

## Association of Adolescent Gender Typed Communication Style on Adult Romantic Relationships

Major Purpose: It is well studied that youths tend to socialize and converse with their same-gendered peers over those of the opposite sex (Xiao 2018), which leads to different expectations and norms in their relationships. Boys tend to be more controlling and less collaborative with peers, whereas girls have higher expectations in self-disclosure, intimacy, and companionship (Hall 2010, Rose and Rudolph 2006). It has been theorized that this difference in communication styles between men and women may lead to conflict in romantic relationships (Maccoby 1990). The proposed study aims to investigate how adolescent gender role orientation (masculinity and femininity) and communication style impact comfort and influence in both conflict and decision making with a romantic partner.

Procedure: Data were collected in three cohorts across three summers with adolescents who had completed 7th or 10th grade. Friend pairs visited the university laboratory and completed a series of questionnaires, including an assessment of gender role orientation (Boldizar 1991) and self-disclosure (Rose 2002). After the original observation, which was collected between 2007-2009, participants of the three cohorts were contacted in various ways to encourage the completion of a follow-up survey. Upon completion of the survey, they are rewarded \$20.

Results: We are contacting the original 628 participants, 270 of which have responded to date. Data analysis is underway and will be completed by January. Results are expected to indicate that individuals who have the most sex typed gender role orientation and communication types will report experiencing lower comfort and influence in cross-sex romantic relationships.

Conclusions and implications: Understanding the influence of early experiences on later comfort and influence with a romantic partner will be helpful in developing prevention or intervention programs to explain how communication style may create challenges.