Invested or Invasive?:
Applying the Investment Model to Understanding Obsessive Relational Intrusion

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Overview

- ORI – Defining a problem
- From Rejection to Aggression
- Investment Model
- Proposed Study
- Anticipated Results
Defining the Problem

- Stalking -3.4 million people (Baum, et al., 2009)
  - ORI -5.9 million people (Cupach & Spitzberg, 2002)
  - Courtship Persistence - 90-98% of college students (Sinclair & Frieze, 2000)
- What is ORI?

Pursuit Behaviors

Aggressive Behaviors
From Rejection to Aggression

- Finding the Link
  - Correlational
  - Experimental

- Not all rejection is created equal
  - Direct vs. Indirect
  - Internal vs. External (Sinclair, et al., 2010)
The Investment Model

- Investment
- Satisfaction
- Quality of Alternatives
- Commitment to Relationship
- Relationship Persistence

What happens when the relationship becomes unwanted by one person?
Hypotheses

H1: Internal Rejection ORI → Aggressive ORI
Hypotheses

H2: 2-way Interaction

High Investment

+ Low Quality Alternatives

ORI
Hypotheses

H3: 3-way interaction

High Investment

Low Quality

Alternatives

Internal Rejection

Aggressive

ORI
## Putting it all Together

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High Investment</th>
<th>Low Investment</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Low Quality of Alternatives</td>
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Relationship Vignette

- Part 1
  - Investment
    - Seriously dating vs. Casually dating
    - Mutual friends vs. No friends
    - Communication efforts vs. No communication efforts
  - Quality of Alternatives
    - A lot in common vs. Very little in common
    - Attractive vs. Unattractive
Relationship Vignette

• Part 2
  ◦ Rejection
    • Internal – “We haven’t really been getting along lately. You have changed so much from when we first started dating. I’m just not interested in you anymore. I don’t find this person you’ve become attractive. I just don’t see any future in a relationship with you. As far as the game goes, I am going with other people. I think it is best that we not see each other anymore”
Relationship Vignette

• Part 2
  ◦ Rejection
    • External – “I am going to be working all weekend. I have just been so busy lately. I rarely get to see my friends, family, or you, and I’m constantly stressed out about school, work, and getting into graduate school. I just don’t have any time for a relationship, and the distance doesn’t help. I really think it’s best for me if we just don’t see each other anymore.”
Relationship Vignette

• Part 2
  ◦ Rejection
    • No Rejection – "It is so nice that you have arranged all this and I wish I could be there to meet your family and see the game, but since it’s Thanksgiving weekend, I told my parents I would come home and spend the weekend with them. This just isn’t a good weekend. I really have to go finish some assignments before the Thanksgiving break.”
Processing the Vignette

- Processing Questions
  - THINK
  - FEEL
  - DO

- Vignette Accuracy
Obsessive Relational Intrusion Scale

• **Pursuit**
  ◦ Hyper-intimacy
  ◦ Mediated Contacts
  ◦ Interactional Contacts

• **Aggressive**
  ◦ Surveillance
  ◦ Invasion
  ◦ Harassment & Intimidation
  ◦ Coercion & Threat
  ◦ Aggression & Violence
Manipulation Checks

- Part 1
  - Investment Model Components

- Part 2
  - Rejection
  - Commitment
  - Satisfaction
Statistical Analyses

- Repeated Measures ANOVA
  - 3 categorical IVs
  - 1 within subjects DV
Anticipated Results

H1: Main Effect for Type of Rejection

- Internal Rejection
- External Rejection
- Control

- Pursuit
- Aggressive
Anticipated Results

H2: 2-way Interaction between Investment and Alternatives

ORI

Low Investment  |  High Investment
---|---

Low Alternatives  |  High Alternatives
---|---

0  |  1  |  2  |  3  |  4  |  5

0  |  0.5  |  1  |  1.5  |  2  |  2.5  |  3  |  3.5  |  4  |  4.5  |  5
Anticipated Results

Aggressive ORI

Quality of Alternatives/Investment

Lo/Lo
Lo/Hi
Hi/Lo
Hi/Hi

Control
External
Internal