

PSYC 325: Discussion Questions

Week 5

Topic: Interdependence Theory & The Investment Model

1. In abusive relationships the costs would outweigh the rewards, the alternatives would seemingly become more attractive, yet you still see a level of commitment in these relationships. How would these mathematical models need to be modified to explain this? In other words, does the Investment Model only apply to "healthy" relationships and individuals?
2. How does an individual's experience with relationships effect their expectations? Is more or less expected as one becomes romantically mature? In other words, are expectations and satisfaction negatively associated?
3. Rusbult et al. state that strong commitment can be both a good and bad thing. What are some real world examples of both?
4. Where does "love" fit into the Investment model? Can this be a confound that undermines this construct?
5. Regarding Foster's study, what are some other personality traits that could be used? What are the advantages and disadvantages to using narcissism in this context? Do you trust the given results that imply that narcissism moderates the investment model?
6. Tan et al. state that half of all break ups are shown to result in reconciliation after dissolution. Do you think this is because ex's can be seen as an alternative post-breakup, or is it a way to salvage the closeness and alleviate emotional distress?
7. Lehmler explains that marginalized relationships invest less than socially accepted ones. Does social support effect expectations and commitment? Is this simply due to the difficulty of making tangible investments, specifically for gay men?
8. The Lehmler study focuses on the differences between gay and heterosexual men. Do you think that the same results would be yielded if the same study was conducted between lesbian and heterosexual women? What about with bisexual or people who don't identify as straight or gay?
9. The discussion of the Lehmler study mentions future research that can be used to explore this topic more. What methods would be the most useful in determining this information? Are there any specific studies that you can think of that would yield similar or dissimilar results?
10. How relevant do you find the investment model in today's society? Is it still appropriate, considering most research was previously done on heterosexual people, either in significant relationships or out, with no middle ground? Does it personally apply to you and your relationship or previous relationships?
11. Since the Investment Model uses a self-centered approach to what degree do you think it devalues the other or makes them seemingly disposable if not agreeable to one's needs? In a sense is this model unsympathetic?
12. Do you think that these studies would yield the same or similar results if tested today? What about if we gathered information from non-American cultures or societies?