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Dear Diary: Why Can’t I Just Say What I Think? Implications of Topic Avoidance in Dating Relationships over Time
Anne F. Casillas
Faculty Advisor: Tamara D. Afifi

ABSTRACT: The aim of the study was to longitudinally examine how communication skills (specifically, communication competence and communication efficacy) affect the association between topic avoidance and relational dissatisfaction in dating relationships. The study investigated the relationships between topic avoidance and relational dissatisfaction, proposing that the association is bi-directional in nature. Furthermore, communication efficacy and communication competence were examine in terms of how they impact topic avoidance behaviors and the association between topic avoidance and relational dissatisfaction. The results found slight support for the bi-directional relationship between topic avoidance and dissatisfaction, and that relational dissatisfaction significantly predicts topic avoidance behaviors. In addition, individuals’ communication efficacy was shown to mediate the relationship between perceived partner’s communication competence and own topic avoidance. Finally, individual’s own communication efficacy was found to moderate the association between topic avoidance and relational dissatisfaction, such that perceptions of greater inefficacy decrease the extent to which topic avoidance relates to dissatisfaction.

Leadership as a Topic in Vocational Socialization Content from Parents: Effects on the Motivation to Lead
Kamyab Sadaghiani

ABSTRACT: Vocational anticipatory socialization (VAS) is the process by which adolescents and young adults learn about the world of work and also the qualities of workers and occupations most valued by society (Jablin, 1985-2001). Parents are a primary source of VAS, and compared to prior generations, parents of the Millennial generation (born in the mid-1980s to late 1990s) appear to place more emphasis on extrinsic benefits and egoism in work-related discussions with their children. This study predicted that in socializing their children about leadership, Millennial parents do not discuss the important rule of altruism. This study further predicted that parents’ discussion focused on egoism and extrinsic benefits decrease Millennials’ altruistic leadership values and increase their desires for extrinsic leadership benefits, ultimately influencing Millennials’ motivations to lead. An online survey of 130 undergraduates at a large West Coast university tested these predictions. Results indicate that Millennials’ altruistic leadership values, their desire for extrinsic leadership benefits and duties, and the degree to which they perceive leadership to be instrumental in providing extrinsic benefits increase the more their parents influence their vocational socialization about leadership. Additionally, it was confirmed that Millennials’ altruistic leadership values and desire for leadership duties are significant predictors of three previously defined dimensions of their motivations to lead (Chan, 1990; Chan & Dragsow, 2001). Theoretical and practical implications are offered along with suggestions for future research.

Communication and Culture
Nicole Zeoli
Faculty Advisor: Walid Afifi
ABSTRACT: Much of the research done on intercultural couples points to them being at a disadvantage in their relationship compared to their intracultural counterparts. In contrast, Aron and Aron’s Self-Expansion Theory would argue that differences inherent in inter-cultural couples may benefit them by allowing an expansion of the members’ identities. Unfortunately, those authors did not adequately consider the role of communication competence as a moderator of the impact of issue and cultural differences on relational closeness. Forty-six undergraduate couples participated in the study. Participants completed a pre-questionnaire involving a battery of measures, including communication competence, closeness, degree they felt the self-in-other, and others. Couples were then randomly assigned to an issue agreement condition- either discuss important topics on which they differed or ones on which they mostly agreed. Following the discussion, many of the same measure were re-assessed. Finally, as a follow up, the couples completed an online post-questionnaire two weeks later with many of the same assessments. Results show an important place for assessments of partner competence in the ultimate success of relationships, with an especially strong effect found in inter-cultural ones.