

Major Purpose: This study explored potential relationships between the following variables: gender role orientation (masculinity v. femininity), communication style, gender of siblings, romantic relationship existence, romantic relationship satisfaction, and gender of romantic partner. This is important because learning how to communicate from an early age with either gender (ease of which may be influenced by one's own gender role orientation) may lead to higher levels of comfort and competency in communicating with them, and therefore higher satisfaction with a romantic relationship with someone of that gender as an adult.

Procedure: From 2007-2009, 7th and 10th grade students from a university town were selected for a study during which they and a friend completed a series of tasks together. In 2019/2020, these participants were sent a follow-up survey recording whether or not participants are in romantic relationships, satisfaction in those romantic relationships, gender of romantic partner, and number and gender of participants' siblings.

Expected Results: Statistical analyses are underway and will be completed as soon as the second wave of survey results are fully or mostly collected. This follow-up survey is currently being distributed to the original 628 participants. 265 have responded to date. Results are expected to indicate that individuals with opposite-sex siblings have higher relationship satisfaction with opposite-sex partners as adults than those with same-sex siblings or no siblings. Results are also expected to indicate that individuals with polarized gender role orientations and communication styles will have lower relationship satisfaction than those with more androgynous orientations and communication styles in relationships with partners of the opposite sex.

Conclusions and Implications: If there is a significant difference between romantic relationships and satisfaction between groups based on youth attributes, we will be able to determine that these youth attributes are associated with future romantic relationship attributes.