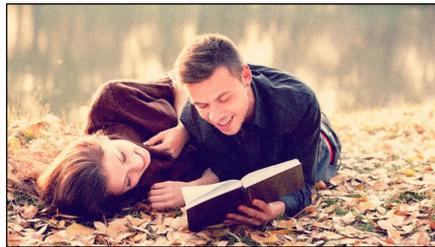




Women in Romantic Relationships are More Narcissistic

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Results



What might be the difference between women in relationships and women not in relationships?



Motivation

We wanted to look into potential differences between women who are in romantic relationships and women who are not in romantic relationships.

Methods

Participants

61 female college-aged students participated in the study. All were enrolled in a Psychology research practicum at Oregon Sate University.

Procedure

During week 1 participants were given the Relationship Questionnaire, where they indicated current relationship status. Over the course of ten weeks participants completed a large number of psychological measures and interpersonal activities all designed to be relevant to interpersonal behavior and skills.

Materials

Participants were given the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI), Bartholomew's attachment scales, and the NEO-Personality Inventory-Revised personality questionnaire.

Bartholomew's Scale identifies the attachment style that individuals use to relate to their significant others (Bartholomew & Horowitz, 1991)

Secure Attached

___ A. It is easy for me to become emotionally close to others. I am comfortable depending on them and having them depend on me. I don't worry about being alone or having others not accept me.

Fearful/Avoidant Attached

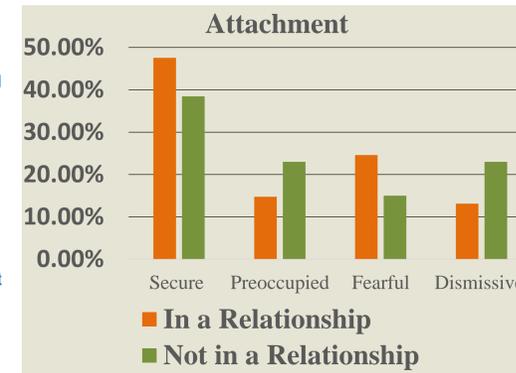
___ B. I am uncomfortable getting close to others. I want emotionally close relationships, but I find it difficult to trust others completely, or to depend on them. I worry that I will be hurt if I allow myself to become too close to others.

Preoccupied/Anxious Attached

___ C. I want to be completely emotionally intimate with others, but I often find that others are reluctant to get as close as I would like. I am uncomfortable being without close relationships, but I sometimes worry that others don't value me as much as I value them.

Dismissive Attached

___ D. I am comfortable without close emotional relationships. It is very important to me to feel independent and self-sufficient, and I prefer not to depend on others or have others depend on me.



NEO-Personality Inventory-Revised (OCEAN Traits) measures differences in personality in terms of five over-arching traits: neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness, and conscientiousness (Scheier, Carver, & Bridges, 1994).

Modesty:

I'd rather praise others than praise myself.

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

I am better than most people and I know it.

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree



$F_{(1,11)} = 11.53, p < .05$

Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI) is a widely used 40-item measure that measures individual differences in narcissism in non-clinical populations (Ackerman, et. al. (2016).

- ___ I really like to be the center of attention
___ It makes me uncomfortable to be the center of attention
- ___ I am no better or no worse than most people
___ I think I am a special person
- ___ Everybody likes to hear my stories
___ Sometimes I tell good stories



$F_{(1,58)} = 4.23, p < .05$

Discussion

To our surprise, we found that women in relationships displayed more avoidant attachment styles, were less agreeable, and tended to be more narcissistic. These findings contradict previous research on personality traits and attachment style among women in relationships. One possible explanation may be that intimate relationships among adults are an important aspect of our social lives and the status of being in a romantic relationship along with the attention and praise from a significant other may increase and bolster self-esteem and self-image. This may lead to an individual who is less altruistic, modest, and more preoccupied with the self.



References

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