

Close Relationships II Predictors of Stability

- As you'll see in the video today, _____ marriages last longer than marriages based on _____
- Because most of us will marry for love, picking the right partner is one of the most important decisions we make in life
- Your text has a list of "who stays married"

- Similar in age, education, faith
- Enjoy stable income
- _____ grew up in stable, 2-parent homes
- Married after age 20
- Are religious
- Dated for a long while before marriage
- _____

Cohabitation

- Important to question, b/c it has become normative in our society (____% of us live together first)
- Berscheid (and others) have shown that living together before marriage is _____ a predictor of divorce
- Past research did not account for an important variable that could be causing the link between cohabitation and divorce

Third variable problems outlined here for illustration

What might the 3rd variable be to explain cohabitation → link?

YOUR IDEA HERE _____

The real answer

- _____

Dating a long time before marriage

- Predicts stability when we marry for love
- But in societies where arranged marriages are the norm, long-term dating does not occur
- Yet research (and the film) suggests these marriages are _____ stable
- Thus, _____ to date a long time to have a stable marriage

Cross-cultural perspective

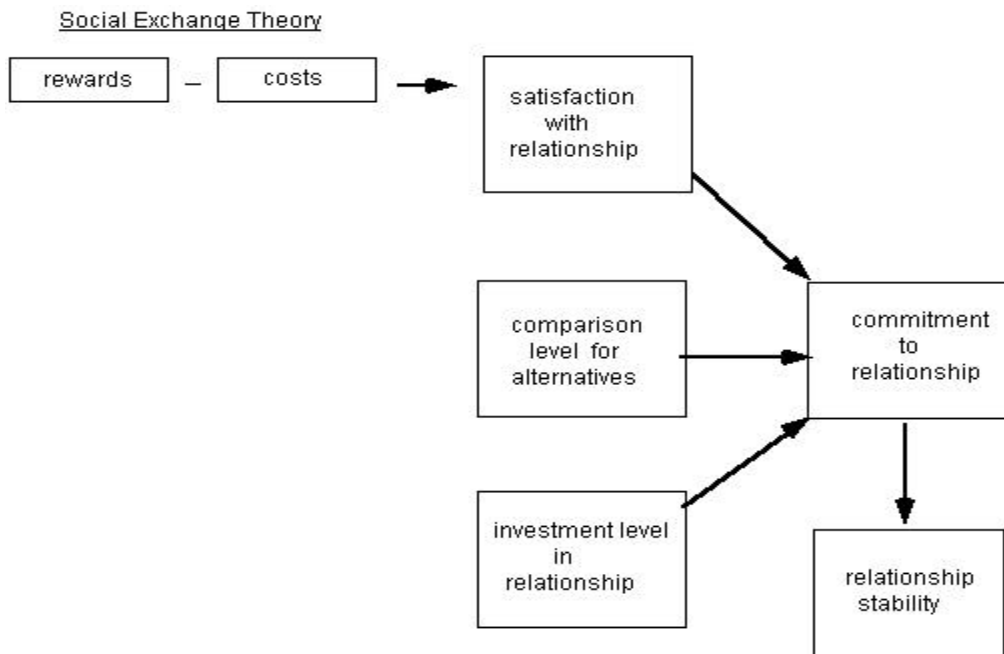
- Why might arranged marriages be more stable than marrying for love?
- Research shows that people who marry for love show _____ romantic attraction over time, but arranged married couples show _____ romantic attraction over time

Gupta & Singh (1982)

SEE TEXT FOR THIS FIGURE

Rusbult's Model

- In addition, Carol Rusbult has a model of relationship stability that is helpful for answering this question



Rusbult's Model

- _____ is the sole predictor of stability
- But Satisfaction, Comparison Level of Alternatives, and Investment are strong predictors of _____

In arranged marriages

- Couples don't "decide" to get married based on these factors – instead, they leap to commitment
- Most important, once married, there are virtually no "alternatives" to compare your partner to – divorce is taboo in these cultures
- Finally, _____ is higher because it includes one's own good standing in the community

In free marriages

- There is more "looking around" at alternatives, and less social costs for leaving the relationship
- As a result, the satisfaction component comes into play more – in particular, the _____ satisfaction you get from your marriage
- And last time, we talked about how marriages can fall apart due to more opportunities for _____ (than _____) emotions
- These are some of the reasons why love marriages can be less stable than arranged marriages
- America has the highest divorce rate in the world, but we are also people adamantly committed to freedom and choice – having more choices in life, we naturally make use of them

50% of marriages end in divorce?

- Bleak statistic, but is it true?
- Probably not - it's based on comparing the number of marriage licenses filed to the number of divorces each year
- Twice as many people are getting married as are getting divorced – is that the same thing as saying 1/2 of all marriages end in divorce?
- Of course not, and better estimates put the number at _____ %

“Love, Lust, and Marriage”

- ABC news special with John Stossels
- Explores the many aspects of social attraction
- Has a nice cross-cultural angle to it (showing that marrying for love is not at all universal, and may not be the best route to a stable relationship)

Things to note

- The 3 stages of love _____, _____, _____
- Evolutionary theory’s explanation of mating strategies (David Buss)
- The hormone associated with monogamy = _____
- John Gottman’s 4 predictors of divorce

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Lecture continues after the video