationships and their

subsequent descriptive labels are no different, and can be arranged in an evaluative hierarchy of generally-accepted fundamental goodness (see Table 2). In the evaluative hierarchy of relationship labels, clear patterns emerge between and within the two overarching cultural subtypes. Statistically, within the undefined relationship labels, *hooking up* and *friends with benefits* are evaluatively equivalent (both negative). Note that these are ratings of what it is like to participate in these types of relationships, and ratings are drawn from the average sample (defined and undefined relationship participant ratings). Both these types are evaluatively less than *talking to*, which is equivalent to *casually dating* and *hanging out*. All of these relationships have a lower evaluative rating than *seeing each other*.

For labels within the defined relationship framework, *exclusively dating* is evaluatively equivalent to being *in a relationship*, which is not quite as good as being *in a serious relationship*, though that serious relationship is not statistically different from being *engaged*. From the perspective of participants in both relationship cultures, *married* has the highest evaluation of all assessed relationship types. Without exception and acknowledged by participants in both relationship cultures, every undefined relationship label is evaluatively less good than every defined relationship label; every defined relationship label is evaluatively more good than any undefined relationship label. Each of these are distinct, or at least not indistinct, identities. The labels have meaning; using one label over another calls up a different identity's sentiment profile and therefore a different orienting attitude toward cultural events involving each of these identities. With emotions serving as identity signals, we can see manifest different emotional

consequences, particular to each labeled identity, for the experience of the same relational behaviors (see Tables 3a and 3b).

Situated identities of actors change the predicted emotions the actors will feel when in identical social events; different identities performing the same behaviors have material consequences for actors, object-persons, and general cultural observers in their emotional and behavioral responses to those situations. While for many of these modeled events there exist no rated emotion labels in the dictionary located within the predicted affective space, the sentiment profiles of these ineffable emotions (Lively and Heise 2014) are telling. Alarming, both men and women in the negatively-evaluated *friends with benefits* relational identity feel enormously powerful when *seizing* their interaction partners, and such an event has a deflection level within the “expected” range (Boyle and McKinzie 2015). Contrast this same event when the actor occupies the valued defined relational identity *married*, where such a negative and violent event would be considered a “weird,” nearly an “impossible” interaction (Boyle and McKinzie 2015) by the third-party cultural observer (and, as members of that orienting culture, by the actor and object-person within the event). In fact, event deflection level patterns generally decrease from left to right across the table for positive behaviors and increase from left to right across the table for negative behaviors.

Affect control theory predictions do not model desired or idealized social interactions, but expected interactions, as understood by the members of the relevant culture. These predictions are generated through unveiling the underlying mathematical patterns within culture members’ reported cultural conceptions. These results show how different types of behaviors within the relational structure are normalized by the

instantiation of particular activated identity relational frameworks. Just as one does not feel the same emotions when considering time spent away from work “as a scholar” as she does when considering “as a mother” that same time spent away from work, activating relational identities from within the undefined relationship framework, as opposed to activating relational identities from within the defined relationship framework (or activating one label versus another from within either framework), creates consequentially different emotional reaction patterns toward the same violent or positive events, for actors and object-persons as well as for third-party observers.

Differences such as those discussed above emerge given particular relational identities because of the cultural connotation native to each of the identity labels. Table 4 presents a series of roughly analogous identities for a selection of the assessed relational identities from within the two frameworks. The lists of identities presented for each relational identity may be understood as the cultural company kept by each of the relational identities; they are those identities in the culture about whom we feel similarly to how we feel towards the listed relational identity. Fundamental sentiments orient one to think of each labeled identity as *this type* of person. Here, they are *someone in an undefined relationship* and *someone in a defined relationship*. Participants in these relationships, and members of the culture to which these participants belong, feel differently about these two types (though similarly to one another). Within each realm, each label is a subtype—*this type of this type of person*. Each label calls up a different orientation to the individual holding that identity. Those differences, particularly cultural framework differences for the sets of relational identities, substantively matter for the emotions and assessments of those both within and outside of that subculture.

Actors within these relationships are constantly navigating identity labels and altering their labeled relationships as the meanings of the evolving relationships change and the changes are processed via their concomitant emotion signals. Thus in these identities' patterns and the distinct differences between them being harnessed by actors within the subculture, we come to understand that this subset of hookup culture is not so much characterized by ambiguity, as has been presented as normative, but by identity and behavior mutability. It is clear in the shared and discriminating evaluations of relationship labels within and across defined and undefined categories that individuals do not lack definition; rather, individuals adhere to fine distinctions between similar meanings in order to navigate tenuous and changeable interactions and definitions of selves, behaviors, and situations. This is an agentic realm, and actors within it utilize that agency as they understand and redefine their changing selves and relational realities.

Descriptive Statistics for Contextualized Cultural Identities

Actors are always acting within the structures they create and are thereby constrained. It is agents who are producing actions for their own goals, the patterns of which constitute social structure. But, social structural forces also act back on their creators, guiding and limiting what individuals can do.

(Burke and Stets 2009:36)

First widely recognized in the early 2000s (Bogle 2008), hookup culture is no longer a new phenomenon. As this subculture's existence has become a more static, familiar feature on college campuses across the nation, actors entering into relationships within this realm—of whatever duration—have necessarily sought to define theirs from among the myriad interactions included within its cultural milieu. For many, hearing the phrase “hookup culture” calls to mind as prototypical images of one-off dyadic physical encounters of varying degrees of sexual intimacy, such as those referenced in the recent

popular scholarly book *American Hookup* (Wade 2017). While this image is accurate and representative of certain lived experiences within this realm, scholarly and popular literature confined to this conceptualization leave undescribed an equally real and qualitatively different relational experience within the hookup culture framework: undefined relationships. *Undefined relationships* are paired, habitual relationships between the same two individuals; the terms of these relationships fall into an ambiguous middle ground between being friends or acquaintances and, to a greater or lesser degree, being an established couple. These relationships are worthy of attention. Participants within them understand them as fully native to the hookup culture, and it is this location within that subculture's perspective that imparts to them some of their affective natures as understood by both participants and non-participants alike. As Wade argues, hookup culture (not the hookups themselves or participation in them) helps to shape the way college students view and understand relationships. This research offers a closer look at a particular type of relationship native to this culture, showcases how cultural framework can affect personal views of selves and relationships within it, demonstrates the inextricable effect of this on emotion as contingent on identity, and shows how emotion serves as signals that inform about behavior-motivating identity goals.

Mutually understood and culturally necessary terms and qualifiers have arisen in the lexicon of hookup culture participants to describe—and therefore define—the quality and character of identities, relationships, and type labels within this subculture. Much like subtypes within schemas for stereotypes (Fiske 1998), the subtype of undefined relationships within hookup culture retains for participants the overarching framework of hookup culture (e.g., employed strategic ambiguity (Currier 2013), (potential for) casual

sex (Pham 2017), and understood lack of commitment (Aubrey and Smith 2013)), while allowing for exceptions and modifications that permit a more minute, exacting terminology. Such compartmentalization and category subtyping allows undefined relationship participants to qualify and quantify the different stages and phases of their fluid-but-extant relationships within this realm. In short, a hookup may hook up with a hookup in hookup culture, but that scenario is not the same situation described by the “hooking up” undefined relationship, which is itself different from the hookup culture undefined relationships *seeing each other, hanging out, or talking to* someone. However, the overarching framework of the larger cultural identity category to which these relationships belong remains in effect (MacKinnon and Heise 2010).

The hookup culture schema that participants possess remains in effect as they conceptualize the various identities one may hold within undefined relationships, the first of which is the umbrella cultural categorization of the *undefined relationship participant* identity. It is the in-practice and self-understood social, personal, and emotional repercussions of this categorical *undefined relationship participant* identity that Table 4 presents. In it, the identity and emotion definition means for this group are contrasted with those of participants holding the contrast group category identity *defined relationship participant*. This reference category identity pertains to those in romance realm relationships that take place outside of the casual environment of hookup culture; representative types within it include those who are *dating exclusively, in a relationship, and in a serious relationship*.

As implied by the results presented in Table 5, one of the reasons we see the pattern in the literature of undefined relationships dissolving with greater rapidity and

frequency than their defined counterparts (e.g., Arnett 2014; Carver, Joyner and Udry 2003) is because undefined romantic relationship dyads are far more likely than defined romantic relationship dyads to cause the type of structurally-imposed actor-identity discrepancy that necessitates relational redefinition. Those entering into undefined relationships are fully aware of the *undefined relationship participant* identity's affective deviation from the more valued affective location of the *defined relationship participant* identity (e.g., Eaton and Rose 2012); respondents' self-in-this-relationship ratings and professed expectations for their emotional experiences within those relationships mirror this recognition. The evidence is apparent through statistical differences—on each measure between the relationship types and between the measures within relationship types—on the evaluation dimension average values for the ratings of *myself as I really am*, *myself in this relationship*, *the emotion I should feel in this relationship*, and *the emotion I actually feel in this relationship*.

These ratings provide measures for each respondent's persona, relational self, ideal emotion, and actual emotion, respectively. Also relevant are the computed values for each respondent's characteristic and structural emotions (computed for both persona and relational self). Characteristic emotion values represent the affective values for the emotions that respondents would be predicted to feel when their activated identities are being perfectly confirmed, while structural emotions are those respondents would be predicted to feel when their activated identities are being confirmed in so far as is possible given the constraints of their relational dyads (MacKinnon 1994:133). Importantly and as shown by the non-significance of differences in persona ratings by condition, it is not an identity bias selection process that leads to the described

differences—people do not differentially enter into these types of relationships because of a pre-existing difference in the way that they see themselves. Rather, seeing themselves in this way is a product of holding the relational identity particular to that cultural framework.

In addition to the relationship-contextualized self ratings, respondents provided ratings for *myself as I really am*. This is a holistic measure of fundamental sentiment for persona: each respondent's rating for the person—all identities and facets included—that comprises the respondent's core "self." These ratings of one's persona on the three dimensions do not statistically differ by defined/undefined relationship type (MANOVA results ($F(1,92)=1.14, p=.339$), nor are they significantly different by condition on the evaluation dimension alone ($t(91)=.92, p=.362$). The same type of true self—equivalent personas—enter into both defined and undefined relationship types. However, identification of self as someone within each of the relationship types—because of the different cultural definitions appropriate to each of the labels native to the two relationship types—dictates the way that that person will feel about themselves within their defined or undefined relationship type. Thus, substantively and statistically significant differences emerge for the respondent ratings of the contextualized, relational-identity-situated ratings of self. Consequences of this difference for experience have substantive significance within as well as between the relationship type measures (see Tables 6a and 6b).

In both relationship types, predicted values for respondents' relational identity characteristic emotions are lower than the predicted values for that relational identity's structural emotions. The person each self is when in a relationship, if perfectly confirmed

alone, will experience emotions not as good as those each of those identities would experience when being confirmed within their dyads. These theoretical predictions align with the common sense wisdom the relationally hopeful human being applies to prospective romantic interactions: as social creatures who crave connection with others, we expect things to be better together than when alone.

For those in defined relationships, we see this theoretically-predicted hopeful outlook mirrored in their expectations. The emotions that they believe that they should be feeling in their relationships, at an evaluation value of 3.38, are higher than the predicted characteristic and the predicted structural emotions for both assessed identity types (though, for those in defined relationships, affective ratings of the two identity types do not statistically differ from one another—personas and defined relationship relational selves have affective equivalence). Fortunately for these defined relationship respondents, *actual emotion* rating results justify such optimism. While lower than their high expectations, the emotions they actually experience, at an evaluation of 2.77, are higher than the respective average persona and relational identity characteristic emotion evaluation values of 2.24 and 2.46. Substantively, this means that people in defined relationships are actually experiencing in their dyads emotions that feel more good, more nice, than the emotions they would feel when their solo identities are being perfectly confirmed. Being in a defined relationship is, by experienced emotion signals, better than being alone.

By contrast, those in undefined relationships have emotional expectations tempered by their cultural understandings of such relationships: their average *ideal emotion* evaluation value is a full 1.3 points lower on the scale than the average *ideal*

emotion evaluation value for those in defined relationships. Unfortunately, with an *actual emotion* average value .67 points less than the average persona characteristic emotion evaluation value, even this tempered expectation is unjustified by their experiences.

While their computed relational self structural emotions are statistically and qualitatively significantly greater than the computed characteristic emotions for their relational identities—which would seem to approximate a version of the positive story evidenced in defined relationships—the results do not speak to equivalent scenarios. For defined relationship participants, the fundamental nature of their personas and relational selves are affectively equivalent. While undefined relationship participants possess personas with fundamental natures equivalent to the personas of those in defined relationships, this persona does not share the same fundamental nature with the relational self native to an undefined relationship. The fundamental nature of the undefined relationship relational self is evaluatively far lower than those participants' ratings of their true selves.

On average, those in undefined relationships experience emotions on the evaluation dimension with an average value of 1.57. This number, while less than the average value for undefined relational selves' *ideal* and computed structural emotions, is not statistically different from either. While not better, it is not, statistically, worse. Thus, at rosier interpretation of these values, experiences in undefined relationships are emotionally no better than confirmation of the single individual: being in these types of relationships is not better than being alone. Unfortunately, when paired with knowledge of the strong statistical significance of the difference between the *actual* and characteristic emotion values for those in undefined relationships ($t(42)=-2.68, p=.01$), it may be worse. In undefined relationships, expectations are low compared to the

estimations of those in defined relationships. In addition, and in contrast to the positive emotion outcomes experienced by those in defined relationships, these lowered expectations are only just met, while the positive predictions are not.

Despite their evaluation dimension experienced emotion discrepancies, it seems that undefined relationship participants are basing their estimations and reports on their identity-situated selves rather than their personas: in fact, their expectations (*ideal emotion*) are statistically equivalent to those that affect control theory predicts individuals will experience within their undefined relationships (structural emotions). Culturally savvy and aware, these undefined relationship participants are experiencing what they say they expect to experience (see Table 6b). This type of process should produce identity verification. Even if these experiences are less ideal than they would be in defined relational dyads, these undefined relationship participants are experiencing what they profess to expect when considering that undefined respondents' *ideal* and *actual* emotion average ratings are not statistically different from one another. Why, then, should this relationship type and its concomitant identity lead to dissolution? As results of the identity discrepancy predicting emotion discrepancy analysis presented in the previous chapter shows, it leads to dissolution in part because respondents are working in these relationships to affirm their personas, not their identity-situated selves.

Modeling Future Behaviors with Longitudinal Data

The concept of persona is the nexus for the reciprocal relation between culture and self.

(MacKinnon and Heise 2010:109)

As a rule, discrepancy between the identity one attempts to affirm and the feedback one receives concerning the identity affirmation attempt will lead to behaviors that endeavor to resolve that discrepancy. This may be accomplished either through movement of the identity standard, or through alteration of the relationship in order to change the resulting feedback signals (Heise 2007:65-70). Because hookup culture provides such an opportunity for the exercise of agency concerning relationship alteration, actors in dyads within this subculture implement that agentic power, altering discrepancy-producing dyadic arrangements through dissolution of those relationships¹⁷. Thus, relationship dissolution becomes statistically more likely in undefined than in defined relationship types (see Figures 2 and 5).

On the Evaluation dimension, those in defined and undefined relationships experience quite disparate outcomes. For undefined relationship participants, some ambivalence exists. Though the means vary, several of the important emotion measures are not statistically different from one another. Those in defined relationships enjoy a boost of emotion signal feedback—those emotions they experience in their relationships are higher on the evaluation dimension than those they are predicted to feel when being perfectly confirmed alone. Importantly, this boost to experienced actual emotion is

¹⁷ To verify that this is an appropriate assumption concerning my respondents, I created a continuous variable capturing persona movement between waves 1 and 2 and ran a t-test by relationship framework type; the results were not significant. In addition, ratings of persona on the evaluation dimension do not statistically differ across the sample from wave 1 to wave 2.

statistically equivalent to the structural emotion predicted by affect control theory (and is therefore unlikely to be deflection-producing for the individual). Thus, those in defined relationships—but not those in undefined relationships—experience simultaneous enhancement and verification of the self.

We see the pattern of increased likelihood for relationship dissolution in undefined relationships occur in part because of the nature of relational identities within the constraints supplied by this undefined relationship subculture (a facet of hookup culture). Those in defined relationships have personas not statistically different from their selves-in-relationships, and so the persona affirmation attempt of the defined relationship participant has no structural barrier in the feedback received from the activated self-in-relationship identity. Individuals in undefined relationships, however, are attempting persona affirmations from within relationship types that pull their selves-in-relationships away from their valued personas. MacKinnon and Heise discuss this tension in their overview of self sentiments and identity preferences, stating that “the individual tends to favor identities whose sentiments are close to the individual’s self-sentiment, and tends to reject identities whose sentiments are distant” (MacKinnon and Heise 2010:138). Such structural tension as seen in this data (see Table 9) makes affirmation failure a natural outcome in undefined—but not defined—relationship types. On average, the emotional repercussions of the structural mismatch¹⁸ between the persona and the identity-situated

¹⁸ One could argue that *how* one is deflected matters more than *by how much* one is deflected, but both theory and data do not support this claim. Affect control theory of self asserts—and empirically demonstrates—that even disvalued personas utilize the same like-identity identity adoption strategies as valued identities. They seek out those that are similar to their self-sentiment and reject those that are not, even if those rejected identities are more highly valued than the identities they do adopt (MacKinnon and Heise 2010:138-144). My own data corroborate this theoretical tenet: a chi square test examining

self make participation in undefined relationships counterproductive to the persona's identity affirmation goals.

In understanding relationship dissolution likelihood, I chose to test a main independent variable of squared Euclidian distance between predicted structural and characteristic emotion because this theoretically-based operationalization of identity-contingent emotion discrepancy would have the greatest practical predictive value. This is an application of formal theory, tested in but not confined to romance realm dyads. Had this variable been a statistically significant predictor, its potential for use as a predictive measure would be applicable across social institutions, from romantic realm dyads to company mergers in the business sector. Utilizing this computed independent variable of predicted structural and characteristic emotions for an identity in a relationship would have required only respondent ratings of self and alter to generate predictions for relationship dissolution likelihood, enabling data-informed predictions of relationship stability for future, proposed dyadic relationships as well as current dyads. Unfortunately, this variable was not a significant predictor.

Mean value for emotion discrepancy was 6.75, with a 75th percentile value of 8.6. Because this variable measures squared Euclidian distance between characteristic and structural emotion locations in affective space, it is essentially a measure of deflection for identity-contingent emotion signals. Rather than with incremental changes, experiences of deflection operate at threshold levels such that events with deflection values of 7.9 and under are considered non-deflecting (Boyle and McKinzie 2015, Heise 2013).

relationship status at wave 2 with a dummy variable indicating experiencing emotions better than one expects to experience (positive sum values when subtracting ideal emotion from actual emotion) was non significant ($\chi^2=3.245$, $df=1$, $p=.072$). It is discrepancy, not direction, that makes the vital difference.

Emotions do not vary in the same manner as identities; there exist a relatively narrow set of emotion signals that are cognitively filtered through context before interpretation ((e.g., see Schachter and Singer 1962). For example, for undefined relationship participants in this dataset, average persona characteristic emotions and average relational self characteristic emotions are not significantly different from one another ($t(41)=-1.33, p=.190$), but these respondents' identities of persona and relational self certainly are ($t(42)=3.76, p<.001$). Given this reality—that identity-contingent emotions do not move as far from one another as do their respective identities—differences between predicted, not-yet-experienced characteristic and structural emotions for respondents in this dataset likely have too low an average discrepancy to register as problematic feedback to or to generate error signals for the attendant individuals.

However, while that identity and emotion discrepancy independent variable did not longitudinally predict relationship dissolution with statistical significance, it is not the only available measure of identity disconfirmation as registered through emotion signals. The main independent variable described above captured *potential* discrepancy in identity through emotion; other measures gathered in this research allowed for the generation of variables that captured the *experience* of identity discrepancy through emotion. These experiential measures proved highly predictive of subsequent relationship dissolution.

The central argument stated that individuals, acting from within their particular activated identities, have their expectations affected by those activated identities. They compare these expectations to their experiences through the emotion signals referential to that identity. The greater the deviation between their experiences and their expectations (the outcome associated with identity affirmation and the assessment of that affirmation

attempt's success through comparison of experienced emotion), the more likely the identity will be to seek behavioral remedy for this felt discrepancy through termination of that relationship. Because gathered measures targeted all pertinent identities and emotions, a more advanced analysis of their values elucidated a more complex—and highly behavior motivating—process than originally posited.

Results showed that rather than activating *either* their personas *or* their relational selves to guide their expectations and compare them to the identity's expected accompanying experiences, respondents assess and rate emotion with reference to their personas from within the constraints of the relational self. This result is in keeping with proposed fundamental self sentiment affirmation processes as presented in affect control theory of self. Results showed that affect control theory predictions for within-relationship emotions stemming from activated identities significantly and successfully predict respondents' expected and experienced emotions, explaining 24-51% of the variance (see Tables 6 and 7). Affect control theory predictions do a much better job of predicting experienced emotions (ratings of “the emotion I *actually* feel in this relationship”) than do respondents own ideal expectations (ratings of “the emotion I *should* feel in this relationship”). Respondents' own expectations do not significantly predict their experiences; affect control theory's emotion equations significantly predict both respondent experiences and expectations.

Tables 7 and 8 depict the predictive relationships between structural emotions for personas and relational selves and the expected and experienced reported emotions. In it, we see that relational selves inform emotion *experiences*, while personas inform emotion *expectations*. By condition, respondent-supplied ideal emotions do not significantly

predict the emotions respondents actually experience. Affect control theory predictions for structural emotions (point predictions for the emotions the respondents will experience when being confirmed in their relationships), however, do. Further, structural emotions based on persona identities predict respondent ideal emotions better than structural emotions based on relational selves predict ideal emotions, but the opposite relationship exists for actual emotions: structural emotions based on relational selves predict respondent actual emotions better than structural emotions based on persona identities predict actual emotions. Persona predicts ideal emotion better than does relational self, and relational self predicts actual emotion better than does persona. Across relationship types, respondents are attempting persona activation attempts from within relational self identity activations.

Given this described process and as affect control theory of self would predict, the relational self is the activated identity being confirmed within these dyadic relationships. This is comfortably persona-affirming for those in defined relationships, whose relational selves are not significantly different, in their affective fundamental sentiments, from the personas respondents are attempting to affirm. However, because of the distance from the undefined relationship participant-based relational self to the persona, affirmation of the relational self creates an identity discrepancy for the desired persona affirmation attempt for those in undefined relationships. This discrepancy necessitates resolution. Given the highly agentic nature of this hookup culture subculture and the tendency for individuals to seek deflection reduction through action before situation redefinition (Heise 2007:3), this discrepancy is likely to result in a behavioral resolution, such as dissolution of the

persona-disconfirming relationship. I posit this process as one key explanatory factor for the increased likelihood of dissolution in undefined as compared to defined relationships.

For those in undefined relationships, their professed emotion expectations are being met in their actual emotion experiences, and those emotion expectations are based on affirmation of their relational selves. However, those expectations and matched experiences are not conducive to affirmation of the persona. The identity affirmation process for identities in relationships is occurring as affect control theory posits that it does: activated identities work to affirm themselves in their relationships and overall experience the structural emotions predicted for that activated identity. Unfortunately for participants in undefined relationships, affirming the identity-situated self—experiencing the experiences expected for the relational self in the specified relationship—does not affirm the persona. Respondents in undefined relationships report that they expect to affirm their identity-situated selves in their relationships, but they want their relationships to affirm their personas. Thus, the successful relational self affirmation provides persona-disconfirming feedback to—and thus causes deflection for—the undefined relationship participant.

As previously discussed, being in an undefined relationship places a person in an identity-situated self whose fundamental sentiment is divergent from the affective location of that person's persona¹⁹. Persona is the identity one aspires to affirm within these romantic (or romance-adjacent) dyads, despite the fact that professed expectations

¹⁹ Referenced persona is the average of my respondents' ratings for *myself as I really am*, which has an sentiment profile of (2.52, 1.41, .86). This persona rating is quite comparable to those of other samples; from all possible identities in the latest US dictionary (Smith-Lovin et. al. 2016) it is closest, at a distance of .27, to the idealized self rating *myself others would like* (2.49, 1.15, .92) and is within .55 of the equivalent *myself as I really am* persona rating (2.13, 1.09, .63).

are culturally tempered and, for undefined relationship participants, not statistically different from affect control theory structural emotion predictions for respondent's relational selves. Professed experiences mirror predictions for relational selves, but personas drive expectations, and a divergence between them (far more likely in undefined than in defined relationships) creates a discrepancy in need of resolution. Thus, relationship type predicts identity discrepancy, identity discrepancy predicts emotion discrepancy, and emotion discrepancy predicts relationship dissolution. Moreover, results discussed in the previous chapter and depicted in the illustrative process shown in Figures II-V indicate that relationship framework only predicts emotion discrepancy because relationship framework causes identity discrepancy, and it is identity discrepancy that predicts emotion discrepancy (see Figure 5).

Comparing path weights on Figures 2 and 5 highlights the reduction in direct effect of relationship type on subsequent relationship dissolution when accounting for the identity and emotion process instigated by the positioning of one's self in an undefined relationship: being in an undefined relationship widens the gap between an individual's ideal and actual emotion reports; this occurs because ideal emotions are based on persona affirmation, but actual emotions are a result of activation of the relational self. For those in undefined relationships, the relational self significantly deviates from the persona, which triggers emotion discrepancy between expectations and experiences. In other words, individuals in undefined relationships do not experience emotion discrepancy because they are in undefined relationships. Rather, they experience emotion discrepancy because they experience identity discrepancy; the identity discrepancy exists because of culturally-informed activated identities situated within a cultural framework of

relationship type. While it does not fully account for all the complicated factors that contribute to a statistical relationship between relationship type and dissolution, this identity and emotion process does account for a 17% reduction in the direct effect—and a 4% reduction in the overall effect—of relationship type on dissolution likelihood. The registration of the experience of emotion discrepancy does catalyze relationship behavioral change.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

Identities, behaviors, and emotions are strongly interrelated. Identities motivate behaviors as individuals seek to affirm their identities—their fundamental sentiments in particular—and emotions inform individuals about the success or failure of these affirmation attempts. In affect control theory of self, MacKinnon and Heise brought the event level cybernetic process of affective control to the level of the individual. This research brings emotion signals into the identity processes in relational dyads, using the experienced emotion signals and the registration of their discrepancy from emotion expectations as predictor for resolution of experienced distress through dissolution of the respective relational dyad. This is a fundamentally sociological endeavor, for it sets out the means by which to predict relationship change over time using discrepancy between current felt and expected emotions that are demonstrably contingent on culture.

My central predictor was the pull of one's activated identity away from the signals that would indicate what would ideally confirm that identity. The main supported prediction of relationship change was not a deviation in signals, but a direct experience of deflection—the tension between expectation and reality. This is the identity version of the uncanny valley (Mori 1970), that steep sense of drop-off in affinity felt for non-human objects and images as they approach too close to humanity but do not quite meet it. Often explained in examples of animations and robotics which humans find

particularly creepy, the uncanny valley is the material version of deflection. In movement and appearance or emotion and affect, the uncanny valley is essentially when the sense of synchrony falls apart. This research has showcased this situation for identities in relationships, and it has been not necessarily a story of the attempt to affirm the self well (or not only this), but a story of the need to reduce discordant experiences. People dislike uncertainty, but perhaps they dislike uncertainty not only because it causes distress and discomfort due to one's inability to define the situation, but because that inability is a stumbling block to deflection resolution, which matters even more.

Limitations and Future Directions

This research presented the results of a theoretical test concerning discrepancy in identity-contingent emotion signals as impetus for behavioral change in agentic relational dyads. While this research sheds light on previously unknown paths to relationship change within relational dyads, it leaves much of the variance in relationship change—whether within or between relationship cultural frameworks—unexplained. Relationship dynamics are a complex and complicated process, and much remains to explore. Further, this research lacked the power of a larger sample to simultaneously assess as many control variables as are likely relevant to these situations. Replications of this work should gather data from a larger pool of individuals and include subsequent waves so as to additionally test the time-order propositions in a more rigorous fashion.

Further, it is important to mention the limitations of the convenience sample approach for the generalizability of the conclusions I draw here. A homogenous sample of culture experts such as this one, while ideal for discerning cultural information, is less able to speak broadly to individual level features. Because the process here described is

one of multiple levels—a culturally-influenced individual choice based on personally experienced emotions created by culturally-defined identities in culturally-structured relationships, the predictions for which utilize respondents' personal assessments of individual actors and alters—this convenience sample is both an advantage and a disadvantage. While it provides an ideal sample for understanding the effect of defined/undefined cultural frameworks—and can be generalized to effects of cultural frameworks in general—to orient and influence an enduring process of structurally-embedded identities and their concomitant emotions, it is much less robust in transferability of these effects to other samples' relationship emotion experiences and relationship outcomes; estimations in this data may have downwardly-biased standard errors. Such realities should not be overlooked; similar studies should be conducted in other populations and samples. I suggest that next steps replicate this work in other universities and in young adult populations outside the college context. Vibrant urban scenes, such as Washington, D.C. or New York City, New York, may provide optimal settings for future assessments to determine if in other groups we would see replication of the relationship outcome predictions and emotion patterns found here.

In addition, this study, while testing formal predictions with empirical data, is necessarily isolated to a test case population consisting of two general types of romantic relationships. Interactions in the social world involve a myriad of dyadic structural relationships involving identities across the social institutions. Though the processes of identity and emotion are enduring, idiosyncratic elements may substantively affect how or in what manner the process explicated here operates. Further research should utilize various other structured dyad populations to build a body of empirical validation that

accounts for a variety of effects. Most importantly, research should look into social institutional identities as competing sources of feedback to the persona (for instance, the expectations attendant one's occupation and those attendant one's sense of loyalty to an opposition group or legal stance when the latter conflicts with the former). Human beings are complex social creatures with a variety of methods and techniques for navigating our social worlds and the social selves we embody as we operate within them; this current study should be only the first in a long line of work disentangling and illuminating these social and emotional processes of culturally-embedded and informed individuals navigating personal identities in social structures.

Conclusion

People possess many different identities; they activate them effortlessly as situations instantiate them. Some identities are more important to our sense of selves than others, and some identities are more like our senses of our selves than others. Parsing the interrelationship of these identity activations with emotion expectations informed by both activated identities and the personas we hope those identity verifications affirm allows us to more accurately understand the lived experience of the culturally-informed and structurally constrained agentic individual. As described here using the two cultural frameworks of defined and undefined romantic relationships, we come to understand mechanisms involved in replicable empirical findings based in formal theory. Here, I have shown that the fundamental meanings involved in the identities one adopts as a member of a particular subcultural definition for a type of relational dyad, whether that membership is adopted with reluctance or enthusiasm, carries material weight because of its concomitant likely emotions and their potential deviation from those that would affirm

the self one feels themselves to be. I replicated the previous finding that undefined relationships—independent of actor or object gender, power dynamics, or relationship duration—are more likely to have ended at a subsequent date than are defined relationships. I then showed by structural equation modeling that this is not a syllogistic process wherein undefined relationships dissolve because that is what undefined relationships do. Rather, at least in part, this *is* what these relationships do—social elements characterized by uncertainty are more likely to end because people dislike uncertainty, and these relationships are not as valued, by society members both within and outside of that subculture, as are the defined relationships from which they deviate—but this is not a full explanation. They also end because these relationships put people into identities that, when confirmed, provide negative feedback for their personas, which are the encompassing identities that we, as hopeful, social, and connecting human beings, attempt to affirm in our romantic relationships (of whatever cultural and specific configuration). Receiving negative feedback about the persona catalyzes behavioral compensation, which in this agentic realm is very likely to be dissolution of that persona-disconfirming relationship.

This work offers a method to understand, and to predict in the present, the rate of and the reason for relationship dissolution in the future through assessment of current and expected emotions that stem from activated identities and persona desires. On a smaller but no less vital scale of academic and humanistic concern, it has also provided information about emergent labels in a particular sub-cultural interaction space. This is a significant contribution to our knowledge, as it not only acknowledges the lived experiences of a hitherto unacknowledged social group (undefined relationship

participants) but also shows a quintessential example of the basic tenets of symbolic interactionism in action. These nascent relationship terms are shared labels: generated, accepted, used, and interpreted in interaction. Their use is evidence for their necessity, filling a gap in the ability to name interaction types which are new and formerly unlabeled. Labels for these terms are jointly navigated (whether a participant within one of these relationship types is labeling it for him or herself, as a way to label it with the relationship alter, or as a way to label it in order to discuss its lack of or non-adherence to a different label with a friend) and frequently revisited. With another identity involved, fundamental self meanings are pulled in new directions by the relationship—a definition of the situation for oneself is essential. By capturing cultural affective consensus for the labels, I located them in sentiment space; this allowed me to make statements, from the viewpoints of those involved in them, about the cultural company kept by each of these identities. Having the sentiment profiles locates the fundamental nature of these relationship types in cultural affective space and allows for the determination of the emotional consequences of their differences from other relationship labels for which they substitute.

Hookup culture is still poorly understood; the lived experiences of participants within it from the perspective of those participants even less so. As these results speak not only to culturally-constructed social relationships but to individual conceptualizations, these results, while supporting theory, in a practical way also provide the means to identify individuals who may be more likely than their fellows to need mental health support (e.g., Fisher et al. 2012; Wade 2017). This work offers the opportunity to assess and to further understand, at the social, interpersonal, and individual

levels, the impact and navigation of labels and emotion in relationships for a population at a significant life stage of transition (Arnett 2000; Arnett 2014) in terms of identity creation, attainment, and fulfillment. Given the mental health crisis for emerging adults on campus settings (e.g., see AUCCCD 2013), such work is both timely and necessary. Further, as a theoretical principle unconfined to the population in which it was tested, we can expect that where we find individuals in activated identities dissimilar from their personas—the selves as they assess their nature when viewing their *me* with society's eyes—we will find individuals experiencing personal level deflection via emotion signals, and can predict alterations in the relationship in which that identity is embedded. This dissertation provides concrete contribution to the discipline with a tool for prediction and understanding and by an increase in the empirical knowledge of the processes of human interaction.

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APPENDIX A

ELECTRONIC STUDY CALLS

Study Name	ACT 1
Study Type	 <p>Online Study This study is an online study on another website. To participate, sign up, and then you will be given access to the website to participate in the study</p>
Credits	0.5 Credits
Duration	30 minutes
Sign-Up Restrictions	You must NOT have signed up or completed ANY of these studies: ACT 2
Abstract	Relationships and Emotion
Description	To be eligible for this study, you must be in a DEFINED romantic relationship. If you are in a relationship with someone you refer to as your partner/spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend/significant other, you are eligible for this study. If instead you are in some other type of ongoing romantic/romance-adjacent relationship that is UNDEFINED (e.g., you might say that you and the other person are "talking to" each other, or are "hanging out"/"hooking up"/"seeing each other"/some other related label, and you do not refer to the person as your boyfriend/girlfriend etc.), you are eligible for a different study. Please sign up for the study titled "ACT 2" instead. In this online survey, you will rate the affective meanings of identities and emotions in certain types of relationships.
Eligibility Requirements	must be 18-22 years old and currently involved in a DEFINED romantic relationship
Website	View Study Website
Researcher	LASSI Lab 

Study Name	ACT 2
Study Type	 <p>Online Study This study is an online study on another website. To participate, sign up, and then you will be given access to the website to participate in the study</p>
Credits	0.5 Credits
Duration	30 minutes
Sign-Up Restrictions	You must NOT have signed up or completed ANY of these studies: ACT 1
Abstract	Relationships and Emotion
Description	To be eligible for this study, you must be in an UNDEFINED relationship. If you are in some kind of ongoing romantic/romance-adjacent relationship that is somewhat ambiguous (e.g., you would say that you and the other person are "talking to" each other, or are "hanging out"/"hooking up"/"seeing each other"/some other related label, and you do not refer to the person as your boyfriend/girlfriend etc.), you are eligible for this study. If instead you are in some type of DEFINED romantic relationship (e.g., you are in a relationship with someone you refer to as your partner/spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend/significant other), you are eligible for a different study. Please sign up for the study titled "ACT 1" instead. In this online survey, you will rate the affective meanings of identities and emotions in certain types of relationships.
Eligibility Requirements	18-22 years old and currently involved in an UNDEFINED relationship
Website	View Study Website
Researcher	LASSI Lab 

APPENDIX B
RECONTACT EMAILS

ACT1 Follow 1 Email Template

Please help UGA research survey follow up—ACT 1 Wave 2 (\$10 opportunity)

Dear ,

About two weeks ago, I sent you an email asking for your participation in the second wave of a longitudinal survey project concerning identities and emotions in interpersonal relationships (ACT 1, the survey you took online through the psychology sona pool sign up).

I hope that you are still willing to participate in this next wave, and that providing you with a personalized link to the survey will make it easy for you to respond:

Without your participation, we will not be able to learn about lived experiences in these types of relationships over time. Thank you for your important contribution!

You will be sent a \$10 Amazon gift code for your participation in this second survey.

Regards,
Chelsea Kelly

If you have any questions or concerns about this research, you may contact Chelsea Kelly via email at kellycr@uga.edu or Dr. Robinson via email at sodawn@uga.edu. Any questions concerning your rights as a research participant should be directed to the Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board. IRB personnel may be contacted via email at irb@uga.edu or by telephone at (706) 542-3199.

ACT1 Follow 2 Email Template

Please help UGA research survey follow up—ACT 1 Wave 2 (\$10 opportunity)

Dear ,

You are a participant in my longitudinal survey research project concerning identities and emotions in interpersonal relationships. You completed the first wave many weeks ago (it was called “ACT 1,” and you had initially signed up through the UGA Psychology sona

pool) and at that time consented to take wave 2. It is now time; your participation is vital to the success of this project!

I am including a personalized link to your wave 2 survey, which I sincerely hope will make it easier for you to respond:

Without your participation, we will not be able to learn about lived experiences in these types of relationships over time. Thank you for your important contribution!

You will be sent a \$10 Amazon gift code for your participation in this second survey.

Regards,
Chelsea Kelly

If you have any questions or concerns about this research, you may contact Chelsea Kelly via email at kellycr@uga.edu or Dr. Robinson via email at sodawn@uga.edu. Any questions concerning your rights as a research participant should be directed to the Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board. IRB personnel may be contacted via email at irb@uga.edu or by telephone at (706) 542-3199.

ACT1 Follow 3 Email Template

Your response is needed! UGA research survey follow up—ACT 1 Wave 2 (\$10 opportunity)

Dear ,

You are a participant in my longitudinal survey research project concerning identities and emotions in interpersonal relationships. My records indicate that you have not yet taken the next wave of the study. I am writing to you once again because your response is truly essential to the completion of this research project. Please help! Your contribution is so important.

You will be sent a \$10 Amazon gift code for completing this survey, and I have included a personalized link to make it as easy as possible for you to participate:

If you have any questions or concerns at all about me, your data, or this project, please do not hesitate to contact me! You may simply respond to this email. You can also verify the legitimacy of this research with the university (see contact information below).

Thank you for your important contribution!

Best wishes to you,
Chelsea Kelly

If you have any questions or concerns about this research, you may contact Chelsea Kelly via email at kellycr@uga.edu or Dr. Robinson via email at sodawn@uga.edu. Any questions concerning your rights as a research participant should be directed to the Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board. IRB personnel may be contacted via email at irb@uga.edu or by telephone at (706) 542-3199.

ACT2 Follow 1 Email Template

Please help UGA research survey follow up—ACT 2 Wave 2 (\$10 opportunity)

Dear ,

About two weeks ago, I sent you an email asking for your participation in the second wave of a longitudinal survey project concerning identities and emotions in interpersonal relationships (ACT 2, the survey you took online through the psychology sona pool sign up).

I hope that you are still willing to participate in this next wave, and that providing you with a personalized link to the survey will make it easy for you to respond:

Without your participation, we will not be able to learn about lived experiences in these types of relationships over time. Thank you for your important contribution!

You will be sent a \$10 Amazon gift code for your participation in this second survey.

Regards,
Chelsea Kelly

If you have any questions or concerns about this research, you may contact Chelsea Kelly via email at kellycr@uga.edu or Dr. Robinson via email at sodawn@uga.edu. Any questions concerning your rights as a research participant should be directed to the Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board. IRB personnel may be contacted via email at irb@uga.edu or by telephone at (706) 542-3199.

ACT2 Follow 2 Email Template

Please help UGA research survey follow up—ACT 2 Wave 2 (\$10 opportunity)

Dear ,

You are a participant in my longitudinal survey research project concerning identities and emotions in interpersonal relationships. You completed the first wave several weeks ago (it was called “ACT 2,” and you had initially signed up through the UGA Psychology

sona pool); it is time to complete wave 2. Your participation is vital to the success of this project!

I am including a personalized link to the survey, which I sincerely hope will make it easier for you to respond:

Without your participation, we will not be able to learn about lived experiences in these types of relationships over time. Thank you for your important contribution!

You will be sent a \$10 Amazon gift code for your participation in this second survey.

Regards,
Chelsea Kelly

If you have any questions or concerns about this research, you may contact Chelsea Kelly via email at kellycr@uga.edu or Dr. Robinson via email at sodawn@uga.edu. Any questions concerning your rights as a research participant should be directed to the Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board. IRB personnel may be contacted via email at irb@uga.edu or by telephone at (706) 542-3199.

ACT2 Follow 3 Email Template

Your response is needed! UGA research survey follow up—ACT 2 Wave 2 (\$10 opportunity)

Dear ,

You are a participant in my longitudinal survey research project concerning identities and emotions in interpersonal relationships. My records indicate that you have not yet taken the next wave of the study. I am writing to you once again because your response is truly essential to the completion of this research project. Please help! Your contribution is so important.

You will be sent a \$10 Amazon gift code for completing this survey, and I have included a personalized link to make it as easy as possible for you to participate:

If you have any questions or concerns at all about me, your data, or this project, please do not hesitate to contact me! You may simply respond to this email. You can also verify the legitimacy of this research with the university (see contact information below).

Thank you for your important contribution!

Best wishes to you,
Chelsea Kelly

If you have any questions or concerns about this research, you may contact Chelsea Kelly via email at kellycr@uga.edu or Dr. Robinson via email at sodawn@uga.edu. Any questions concerning your rights as a research participant should be directed to the Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board. IRB personnel may be contacted via email at irb@uga.edu or by telephone at (706) 542-3199.

APPENDIX C

ELECTRONIC GIFT CARD MESSAGE

Dear ,

Thank you for participating in our longitudinal study on identity and emotion in interpersonal relationships—please enjoy this \$10 Amazon gift code. Your participation is vital to success, and I am thankful for your contribution to this important research. If you are eligible, be on the lookout for your email for the third wave of this study (and another \$10 gift code for completing it!) in a few weeks' time.

Kind regards,
Chelsea Kelly

APPENDIX D

SURVEYS

*Wave 1 Defined**Consent*

Welcome! This survey is part of a dissertation project by Chelsea Rae Kelly under the direction of Dr. Dawn T. Robinson in the Department of Sociology at the University of Georgia. The research here is being undertaken to investigate the connections between identity and emotion as they are affected by interpersonal relationships.

To be eligible for this study, you must be **between the ages of eighteen and twenty-two** (inclusive), currently a **college student**, and **currently involved in a defined romantic relationship** (these are defined, ongoing romantic relationships between the same two people which have defined labels such as "exclusively dating," "engaged," "seriously dating," "married" et cetera; the individuals might refer to one another as "boyfriend," "girlfriend," "partner" et cetera).

In this survey, you will rate concepts on sliding scales, and you will be asked questions about yourself and the undefined relationship in which you are involved. The whole survey should take approximately 25 minutes.

You will receive 0.5 course credits for your participation in this survey. If you would prefer not to complete this online study to receive your .5 research credits, you may opt for the non-research alternative of equivalent effort by completing a one-page, double-spaced review of a recent psychological research article, as described in the Psychology RP Pool Participant Guidelines. Your involvement in this research is entirely voluntary, and you may choose to stop and withdraw from the study at any time without loss of your course credit. If you choose to withdraw, any responses you have already provided may be kept and continued to be analyzed. Your confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used, but as with most internet research, no guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet by any third parties.

This research is being funded by the Army Research Office. The research staff will protect your data from disclosure to people not connected with this study. However, complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed because officials of the U.S. Army Human Research Protections Office are permitted by law to inspect the records obtained in this

study to ensure compliance with laws and regulations covering experiments involving human subjects.

When the study is complete, your name will not be tied to your data. At the end of your participation, all responses will be anonymized by destroying the link between your name and the data you provide. Your fully anonymized data may be shared with other researchers for future analysis. Any quantitative data will be published in aggregate form only, and any quotations will be anonymous.

At the end of this survey, you may be asked if you would be willing to complete a similar online survey one month from now, for which you would be given a \$10 Amazon gift code. If you decide that you would like to complete the later survey, you will be asked to provide an email address of your choice. If you participate in this second survey, you may also be invited to participate in the third and final survey for an additional \$10 Amazon gift code. Volunteering to complete any future surveys and providing your email address are not requirements for completion of this current survey. Participating in the future survey(s) will not impact the earning of your .5 course credits in any way.

There are no expected risks or discomforts associated with participation with this survey. While you may experience no personal benefit from taking this survey, your response will help us to know more about the interrelation of emotion, selves, and relationships and to better understand people in similar situations.

If you have any questions or concerns about this research, you may contact Chelsea Kelly via email at kellycr@uga.edu or Dr. Robinson via email at sodawn@uga.edu. Any questions concerning your rights as a research participant should be directed to the Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board. IRB personnel may be contacted via email at irb@uga.edu or by telephone at (706) 542-3199.

By clicking "yes" below, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to participation in this survey.

- a. Yes
- b. No

If choice a is not selected, skip to end of survey

Demographic Questions

This section will ask you some basic demographic questions about yourself. Please click "next" to continue...

1. How would you rate your overall physical health?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Good
 - c. Average
 - d. Poor
 - e. Terrible

2. What is your year in college?
 - a. This is my first year
 - b. This is my second year
 - c. This is my third year
 - d. This is my fourth year
 - e. This is my fifth year
 - f. other
3. What is your gender?
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
 - c. Other [text entry box]
 - d. Prefer not to answer
4. Are you currently involved in a defined romantic relationship with someone?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
5. What is your age?
 - a. 17 or younger
 - b. 18
 - c. 19
 - d. 20
 - e. 21
 - f. 22
 - g. 23
 - h. 24 or older
6. What is your first language?
 - a. English
 - b. Spanish
 - c. Portuguese
 - d. Chinese
 - e. Japanese
 - f. Korean
 - g. Arabic
 - h. Hindi, Urdu or Bengali
 - i. Russian
 - j. Other
 - k. Prefer not to answer
7. Were you born in the United States?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Prefer not to answer
8. What proportion of your life have you lived in the US?
 - a. 0-10%
 - b. 11-20%
 - c. 21-30%
 - d. 31-40%

- e. 41-50%
 - f. 51-60%
 - g. 61-70%
 - h. 71-80%
 - i. 81-90%
 - j. 91-100%
 - k. Prefer not to answer
9. Where in the US did you mainly live before age 18?
- a. New England = ME VT NH MA CT RI
 - b. Middle Atlantic = NY NJ PA
 - c. East North Central = WI IL IN MI OH
 - d. West North Central = MN IA MO ND SD NE KS
 - e. South Atlantic = DE MD WV VA NC SC GA FL DC
 - f. East South Central = KY TN AL MS
 - g. West South Central = AR OK LA TX
 - h. Mountain = MT ID WY NV UT CO AZ NM
 - i. Pacific = WA OR CA AK HI
 - j. I did not mainly live in the US before age 18.
 - k. Prefer not to answer
10. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? Select all that apply.
- a. Working full-time for pay (30 or more hours per week)
 - b. Working part-time for pay (less than 30 hours per week)
 - c. Student (part or full time)
 - d. Unemployed or looking for a job
 - e. Not working
 - f. Unable to work or disabled
 - g. Self employed
 - h. Business owner
 - i. Other
 - j. Prefer not to answer

Own Defined Relationship Questions

You will now be asked questions about your defined romantic relationship.

11. Please indicate the type of defined romantic relationship you are in. If none of the labels in the list below fit your current relationship status, please select “other” and type in the proper term:
- a. Exclusively dating
 - b. In a relationship
 - c. In a serious relationship
 - d. Engaged
 - e. Married
 - f. Other [text entry box]

12. We would like to ask you several questions about the experiences of your romantic relationship, and about the other person who is in this relationship with you. So that we can refer to this person in later questions, please tell us this person's first name.

My defined romantic relationship is with...[text box]

13. Approximately how long have you been in this type of romantic relationship with [Q12 response]?
- Less than a week
 - A few weeks
 - A month or two
 - 3-6 months
 - 6 months to a year
 - About a year
 - 1-2 years
 - 3 years or longer

Scale Training

Thank you for answering those!

This next section will ask you to rate concepts concerning your self, your relationship, and your emotions using a sliding scale.

The concept you are rating will appear above the center of the scale; you will see each concept three times.

Click “next” to see a quick tutorial using the example concept “little sister”...

There will be three different dimensions on which you’ll rate every concept; the opposing terms for each dimension will appear above the ends of the scales. Here, the ends of the slider represent the first dimension, good versus bad

Click “Next” to see another pair of extremes.

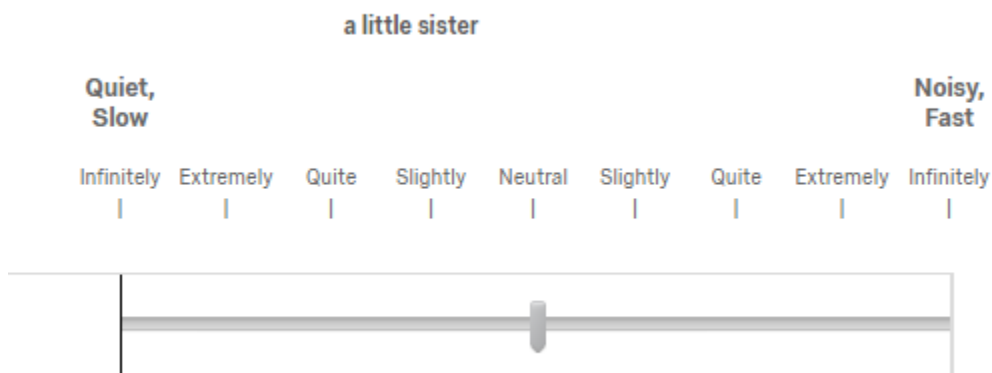


This dimension captures potency; it lets you rate whether a concept (here, little sisters) is powerful or powerless.

Click “next” to see the third pair of extremes used with every concept.



This last dimension concerns your feelings about the “liveliness” of the concept. Here, you would be rating whether a little sister’s inherent nature is typically lively or sluggish. Go ahead and try it out, then click “next.”



You will rate each concept three times: first for “Good, Nice/Bad,Awful,” then for “Powerful, Big/Weak, Little,” and then for “Slow, Quiet/Fast, Noisy.” Pay attention to the endpoints to know which dimension you are rating. Please click “next” for final instructions.

All questions in the list below are asked three times, once each for the E, P, and A dimensions using the semantic scales depicted in the images above. Semantic scale questions 14-20 are presented in random order.

You will now be presented with several different concepts to rate, each concerning your identity, emotion, or relationship.

If you see “myself,” or “I” in the concept, then you should rate the concept from your own point of view. When you see “this relationship,” it refers to the romantic relationship type in which you have indicated you are involved. If it does not say “I” or “myself,” then you will be rating the general concept in the eyes of the culture (i.e., “people think that” X concept is...).

You are ready to start!

14. Rate this as powerful (P dimension attention check)
15. Myself in this relationship
16. Myself as I really am
17. [Q12 response] in this relationship
18. Any person in this relationship type
19. The emotion I *should* feel in this relationship
20. The emotion I *actually* feel in this relationship

Thank you for rating those! In this section, you will be asked to rate a variety of relationship labels, of both defined and undefined labels, using the same three affective dimension scales that you used for the section above. The relationship type you are rating will be in italics.

Try not to think too much about your responses—answer with your first gut reaction about each one!

Note: You may see a term (or terms) with which you are unfamiliar. If you do not know the meaning of any of the relationship types, click the “next” button without responding. When the pop-up appears, choose “continue without answering.”

You are ready!

As in Qs 14-20, each of the following semantic ratings are asked 3 times; one each for the three dimensions, and they are all presented in random order.

21. Being in a *casually dating* relationship is...
22. Being in a *talking to* relationship is...
23. Being in a *hanging out* relationship is...
24. Rate this as bad (E dimension attention check)
25. Being in a *seeing each other* relationship is...
26. Being in a *hooking up* relationship is...
27. Being in a *friends with benefits* relationship is...
28. Being in an *exclusively dating* relationship is...
29. Being in an *in a relationship* relationship is...
30. Being in a *serious relationship* relationship is...
31. Being in an *engaged* relationship is...
32. Being in a *married* relationship is...

TSWL

Thank you for answering those! In this section, you will see fifteen general statements with which you may agree or disagree. These statements concern either your overall past, present, or future. Please indicate your level of agreement with each statement, and please be open and honest in your responses.

Click “next” to continue...

33. “If I had my past to live over, I would change nothing.”
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree

- d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
34. "I am satisfied with my life in the past."
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
35. "My life in the past was ideal for me."
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
36. "The conditions of my life in the past were excellent."
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
37. "I had the important things I wanted in my past."
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
38. "I would change nothing about my current life."
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
39. "I am satisfied with my current life."

- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
40. "My current life is ideal for me."
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
41. "The current conditions of my life are excellent."
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
42. "I have the important things I want right now."
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
43. "There will be nothing that I will want to change about my future."
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
44. "I will be satisfied with my life in the future."
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree

- f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
45. "I expect my future life will be ideal for me."
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
46. "The conditions of my future life will be excellent."
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
47. "I will have the important things I want in the future."
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree

Relational Communication Measures

Thank you! You will now see questions that concern your feelings about yourself, your romantic relationship, and your partner in that relationship. Please answer honestly; your answers are confidential.

Click "next" to continue.

Satisfaction

Think about your **level of satisfaction** in your romantic relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

48. I am satisfied with my relationship.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree

49. I am happy with [Q12 response].
- Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree
50. I like [Q12 response].
- Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree
51. I think that our situation is close to ideal.
- Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree

Investment

Think about your **level of investment** in your romantic relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

52. I want to be more involved in the relationship.
- Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree
53. I want to share more with [Q12 response].
- Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree
54. I feel that I would lose a lot if the relationship ended.

- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
55. I do not want to invest more time into the relationship.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree

Commitment

Think about your **level of commitment** in your romantic relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

56. I want to keep pursuing my relationship with [Q12 response].
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
57. I am committed to maintaining my relationship with [Q12 response].
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
58. I feel attached to our relationship.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
59. I want to date someone else.
- a. Strongly agree

- b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
60. I would not be upset if the relationship ended in the near future.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree

Uncertainty

The following three sets of questions will ask you to rate *how certain* you are about the degree of involvement that you have in your romantic relationship at this time.

Please note, you are **not** being asked to rate *how much* involvement there is in your relationship, but rather how *certain you are about* whatever degree of involvement you perceive.

It might help if you first consider how much of each form of involvement is present in your relationship, and then evaluate how certain you are about that perception.

Please click next to start this section...

61. How certain are you about how committed you are to the relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
62. How certain are you about how you feel about this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
63. How certain are you about your view of this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain

64. How certain are you about whether or not you want this relationship to last?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
65. How certain are you about whether or not you want this relationship to last?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
66. How certain are you about your goals for the future of the relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
67. How certain are you about how committed [Q12 response] is to the relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
68. How certain are you about how [Q12 response] feels about this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
69. How certain are you about [Q12 response]'s view of this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
70. How certain are you about whether or not [Q12 response] wants this relationship to last?
- Completely or almost completely certain

- b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
71. How certain are you about [Q12 response]'s goals for the future of the relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
72. How certain are you about what you can or cannot say to each other in this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
73. How certain are you about the norms for this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
74. How certain are you about whether or not you and [Q12 response] feel the same way about each other?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
75. How certain are you about the definition of this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
76. How certain are you about the current status of this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain

- b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
77. How certain are you about how you and [Q12 response] would describe this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
78. How certain are you about whether or not you and [Q12 response] will stay together?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
79. How certain are you about the future of this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
80. What is [Q12 response]'s gender?
- a. Male
 - b. Female
 - c. Other [text box]
 - d. Prefer not to answer

Thank you for your participation! You have helped researchers to know more about the interconnection of identities, emotions, and relationships, and your responses are greatly appreciated.

While your answers so far will help us with our study, we are especially interested in understanding lived experiences in these types of relationships *over time*. Therefore, we would like to send you an invitation to take a very similar survey again (your decision about this future survey cannot affect your receipt of your already earned .5 course credits in any way) one month from now.

81. For completing this second survey, we will give you a \$10 Amazon gift card code. Would you be willing to participate in this second survey a month from now?
- Yes, I would like to take the next wave of this survey in a few weeks and receive a \$10 gift card
 - No, I am not interested in this option
82. Please enter the email address where you would like us to send the link to the second survey (we will not send you any other unrelated email to this email address, nor share your email address with any party):
[text box]
Q83 displayed if Q82 response is choice a.
83. The study is complete!
Is there anything you would like to add or explain to the researcher?
[essay text box]

End of survey

Wave 1 Undefined

Consent

Welcome! This survey is part of a dissertation project by Chelsea Rae Kelly under the direction of Dr. Dawn T. Robinson in the Department of Sociology at the University of Georgia. The research here is being undertaken to investigate the connections between identity and emotion as they are affected by interpersonal relationships.

To be eligible for this study, you must be **between the ages of eighteen and twenty-two** (inclusive), currently a **college student**, and **currently involved in an undefined romantic relationship** (these are ongoing, ambiguously-defined relationships between the same two people, sometimes referred to as "hanging out," "talking to," et cetera; these are *not* relationships where participants would refer to the other person as "my boyfriend," "my girlfriend," and/or "my partner").

In this survey, you will rate concepts on sliding scales, and you will be asked questions about yourself and the undefined relationship in which you are involved. The whole survey should take approximately 25 minutes.

You will receive 0.5 course credits for your participation in this survey. If you would prefer not to complete this online study to receive your .5 research credits, you may opt for the non-research alternative of equivalent effort by completing a one-page, double-spaced review of a recent psychological research article, as described in the Psychology RP Pool Participant Guidelines. Your involvement in this research is entirely voluntary, and you may choose to stop and withdraw from the study at any time without loss of your

course credit. If you choose to withdraw, any responses you have already provided may be kept and continued to be analyzed. Your confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used, but as with most internet research, no guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet by any third parties.

This research is being funded by the Army Research Office. The research staff will protect your data from disclosure to people not connected with this study. However, complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed because officials of the U.S. Army Human Research Protections Office are permitted by law to inspect the records obtained in this study to ensure compliance with laws and regulations covering experiments involving human subjects.

When the study is complete, your name will not be tied to your data. At the end of your participation, all responses will be anonymized by destroying the link between your name and the data you provide. Your fully anonymized data may be shared with other researchers for future analysis. Any quantitative data will be published in aggregate form only, and any quotations will be anonymous.

At the end of this survey, you may be asked if you would be willing to complete a similar online survey one month from now, for which you would be given a \$10 Amazon gift code. If you decide that you would like to complete the later survey, you will be asked to provide an email address of your choice. If you participate in this second survey, you may also be invited to participate in the third and final survey for an additional \$10 Amazon gift code. Volunteering to complete any future surveys and providing your email address are not requirements for completion of this current survey. Participating in the future survey(s) will not impact the earning of your .5 course credits in any way.

There are no expected risks or discomforts associated with participation with this survey. While you may experience no personal benefit from taking this survey, your response will help us to know more about the interrelation of emotion, selves, and relationships and to better understand people in similar situations.

If you have any questions or concerns about this research, you may contact Chelsea Kelly via email at kellycr@uga.edu or Dr. Robinson via email at sodawn@uga.edu. Any questions concerning your rights as a research participant should be directed to the Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board. IRB personnel may be contacted via email at irb@uga.edu or by telephone at (706) 542-3199.

By clicking "yes" below, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to participation in this survey.

- a. Yes
- b. No

If choice a is not selected, skip to end of survey

Demographic Questions

This section will ask you some basic demographic questions about yourself. Please click “next” to continue...

1. How would you rate your overall physical health?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Good
 - c. Average
 - d. Poor
 - e. Terrible
2. What is your year in college?
 - a. This is my first year
 - b. This is my second year
 - c. This is my third year
 - d. This is my fourth year
 - e. This is my fifth year
 - f. other
3. What is your gender?
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
 - c. Other [text entry box]
 - d. Prefer not to answer
4. Are you currently involved in an undefined relationship (relationships often referred to as two people "hanging out," "talking," et cetera--ongoing, ambiguously-defined relationships that are NOT relationships where people have labels like "dating exclusively" or refer to the other person as boyfriend/girlfriend/partner)?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
5. What is your age?
 - a. 17 or younger
 - b. 18
 - c. 19
 - d. 20
 - e. 21
 - f. 22
 - g. 23
 - h. 24 or older
6. What is your first language?
 - a. English
 - b. Spanish
 - c. Portuguese
 - d. Chinese
 - e. Japanese
 - f. Korean

- g. Arabic
 - h. Hindi, Urdu or Bengali
 - i. Russian
 - j. Other
 - k. Prefer not to answer
7. Were you born in the United States?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Prefer not to answer
8. What proportion of your life have you lived in the US?
- a. 0-10%
 - b. 11-20%
 - c. 21-30%
 - d. 31-40%
 - e. 41-50%
 - f. 51-60%
 - g. 61-70%
 - h. 71-80%
 - i. 81-90%
 - j. 91-100%
 - k. Prefer not to answer
9. Where in the US did you mainly live before age 18?
- a. New England = ME VT NH MA CT RI
 - b. Middle Atlantic = NY NJ PA
 - c. East North Central = WI IL IN MI OH
 - d. West North Central = MN IA MO ND SD NE KS
 - e. South Atlantic = DE MD WV VA NC SC GA FL DC
 - f. East South Central = KY TN AL MS
 - g. West South Central = AR OK LA TX
 - h. Mountain = MT ID WY NV UT CO AZ NM
 - i. Pacific = WA OR CA AK HI
 - j. I did not mainly live in the US before age 18.
 - k. Prefer not to answer
10. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? Select all that apply.
- a. Working full-time for pay (30 or more hours per week)
 - b. Working part-time for pay (less than 30 hours per week)
 - c. Student (part or full time)
 - d. Unemployed or looking for a job
 - e. Not working
 - f. Unable to work or disabled
 - g. Self employed
 - h. Business owner
 - i. Other
 - j. Prefer not to answer

Own Ambiguous Relationship Questions

You will now be asked questions about your undefined romantic relationship.

If you are in more than 1 undefined romantic relationship, please mentally select your primary ambiguous romantic relationship and think about only that one relationship as you answer the questions that follow.

11. Please indicate the type of undefined relationship you are in.

If none of the labels in the list below fit your current relationship status, please select “other” and type in the proper term:

- g. Talking
- h. Hanging out
- i. Hooking up
- j. Seeing each other
- k. Friends with benefits
- l. Casually dating
- m. Other [text entry box]

12. We would like to ask you several questions about the experiences of your undefined romantic relationship, and about the other person who is in this relationship with you.

What is the name of this person?

My undefined relationship is with... [text box]

13. Approximately how long have you been in this type of undefined relationship with [Q12 response]?

- a. Less than a week
- b. A few weeks
- c. A month or two
- d. 3-6 months
- e. 6 months to a year
- f. About a year
- g. 1-2 years
- h. 3 years or longer

14. Have you two had the “define the relationship” talk?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If you would like to, please elaborate:

[large text box]

15. In defined, “traditional” dating relationships, people sometimes use reference terms such as “boyfriend,” “girlfriend,” “partner,” and/or “significant other.” If you refer to [Q12 response] (your ambiguous romantic relationship alter) by a particular label, what do you call him/her?

- a. I don’t have a term I use
- b. I refer to him/her as my: [text box]

Scale Training

Thank you for answering those!

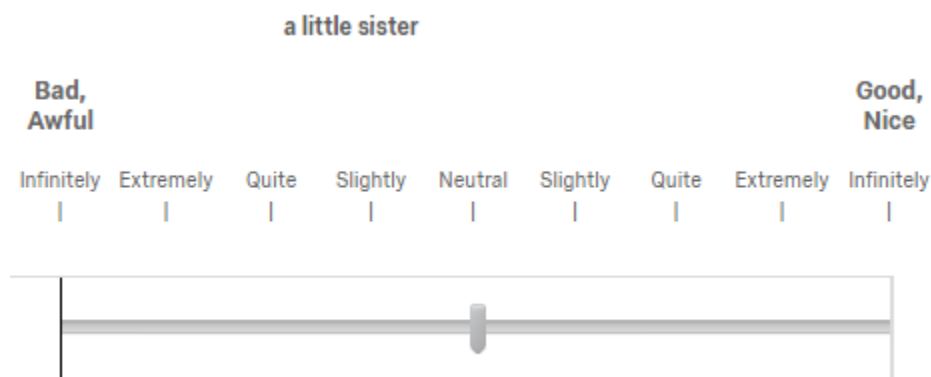
This next section will ask you to rate concepts concerning your self, your relationship, and your emotions using a sliding scale.

The concept you are rating will appear above the center of the scale; you will see each concept three times.

Click “next” to see a quick tutorial using the example concept “little sister”...

There will be three different dimensions on which you’ll rate every concept; the opposing terms for each dimension will appear above the ends of the scales. Here, the ends of the slider represent the first dimension, good versus bad

Click “Next” to see another pair of extremes.



This dimension captures potency; it lets you rate whether a concept (here, little sisters) is powerful or powerless.

Click “next” to see the third pair of extremes used with every concept.



This last dimension concerns your feelings about the “liveliness” of the concept. Here, you would be rating whether a little sister’s inherent nature is typically lively or sluggish. Go ahead and try it out, then click “next.”



You will rate each concept three times: once for “Good, Nice/Bad, Awful,” once for “Powerful, Big/Weak, Little,” and once for “Slow, Quiet/Fast, Noisy.” Pay attention to the endpoints to know which dimension you are rating. Please click “next” for final instructions.

All questions in the list below are asked three times, once each for the E, P, and A dimensions using the semantic scales depicted in the images above. Semantic scale questions 16-22 are presented in random order.

You will now be presented with several different concepts to rate, each concerning your identity, emotion, or relationship.

If you see “myself,” or “I” in the concept, then you should rate the concept from your own point of view. When you see “this relationship,” it refers to the undefined relationship type in which you have indicated you are involved. If it does not say “I” or “myself,” then you will be rating the general concept in the eyes of the culture (i.e., “people think that” X concept is...).

You are ready to start!

16. Rating check: Rate this as powerful (just move the slider to the right!) (P dimension attention check)
17. Myself in this relationship
18. Myself as I really am
19. [Q12 response] in this relationship
20. Any person in this relationship type
21. The emotion I *should* feel in this relationship
22. The emotion I *actually* feel in this relationship

Thank you for rating those! In this section, you will be asked to rate being in a variety of relationship types, of both undefined and defined relationship types, undefined labels, using the same three affective dimension scales that you used for the section above. The relationship type you are rating will be in italics. Try not to think too much about your responses--answer with your first gut reaction about each one!

Note: You may see a term (or terms) with which you are unfamiliar. If you do not know the meaning of any of the relationship types, click the "next" button without responding-- a pop-up will appear, and you can choose "continue without answering."

You are ready!

As in Qs 16-22, each of the following semantic ratings are asked 3 times; one each for the three dimensions, and they are all presented in random order.

23. Being in a *casually dating* relationship is...
24. Being in a *talking to* relationship is...
25. Being in a *hanging out* relationship is...
26. Rate this as bad (E dimension attention check)
27. Being in a *seeing each other* relationship is...
28. Being in a *hooking up* relationship is...
29. Being in a *friends with benefits* relationship is...
30. Being a *fiancé* is...
31. Being in an *exclusively dating* relationship is...
32. Being in an *in a relationship* relationship is...
33. Being in an *in a serious relationship* relationship is...
34. Being in an *engaged* relationship is...
35. Being in a *married* relationship is...

TSWL

Thank you for answering those! In this section, you will see fifteen general statements with which you may agree or disagree. These statements concern either your overall past, present, or future. Please indicate your level of agreement with each statement, and please be open and honest in your responses.

Click "next" to continue...

36. "If I had my past to live over, I would change nothing."
 - h. Strongly agree
 - i. Agree
 - j. Somewhat agree
 - k. Neither agree nor disagree
 - l. Somewhat disagree
 - m. Disagree
 - n. Strongly disagree
37. "I am satisfied with my life in the past."
 - h. Strongly agree
 - i. Agree
 - j. Somewhat agree
 - k. Neither agree nor disagree
 - l. Somewhat disagree
 - m. Disagree
 - n. Strongly disagree
38. "My life in the past was ideal for me."

- h. Strongly agree
 - i. Agree
 - j. Somewhat agree
 - k. Neither agree nor disagree
 - l. Somewhat disagree
 - m. Disagree
 - n. Strongly disagree
39. "The conditions of my life in the past were excellent."
- h. Strongly agree
 - i. Agree
 - j. Somewhat agree
 - k. Neither agree nor disagree
 - l. Somewhat disagree
 - m. Disagree
 - n. Strongly disagree
40. "I had the important things I wanted in my past."
- h. Strongly agree
 - i. Agree
 - j. Somewhat agree
 - k. Neither agree nor disagree
 - l. Somewhat disagree
 - m. Disagree
 - n. Strongly disagree
41. "I would change nothing about my current life."
- h. Strongly agree
 - i. Agree
 - j. Somewhat agree
 - k. Neither agree nor disagree
 - l. Somewhat disagree
 - m. Disagree
 - n. Strongly disagree
42. "I am satisfied with my current life."
- h. Strongly agree
 - i. Agree
 - j. Somewhat agree
 - k. Neither agree nor disagree
 - l. Somewhat disagree
 - m. Disagree
 - n. Strongly disagree
43. "My current life is ideal for me."
- h. Strongly agree
 - i. Agree
 - j. Somewhat agree
 - k. Neither agree nor disagree
 - l. Somewhat disagree

- m. Disagree
 - n. Strongly disagree
44. "The current conditions of my life are excellent."
- h. Strongly agree
 - i. Agree
 - j. Somewhat agree
 - k. Neither agree nor disagree
 - l. Somewhat disagree
 - m. Disagree
 - n. Strongly disagree
45. "I have the important things I want right now."
- h. Strongly agree
 - i. Agree
 - j. Somewhat agree
 - k. Neither agree nor disagree
 - l. Somewhat disagree
 - m. Disagree
 - n. Strongly disagree
46. "There will be nothing that I will want to change about my future."
- h. Strongly agree
 - i. Agree
 - j. Somewhat agree
 - k. Neither agree nor disagree
 - l. Somewhat disagree
 - m. Disagree
 - n. Strongly disagree
47. "I will be satisfied with my life in the future."
- h. Strongly agree
 - i. Agree
 - j. Somewhat agree
 - k. Neither agree nor disagree
 - l. Somewhat disagree
 - m. Disagree
 - n. Strongly disagree
48. "I expect my future life will be ideal for me."
- h. Strongly agree
 - i. Agree
 - j. Somewhat agree
 - k. Neither agree nor disagree
 - l. Somewhat disagree
 - m. Disagree
 - n. Strongly disagree
49. "The conditions of my future life will be excellent."
- h. Strongly agree
 - i. Agree

- j. Somewhat agree
 - k. Neither agree nor disagree
 - l. Somewhat disagree
 - m. Disagree
 - n. Strongly disagree
50. "I will have the important things I want in the future."
- h. Strongly agree
 - i. Agree
 - j. Somewhat agree
 - k. Neither agree nor disagree
 - l. Somewhat disagree
 - m. Disagree
 - n. Strongly disagree

Relational Communication Measures

Thank you! You will now see questions that concern your feelings about yourself, your undefined relationship, and your alter in that relationship. Please answer honestly; your answers are confidential.

Click "next" to continue.

Satisfaction

Think about your **level of satisfaction** in your undefined relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

51. I am satisfied with my relationship.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
52. I am happy with [Q12 response].
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
53. I like [Q12 response].
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree

- e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
54. I think that our situation is close to ideal.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree

Investment

Think about your **level of investment** in your undefined relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

55. I want to be more involved in the relationship.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
56. I want to share more with [Q12 response].
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
57. I feel that I would lose a lot if the relationship ended.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
58. I do not want to invest more time into the relationship.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree

- f. Disagree
- g. Strongly disagree

Commitment

Think about your **level of commitment** in your undefined relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

59. I want to keep pursuing my relationship with [Q12 response].
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
60. I am committed to maintaining my relationship with [Q12 response].
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
61. I feel attached to our relationship.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
62. I want to date someone else.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
63. I would not be upset if the relationship ended in the near future.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree

- g. Strongly disagree

Uncertainty

The following three sets of questions will ask you to rate *how certain* you are about the degree of involvement that you have in your undefined relationship at this time.

Please note, you are **not** being asked to rate *how much* involvement there is in your relationship, but rather how *certain you are about* whatever degree of involvement you perceive.

It might help if you first consider how much of each form of involvement is present in your relationship, and then evaluate how certain you are about that perception.

Please click next to start this section...

64. How certain are you about how committed you are to the relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
65. How certain are you about how you feel about this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
66. How certain are you about your view of this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
67. How certain are you about whether or not you want this relationship to last?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
68. How certain are you about whether or not you want this relationship to last?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain

- f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
69. How certain are you about your goals for the future of the relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
70. How certain are you about how committed [Q12 response] is to the relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
71. How certain are you about how [Q12 response] feels about this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
72. How certain are you about [Q12 response]'s view of this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
73. How certain are you about whether or not [Q12 response] wants this relationship to last?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
74. How certain are you about [Q12 response]'s goals for the future of the relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain

75. How certain are you about what you can or cannot say to each other in this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
76. How certain are you about the norms for this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
77. How certain are you about whether or not you and [Q12 response] feel the same way about each other?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
78. How certain are you about the definition of this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
79. How certain are you about the current status of this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
80. How certain are you about how you and [Q12 response] would describe this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain

81. How certain are you about whether or not you and [Q12 response] will stay together?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
82. How certain are you about the future of this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
83. Do you think that [Q12 response] would select the same undefined relationship label that you did to categorize the relationship the two of you have together?
- Yes
 - No
84. What label do you think [Q12 response] would choose for your undefined relationship?
- “talking”
 - “hanging out”
 - “hooking up”
 - “seeing each other”
 - “have ‘a thing’”
 - “cuffing partners”
 - “casually dating”
 - Other [text box]
- Display Q84 if response to Q83 is “no.”*
85. What is [Q12 response]’s gender?
- Male
 - Female
 - Other [text box]
 - Prefer not to answer
86. Are you in more than 1 undefined relationship?
- Yes
 - No
87. How many undefined relationships are you in?
- 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4 or more

Q87 displayed if response to Q86 is “yes.”

88. Please indicate the types and quantity of undefined relationships in which you are currently participating (including the one about which you have been answering all these questions).

Please indicate
the types of
undefined
relationships in
which you are
participating,
and...

...indicate the number of relationships of that type that you are
in

	I am in this type of relationship	1	2	3	4
Talking	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Hanging out	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Hooking up	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Seeing each other	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Have a thing	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Cuffing partners	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Casually dating	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)

Q88 displayed if Q87 is displayed and response does not equal “1.”

89. Which type is the undefined relationship about which you were thinking throughout the course of this survey?

- a. “talking”
- b. “hanging out”
- c. “hooking up”
- d. “seeing each other”
- e. “have ‘a thing’”
- f. “cuffing partners”
- g. “casually dating”
- h. Other [text box]

Q89 displayed if Q86 response is “yes.”

Thank you for your participation! You have helped researchers to know more about the interconnection of identities, emotions, and relationships, and your responses are greatly appreciated.

While your answers so far will help us with our study, we are especially interested in understanding lived experiences in these types of relationships *over time*. Therefore, we would like to send you an invitation to take a very similar survey again (your decision about this future survey cannot affect your receipt of your already earned .5 course credits in any way) one month from now.

90. For completing this second survey, we will give you a \$10 Amazon gift card code. Would you be willing to participate in this second survey a month from now?

- a. Yes, I would like to take the next wave of this survey in a few weeks and receive a \$10 gift card
- b. No, I am not interested in this option

91. Please enter the email address where you would like us to send the link to the second survey (we will not send you any other unrelated email to this email address, nor share your email address with any party):

[text box]

Q91 displayed if Q90 response is choice a.

92. The survey is complete!

Is there anything you would like to add or explain to the researcher?

Please use the space below:

[essay text box]

End of survey

Wave 2 Defined

Consent

Welcome! This survey is the second part of a dissertation project by Chelsea Rae Kelly under the direction of Dr. Dawn T. Robinson in the Department of Sociology at the University of Georgia. The research here is being undertaken to investigate the connections between identity and emotion as they are affected by interpersonal relationships.

Just like last time, you will rate concepts on sliding scales. You will also be asked questions about yourself and the relationship about which you answered questions in the first survey several weeks ago. The survey should take approximately 25 minutes.

You will receive a \$10 Amazon gift code for your participation in this survey, which will be sent to the email address you have already provided. Your email address will not be used for anything other than sending you this code. Your involvement in this research is entirely voluntary, and you may choose to stop and withdraw from the study at any time. If you choose to withdraw, any responses you have already provided may be kept

and continued to be analyzed. Your confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used, but as with most internet research, no guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet by any third parties.

This research is being funded by the Army Research Office. The research staff will protect your data from disclosure to people not connected with this study. However, complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed because officials of the U.S. Army Human Research Protections Office are permitted by law to inspect the records obtained in this study to ensure compliance with laws and regulations covering experiments involving human subjects.

At the end of this current survey, you may be asked if you would like to take the final, third wave of this survey at a later date for another \$10 gift code. Taking the current survey does not obligate you to agree to the third wave of the survey. Volunteering to take the final, third wave of this survey will not affect your receipt of the \$10 gift code for completing this current, second wave survey.

When the study is complete, your name will not be tied to your data. When your participation is complete, your responses will be anonymized by destroying the link between your name, email address, and the data you provide. Your fully anonymized data may be shared with other researchers for future analysis. Any quantitative data will be published in aggregate form only, and any quotations will be anonymous.

There are no expected risks or discomforts associated with participation with this survey. While you may experience no personal benefit from taking this survey, your responses will help us to know more about the interrelation of emotion, selves, and relationships and to better understand people in similar situations.

If you have any questions or concerns about this research, you may contact Chelsea Kelly via email at kellycr@uga.edu or Dr. Robinson via email at sodawn@uga.edu. Any questions concerning your rights as a research participant should be directed to the Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board. IRB personnel may be contacted via email at irb@uga.edu or by telephone at (706) 542-3199.

By clicking "yes" below, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to participation in this survey.

- a. Yes
- b. No

If choice a is not selected, skip to end of survey

Demographic Questions

This section will ask you many of the same basic demographic questions about yourself that you answered the first time. Please click “next” to continue...

1. How would you rate your overall physical health?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Good
 - c. Average
 - d. Poor
 - e. Terrible
2. What is your year in college?
 - a. This is my first year
 - b. This is my second year
 - c. This is my third year
 - d. This is my fourth year
 - e. This is my fifth year
 - f. other
3. What is your gender?
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
 - c. Other [text entry box]
 - d. Prefer not to answer
4. What is your age?
 - a. 17 or younger
 - b. 18
 - c. 19
 - d. 20
 - e. 21
 - f. 22
 - g. 23
 - h. 24 or older

Own Relationship Questions

Thank you for answering those! We will move on now to the questions about your self, your emotions, and your romantic relationship type and alter.

This research project concerns relationship types and the emotional experiences of the people in them, and it distinguishes between undefined relationship and defined romantic relationship types. We would like to alert you to the distinction we make between these two types:

Ambiguous relationships are those non-platonic relationships between the same two people which are ongoing and which are often referred to with labels such as “hanging out,” “talking,” et cetera, but they are not relationships with labels like “dating exclusively” nor ones where the person involved would refer to his/her alter as his/her boyfriend/girlfriend/partner et cetera They are “it’s complicated” types of relationships. Defined romantic relationships are those defined dating relationships between the same two people which do employ labels such as “exclusively dating,” “engaged,” et cetera

The people involved freely refer to their relationship alters as boyfriend/girlfriend/partner et cetera They are defined, “in a relationship” types of relationships. Please click “next” to continue.

5. This question is about your current relationship status. When you took the first survey a month ago, you indicated your involvement in a particular romantic relationship type. It is possible that your situation (relationship type, relationship partner, relationship status) may be in some way different now. Regardless of its configuration, are you currently a participant in some type of romantic relationship (either some form of an undefined relationship or some form of a defined romantic relationship) with any person?

- a. Yes
- b. No

6. Would you say you were more the person who initiated the termination of your romantic relationship, or would you say that it was more your alter who initiated the termination of your romantic relationship?

- a. I was the person who initiated the romantic relationship termination
- b. My alter was the person who initiated the romantic relationship termination

displayed if Q5 response is b.

7. When you took this survey last month, you were in a particular type of defined romantic relationship. Is your current relationship type a defined romantic relationship (either the same label or a different one within that type) or an undefined relationship (of any label within that type)?

- a. An undefined relationship
- b. A defined label romantic relationship

displayed if Q5 response is a.

8. What is the name of the person with whom you are in this relationship?

My relationship alter is named... [text entry box]

displayed if Q5 response is a.

9. Is [Q8 response] the same person who was your relationship alter when you answered questions in the first survey a month ago?

displayed if Q5 response is a.

10. Please indicate the type of undefined relationship you are currently in.

If none of the labels in the list below fit your current relationship status, please select “other” and type in the proper term:

- n. Talking
- o. Hanging out
- p. Hooking up
- q. Seeing each other
- r. Have a thing
- s. Cuffing partners
- t. Casually dating
- u. Other [text entry box]

displayed if Q7 response is a and Q5 response is a.

11. Please indicate the type of defined romantic relationship you are currently in. If none of the terms in the list below fit your current relationship status, please select “other” and type in the proper term:
- Exclusively dating
 - In a relationship
 - In a serious relationship
 - Engaged
 - Married
 - Other [text entry box]
- displayed if Q7 response is b and Q5 response is a.*
12. Approximately how long have you been in *this type* of romantic relationship with [Q8 response]?
- Less than a week
 - A few weeks
 - A month or two
 - 3-6 months
 - 6 months to a year
 - About a year
 - 1-2 years
 - 3 years or longer
- displayed if Q5 response is a.*
13. And how long have you been with [Q8 response] over all, in any type of relationship?
- Less than a week
 - A few weeks
 - A month or two
 - 3-6 months
 - 6 months to a year
 - About a year
 - 1-2 years
 - 3 years or longer
- displayed if Q5 response is a.*
14. Have you guys had the “define the relationship” talk?
- Yes
 - No
- If you would like to, please elaborate:
[large text box]
15. In “defined” dating relationships, people sometimes use reference terms such as “boyfriend,” “girlfriend,” “partner,” and/or “significant other.” If you refer to [Q8 response] (your undefined relationship alter) by a particular label, what do you call him/her?
- I don’t have a term I use
 - I refer to him/her as my: [text box]
- displayed if Q5 response is a and Q7 response is a.*

Scale Training

Thank you for answering those!

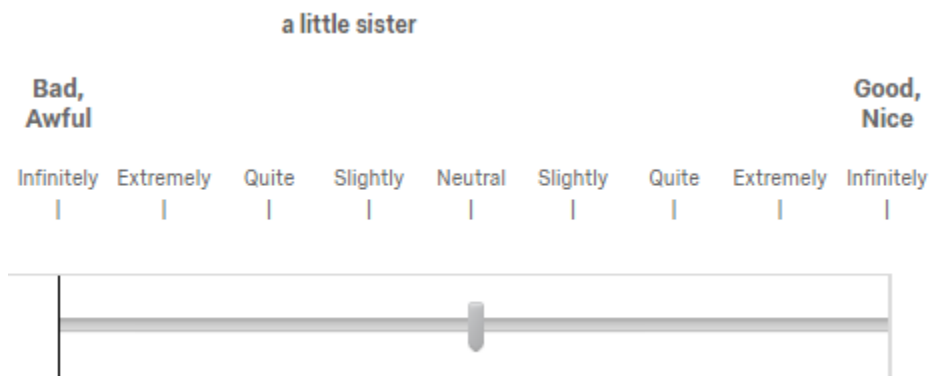
This next section will ask you to rate concepts concerning your self, your emotions, and your relationship using a sliding scale.

The concept you are rating will appear above the center of the scale; you will see each concept three times.

Click “next” to see a quick tutorial using the example concept “little sister”...

There will be three different dimensions on which you’ll rate every concept; the opposing terms for each dimension will appear above the ends of the scales. Here, the ends of the slider represent the first dimension, good versus bad.

Click “Next” to see another pair of extremes.



This dimension captures potency; it lets you rate whether a concept (here, little sisters) is powerful or powerless.

Click “next” to see the third pair of extremes used with every concept.



This last dimension concerns your feelings about the “liveliness” of the concept. Here, you would be rating whether a little sister’s inherent nature is typically lively or sluggish. Go ahead and try it out, then click “next.”



You will rate each concept three times: first for “Good, Nice/Bad, Awful,” then for “Powerful, Big/Weak, Little,” and then for “Slow, Quiet/Fast, Noisy.” Pay attention to the endpoints to know which dimension you are rating. Please click “next” for final instructions.

All questions in the list below are asked three times, once each for the E, P, and A dimensions using the semantic scales depicted in the images above. Semantic scale questions 16-22 are presented in random order.

You will now be presented with several different concepts to rate, each concerning your identity, emotion, or relationship.

If you see “myself,” or “I” in the concept, then you should rate the concept from your own point of view. When you see “this relationship,” it refers to the romantic relationship type in which you have indicated you are involved. If it does not say “I” or “myself,” then you will be rating the general concept in the eyes of the culture (i.e., “people think that” X concept is...).

You may see some concepts that say “Rate this as Good” or “Rate this as Powerful” et cetera. When you see these concepts, simply move the slider to any point along the indicated direction.

You are ready to start!

16. Rate this as powerful (P dimension attention check)
17. Myself in this relationship
18. Myself as I really am
19. [Q8 response] in this relationship
20. Any person in this relationship type
21. Rate this as bad (E dimension attention check)
22. The emotion I *should* feel in this relationship
23. The emotion I *actually* feel in this relationship

24. Thank you for answering those questions for us! Your participation is now complete, and you will be sent a \$10 Amazon gift code. Please click “finish.”
 - a. Finish

*displayed if Q5 response is a.
If “finish” is selected, skip to End of Survey.*

TSWL

Thank you for answering those! In this section, you will see fifteen general statements with which you may agree or disagree. These statements concern either your overall past, present, or future. Please indicate your level of agreement with each statement, and please be open and honest in your responses.

Click “next” to continue...

25. “If I had my past to live over, I would change nothing.”
 - o. Strongly agree
 - p. Agree
 - q. Somewhat agree
 - r. Neither agree nor disagree
 - s. Somewhat disagree
 - t. Disagree
 - u. Strongly disagree
26. “I am satisfied with my life in the past.”
 - o. Strongly agree
 - p. Agree
 - q. Somewhat agree
 - r. Neither agree nor disagree
 - s. Somewhat disagree
 - t. Disagree
 - u. Strongly disagree
27. “My life in the past was ideal for me.”
 - o. Strongly agree
 - p. Agree
 - q. Somewhat agree
 - r. Neither agree nor disagree
 - s. Somewhat disagree
 - t. Disagree
 - u. Strongly disagree
28. “The conditions of my life in the past were excellent.”
 - o. Strongly agree
 - p. Agree
 - q. Somewhat agree
 - r. Neither agree nor disagree
 - s. Somewhat disagree
 - t. Disagree
 - u. Strongly disagree
29. “I had the important things I wanted in my past.”
 - o. Strongly agree
 - p. Agree

- q. Somewhat agree
 - r. Neither agree nor disagree
 - s. Somewhat disagree
 - t. Disagree
 - u. Strongly disagree
30. "I would change nothing about my current life."
- o. Strongly agree
 - p. Agree
 - q. Somewhat agree
 - r. Neither agree nor disagree
 - s. Somewhat disagree
 - t. Disagree
 - u. Strongly disagree
31. "I am satisfied with my current life."
- o. Strongly agree
 - p. Agree
 - q. Somewhat agree
 - r. Neither agree nor disagree
 - s. Somewhat disagree
 - t. Disagree
 - u. Strongly disagree
32. "My current life is ideal for me."
- o. Strongly agree
 - p. Agree
 - q. Somewhat agree
 - r. Neither agree nor disagree
 - s. Somewhat disagree
 - t. Disagree
 - u. Strongly disagree
33. "The current conditions of my life are excellent."
- o. Strongly agree
 - p. Agree
 - q. Somewhat agree
 - r. Neither agree nor disagree
 - s. Somewhat disagree
 - t. Disagree
 - u. Strongly disagree
34. "I have the important things I want right now."
- o. Strongly agree
 - p. Agree
 - q. Somewhat agree
 - r. Neither agree nor disagree
 - s. Somewhat disagree
 - t. Disagree
 - u. Strongly disagree

35. "There will be nothing that I will want to change about my future."
o. Strongly agree
p. Agree
q. Somewhat agree
r. Neither agree nor disagree
s. Somewhat disagree
t. Disagree
u. Strongly disagree
36. "I will be satisfied with my life in the future."
o. Strongly agree
p. Agree
q. Somewhat agree
r. Neither agree nor disagree
s. Somewhat disagree
t. Disagree
u. Strongly disagree
37. "I expect my future life will be ideal for me."
o. Strongly agree
p. Agree
q. Somewhat agree
r. Neither agree nor disagree
s. Somewhat disagree
t. Disagree
u. Strongly disagree
38. "The conditions of my future life will be excellent."
o. Strongly agree
p. Agree
q. Somewhat agree
r. Neither agree nor disagree
s. Somewhat disagree
t. Disagree
u. Strongly disagree
39. "I will have the important things I want in the future."
o. Strongly agree
p. Agree
q. Somewhat agree
r. Neither agree nor disagree
s. Somewhat disagree
t. Disagree
u. Strongly disagree

Relational Communication Measures

Thank you! You will now see questions that concern your feelings about yourself, your undefined relationship, and your alter in that relationship. Please answer honestly; your answers are confidential.

Click “next” to continue.

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is a.

Thank you! You will now see questions that concern your feelings about yourself, your romantic relationship, and your alter in that relationship. Please answer honestly; your answers are confidential.

Click “next” to continue.

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is b.

Satisfaction

Think about your **level of satisfaction** in your undefined relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is a.

Think about your **level of satisfaction** in your romantic relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is b.

40. I am satisfied with my relationship.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Somewhat agree
- d. Neither agree nor disagree
- e. Somewhat disagree
- f. Disagree
- g. Strongly disagree

41. I am happy with [Q8 response].

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Somewhat agree
- d. Neither agree nor disagree
- e. Somewhat disagree
- f. Disagree
- g. Strongly disagree

42. I like [Q8 response].

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Somewhat agree
- d. Neither agree nor disagree
- e. Somewhat disagree
- f. Disagree
- g. Strongly disagree

43. I think that our situation is close to ideal.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Somewhat agree

- d. Neither agree nor disagree
- e. Somewhat disagree
- f. Disagree
- g. Strongly disagree

Investment

Think about your **level of investment** in your undefined relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is a.

Think about your **level of investment** in your romantic relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is b.

- 44. I want to be more involved in the relationship.
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
- 45. I want to share more with [Q8 response].
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
- 46. I feel that I would lose a lot if the relationship ended.
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
- 47. I do not want to invest more time into the relationship.
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree

- g. Strongly disagree

Commitment

Think about your **level of commitment** in your undefined relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is a.

Think about your **level of commitment** in your romantic relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is b.

- 48. I want to keep pursuing my relationship with [Q8 response].
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
- 49. I am committed to maintaining my relationship with [Q8 response].
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
- 50. I feel attached to our relationship.
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
- 51. I want to date someone else.
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
- 52. I would not be upset if the relationship ended in the near future.
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree

- c. Somewhat agree
- d. Neither agree nor disagree
- e. Somewhat disagree
- f. Disagree
- g. Strongly disagree

Uncertainty

The following three sets of questions will ask you to rate *how certain* you are about the degree of involvement that you have in your undefined relationship at this time.

Please note, you are **not** being asked to rate *how much* involvement there is in your relationship, but rather how *certain you are about* whatever degree of involvement you perceive.

It might help if you first consider how much of each form of involvement is present in your relationship, and then evaluate how certain you are about that perception.

Please click next to start this section...

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is a.

The following three sets of questions will ask you to rate *how certain* you are about the degree of involvement that you have in your romantic relationship at this time.

Please note, you are **not** being asked to rate *how much* involvement there is in your relationship, but rather how *certain you are about* whatever degree of involvement you perceive.

It might help if you first consider how much of each form of involvement is present in your relationship, and then evaluate how certain you are about that perception.

Please click next to start this section...

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is b.

53. How certain are you about how committed you are to the relationship?

- a. Completely or almost completely certain
- b. Mostly certain
- c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
- d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
- e. Mostly uncertain
- f. Completely or almost completely uncertain

54. How certain are you about how you feel about this relationship?

- a. Completely or almost completely certain
- b. Mostly certain
- c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
- d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
- e. Mostly uncertain
- f. Completely or almost completely uncertain

55. How certain are you about your view of this relationship?

- a. Completely or almost completely certain
- b. Mostly certain
- c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
- d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
- e. Mostly uncertain

- f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
56. How certain are you about whether or not you want this relationship to last?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
57. How certain are you about whether or not you want this relationship to last?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
58. How certain are you about your goals for the future of the relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
59. How certain are you about how committed [Q8 response] is to the relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
60. How certain are you about how [Q8 response] feels about this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
61. How certain are you about [Q8 response]'s view of this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
62. How certain are you about whether or not [Q8 response] wants this relationship to last?

- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
63. How certain are you about [Q8 response]'s goals for the future of the relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
64. How certain are you about what you can or cannot say to each other in this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
65. How certain are you about the norms for this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
66. How certain are you about whether or not you and [Q8 response] feel the same way about each other?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
67. How certain are you about the definition of this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
68. How certain are you about the current status of this relationship?

- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
69. How certain are you about how you and [Q8 response] would describe this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
70. How certain are you about whether or not you and [Q8 response] will stay together?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
71. How certain are you about the future of this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
72. Do you think that [Q8 response] would select the same undefined relationship label that you did to categorize the relationship the two of you have together?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
- displayed if Q5 response is a.*
73. What label do you think [Q8 response] would choose for your undefined relationship?
- a. "talking"
 - b. "hanging out"
 - c. "hooking up"
 - d. "seeing each other"
 - e. "have 'a thing'"
 - f. "cuffing partners"
 - g. "casually dating"
 - h. Other [text box]

displayed if Q72 response is b.

74. What is [Q8 response]'s gender?
- Male
 - Female
 - Other [text box]
 - Prefer not to answer
75. Are you in more than 1 undefined relationship?
- Yes
 - No

displayed if Q5 response is a.

76. How many undefined relationships are you in?
- 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4 or more

displayed if Q75 response is a.

77. Please indicate the types and quantity of undefined relationships in which you are currently participating (including the one about which you have been answering all these questions).

Please indicate
the types of
undefined
relationships in
which you are
participating,
and...

...indicate the number of relationships of that type that you are
in

	I am in this type of relationship	1	2	3	4
Talking	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Hanging out	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Hooking up	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Seeing each other	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Have a thing	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Cuffing partners	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Casually dating	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)

displayed if Q81 is displayed and Q81 selected response is not a.

78. Which type is the undefined relationship about which you were thinking throughout the course of this survey?
- “talking”
 - “hanging out”
 - “hooking up”
 - “seeing each other”
 - “have ‘a thing’”
 - “cuffing partners”
 - “casually dating”
 - Other [text box]

displayed if Q75 response is a.

Thank you for your participation! You have helped researchers to know more about the interconnection of identities, emotions, and relationships, and your responses are greatly appreciated.

As you know, we are particularly interested in understanding lived experiences in these types of relationships *over time*. Therefore, we would like to send you an invitation to take a very similar survey again a month from now (your decision about this cannot affect your receipt of your already earned \$10 gift code in any way).

79. For completing this final, third survey, we will give you another \$10 Amazon gift card code. Would you be willing to participate in this third survey (the last one) a month from now?
- Yes, I would like to take the final wave of this survey in a few weeks and receive a \$10 Amazon gift code
 - No, I am not interested in this option
80. Please enter the email address where you would like us to send the link to the final survey (we will not send you any other unrelated email to this email address, nor share your email address with any party):
- [text box]
- displayed if Q79 response is a.*
81. Is there anything you would like to add or explain to the researcher?
- Yes
 - No

82. Please use the space below:

[essay text box]

End of survey

Wave 2 Undefined

Consent

Welcome! This survey is the second part of a dissertation project by Chelsea Rae Kelly under the direction of Dr. Dawn T. Robinson in the Department of Sociology at the University of Georgia. The research here is being undertaken to investigate the connections between identity and emotion as they are affected by interpersonal relationships.

Just like last time, you will rate concepts on sliding scales. You will also be asked questions about yourself and the undefined relationship about which you answered questions in the first survey several weeks ago. The survey should take approximately 25 minutes.

You will receive a \$10 Amazon gift code for your participation in this survey, which will be sent to the email address you have already provided. Your email address will not be used for anything other than sending you this code. Your involvement in this research is entirely voluntary, and you may choose to stop and withdraw from the study at any time. If you choose to withdraw, any responses you have already provided may be kept and continued to be analyzed. Your confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used, but as with most internet research, no guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet by any third parties.

This research is being funded by the Army Research Office. The research staff will protect your data from disclosure to people not connected with this study. However, complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed because officials of the U.S. Army Human Research Protections Office are permitted by law to inspect the records obtained in this study to ensure compliance with laws and regulations covering experiments involving human subjects.

At the end of this current survey, you may be asked if you would like to take the final, third wave of this survey at a later date for another \$10 gift code. Taking the current survey does not obligate you to agree to the third wave of the survey. Volunteering to take the final, third wave of this survey will not affect your receipt of the \$10 gift code for completing this current, second wave survey.

When the study is complete, your name will not be tied to your data. When your participation is complete, your responses will be anonymized by destroying the link between your name, email address, and the data you provide. Your fully anonymized data may be shared with other researchers for future analysis. Any quantitative data will be published in aggregate form only, and any quotations will be anonymous.

There are no expected risks or discomforts associated with participation with this survey. While you may experience no personal benefit from taking this survey, your responses will help us to know more about the interrelation of emotion, selves, and relationships and to better understand people in similar situations.

If you have any questions or concerns about this research, you may contact Chelsea Kelly via email at kellycr@uga.edu or Dr. Robinson via email at sodawn@uga.edu. Any questions concerning your rights as a research participant should be directed to the Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board. IRB personnel may be contacted via email at irb@uga.edu or by telephone at (706) 542-3199.

By clicking "yes" below, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to participation in this survey.

- a. Yes
- b. No

If choice a is not selected, skip to end of survey

Demographic Questions

This section will ask you many of the same basic demographic questions about yourself that you answered the first time. Please click "next" to continue...

1. How would you rate your overall physical health?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Good
 - c. Average
 - d. Poor
 - e. Terrible
2. What is your year in college?
 - a. This is my first year
 - b. This is my second year
 - c. This is my third year
 - d. This is my fourth year
 - e. This is my fifth year
 - f. other
3. What is your gender?
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
 - c. Other [text entry box]
 - d. Prefer not to answer
4. What is your age?
 - a. 17 or younger
 - b. 18
 - c. 19
 - d. 20

- e. 21
- f. 22
- g. 23
- h. 24 or older

Own Ambiguous Relationship Questions

Thank you for answering those! We will move on now to the questions about your self, your emotions, and your romantic relationship type and alter.

This research project concerns relationship types and the emotional experiences of the people in them, and it distinguishes between undefined relationship and defined romantic relationship types. We would like to remind you of the distinction we make between these two types:

Ambiguous relationships are those non-platonic relationships between the same two people which are ongoing and which are often referred to with labels such as “hanging out,” “talking,” et cetera, but they are not relationships with labels like “dating exclusively” nor ones where the person involved would refer to his/her alter as his/her boyfriend/girlfriend/partner et cetera They are “it’s complicated” types of relationships. Defined romantic relationships are those defined dating relationships between the same two people which do employ labels such as “exclusively dating,” “engaged,” et cetera The people involved freely refer to their relationship alters as boyfriend/girlfriend/partner et cetera They are defined, “in a relationship” types of relationships.

Please click “next” to continue.

5. This question is about your current relationship status. When you took the first survey a month ago, you indicated your involvement in a particular romantic relationship type. It is possible that your situation (relationship type, relationship partner, relationship status) may be in some way different now. Regardless of its configuration, are you currently a participant in some type of romantic relationship (either some form of an undefined relationship or some form of a defined romantic relationship) with any person?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
6. Would you say you were more the person who initiated the termination of your undefined relationship, or would you say that it was more your alter who initiated the termination of your undefined relationship?
 - a. I was the person who initiated the undefined relationship termination
 - b. My alter was the person who initiated the termination of the undefined relationship

displayed if Q5 response is b.
7. When you took this survey last month, you were in an undefined relationship. Is your current relationship type an undefined relationship (either the same label or a different one within that type) or a defined romantic relationship (of any label within that type)?
 - a. An undefined relationship
 - b. A defined romantic relationship

displayed if Q5 response is a.

8. What is the name of the person with whom you are in this relationship?
My relationship alter is named... [text entry box]
displayed if Q5 response is a.
9. Is [Q8 response] the same person who was your relationship alter when you answered questions in the first survey a month ago?
displayed if Q5 response is a.
10. Please indicate the type of undefined relationship you are currently in (if the type has not changed since taking the first survey, simply reselect the original label. If the type of relationship you are in has changed, select the new label).
If none of the labels in the list below fit your current relationship status, please select "other" and type in the proper term:
- v. Talking
 - w. Hanging out
 - x. Hooking up
 - y. Seeing each other
 - z. Have a thing
 - aa. Cuffing partners
 - bb. Casually dating
 - cc. Other [text entry box]
- displayed if Q7 response is a and Q5 response is a.*
11. Please indicate the type of defined romantic relationship you are currently in.
If none of the terms in the list below fit your current relationship status, please select "other" and type in the proper term:
- a. Exclusively dating
 - b. In a relationship
 - c. In a serious relationship
 - d. Engaged
 - e. Married
 - f. Other [text entry box]
- displayed if Q7 response is b and Q5 response is a.*
12. Approximately how long have you been in *this type* of romantic relationship with [Q8 response]?
- a. Less than a week
 - b. A few weeks
 - c. A month or two
 - d. 3-6 months
 - e. 6 months to a year
 - f. About a year
 - g. 1-2 years
 - h. 3 years or longer
- displayed if Q5 response is a.*
13. And how long have you been with [Q8 response] over all, in any type of relationship?
- a. Less than a week
 - b. A few weeks

- c. A month or two
- d. 3-6 months
- e. 6 months to a year
- f. About a year
- g. 1-2 years
- h. 3 years or longer

displayed if Q5 response is a.

14. Have you had the “define the relationship” talk?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If you would like to, please elaborate:

[large text box]

15. In “defined” dating relationships, people sometimes use reference terms such as “boyfriend,” “girlfriend,” “partner,” and/or “significant other.” If you refer to [Q8 response] (your undefined relationship alter) by a particular label, what do you call him/her?

- a. I don’t have a term I use
- b. I refer to him/her as my: [text box]

displayed if Q5 response is a and Q7 response is a.

Scale Training

Thank you for answering those!

As in the first survey, this next section will ask you to rate concepts concerning your self, your emotions, and/or your relationship using a sliding scale.

The concept you are rating will appear above the center of the scale; you will see each concept three times.

Click “next” to see the quick tutorial using the example concept “little sister”...

There will be three different dimensions on which you’ll rate every concept; the opposing terms for each dimension will appear above the ends of the scales. Here, the ends of the slider represent the first dimension, good versus bad.

Click “Next” to see another pair of extremes.



This dimension captures potency; it lets you rate whether a concept (here, little sisters) is powerful or powerless.

Click “next” to see the third pair of extremes used with every concept.



This last dimension concerns your feelings about the “liveliness” of the concept. Here, you would be rating whether a little sister’s inherent nature is typically lively or sluggish. Go ahead and try it out, then click “next.”



You will rate each concept three times: first for “Good, Nice/Bad, Awful,” then for “Powerful, Big/Weak, Little,” and then for “Slow, Quiet/Fast, Noisy.” Pay attention to the endpoints to know which dimension you are rating.

Please click “next” for final instructions.

All questions in the list below are asked three times, once each for the E, P, and A dimensions using the semantic scales depicted in the images above. Semantic scale questions 16-22 are presented in random order.

You will now be presented with several different concepts to rate, each concerning your identity, emotion, or relationship.

If you see “myself,” or “I” in the concept, then you should rate the concept from your own point of view. When you see “this relationship,” it refers to the romantic relationship type in which you have indicated you are involved. If it does not say “I” or “myself,”

then you will be rating the general concept in the eyes of the culture (i.e., “people think that” X concept is...).

You are ready to start!

16. Rate this as powerful (P dimension attention check)
17. Myself in this relationship
18. Myself as I really am
19. [Q8 response] in this relationship
20. Any person in this relationship type
21. Rate this as bad (E dimension attention check)
22. The emotion I *should* feel in this relationship
23. The emotion I *actually* feel in this relationship

24. Thank you for answering those questions for us! Your participation is now complete, and you will be sent a \$10 Amazon gift code. Please click “finish.”
 - a. Finish

*displayed if Q5 response is a.
If “finish” is selected, skip to End of Survey.*

TSWL

Thank you for answering those! In this section, you will see fifteen general statements with which you may agree or disagree. These statements concern either your overall past, present, or future. Please indicate your level of agreement with each statement, and please be open and honest in your responses.

Click “next” to continue...

25. “If I had my past to live over, I would change nothing.”
 - v. Strongly agree
 - w. Agree
 - x. Somewhat agree
 - y. Neither agree nor disagree
 - z. Somewhat disagree
 - aa. Disagree
 - bb. Strongly disagree
26. “I am satisfied with my life in the past.”
 - v. Strongly agree
 - w. Agree
 - x. Somewhat agree
 - y. Neither agree nor disagree
 - z. Somewhat disagree
 - aa. Disagree
 - bb. Strongly disagree
27. “My life in the past was ideal for me.”
 - v. Strongly agree
 - w. Agree

- x. Somewhat agree
 - y. Neither agree nor disagree
 - z. Somewhat disagree
 - aa. Disagree
 - bb. Strongly disagree
28. "The conditions of my life in the past were excellent."
- v. Strongly agree
 - w. Agree
 - x. Somewhat agree
 - y. Neither agree nor disagree
 - z. Somewhat disagree
 - aa. Disagree
 - bb. Strongly disagree
29. "I had the important things I wanted in my past."
- v. Strongly agree
 - w. Agree
 - x. Somewhat agree
 - y. Neither agree nor disagree
 - z. Somewhat disagree
 - aa. Disagree
 - bb. Strongly disagree
30. "I would change nothing about my current life."
- v. Strongly agree
 - w. Agree
 - x. Somewhat agree
 - y. Neither agree nor disagree
 - z. Somewhat disagree
 - aa. Disagree
 - bb. Strongly disagree
31. "I am satisfied with my current life."
- v. Strongly agree
 - w. Agree
 - x. Somewhat agree
 - y. Neither agree nor disagree
 - z. Somewhat disagree
 - aa. Disagree
 - bb. Strongly disagree
32. "My current life is ideal for me."
- v. Strongly agree
 - w. Agree
 - x. Somewhat agree
 - y. Neither agree nor disagree
 - z. Somewhat disagree
 - aa. Disagree
 - bb. Strongly disagree

33. "The current conditions of my life are excellent."
v. Strongly agree
w. Agree
x. Somewhat agree
y. Neither agree nor disagree
z. Somewhat disagree
aa. Disagree
bb. Strongly disagree
34. "I have the important things I want right now."
v. Strongly agree
w. Agree
x. Somewhat agree
y. Neither agree nor disagree
z. Somewhat disagree
aa. Disagree
bb. Strongly disagree
35. "There will be nothing that I will want to change about my future."
v. Strongly agree
w. Agree
x. Somewhat agree
y. Neither agree nor disagree
z. Somewhat disagree
aa. Disagree
bb. Strongly disagree
36. "I will be satisfied with my life in the future."
v. Strongly agree
w. Agree
x. Somewhat agree
y. Neither agree nor disagree
z. Somewhat disagree
aa. Disagree
bb. Strongly disagree
37. "I expect my future life will be ideal for me."
v. Strongly agree
w. Agree
x. Somewhat agree
y. Neither agree nor disagree
z. Somewhat disagree
aa. Disagree
bb. Strongly disagree
38. "The conditions of my future life will be excellent."
v. Strongly agree
w. Agree
x. Somewhat agree
y. Neither agree nor disagree

- z. Somewhat disagree
 - aa. Disagree
 - bb. Strongly disagree
39. "I will have the important things I want in the future."
- v. Strongly agree
 - w. Agree
 - x. Somewhat agree
 - y. Neither agree nor disagree
 - z. Somewhat disagree
 - aa. Disagree
 - bb. Strongly disagree

Relational Communication Measures

Thank you! You will now see questions that concern your feelings about yourself, your undefined relationship, and your alter in that relationship. Please answer honestly; your answers are confidential.

Click "next" to continue.

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is a.

Thank you! You will now see questions that concern your feelings about yourself, your romantic relationship, and your alter in that relationship. Please answer honestly; your answers are confidential.

Click "next" to continue.

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is b.

Satisfaction

Think about your **level of satisfaction** in your undefined relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is a.

Think about your **level of satisfaction** in your romantic relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is b.

40. I am satisfied with my relationship.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
41. I am happy with [Q8 response].
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree

- d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
42. I like [Q8 response].
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
43. I think that our situation is close to ideal.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree

Investment

Think about your **level of investment** in your undefined relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is a.

Think about your **level of investment** in your romantic relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is b.

44. I want to be more involved in the relationship.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
45. I want to share more with [Q8 response].
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree

- g. Strongly disagree
- 46. I feel that I would lose a lot if the relationship ended.
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
- 47. I do not want to invest more time into the relationship.
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree

Commitment

Think about your **level of commitment** in your undefined relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is a.

Think about your **level of commitment** in your romantic relationship. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please click next to continue...

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is b.

- 48. I want to keep pursuing my relationship with [Q8 response].
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
- 49. I am committed to maintaining my relationship with [Q8 response].
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
- 50. I feel attached to our relationship.
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree

- c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
51. I want to date someone else.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree
52. I would not be upset if the relationship ended in the near future.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Somewhat agree
 - d. Neither agree nor disagree
 - e. Somewhat disagree
 - f. Disagree
 - g. Strongly disagree

Uncertainty

The following three sets of questions will ask you to rate *how certain* you are about the degree of involvement that you have in your undefined relationship at this time.

Please note, you are **not** being asked to rate *how much* involvement there is in your relationship, but rather how *certain you are about* whatever degree of involvement you perceive.

It might help if you first consider how much of each form of involvement is present in your relationship, and then evaluate how certain you are about that perception.

Please click next to start this section...

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is a.

The following three sets of questions will ask you to rate *how certain* you are about the degree of involvement that you have in your romantic relationship at this time.

Please note, you are **not** being asked to rate *how much* involvement there is in your relationship, but rather how *certain you are about* whatever degree of involvement you perceive.

It might help if you first consider how much of each form of involvement is present in your relationship, and then evaluate how certain you are about that perception.

Please click next to start this section...

Above instructions displayed if Q5 response is b.

53. How certain are you about how committed you are to the relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain

- d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
54. How certain are you about how you feel about this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
55. How certain are you about your view of this relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
56. How certain are you about whether or not you want this relationship to last?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
57. How certain are you about whether or not you want this relationship to last?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
58. How certain are you about your goals for the future of the relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain
59. How certain are you about how committed [Q8 response] is to the relationship?
- a. Completely or almost completely certain
 - b. Mostly certain
 - c. Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - d. Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - e. Mostly uncertain
 - f. Completely or almost completely uncertain

60. How certain are you about how [Q8 response] feels about this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
61. How certain are you about [Q8 response]'s view of this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
62. How certain are you about whether or not [Q8 response] wants this relationship to last?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
63. How certain are you about [Q8 response]'s goals for the future of the relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
64. How certain are you about what you can or cannot say to each other in this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
65. How certain are you about the norms for this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain

66. How certain are you about whether or not you and [Q8 response] feel the same way about each other?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
67. How certain are you about the definition of this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
68. How certain are you about the current status of this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
69. How certain are you about how you and [Q8 response] would describe this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
70. How certain are you about whether or not you and [Q8 response] will stay together?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain
71. How certain are you about the future of this relationship?
- Completely or almost completely certain
 - Mostly certain
 - Slightly more certain than uncertain
 - Slightly more uncertain than certain
 - Mostly uncertain
 - Completely or almost completely uncertain

72. Do you think that [Q8 response] would select the same undefined relationship label that you did to categorize the relationship the two of you have together?

- a. Yes
- b. No

displayed if Q5 response is a.

73. What label do you think [Q8 response] would choose for your undefined relationship?

- a. "talking"
- b. "hanging out"
- c. "hooking up"
- d. "seeing each other"
- e. "have 'a thing'"
- f. "cuffing partners"
- g. "casually dating"
- h. Other [text box]

displayed if Q72 response is b.

74. What is [Q7 response]'s gender?

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Other [text box]
- d. Prefer not to answer

75. Are you in more than 1 undefined relationship?

- a. Yes
- b. No

displayed if Q5 response is a.

76. How many undefined relationships are you in?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. 4 or more

displayed if Q75 response is a.

77. Please indicate the types and quantity of undefined relationships in which you are currently participating (including the one about which you have been answering all these questions).

Please indicate
the types of
undefined
relationships in
which you are
participating,
and...

...indicate the number of relationships of that type that you are
in

	I am in this type of relationship	1	2	3	4

Talking	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Hanging out	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Hooking up	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Seeing each other	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Have a thing	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Cuffing partners	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)
Casually dating	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)	(select button)

displayed if Q81 is displayed and Q81 selected response is not a.

78. Which type is the undefined relationship about which you were thinking throughout the course of this survey?

- a. “talking”
- b. “hanging out”
- c. “hooking up”
- d. “seeing each other”
- e. “have ‘a thing’”
- f. “cuffing partners”
- g. “casually dating”
- h. Other [text box]

Q83 displayed if Q75 response is a.

Thank you for your participation! You have helped researchers to know more about the interconnection of identities, emotions, and relationships, and your responses are greatly appreciated.

As you know, we are particularly interested in understanding lived experiences in these types of relationships *over time*. Therefore, we would like to send you an invitation to take a very similar survey again a month from now (your decision about this cannot affect your receipt of your already earned \$10 gift code in any way).

79. For completing this final, third survey, we will give you another \$10 Amazon gift card code. Would you be willing to participate in this third survey (the last one) a month from now?

- a. Yes, I would like to take the final wave of this survey in a few weeks and receive a \$10 Amazon gift code
- b. No, I am not interested in this option

80. Please enter the email address where you would like us to send the link to the final survey (we will not send you any other unrelated email to this email address, nor share your email address with any party):

[text box]

displayed if Q79 response is a.

81. Is there anything you would like to add or explain to the researcher?

a. Yes

b. No

82. Please use the space below:

[essay text box]

End of survey