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Parental influences on the development of marital gender-role attitudes

Ivey, Miriam Rendón, Ph.D.

City University of New York, 1991

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PARENTAL INFLUENCES ON THE DEVELOPMENT
OF MARITAL GENDER-ROLE ATTITUDES

by

Miriam Rendón Ivey

A dissertation submitted to the Graduate Faculty in
Psychology in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy,
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1991

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I dedicate this thesis to my parents, Inés Virginia Gabriel and Hugo Rendón, for without them, their relationship, our family life and the interpersonal goals they may have unknowingly impressed upon me, I may not have been able to strive for and help create with my husband Louis, the special family we have now.

"With God, All Things Are Possible."

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Chapter I
Introduction

Marriages of the 90's are confronted with a myriad of external pressures which affect the overall quality of relationships between spouses. These include economic and social pressures such as work, family and friends. In addition, there are internal forces which also affect marital quality, namely the unique personalities of the spouses and the expectations and behaviors they bring to the marriage.

Various studies have been conducted on the nature of marital gender-roles, the comparison of gender-roles between spouses and the effect of those roles on marital satisfaction. Missing from the literature are investigations of an individual's perception of his/her own parents' marital gender-role attitudes and the individual's pursuant marital quality, or the individual's own marital gender-role attitudes, whether idealized or enacted. If sex-role congruence between spouses plays a major role in marital adjustment, as several studies have found, it would be of interest to explore factors that may account for a particular sex-role orientation. Given the extensive literature and findings on the significance of parental influence on sex-role development, it is improbable that parental influence does not determine, to some extent at least, marital gender-role attitudes. Children observe and

experience many facets of marital interactions. Such learning should affect notions of desirable role behaviors and, indeed, actual marital sex-role behaviors.

The focus of this research will be the impact of familial antecedents on marital gender role attitudes (i.e: perceived gender-role attitudes of parents as a determinant of gender-role attitudes within an individual's marriage). An additional focus will be the marital quality which results from differing congruencies of marital gender-role attitudes between spouses.

Statement of the Problem

The problem that this study addresses is the influence that perception of parental marital gender-role attitudes and marital quality have on an individual's own marital gender-role attitudes and marital quality. The problem of the study might be further clarified by a number of questions. 1) How do mutual sex-role behaviors enacted with the marriage partner (referred to as marital gender-role attitudes) relate to the spouse's idealized attitudes about such behaviors? 2) How do perceptions of parents' overall marital quality relate to a spouse's formulation of ideal marital gender-role attitudes? 3) How does an individual's perception of his/her parents' marital gender-role incongruence and marital quality relate to the couple's sex-role attitude congruency? 4) Is there a relationship between an individual's perception of their parents' marital sex-role incongruence on that

individual's marital adjustment? Are husbands and wives differentially influenced by the perceived marital gender-role attitudes of their parents?

Examination of these questions is important for a number of reasons. First, this research will add to the literature of marital interactions, marital sex-roles and marital quality. Second, it will be the first study to address the relationship between perception of parental marital gender-role attitudes and marital quality, on an individual's own marital gender-role attitudes. Third, this research will provide the family and/or couples therapist with information on a facet of relational attitudes in marriage that have a connection to family of origin.

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this research will be to examine the relationship between the perceptions of an individual regarding his/her parents' marital gender-role attitudes and pursuant marital quality, as a determinant of the marital gender-role attitudes of that individual within his/her own marriage. The specific objectives of this research are listed below.

- 1) To determine whether married individuals will hold idealized marital gender-role attitudes that are similar to those perceived as held by one or both of their parents if the quality of their parents' marriage was perceived as positive.

2) To determine whether a couple's marital gender-role incongruencies (ie: whether analyses indicate that the husband is more egalitarian than the wife or if the wife is more egalitarian than the husband) will be most similar to one of the marriage partner's parent set if those parent's marriage was perceived as positive.

3) To determine whether an individual's marital adjustment score will be influenced by the degree to which his/her subjectively perceived marital gender-role incongruency (ie: whether this individual sees self or spouse as more egalitarian) matches that couple's actual marital sex-role incongruency rating.

4) To determine if, in fact, married partners view their gender-role attitudes as more progressive than those of their parents, regardless of what their actual marital gender-role incongruency is.

Chapter II

Review of the Literature

The literature review section will include: 1) A review of theoretical models for marital satisfaction; 2) A review of the literature on role expectations and marital satisfaction; 3) A review of the foundations of gender specializations in marriage.

Theoretical Models of Marital Quality

Many theories and concepts attempt to elucidate the facets of satisfying marital relationships. Prominent schools of thought on the subject include psychoanalytic theory, the behavioral perspective, humanistic psychology, existentialism, family and systems theory, and social exchange theory.

Three of these schools of thought do not place much emphasis on the relevance of childhood experiences for the development of relational attitudes which individuals later have in adult marriage and which affect one's adjustment to marriage. First is the behavioral school of thought, comprised of both the classical learning theorists and the cognitive-behaviorists. They share the concept that a given situation is controlled by reinforcement contingencies and by the individual's cognitive variables as well. There is an adherence to social learning theory as the force behind marital satisfaction (Jacobson &

Margolin, 1979; Weiss, 1977; Wills, Weiss & Patterson; 1974).

Second is Humanistic Psychology, with its focus on enhancing self-actualization in the "here-and-now". Marital satisfaction hinges on a marital relationship that fosters personal growth (Olim, 1977; Rogers, 1961; Perls, 1969).

Third is Existentialism. As it relates to marital relationships, this theory asserts that love is not a sentiment that is subject to change because it is grounded in choice. Meaning in life is acquired via the ability to commit oneself to courses of action (May, 1973).

In Psychoanalytic thought, theorists would emphasize the importance of an intrapsychic perspective in understanding human behavior. Within marital relationships, it is the internal, or developmental, level of either the individual or the dyad that is focused on.

More orthodox psychoanalytic views on the vicissitudes of instinctual development would claim that intrapsychic structure is developed by the aims and expressions of the individual's sexual and aggressive instincts (Freud, 1923). Object relations theorists would pose that the self's unique integrity is determined by the psychological effects of internalized objects (significant persons and qualities) and their relationship with real, external persons.

Regardless of which of these two forms of

psychodynamic thought one conforms to, the marital relationship is made even more complex when one considers that each partner brings to it his/her own particular character shaped from past experiences. Unconscious motivations for overt behaviors are examined. Even the selection of a spouse is considered both a consciously and unconsciously motivated act. Not only would psychodynamic theorists examine the unresolved conflicts between both members of the marital dyad, but also would concern themselves with the unresolved conflicts within the members of the dyad resulting from the vicissitudes of their psychosocial development. Marital satisfaction is a factor of both individual's history of (or accumulated) interpersonal and intrapsychic experiences.

With its focus on the relational aspects of marital satisfaction rather than focus on the individuals, family and systems theories have strongly influenced research on marital satisfaction. General systems theory (Bertalanffy, 1968) gave rise to the conceptualization of the individual as a part of a mutually interactive family system. Attitudes and behaviors affect and are affected by each member as a part of the whole. Aponte and Van Deusen (1981) state "the ability of the family to function well depends on the degree to which the family structure is well-defined, elaborated, flexible and cohesive." (p.315)

Influenced by general systems theory and developmental aspects of family life, Bowen (1966) explained that the

family was a system because a change in one part produces compensatory changes in other parts of the family. Bowen's Family Systems Theory focuses on one's experiences in past systems, contending that much of an individual's current behavior is a function of their experience in past systems, especially their family of origin.

The concept of self differentiation is the core of Bowen's Family Systems Theory. It addresses how people differ from one another in terms of their sensitivity to one another and their varying abilities to preserve a degree of autonomy in the face of pressure to fuse affectively within the family mass. A developmental goal is for the individuals to differentiate from one another.

In the nuclear family, the relationship between the parents greatly influences the functional state of the family as a unit. Each child helps create a basic unit of 3 interlocking attachments with the parents, each one influencing the other. Any shifts in individual or unit functioning can affect the functional state of other members in the family. The degree to which parents hinder this process in their children determines the extent to which a child seeks further emotional attachments.

In marriage, Bowenian theory suggests that partners have similar levels of differentiation. In the closeness of an intense relationship, the emotional selves fuse together into a common self. Each partner attempts to diminish the intensity and accompanying anxiety that comes

from varying degrees of enmeshment or attachment by several mechanisms. These mechanisms, similar to those he/she used in relationship to the parents, include emotional cut-off, marital conflict, underfunctioning or overfunctioning, and triangling in a child or some other persons. The process of diffusing tension by incorporating a third party is known as triangulation.

Bowen theory asserts that siblings' involvements in the process of triangulation varies by their birth order rank. One child may be more sensitive to the parents' emotions while others are able to achieve greater differentiation.

Toman (1961) says individuals bring to their marriage a set of expectations and reactive types of behavior that are determined by their own sibling positions in their families of origin. He says that marriage partners have complementary, partially complementary or noncomplementary sibling positions. The level of complementarity depends upon the presence or absence of rank and/or sex conflicts. He suggested that the more closely that marriage duplicates one's sibling position in their family of origin, and if, within that family there were opposite sex siblings, individuals' chances for a successful marriage increase. Marital partners with noncomplementary sibling positions have greater difficulty in marriage than partners with complementary or partially complementary relationships.

Social Exchange Theory although still largely based on

social learning and behavior-exchange principles, presents a criterion for marital satisfaction which can be augmented by family and systems theory. Thibaut & Kelley (1959) developed the concept of a 'comparison level' which they defined as "some modal or average value of all outcomes known to the person...each outcome weighted by its salience...A person's [comparison level] depends not only upon outcomes which he has experienced or seen others experiencing but also upon which of these are actively stimulating to him...as he makes an evaluation of his circumstances." (pp. 81-82) Their theory would imply that the level of an individual's marital quality will depend on the degree to which his/her relationship falls above or below their 'comparison level'.

Sternberg & Barnes (1985) proposed that satisfaction in romantic relationships depends on the extent to which the experienced level of love for one's partner matches the ideal level of love one has for that partner. Their research examined not only the comparison levels between actual feelings and ideal ones between romantic partners but also comparisons between an individual's perceptions of their partner's feelings towards them and an ideal other's feelings toward them. Their results indicated that it is the perceived rather than the actual feelings of love that best predict satisfaction in a romantic relationship.

Sex Role Expectations and Marital Satisfaction

Since 1973, the psychological literature has reflected an increased interest in sex-roles. This has been due largely to the work of Bem (1974), who proposed that masculinity and femininity be viewed as independent dimensions rather than as a single continuum. With the BSRI (Bem Sex-Role Inventory), subjects could be classified in one of three categories- masculine, feminine or androgynous. Scores indicating a "masculine" sex-role would represent individuals who endorse masculine attributes while rejecting feminine ones. Scores indicating "feminine" sex-roles would describe individuals endorsing feminine attributes while rejecting masculine ones. An "androgynous" sex-role would indicate equal endorsement of masculine and feminine attributes.

Studies then began providing evidence that androgynous individuals, with their greater flexibility in sex-role behavior, increase the likelihood of harmony in interpersonal encounters (Gilbert, Deutsch & Strahan, 1978). Among other things, subjects were asked to indicate their ideal opposite sex person. For both males and females it was found that the preferred ideal was androgynous rather than sex-typed. Pursell & Banikiotes (1978) found that females preferred androgynous to sex-typed (masculine) males but males showed a preference for sex-typed (feminine) females rather than androgynous ones.

Research also found evidence suggesting that people may

change their sex role characteristics in different contexts such as marriage, when expecting a child, being a parent, etc. (Abraham, Feldman & Nash, 1978). Antill (1983) looked at happiness as a function of both husbands' and wives' sex-role categories. They found overwhelming evidence for the importance of femininity in married relationships. The happiness of the husband was positively related to the wife's femininity and the happiness of the wife was positively related to the husband's femininity.

Baucom & Aiken (1984) explored the relationships among masculinity, femininity, marital satisfaction and behavioral marital therapy. Results indicated that for each sex, both femininity and masculinity are significantly correlated with self-reported marital satisfaction: the magnitude of the correlations between femininity and marital satisfaction were higher than the correlations between masculinity and marital satisfaction. Masculinity and femininity level prior to treatment also significantly predicted response to the behavioral marital therapy: the wife's level of femininity prior to treatment was significantly and positively correlated with increases in marital satisfaction for both husbands and wives at the end of treatment. This finding suggests that, compared to husbands, the wife's functioning may be a more sensitive "barometer" of the relationship.

Peplau (1983) made an extensive examination of relationship patterns, or "roles" in couples and families.

She furthered her study to sex-roles, which she defined as gender-linked patterns within close relationships.

Finally, she examined the typologies of marital roles, which attempt "to conceptualize both the diversity of relationship patterns that coexist in contemporary society and the internal consistency of role patterns in a particular relationship." (p.247)

Drawing on existing typologies and Pleck's (1976) analysis of male sex roles, Peplau presented a typology that contrasts traditional, modern, and egalitarian marital roles. They can be briefly defined as follows. In "traditional" marriages, the husband is more dominant than the wife, and there is much male-female role specialization. Men's and women's work are seen as separate and distinct. In "modern" marriages, couples believe that both spouses should share in decision making, but although wives often have considerable influence in some areas, husbands still tend to take the lead. Role specialization is less pervasive here. In "egalitarian" marriages, the central theme is a rejection of the culture's traditional model for marriage. Currently, the couples who come closest to this model are those with dual-careers. Studies, however, have shown that although frequently happy, dual-career marriages seldom achieve a truly egalitarian relationship. The wife is often still responsible for domestic tasks and the husband's job is seen as more important. Thus, although they may want a more

egalitarian marriage, partners often have difficulty eliminating gender-linked role specializations (Nye, 1976; Pleck, 1976; Tomch, 1978).

Tavris (1973) in analyzing questionnaire data from a large sample of relatively young, educated, liberal individuals, found that ideals of role behavior had moved toward egalitarianism much more rapidly than had actual behavior. Her results also indicated that women were changing more rapidly than men and that it was the women who were experiencing the greatest amount of role strain or tension between ideal and actual behavior. This role strain was especially characteristic of women who were dissatisfied with their marriage. Other studies have also shown that, at least in disturbed marriages, individuals were experiencing greater disparity between ideal and actual marital role behavior, as compared to normal controls (Tharp & Otis, 1966; Crago & Tharp, 1968; Frank et al., 1980).

In marriages, couples tend to feel positive about their relationship when they think, or perceive, that their spouse agrees with them on important issues (Rollins & Galligan, 1978). Scanzoni & Szinovacz (1980) argue that it's not just gender-role preferences themselves, but the degree of agreement or congruence between partners that's crucial in family functioning. When the disparity between gender-role preferences increases, conflict and tension within the family also increases.

Bowen and Orthner (1983) examined the relationship between marital sex-role congruence and marital adjustment, taking into account the direction of the incongruence within couples. Using the couple as the unit of analysis, they obtained a mean marital quality score by averaging the respective responses of husbands and wives. Using the labels "modern" and "traditional", they divided the sample into four groups: traditional husband and traditional wife, traditional husband and egalitarian wife, egalitarian husband and egalitarian wife, egalitarian husband and traditional wife.

They found that couples with a traditional husband and modern (egalitarian) wife have significantly lower couple marital adjustment scores than homogeneous couples (ie: both traditional and both modern). Couples with a modern husband and traditional wife do not differ significantly in marital adjustment from the homogeneous couples. The researchers suggested that despite the incongruent sex-role attitudes in couples comprised of a modern husband and a traditional wife, the nature of this discrepancy might not be very distressing to either partner. More egalitarian husbands who, for example, believe that their wives have the right to pursue their own independent interests may still find it reinforcing to know that their wives give priority to family needs. Conversely, traditional wives who may see their own interests as being subordinate to the interests of their families (and husbands), may find it

reinforcing to know that they would have their husbands' support and help should they decide to pursue their own careers.

Li & Caldwell (1987) were intrigued by the Bowen & Orthner (1983) non-significant finding between couples with a modern husband and traditional wife, and homogeneous couples. Employing a different method of analysis, they sought verification of a new hypothesis, namely that the relationship between marital sex-role incongruence and marital adjustment would be a function of both the magnitude of the incongruence and the direction of the disagreement. The magnitude and the direction of the incongruency was determined by subtracting the wife's score on an egalitarianism scale from her husband's score on the same scale. This is known as the marital sex-role incongruency (MSRI) score. They also examined husband's and wives' marital adjustment ratings separately.

Their results were that the greater the incongruence in the direction of the wife being more egalitarian relative to her husband, the more negative is the estimated impact on marital adjustment for both partners. Conversely, the greater the incongruence in the direction of the husband being more egalitarian than his wife, the more positive is its estimated impact on marital adjustment for both partners.

Li & Caldwell (1987), using their own data, then replicated Bowen and Orthner's (1983) analyses, dividing

their sample into four groups (both spouses egalitarian, both traditional, traditional husband-egalitarian wife, traditional wife-egalitarian husband). They found that only the analyses using the husband's marital adjustment scores as the dependent variable reached significance, with the traditional husband-egalitarian wife pairs resulting in the lowest level of marital adjustment for the husbands. These wives, however, had the lowest marital satisfaction scores when compared to wives in all other groups.

Bowen (1989), extended Li and Caldwell's (1987) analysis strategy. The only significance found was that the greater the incongruence in marital sex-role whereby the husband is more egalitarian than his wife, the greater the marital quality for the husbands.

Foundations of Gender Specialization in Marriage

There is ample evidence in the literature that the socialization process to which children are exposed include variables which influence the development of sex-roles. These include 1) parental personality characteristics, 2) parental child-rearing attitudes and values, and 3) parental child-rearing practices.

Winch (1962) points out that "there has been considerable recognition in the literature of the importance of the tone of the parents' spousal relations for the child's parental and sex-role identifications".

According to Stoke (1950), a determinant of identification is "the attitude of influential persons toward the person with whom identification is attempted." Sears (1953) demonstrated that parental discord may affect the performance of sex-typed behavior in young children. She found that 5 year old boys who adopted the mother's role most strongly in doll play had mothers who, while warm and affectionate, were critical of their husbands. Helper (1955) found that a tendency for high school boys to assume similarity with their fathers was significantly related to the mother's approval of the father as a model for the child. The father's approval of the mother as a model, however, was not significantly related to perceived similarity with her either for boys or girls. Bandura & Walters (1959) suggest that the reason boys adopt sex-appropriate behavior is that they have had positive experiences in doing so. Not only have they been rewarded by their fathers for having identified with them but they have also been rewarded by their mother for having imitated and identified with a man whom she regards highly.

Lynn (1959) drew a distinction among sex-role preference, sex-role adoption, and sex-role identification. "Preference" refers to volition and not to overt behavior or incorporation of role. "Adoption" refers to overt behavior and "identification" refers to "actual incorporation of the role of a given sex and unconscious reactions characteristic of that role."

With these distinctions in mind, Lynn (1959)

hypothesized and found evidence that:

- 1) With increasing age, males become relatively more identified with the masculine role and females relatively less with the feminine role.
- 2) A larger proportion of females than of males shows preference for the role of the opposite sex.
- 3) A larger proportion of females than of males adopts aspects of the roles of the opposite sex.
- 4) Males tend to identify with a cultural stereotype of the masculine role, whereas females tend to identify with aspects of their own mother's role specifically.

Research has shown that parents encourage and expect appropriate sex-roles for girls and boys (Lambert, Yackley & Hein, 1971; Sears, Maccoby & Levin, 1957; and Kohn, 1959) and that children as young as age 5 perceive their parents as preferring sex-appropriate activities for them (Fauls & Smith, 1956). However, Cohen (1976) suggested that the adaptation of sex-typed characteristics is based upon the individual's proficiency in matching personal attributes with cultural characteristics. Therefore, it takes considerable time and experience to develop the complex, multifaceted patterns of sex role behavior.

Tudiver's (1980) study confirms this in her subjects. Boys and girls with mean age of 4 years and 3 months did

not exhibit stable sex-role personality characteristics of femininity and masculinity. According to Kohlberg (1966), although children as young as 3 years old may have a sense of gender identity, it is not until the age of five or six that they acquire a sense of gender consistency.

Among the causes of gender specialization in marriage, one can find ample literature to support the influences of personal attitudes (Beckman & Houser, 1979; Perrucci, Potter, & Rhoads, 1978), biological causes (Rossi, 1977), and relational conditions such as the functional requirements of social systems (Parsons & Bales, 1955). Couples are influenced to some extent by social reactions to their behaviors. The attitudes of friends and family, as well as more general cultural attitudes about marital roles, may influence the degree of role specialization in a relationship. Bott (1971) found that marital role specialization was greater when a couple had a tightly knit network of friends, family and neighbors who knew each other.

In a dramatic departure from the research literature's tendency to focus on marital dyads, Weigel & Weigel (1990) examined gender role congruency within a 2 generation family system, and its effects on family satisfaction.

The subjects were adult members of 2-generation farm families; the older parents, their sons and daughters, and those sons' and daughters' spouses. One major finding was that the younger generation in this sample held more modern

gender-role preferences than did the older generation. They attributed this to the historical and developmental differences in the 2-generational family. The older generation's gender-role preferences were formed during a time when gender-roles were well-defined and not as diverse as those for the younger generation.

Another major finding was that it was the younger generation's satisfaction in the family that was most affected by the cross-generational disparity in gender-role preferences. They attributed this to the balance of power between generations in the family, whereby the older generation had the most influence.

Missing from the literature are attempts to compare existing marital gender role attitudes to the attitudes derived from the family of origin, and the consequence of similarities or differences between them. Does perception of parental marital quality affect an individual's tendency to hold similar marital gender-role attitudes as those they perceived their parents held? Which parent's perceived marital gender-role attitude appears to influence the child's marital gender-role attitude in the child's current marriage?

Based on the foregoing, the following hypotheses will be tested.

Statement of Hypotheses

1. A relationship exists between an individual's idealized marital gender role attitude and the marital gender role attitude the individual perceives his/her parents as having if one or both parents was/were perceived as having experienced positive marital quality.

2. A relationship exists between a couple's actual marital sex-role incongruency and that of one of the parental sets, as perceived by that spouse, if that parental set's marital quality is perceived as having been positive.

3. As an individual's perceived marital sex-role incongruency rating increasingly matches the couple's actual marital sex-role incongruency rating, his/her perception of his/her marital quality rating will increase.

4. Subjects' individual sex-role attitude scores will be significantly more egalitarian than those perceived as held by their parents regardless of the relative directions of the perceived marital sex-role incongruency between the parents and between their own spouse.

Chapter III
Method Section

Subjects

Subjects were drawn from a wide network which included church affiliated and military affiliated families. They were married couples who have children. This is to account for the fact that the individuals' recollections of their parents' marital gender-role attitudes were of a time in which that marriage had already clearly resulted in offsprings. Studies have shown that sex-role attitudes are directly related to corresponding changes in family status. In addition to having at least one child, subjects were limited to married couples whose both members have lived with both of their respective parents at least until the age of 12 years.

Twenty-nine couples participated in the study. The husbands ranged in age from 25 to 68 years, with a mean age of 40.2 years. The wives ranged in age from 23 to 63 years, with a mean age of 36.7 years. The number of years married for the participating couples ranged from 9 months to 37 years. Husbands' level of education varied from a high school degree to a graduate school degree with a mean level just below a college degree. Wives' level of education varied from a high school graduate degree to a graduate school degree with a mean level of "some college". Subjects represented several ethnic groups

although most described themselves as "white". The demographic characteristics of the sample are depicted in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Demographic Characteristics of the Couples

N=29

<u>HUSBANDS</u>			<u>WIVES</u>		
A. <u>AGE RANGE: 25-68 years</u>			<u>AGE RANGE: 23-60 years</u>		
Mean = 40.207			Mean = 36.690		
<u>age range</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>age range</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
20-30	6	20.7	20-30	9	31.0
31-40	12	41.4	31-40	12	41.4
41-50	3	10.3	41-50	2	6.9
51-60	5	17.2	51-60	5	17.2
61-70	3	10.3	61-70	1	3.4
B. <u>ETHNICITY</u>			<u>ETHNICITY</u>		
White	18	62.1	White	18	62.1
Black	8	27.6	Black	4	13.8
Hispanic	3	10.3	Hispanic	4	13.8
			Asian	2	6.9
			Other	1	3.4
C. <u># OF YEARS MARRIED</u>			<u># OF YEARS MARRIED</u>		
Range: 0.75-37			Range: 0.75-37		
Mean = 12.91			Mean = 12.91		
<u>Range</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Under 1	2	6.9	Under 1	2	6.9
1-5	5	17.2	1-5	5	17.2
6-10	11	37.9	6-10	11	37.9
11-20	3	10.3	11-20	3	10.3
21-30	3	10.3	21-30	3	10.3
31-40	5	17.2	31-40	5	17.2

TABLE 1 (CONT'D)

<u>HUSBANDS</u>				<u>WIVES</u>			
<u>D. NUMBER OF CHILDREN</u>				<u>NUMBER OF CHILDREN</u>			
Range: 1-10				Range: 1-10			
<u>#</u>	<u>freq.</u>			<u>#</u>	<u>freq.</u>		
1	10			1	10		
2	12			2	12		
3	3			3	3		
4	2			4	2		
5	1			5	1		
6	1			6	1		
<u>E. NUMBER OF HUSBANDS</u>				<u>NUMBER OF WIVES</u>			
<u>PREVIOUSLY MARRIED</u>				<u>PREVIOUSLY MARRIED</u>			
			3				3
<u>F. EDUCATION</u>				<u>EDUCATION</u>			
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>		<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>		
HSGRAD.	2	6.9		HSGRAD.	3	10.3	
VOCTRAIN.	1	3.4		VOCTRAIN.	3	10.3	
SOMECOLL.	4	13.8		SOMECOLL.	4	13.8	
COLLGRAD.	8	27.6		COLLGRAD.	8	27.6	
GRADSCHOOL	14	48.3		GRADSCHOOL	11	37.9	

TABLE 1 (CONT'D)

<u>HUSBANDS</u>			<u>WIVES</u>		
<u>G. NUMBER OF YEARS</u>			<u>NUMBER OF YEARS</u>		
<u>PARENTS WERE MARRIED</u>			<u>PARENTS WERE MARRIED</u>		
Range: 14-61			Range: 19-57		
Mean = 37.552			Mean = 37.828		
<u>Range</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
12-20	3	10.3	12-20	2	6.9
21-30	5	17.2	21-30	6	20.7
31-40	11	37.9	31-40	10	34.5
41-50	5	17.2	41-50	7	24.1
51-60	3	10.3	51-60	4	13.8
61 & over	2	6.9			
<u>H. HUSBANDS WITH</u>			<u>WIVES WITH</u>		
<u>DIVORCED PARENTS</u>			<u>DIVORCED PARENTS</u>		
5 (17.2%)			3 (10.3%)		
<u>I. BIRTH ORDER</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>BIRTH ORDER</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Only	1	3.5	Only	2	6.9
First born	13	44.8	First born	10	34.5
Last	3	10.3	Last	8	27.6
Other	12	41.4	Other	9	31.0

TABLE 1 (CONT'D)

<u>HUSBANDS</u>			<u>WIVES</u>		
<u>J. FATHER'S EDUCATION</u>			<u>FATHER'S EDUCATION</u>		
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>		<u>N</u>	
<u>%</u>					
under 8	4	13.8	under 8	1	3.4
eighth	1	3.4	eighth	4	13.8
HS grad.	11	37.9	some HS	2	6.9
somecol.	2	6.9	HS grad.	9	31.0
colgrad	3	10.3	somecol.	5	17.2
gradsch.	7	24.1	colgrad.	4	13.8
			gradsch.	3	10.3
<u>K. MOTHER'S EDUCATION</u>			<u>MOTHER'S EDUCATION</u>		
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>		<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
under 8	1	3.4	under 8	3	10.3
eighth	3	10.3	eighth	2	6.9
some HS	1	3.4	some HS	3	10.3
voctrai.	6	20.7	HS grad.	9	31.0
somecol.	5	17.2	voctrai.	2	6.9
colgrad.	7	24.1	somecol.	5	17.2
gradsch.	3	10.3	colgrad.	3	10.3
			gradsch.	2	6.9
<u>L. MILITARY</u>			<u>MILITARY</u>		
yes	7	31.8	yes	3	11.5
no	22	68.2	no	26	88.5

TABLE 1 (CONT'D)

<u>HUSBANDS</u>			<u>WIVES</u>		
M.	<u>CHURCH ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>CHURCH ATTENDANCE</u>	
	frequently	9	31.0	frequently	10 34.5
	occasionally	7	24.1	occasionally	11 37.9
	rarely	7	24.1	rarely	4 13.8
	no	6	2	no	4 13.8
N.	<u>RELIGION DURING</u>			<u>RELIGION DURING</u>	
	<u>CHILDHOOD</u>			<u>CHILDHOOD</u>	
	Protestant	20		Protestant	15
	Catholic	6		Catholic	10
	Jewish	2		Jewish	2
	None	1		None	2
O.	<u>CURRENT RELIGIOUS</u>			<u>CURRENT RELIGIOUS</u>	
	<u>AFFILIATION</u>			<u>AFFILIATION</u>	
	Protestant	16		Protestant	20
	Catholic	4		Catholic	3
	Jewish	2		Jewish	2
	Jehovah's Wit	1		Jehovah's Wit	1
	None	6		None	2

Instruments

A questionnaire packet was used to collect data from each marital partner. The questionnaire packet consisted of a background questionnaire and test instruments to measure sex-role egalitarianism, dyadic adjustment, and social desirability. The following sections will describe these questionnaires in greater detail.

1. Background Questionnaire

A demographic questionnaire was devised to obtain information about the subjects pertaining both to family of origin and present marriage. See Appendix C for a copy.

2. Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability Scale Short Form C.

Reynolds (1982). Using this shorter version of the Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability Scale (Crowne & Marlowe, 1960), allows assessment of the impact of social desirability on self-report measures in less time than the long form, without losing reliability (internal reliability coefficient of .76) and while still correlating highly with the 33-item Marlowe-Crowne (Reynolds, 1982).

It consists of 13 items using a true-false response format. Scores on this shorter version can range from 0-13 with higher scores representing a stronger social desirability response on the part of the respondent.

3. Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS). Spanier (1976)

The DAS was used in this study because it is a multidimensional measure for marital quality. Several

studies have shown that empirical assessments of marital quality does, in fact, require investigation as an empirically distinct concept (Spanier, 1976; Johnson et al., 1986).

Assessment of marital quality in this study will be made by subjects for their own marriages as well as their perceptions of their parents' marital quality. Because individuals differ in respect to what they perceive as the most salient factor in determining marital quality, a multi-dimensional measure like the DAS of one of his/her parents (SRESM or SRESF) was most appropriate in this study.

The DAS is a 32 item scale which is widely used as an overall measure of dyadic adjustment, both in married and unmarried cohabiting couples. These items measure 4 dimensions of marital adjustment, including 1) dyadic cohesion, the degree to which the couple engages in activities together; 2) dyadic consensus, the degree to which the couple agrees on matters of importance to the relationship; 3) dyadic satisfaction, the degree to which the partner is satisfied with the relationship; and 4) affectional expression, the degree to which the partner is satisfied with the expression of sex and affection in the relationship. Because of high reliability and validity within the subscales, they can be administered independently.

An overall DAS score may vary between 1 and 151, with higher scores reflecting better marital adjustment. Raw

test scores are often converted to T-scores that allow for inter-scale comparisons. However, raw scores of less than 100 for total marital adjustment can be used to identify poor dyadic adjustment. Spanier (1989) suggests caution in interpreting small differences in total scores.

The DAS was developed using a normative group of 218 married and 94 divorced, white persons from a rural community. The items on the DAS were evaluated by three judges for content validity. It was also evaluated for criterion-related validity. Using a t-test for assessing differences between sample means, the differences between the responses of the divorced sample and the married sample to the 32 items on the scale were found to be significant ($p < .001$). Even the total scores for each sample differed at the .001 level.

For construct validity, the DAS was correlated with the Locke-Wallace Marital Adjustment Scale (1959), which is frequently used, and the correlation between them was .86 among married respondents ($p < .001$). They also established construct validity through the factor analysis of the 32 item scale, thus finding that the 4 interrelated components exist (dyadic consensus, dyadic satisfaction, dyadic cohesion, affectional expression).

Total scale internal consistency reliability is .96, determined by using Cronbach's Coefficient alpha (1951). The reliability was also determined for each of the component scales and they are as follows:

dyadic consensus (.90), dyadic satisfaction (.94), dyadic cohesion (.86), affectional expression (.73).

4. Sex-Role Egalitarianism Scale (SRES). Beere et al. (1984). These researchers defined sex-role egalitarianism as "an attitude that causes one to respond to another individual independently of the other individual's sex...The true egalitarian does not discriminate against women in nontraditional roles and also does not discriminate against men in nontraditional roles." (p. 564). That is, the individual does not judge the other's behavior according to the criteria of adherence to traditional sex roles. They then defined 5 areas in which this attitude can be assessed and used them as subscales for the test. The five categories were Marital Roles, Parental Roles, Employment Roles, Social-Interpersonal-Heterosexual Roles, and Educational Roles.

This study employed the Marital subscale [Form B] which measures the degree of an individual's agreement with statements about the proper roles of husbands and wives. Like the other subscales, this one contains 19 items, scored on a five-point Likert scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Answers are coded such that high scores mean more egalitarian sex-role attitudes.

Using the Spearman-Brown prophecy formula, internal consistency reliability for the Marital Subscale was .88. Regarding validity, only preliminary data is available. First, there were significant differences between the sexes

on scoring patterns with women scoring significantly higher than men in every category. The researchers also found evidence of the discriminant validity in the correlations between the SRES scores and scores on the Edwards' Social Desirability Scale (1957). The fact that the correlation coefficients were low indicated that the SRES is not measuring a tendency to respond in a socially desirable manner.

A Marital Sex-Role Incongruence (MSRI) score can be calculated for each couple by subtracting the wife's Sex-Role Egalitarianism score from the husband's. This was a method employed by Li and Caldwell (1987). When MSRI scores are positive, the husband is more egalitarian than his wife; when the MSRI is negative, the wife is more egalitarian than her husband. In the study, this score is called CMSRI [couple's marital sex-role incongruency score].

This study also calculated several other relevant scores in this manner. SMSRI [Self Marital Sex-Role Incongruence Score] is each spouse's own MSRI score. In this case the husband's SMSRI score was determined by subtracting the score for his perception of his wife's SRES from his own SRES score. The wife's SMSRI score was determined by subtracting her own SRES score from that of her perception of her husband's SRES score. By always subtracting the wife's score from the husband's, the sign of the score can always be interpreted the same, namely that when the score

is negative, the wife is perceived as more egalitarian than the husband and when the score is positive, the husband is perceived as more egalitarian than the wife. The same is true of the husband's SMSRI score.

Likewise, PMSRI [Parents' Marital Sex-Role Incongruence Score] was calculated for each individual participant. Here, an individual's perceived SRES score for his/her mother is subtracted from the perceived SRES score for the father, thus allowing us to see which parent each individual perceived as having been more egalitarian.

For clarification on the abbreviations of measurement terms used in this study, see Appendix B.

Procedure

Potential subjects were made aware of the study by flyers and/or index cards (see Appendix A) stating the purpose of the study and the criteria for participants. Flyers and index cards were posted in day-care centers on Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base, California. Index cards were either mailed or given to couples known by the researcher to fit the more obvious criterion that they be married and have at least 1 child. Final criterion for inclusion in the study was that potential subjects had lived with their parents at least until the age of 12 years. This they indicated on their reply cards.

Thirty-four couples, meeting all criteria, initially

agreed to participate in the study, indicating so by mailing back to the researcher a pre-stamped and addressed card with their names and addresses. Each couple, in turn, was then mailed a folder containing both the husband's and the wife's packet containing the test instruments and the demographic questionnaires. The order of presentation of all test instruments was randomized according to a randomization schedule (see Appendix C) and subjects were instructed to fill out the questionnaires according to the presented order. A copy of a sample packet including all measures may be found in Appendix D. The packets were clearly identified for each gender. A pre-stamped and addressed envelope was enclosed. Final sample size was 29 couples, based solely on returned and completed questionnaires. Participants lived in a number of different states (ie: California, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Arizona, New Jersey, New York, and North Carolina). Husband's and wives' data were analyzed separately.

Confidentiality was assured as couples were not required to identify themselves by name unless they requested a summary of the research findings. All participants were asked to self-select a 3-digit code for identification that they placed on all pages of their questionnaires. Once packets were received by the researcher, they were checked for completeness, identifying data was removed, and they were numbered by the order in which they were received. For coding purposes, husbands

were given the number "1" preceeding the number of the couple they belonged to while wives were given the number "2". Thus individuals 110 and 210 could be easily identified as being a married pair.

The SRES (sex-role egalitarianism scale) measure was administered 5 times and they were filled out in accordance with the following instructions:

1 & 2) "Fill out the following 19 questions as your mother [or father] would have when you were growing up." The results on these measures would provide the participant's perceived sex-role attitude (note explanation of terms in Appendix B) for his/her mother and father (SRESM & SRESF).

3) "Fill out the following questionnaire according to how you feel now." The results on this measure would provide the participant's self-perceived sex-role attitude (SRESS).

4) "Fill out the following questionnaire the way your spouse feels now. Do not discuss the questions with your spouse, however." The results on this measure would provide the participant's perceived sex-role attitude for his/her spouse (SRESSP).

5) "Fill out the following questionnaire to indicate the best way a person could strive to be." The results on this measure would provide the participant's ideal sex-role attitude (SRESI).

The DAS (Dyadic Adjustment Scale) was administered 3

times and they were filled out in accordance with the following instructions:

1 & 2) "Fill out the following 32 questions as your father [or mother] would have when you were growing up."

The result on this measure would provide the participant's perceived level of dyadic adjustment (note explanation of terms in Appendix B") for his/her mother and father (DASM and DASF).

3) Fill out the following 32 questions as they pertain to your relationship with your spouse." The result on this measure would provide the participant's own level dyadic adjustment (DASS).

Chapter IV

Results

All measures were scored for each participant. Husbands' and wives' data were analyzed separately. Table 2 presents means, ranges and standard deviations for self and perceived marital gender-role attitude ratings. Table 3 presents the means, ranges and standard deviations of self- and perceived dyadic adjustment ratings.

Hypotheses 1, 2, and 3 were analyzed using a one-tailed Pearson correlation test because those hypotheses set the appropriate conditions for using the one-tailed test. Namely that the critical region for rejecting those hypotheses was in one end of the probability distribution. A two-tailed test analysis of additional data was selected because since a specific direction of the statistic was not sought, a greater magnitude of the statistic for rejection of the null hypothesis was desired. This researcher wanted a more vigorous statistic to reduce the likelihood of obtaining false results with the sample size of 29.

The Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability Scale correlated with several variables examined in this study. However, partial correlation coefficients were determined for all relationships analyzed in this study and it was found that the Marlowe-Crowne variable did not have a significant effect on those statistical correlations. See Appendix D.

In hypotheses 1, the tested correlation was between perceived sex-role attitude of one's ideal (SRESI) and perceived sex-role attitude of one's mother or father (SRESM or SRESF, respectively) when either perceived marital quality of one's mother or father (DASM or DASF, respectively) was at least 100 (generally used cut-off figure) whereby scores above this would indicate positive marital quality.

In hypothesis 2, the tested correlation was between the couple's marital sex-role incongruency rating (CMSRI) and the individual's perceived marital sex-role incongruency rating for his/her parents (PMSRI) when the average of one's perceived dyadic adjustment ratings for his/her parents (DASP) was at least 100.

In hypothesis 3, the tested correlation was between the absolute value of the difference between an individual's self-perceived marital sex-role incongruency rating (SMSRI) and the couple's marital sex-role incongruency rating (CMSRI) with the individual's dyadic adjustment rating (DAS).

Hypothesis 4 was tested with an Analysis of Variance for repeated measures whereby the mean level of the sex-role attitude ratings (SRES) for the subjects themselves vs. those they perceived for their parents (SRESM/SRESF) was examined.

Additional statistical analyses (including chi-square and Kruskal-Wallis H-test) were computed to test relevant

variable relationships. Finally, all variables were intercorrelated with each other [2-tailed tests] and tested for significance. Frequency tables were run for all demographic variables.

The remainder of this chapter has been divided into 4 sections which correspond to the hypotheses of the study and 3 additional sections corresponding to relevant findings for the variables of ethnicity, education and birth order. All results for husbands and wives will be presented separately within the tables.

Table 2

Means, Ranges and Standard Deviations of
Self and Perceived Marital Gender Role Attitude Ratings

<u>Husbands</u> N= 29				<u>Wives</u> N= 29			
<u>Variable</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>S.D.</u>	<u>range</u>	<u>Variable</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>S.D.</u>	<u>range</u>
SRESS ^a	77.62	10.27	56-98	SRESS	80.14	8.59	62-95
SRESM ^b	60.48	9.34	47-85	SRESM	60.03	9.65	45-82
SRESF ^c	53.90	8.07	34-68	SRESF	56.83	11.27	38-86
SRESSP ^d	77.38	11.30	56-95	SRESSP	72.90	9.95	56-93
SRESI ^e	81.21	10.44	57-95	SRESI	79.24	10.61	62-95

Key

- a - SRESS - self-perceived sex-role attitude
- b - SRESM - perceived sex-role attitude of one's mother
- c - SRESF - perceived sex-role attitude of one's father
- d - SRESSP- perceived sex-role attitude of one's spouse
- e - SRESI - perceived sex-role attitude of one's ideal

Table 3

Means, Ranges and Standard Deviations of
Self and Perceived Dyadic Adjustment Ratings

<u>Husbands</u> N= 29				<u>Wives</u> N= 29			
<u>Variable</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>S.D.</u>	<u>range</u>	<u>Variable</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>S.D.</u>	<u>range</u>
DASS ^f	115.07	12.87	87-150	DASS	113.14	14.77	79-148
DASM ^g	97.21	28.41	15-127	DASM	97.79	25.20	44-139
DASF ^h	97.25	27.08	21-127	DAS	98.86	25.33	44-137

Key

- f - DASS - self-perceived dyadic adjustment
g - DASM - perceived dyadic adjustment of one's mother
h - DASF - perceived dyadic adjustment of one's father

Tests of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: A relationship exists between an individual's idealized marital gender role attitude (SRESI) and the marital gender-role attitude the individual perceives his/her parents as having (SRESM/SRESF) if one or both parents was/were perceived as having experienced positive marital quality (DASM/DASF).

From Table 4 one can see that when at least one parental marital quality rating (DAS) was >100 , this hypothesis was not supported.

However, examining the same relationship relative to whether the individuals perceived that parent as having experienced negative or positive marital quality yielded a significant finding (Table 5).

These findings indicate that men's ideal sex-role attitudes correlate (significant at the .03 level) with their perceptions of their mothers' sex-role attitude in cases where she was perceived as having experienced low marital quality (DASM <100). In order to determine what sex-role attitude correlated with reduced marital quality for the mothers, further data analysis was necessary.

First, the relationship between parental sex-role attitude and dyadic adjustment as perceived by all subjects indicates that the more egalitarian the subjects perceived their fathers to be, the greater the perceived marital quality for both of their parents. In Table 6, one can see that there was a positive correlation between the

Table 4

¹Correlations Between One's Ideal Sex-Role Attitude (SRESI) and the Perceived Sex-Role Attitude of a Parent (SRESM/SRESF) when the Perceived Marital Quality of at Least One Parent (DASM/DASF) is Greater than 100

		<u>N</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>p</u>
Husbands (SRESI) ^k	Mothers (SRESM) ^j	19	.1226	.309
	Fathers (SRESF) ^m	19	.0122	.480

Wives (SRESI)	Mothers (SRESM)	19	-.0465	.425
	Fathers (SRESF)	19	-.0399	.436

¹Pearson r, 1-tailed test

Key

- j - SRESM - perceived sex-role attitude of one's mother
- k - SRESI - perceived sex-role attitude of one's ideal
- m - SRESF - perceived sex-role attitude of one's father

Table 5

Correlations¹ Between One's Ideal Sex-Role Attitude (SRESI) and the Perceived Sex-Role Attitude of a Parent (SRESM/SRESF) when that Parent's Marital Quality(DASM/DASF) was Perceived as Incongruent (<100 and >100)

	Dyadic Adjustment			Dyadic Adjustment		
	Score(DAS) <100			Score (DAS)>100		
	<u>N</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>p</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>p</u>
Mothers (SRESM) ⁿ	11	.573	.026*	17	.043	.435
Husbands (SRESI) ^o						
Fathers ^p (SRESF)	12	.017	.478	16	-.036	.447

Mothers (SRESM)	11	-.244	.223	17	-.138	.299
Wives (SRESI)						
Fathers (SRESF)	11	-.378	.113	17	.032	.451

¹ Pearson r, 1-tailed test

* p<.05

Key

- n - SRESM - perceived sex-role attitude of one's mother
o - SRESI - perceived sex-role attitude of one's ideal
p - SRESF - perceived sex-role attitude of one's father

female subjects' perceptions of their father's sex-role attitude (SRESF) and their perceived marital quality for each parent (DASM and DASF).

Second, Table 7 indicates a similarly significant finding with the husbands' data. The difference, however, is that it was men's perception of their father's sex-role attitude relative to that of the mother's (PMSRI), whereby the father was perceived as the more egalitarian parent, that correlated with the respondent's perceptions of greater parental marital quality. No correlation was found between the male subjects' perceptions of their fathers' sex-role attitude (SRESF) and their perceived dyadic adjustment for each parent (DASM, DASF).

Thus, the results indicated in Table 7 now offer clarity to the finding that men's ideal sex-role attitudes correlate with their perceptions of their mothers' sex-role attitude when they were perceived as having experienced low marital quality (DASM <100). The apparent implication is that mothers who are perceived as having experienced low marital quality would also be perceived as being the more egalitarian parent. It then followed that men's ideal sex-role attitude is an egalitarian one.

The possibility that self-perceived marital quality (DASS) might be related to which spouse the individual perceives as most egalitarian (SMSRI) was examined for all subjects (Table 8).

For women, perception of one's own marital sex-role

Table 6

Correlations¹ Between Women's Perceived Marital
Sex-Role Attitude of Father (SRESF) and Perceived
Marital Quality for each Parent (DASM/DASF)

	<u>N</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>p</u>
Mothers' dyadic adjustment (DASM) ^q	28	.6173	.000***
Women's (SRESF) ^r			
Fathers' dyadic adjustment (DASF) ^s	28	.5701	.002**

¹ Pearson r, 2-tailed test

** p<.01

*** p<.001

Key

q - DASM - perceived dyadic adjustment of one's mother
r - SRESF - perceived sex-role attitude of one's father
s - DASF - perceived dyadic adjustment of one's father

Table 7

Correlations Between Men's Perceived Marital Sex-Role
Incongruency (PMSRI) and Perceived Marital Quality
(DASM/DASF) for the Parents

	N	r	p
Men's (PMSRI) ^u	28	.4493	.016*
Mother's dyadic adjustment (DASM) ^t			
Father's dyadic adjustment (DASF) ^v	28	.5889	.001**

¹ Pearson r, 2-tailed

* p<.05

** p<.01

Key

t - DASM - perceived dyadic adjustment of one's mother

u - PMSRI - perceived parental marital sex-role
incongruency

v - DASF - perceived dyadic adjustment of one's father

Table 8

Correlations¹ Between One's Self-Perceived Marital Sex-Role
Incongruency (SMSRI) and Marital Quality (DASS)

N= 29

	<u>r</u>	<u>p</u>
Husbands	-.1988	.301
Wives	.4739	.009**

¹ Pearson r, 2-tailed test

** p<.01

incongruency correlated with marital quality (significant at the .01 level). Perceiving one's husband as the more egalitarian spouse correlated with greater self-perceived marital quality.

For men, however, marital quality did not correlate with any variables relating to sex-role attitude, but rather with variables such as age and the number of years they had been married. Husbands' age (significant at the .00 level) correlated in the positive direction with their self-ratings on marital quality. This was not the case for women (Table 9).

Additional analyses on perceived sex-role attitudes for one's parents found that for men, analysis by one-way ANOVA indicated that there is a significant difference between a man's perception of his father's sex-role attitude and his own wife's military status (Table 10). Men whose wives were in the military tended to perceive their fathers as more egalitarian than those whose wives were not in the military. For women, analysis by one-way ANOVA indicated that there is a significant difference between a woman's perception of her parents' sex-role incongruency and her own military status (Table 11). Women who were in the military tended to perceive their fathers as the more egalitarian parent than women who were not in the military.

Table 9

Correlations¹ Between Subject's Self-Perceived Marital
Quality Ratings with Age of Subject and Length of Marriage

	<u>N</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>p</u>
Age	29	.6135	.000***
Husbands			
# Years married	29	.5436	.002**

Age	29	.2428	.204
Wives			
# Years married	29	.2470	.196

¹ Pearson r, 2-tailed test

** p<.01

*** p<.001

Table 10

ANOVA Between Men's Perception of Their Father's
Marital Sex-Role Attitude (SRESF) and Their
Own Wive's Military Status

	<u>F</u>	<u>p</u>
Between groups	4.05	.0542*

* $p < .05$

Table 11

ANOVA Between Women's Perception of Their Parents' Marital
Sex-Role Incongruency (PMSRI) and Their Own Military Status

	<u>F</u>	<u>p</u>
Between groups	5.09	.0324*

* $p < .05$

Hypothesis 2: A relationship exists between a couple's actual marital sex-role incongruency (CMSRI) and that of one of the parental sets, as perceived by that spouse (PMSRI) if that parental set's marital quality (DASP) is perceived as having been positive.

This hypothesis was supported for the husbands (Table 12). There was a moderate correlation (significant at the .005 level) between a couple's actual marital sex-role incongruency (CMSRI) and that of the husband's perception of his parents' overall marital quality as positive (DASP >100). In other words, in cases where the men perceived their parents' overall marital quality as positive, their perception of their father being the more egalitarian parent correlated with the men's own marriages as being one in which he was the more egalitarian spouse.

Significance for women was found only when the data were analyzed from the perspective of self-perceived marital sex-role incongruency (SMSRI) as opposed to actual marital sex-role incongruency (CMSRI) (Table 13). When women perceived their parents' overall marital quality as positive, their perception of their father being the more egalitarian parent correlated with their perception that their own husband was the more egalitarian spouse.

Table 12

Correlations¹ Between Couple's Actual Marital Sex-Role
 Incongruency (CMSRI) and Perceived Parental Marital
 Sex-Role Incongruency (PMSRI) When Perceived Parental
 Marital Quality (DASP) Was Greater Than 100

	<u>N</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>p</u>
Husbands	15	.7697	<.005**
Wives	16	.1198	n.s.

¹ Pearson r, 1-tailed test

** p<.01

n.s. - not significant

Table 13

Correlations¹ Between Self-Perceived Marital Sex-Role
 Incongruency (SMSRI) and Perceived Parental Marital
 Sex-Role Incongruency (PMSRI) When Perceived Parental
 Marital Quality (DASP) Was greater Than 100

	<u>N</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>p</u>
Husbands	15	.1492	n.s.
Wives	16	.4263	.05*

¹ Pearson r, 1 tailed test

* p<.05

n.s. - not significant

Hypothesis 3: As an individual's perceived marital sex-role incongruency rating (SMSRI) increasingly matches the couple's actual marital sex-role incongruency (CMSRI), his/her perception of his/her marital quality (DASS) will increase.

This hypothesis was not supported for men or women (Table 14). However, analysis of the relationship between self-perceived and actual marital sex-role incongruency (SMSRI and CMSRI, respectively) without including marital quality ratings in the analysis, found significant results (Table 15). Men's perception of themselves as the more egalitarian spouse in their marriages correlated with the men actually being the more egalitarian one. The same results were found in the correlation between the husband's self-perceived sex-role attitude (HSRESS) and the actual marital sex-role incongruency of his marriage (HCMSRI) [N=29, $r=.3875$, $p=.038$]. Women's perception of their husbands as being the more egalitarian spouse in their marriage was just short of correlating significantly with the husbands' actually being the more egalitarian spouse.

Table 14

Correlations¹ Between Self-Perceived Marital Sex-Role
 Incongruency (SMSRI) and Couple's Actual Marital Sex-Role
 Incongruency (CMSRI) When Each Spouse's Perceived
 Marital Quality (DASS) Was Greater Than 100

	<u>N</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>p</u>
Husbands	29	-.2521	.094
Wives	29	-.2554	.091

¹ Pearson r, 1-tailed test

Table 15

Correlations¹ Between Self-Perceived Marital Sex-Role
 Incongruency (SMSRI) and Couple's Actual
 Marital Sex-Role Incongruency (CMSRI)

	<u>N</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>p</u>
Husbands	29	.4995	.006**
Wives	29	.3488	.064

¹ Pearson r, 2-tailed test

** p<.01

Hypothesis 4: Subjects' individual sex-role attitude scores (SRESS) will be significantly more egalitarian than those perceived as held by their parents (SRESM/SRESF) regardless of the relative directions of the perceived marital sex-role incongruency between the parents (PMSRI) and between their own spouse (SMSRI).

This hypothesis was supported and the findings were highly significant (Table 16). Men and women perceived themselves as more egalitarian (HSRESS & WSRESS, respectively) than they perceived either of their parents (WSRESM/WSRESF).

Additional Findings:

Further analysis of the data generated significant findings for the variables of ethnicity, education and birthorder. Although the effects of these variables were not a specific focus of this study, and as such were not distinguished within the hypotheses, they are nonetheless worthy of mention and can be found in Appendix E.

Table 16

1-way ANOVA for Relationship Between Perceived Marital
Sex-Role Attitude Ratings for Self and Parents

Husbands:

	<u>F</u>	<u>p</u>
Between groups	57.62	.000***

Wives:

	<u>F</u>	<u>p</u>
Between groups	63.10	.000***

*** $p < .001$

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

This study examined the relationship between married individuals' self-perceived sex-role attitudes, marital sex-role incongruencies and marital quality and those they perceived retrospectively of their parents during childhood. Analyses of the data found significant correlations between inter- and intra-generational sex-role variables.

Confirmation was obtained for the objective that married individuals would hold more egalitarian, or progressive sex-role attitudes than those they perceived for either parent, and that the disparity would hold regardless of the individuals' current marital sex-role incongruency. This was not unlike the Weigel & Weigel (1990) finding that, amongst 2-generation families living together, the younger generation held more contemporary gender-role preferences. Developmental and historical differences between the generations are plausible explanations for the disparity in attitudes towards marital roles.

Studies of socialization practices and sex-role development clearly implicate the parents as a source of influential modeling. Two objectives in this study sought to examine the possibility that retrospective perception of positive parental marital quality might have been the model for the aspiration of sex-role attitudes or for duplicating

marital sex-role incongruencies similar to those of the parents.

Men's ideal sex-role attitudes correlated with their perceptions of their mother's sex-role attitudes but only in cases where she was perceived as having experienced low marital quality. This suggested that despite the connection between low marital quality and whatever the perceived sex-role attitude was for the mother, their sons saw value in that sex-role attitude and held it as an idealization for themselves. Presuming that individuals do not aspire to attain poor marital quality, these men would not have expected low marital quality for themselves nor their wives. Upholding that idealized sex-role attitude would presumably maintain more positive marital quality. Further analyses to determine what sex-role attitude correlated with reduced marital quality for the mother suggested that men's ideal sex-role attitude is an egalitarian one.

Both sexes perceived greater marital quality for both of their parents when the father was perceived as either rating high on egalitarianism or being the more egalitarian parent. This finding is similar to the findings of Li and Caldwell (1987) and Bowen (1989) whereby greater marital quality was found in relationships where marital sex-role incongruency was in the direction of the husband being the more egalitarian spouse. It is possible that children would view these fathers as fostering a happier and healthier

home life. With the father's support of and the mother feeling that she would be supported in her independent interests outside of the family and the way she conducts her marital roles, disagreements about such roles may have been minimized.

A correlation was found between subjects' perceived marital sex-role incongruency of their parents and the sex-role incongruency of their own marriages when the parents' marriages were perceived as rating high on marital quality. The logistics of this finding, however, differed between the sexes, suggesting a significant gender difference regarding perceptions of relationships.

For men, the perceived marital sex-role incongruency of their parents correlated with the men's actual sex-role incongruency ratings (which is determined by comparing the 2 partners' independently derived sex-role attitude ratings). Men who perceived greater parental marital quality when their father was perceived as the most egalitarian parent actually were the more egalitarian spouse within their own marriage.

Overall, these men seem to have identified with egalitarianism as a positive characteristic of husbands because it is what would have promoted greater overall marital quality (in their family of origin and presumably in their current marriage).

For women, the perceived marital sex-role incongruency of their parents correlated with the women's self-perceived

marital sex-role incongruency rating (determined by the subject's perceived marital sex-role attitude rating for her husband).

Women who perceived greater parental marital quality when their father was perceived as the most egalitarian parent, perceived their husbands as the more egalitarian spouse.

This indicates that men and women are differentially influenced by their perception of couples' sex-role incongruencies, including their own. This study's final objective provides additional support for these findings.

It was wondered what relationship existed between an individual's self-perceived marital quality and the degree of similarity or dissimilarity between self-perceived marital incongruency and actual sex-role incongruency. No statistical evidence was found to indicate that an individual's dyadic adjustment is impacted by the proximity between his/her perceived and actual marital sex-role incongruency. However, amongst this study's subjects only the women reported greater marital quality when they perceived their spouses as being the more egalitarian partner. This suggests that there may be gender differences regarding the salient factors affecting relational experiences or expectations that affect marital quality.

Despite the fact that 1)both men and women perceive greater parental marital quality when the man is perceived to be the more egalitarian spouse and 2)that men who

perceived their fathers as being the more egalitarian parent actually are the more egalitarian spouse within their own marriage, no correlation has been found between men's marital sex-role incongruency and marital adjustment.

The finding that it was women's perceived, rather than actual, marital sex-role incongruency that correlated with her perceived parental marital sex-role incongruency and that it was, again, her self-perceived marital sex-role incongruency that correlated with her perception of marital quality for both herself and her parents, emphasizes how men and women's relational experiences are differentially influenced by their perceptions of sex-role attitudes. Since a woman's perceived marital sex-role incongruency rating is determined using the rating for her perception of her husband's sex-role attitude, this suggests that, as in the case of perceived marital sex-role incongruencies for couples', women are more greatly influenced by their perceptions of others' sex-role attitudes than men are. If their husbands were perceived to be the more egalitarian spouse, then those women were more likely to report greater marital quality.

Examination of all of the women's parent pairs indicated that 93% of the mothers were perceived as more egalitarian than the fathers. Because it has already been noted that perceived marital quality is greater when the husband is perceived as the more egalitarian partner, this finding suggests that most of the female subjects would

have perceived greater parental marital quality if they thought that their fathers had greater egalitarian sex-role attitudes. This does not suggest that the women tended to see their parents' marriages as other than happy. Rather, it just could have been even better than it was.

Observing the effects on parental marital quality by such sex-role incongruencies might motivate women to seek a marital relationship in which the husbands' sex-role attitudes are highly egalitarian, perhaps even more egalitarian than their own. This does not imply that women would prefer traditional marital sex-roles for themselves because they did not see themselves as traditional. However, the more egalitarian the spouse is perceived, the greater the possibility that his supportive position towards the wife's duties and interests would promote more positive family life and thus, better marital quality. Whether women actually seek and obtain partners with high marital sex-role egalitarian views, or whether they accommodate their views and actions in order to obtain such an incongruency, cannot be determined through this research.

Amongst women with military status, not only did they perceive their fathers as the more egalitarian parent but their spouses had perceived their own fathers as the more egalitarian parent. For the women, this data could indicate that the influence of such a perception may extend to the perceived suggestion of support and

encouragement of women's self-selected roles in life, even in traditionally male-oriented fields of work. Egalitarian fathers give permission for daughters to move outside of traditional sex-roles for women. The military is an example of a non-traditional career. For the men, this may suggest that men's perceptions of early exposure to egalitarian roles (an egalitarian socialization process) may result in the development of adult males who can adapt to women who choose a "male" occupation like the military has traditionally been.

Despite these findings, it must be noted that women with military status comprised a very small subsample within this study (N=3; 10%) and as such no generalizations can be made from the findings.

In this study, when a man perceived himself as being the more egalitarian partner in his marriage, he frequently was, indeed, the more egalitarian partner. Whether or not this is an aberration due to subjects under or overrating themselves cannot be determined. However, a significant correlation was found between how a man rated his wife on marital sex-role egalitarianism and how she rated herself. On the other hand, no correlation was found between how a woman rated her husband on marital sex-role egalitarianism and how he rated himself. This suggests that men are better at determining egalitarianism both for himself and for his wife may provide further evidence for the findings that "women perceive and construe social reality

differently from men" (Gilligan, 1982, p.171).

It may be surmised that this awareness of their spouse's ideas and attitudes on sex-roles would promote greater understanding of the importance such relational factors have on their wives' self-perception of marital quality. Yet, men's self-perceived marital quality bore no relationship to the variables concerning marital sex-role attitudes or incongruencies. This suggests that there are other factors which play a greater role in determining men's level of marital quality. After all, the male subjects' self-perceived marital quality in this study was reported as better the older they were and the longer they had been married.

In relation to the concurrence between the factors of age and length of marriage (older men are more likely to have been married longer), this finding may reflect successful developmental work of various phases in man's life such as early, middle and late adulthood (Levinson, 1978), and more specifically the developmental work of the Mid-Life Transition. At that time, a married man reappraises his life, modifies various components of his life structure (ie: marriage) and struggles with the conflicts inherent to the process of individuation. Via the masculine/feminine polarity, among others, he acquires a greater acceptance of the feminine aspects of himself. This, coupled with presumably constructive modifications in their marriage, would promote more satisfactory marriages

for these men.

Findings from this study confirm that married individuals' perception of their parents' marital quality and their parents' attitudes about marital gender-roles, relate to their current self-perceptions of such roles, as well as the expectations placed on others for such roles. On the whole, both men and women perceive marital quality as better if men rate highly on marital sex-role egalitarianism and/or if they are the more egalitarian spouse. However, women tend to report greater marital quality if they perceive their husbands as the more egalitarian spouse while men's reporting of marital quality is not dependent on any variables of sex-role attitude.

The specific gender differences in such perceptions and expectations can be explored and highlighted in many therapeutic encounters for the purpose of increased marital awareness, understanding and quality.

For example, married partners can be encouraged to examine their perceptions of parents' roles and marital quality in the context of the impact of those perceptions on their marriage. This would help clarify the family projection process and illustrate the multigeneration transmission process. Since sex-role attitudes and expectations are components of the socialization into the culture in which one is raised, it is not easy to recast such attitudes and expectations into those that are more compatible with those of a spouse or to current conditions

(Bowen, 1985; Boszormenyi-Nagy, 1986).

Limitations

A limitation of this study is that because of the relatively small sample on which the findings are based, one cannot generalize from these findings. Because of the small population, even the significant similarities and differences found must be considered suggestive rather than definitive.

Another limitation of this study was the inability to control discussions of questionnaire items between the spouses and between the generations. All participants were directed to complete questionnaires independently but since they worked on them at their homes, we do not know whether or not and to what degree this direction was followed. If they reached concurrence then the agreement between ratings of the partner and the partner's self-rating would be useless.

Conclusions

Based on the findings of this study with consideration of its limitations, the following conclusions are tenable:

1. Gender is a determinant of how influential the experience of one's parents' marriage is on one's experience of the quality of and the balance of sex-roles within one's marriage.

- a. Men are more likely to be the more egalitarian spouse and women are more likely to perceive their husbands as the more egalitarian spouse if they perceived better

parental marital quality when they perceived their father as the more egalitarian parent.

b. Men and women are more likely to perceive the quality of their marriages as greater when they perceive their fathers as having been the more egalitarian parent.

2. Women;s perceptions of marital quality are influenced more by their perceptions of otherss' sex-role attitudes.

a. Women are more likely to rate the quality of their marriages more positively when they perceive their husbands as being the more egalitarian spouse.

3. Men are more likely to perceive their marriages as greater in quality the older they are and the longer they have been married.

4. Regardless of the perceived marital sex-role incongruencies or marital quality perceived for one's parents, married individuals hold more egalitarian sex-role attitudes than those they perceived for their parents.

Suggestions for Future Research

Perhaps the most exciting direction for this research to continue in is the exploration of similar generational differences between different clinical populations. For example, do individuals seeking marital counseling perceive the relationship between parental sex-role attitudes and marital quality differently than do non-clinical couples? Do any differences in perception correlate with their current sex-role attitudes either idealized, perceived or

actual? It would be worthwhile to investigate such differences in couples undergoing marital counseling, for two distinct populations. One would be such that both husband and wife had lived with both of their parents at least until the age of 12 years. The other would be for couples whereby at least one of the partners had experienced parental divorce prior to the age of twelve.

This study should be repeated with a larger population of couples. In addition, larger subgroups and ethnically different couples could suggest more reliable findings about ethnically based differences in perceptions of parental sex-role attitudes, marital quality, and the concurrence of those perceptions with attitudes in their own marriage.

The differences between the sexes in sex-role attitudes and level of marital quality especially in regard to education level and occupation of wives is an additional area that merits further exploration.

APPENDIX A

Subject Recruitment Flyer and Card

 * Dear Sir/Madame: *
 * I am conducting doctoral research on how couples relate *
 * to eachother. We think the information will help us *
 * understand better how to support marriages. I would *
 * appreciate your participation. *
 * We need both partners to respond to some questionnaires *
 * that should take no more than 40 minutes of your time. This *
 * study is limited to couples who have at least 1 child, and *
 * each partner lived with both parents until at least 12 years *
 * of age. Your responses will be anonymous and not traceable *
 * to you. *
 * Please return the attached card. Your help would be *
 * very much appreciated. *
 * *
 * Miriam Rendon Ivey *
 * 619-722-4717 *
 * *****

_____. YES. My spouse and I are willing to participate in the research on married couples. We have at least 1 child and each of us lived with both of our parents at least until we were 12 years of age.

NAMES: (please write in both spouses names.)

ADDRESS: _____

TEL.#: _____

Any questions? _____

_____. NO. My spouse and I will not be participating in the research. (I would appreciate your reasons.) Reasons:

APPENDIX B

Key for Abbreviation of Terms

This section will help clarify abbreviation of terms and their meanings. For further examination of the specific measures used, refer to "Instruments" section. All of the variables may have an "H" (for husband) or a "W" (for wife) preceding it (ie: HSRESM, WSRESF, etc.) depending from whose perspective a result is being examined:

SRESS - self-perceived sex-role egalitarianism scale rating. Because this study employed the Marital subscale of this measure, an individual's self-rating on this indicates the degree to which his/her marital sex-role attitude is egalitarian, or free of sex-role stereotypes. In this study, "sex-role egalitarianism scale rating" will be interchangeable with "sex-role attitude" and "gender-role attitude". The qualifier "marital" will be dropped, as it is an inherent property of the subscale used.

SRESM - perceived sex-role attitude of one's mother.

SRESF - perceived sex-role attitude of one's father.

SRESSP- perceived sex-role attitude of one's spouse.

SRESI - perceived sex-role attitude of one's ideal.

DASS - self-perceived dyadic adjustment scale rating.

This indicates an individual's overall sense of adjustment in his/her marriage. In this study, "dyadic adjustment

scale rating" will be interchangeable with "dyadic adjustment", "marital adjustment" and "marital quality".

DASM - perceived dyadic adjustment of one's mother.

DASF - perceived dyadic adjustment of one's father.

DASP - the average of DASM and DASF, representing one's overall perception of marital quality for the parents' marriage.

This rating has been used before when researchers use a couple as a unit of analysis. (Bowen & Orthner, 1983; Li & Caldwell, 1987; Whisman & Jacobson, 1989; Baucom & Aiken, 1984).

CMSRI - couple's marital sex-role incongruency rating. When the SRESS of a woman is subtracted from the SRESS of her husband, that couple acquires a CMSRI score. A positive difference indicates that the husband's SRESS rating indicated a more egalitarian sex-role attitude than that of his wife's. A negative difference indicates the reverse.

SMSRI - individual's self-perceived marital sex-role incongruency rating. This score is obtained for each female subject by subtracting her SRESS from her SRESSP. For a male subject, his SRESSP is subtracted from his SRESS. In either case, a positive difference indicates that the individual perceives the male partner as the more egalitarian of the two in that marriage. A negative difference indicates the reverse.

PMSRI - individual's perceived marital sex-role incongruency rating for his/her parents. This score is obtained for each subject by subtracting his/her SRESM from his/her SRESF. A positive difference indicates that the individual perceives his/her parents' marital incongruency as one in which the father is the more egalitarian of the two parents. A negative difference indicates the reverse.

APPENDIX C

RANDOMIZATION SCHEDULE (Using sample packet #5)

The following 7 items were always organized in this order and preceded the remaining questionnaires that were organized by a specific randomization schedule [see below].

1. Thank-you letter with instructions
2. Letter instructing research participant to self-select a 3-digit code for identification.
3. Demographic questionnaire
4. SRESS [Sex-role egalitarianism scale which individual fills out about self]
5. Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability Scale
6. DASS [Dyadic Adjustment Scale which individual fills out for his own relationship]
7. Letter notifying subject that following questionnaires will need to be filled out from different perspectives.

In order to prevent the necessary shifts in perspective that the participants were required to make from becoming too burdensome and/or confusing, SRES (sex-role egalitarianism rating) and DAS (dyadic adjustment) were always paired by the individual in question [ie: SRESM & DASM (perceived sex-role attitude and dyadic adjustment of one's mother)].

Five schedules were chosen to ensure that both men and

women would receive packets in these ways. Packets were assigned to subjects in the order in which the return postage card was received, with the top packet being assigned to the husband. Thus with the following packet materials organized as such...

SRESM	SRESF	SRESM	SRESF	SRESSP
DASM	DASF	DASM	DASF	SRESI
SRESF	SRESM	SRESI	SRESI	SRESM
DASF	DASM	SRESSP	SRESSP	DASM
SRESI	SRESI	SRESF	SRESM	SRESF
SRESSP	SRESSP	DASF	DASM	DASF
1	2	3	4	5

...every 5 couples were assigned throughout the schedule with men and women getting each type of packet an equal number of times (ie:

<u>Couple #</u>	<u>Packet #</u>	
	<u>H</u>	<u>W</u>
1	1	2
2	3	4
3	5	1
4	2	3
5	4	5

APPENDIX D

Partial Correlation Coefficients for Effect of
Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability Variable

1. The Marlowe-Crowne Measure SD Scale correlated with several variables, as indicated below:

WMC x WSRESI	r =	-.5472		<.01 (2-tailed)
WMC x WSRESI	r =	-.3863		
WMC x WPMSRI	r =	-.4570	N=29	
WMC x WSMSRI	r =	.4729		
WMC x WDASS	r =	.4574		<.05 (2-tailed)
WMC x WDASM	r =	.4576		
WMC x WDASF	r =	.3833	N=28	
WMC x WDASP	r =	.4326		
HMC x HDASS	r =	.376	N=29	<.05 (2-tailed)

Partial correlation coefficients were determined for all relationships in this study and it was found that the M-C variable did not have a significant effect on those statistical correlations. See table below.

				<u>Table with</u>
				<u>Original correlation</u>
<u>Measure</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>measure</u>	<u>partial r</u>	
WSRESI	x	WSRESM	.0064	4
WSRESI	x	WSRESF	.0063	5
WSRESF	x	WDASM	.7061	6
WSRESF	x	WDSAF	.5580	6
HSMSRI	x	HDASS	-.2326	8
WSMSRI	x	WDASS	.8844	8
HDASS	x	HAGE	.6267	9
HDASS	x	HMARR	.5386	9
WDASS	x	WAGE	.2476	9
WDASS	x	WMARR	.2066	9
WPMSRI	x	WMIL	.6198	11
WCMSRI	x	WPMSRI	.1793	12
WSMSRI	x	WPMSRI	.7051	13
WSMSRI	x	WCMSRI	.3636	14
WSMSRI	x	WCMSRI	.2409	15
WSMSRI	x	WEDUC	-.0410	24

APPENDIX E

Additional Findings on the Variables of
Ethnicity, Education and Birthorder

No significant differences were found between the subjects' ethnicity and a) their level of education, b) their mothers' level of education and c) their fathers' level of education, in either parametric (chi-square) tests (Table 17) or non-parametric tests (Kruskal-Wallis H-test) (Table 18). The effects of ethnicity and education on relevant variables were examined independently of each other.

ETHNICITY

After regrouping ethnicity categories into "White" and "Non-White", significant correlations were discovered with the variables of parental divorce, perceived parental dyadic adjustment, and perceived parental marital sex-role incongruencies.

Ethnicity and parental divorce are significantly related, in particular for men (Table 19). In this study's population, white men experienced fewer parental divorces (after the age of 12 years) than did men of non-white ethnic groups. No such significant differences were found for the women.

Men's ethnicity was also found to be significantly related to their perception of their parents' marital

Table 17

Chi-Square Test of Significance Between
Subject's Ethnicity and Level of Education
of Self and Parents

	<u>own level of</u> <u>education</u>	<u>mother's level</u> <u>of education</u>	<u>father's level</u> <u>of education</u>
Husband's	$\chi^2 = 4.25$	$\chi^2 = 6.99$	$\chi^2 = 12.17$
ethnicity			
(white vs.	df=5	df=7	df=7
nonwhite)	p= .5140	p= .4295	p= .0951

Wife's	$\chi^2 = 8.86$	$\chi^2 = 7.82$	$\chi^2 = 10.48$
ethnicity			
(white vs.	df=4	df=4	df=4
nonwhite)			
N= 28	p= .0646	p= .3488	p= .1058

Table 18

Kruskal-Wallis H-Test of Significance Between
Subject's Ethnicity and Levels of Education
of Self and Parents

	<u>own level of</u> <u>education</u>	<u>mother's level</u> <u>of education</u>	<u>father's level</u> <u>of education</u>
Husband's	H= .0005	H= 1.4727	H= 2.9944
ethnicity			
(white vs.	p= .9821	p= .2249	p= .0836
nonwhite)			
N= 29			

Wife's	H= .4506	H= .5885	H= .2299
ethnicity			
(white vs.	p= .5021	p= .4430	p= .6316
nonwhite)			
N= 28			

Table 19

Chi-Square Analysis of the Relationship Between
Ethnicity and Parental Divorce

	$\chi^2 = 4.54$
Husband's ethnicity	df=1
(white vs. nonwhite)	p<.05*
	$\phi = .3957$
	$\chi^2 = 1.40$
Wife's ethnicity	df=1
(white vs. nonwhite)	p>.20
	$\phi = .2364$

* p<.05

quality (Table 20). White husbands perceived their mothers and fathers as having experienced greater marital quality (DAS) than did men of other ethnic groups. No such significant differences were found for the women.

Despite ethnic differences in perception of parental marital quality, no significant differences were found in individual's self-perceived marital quality (DASS)(Table 21).

There is also a significant difference between white and non-white men regarding their perceptions of their parents' marital sex-role incongruencies (Table 22). White men's perception of their parents' marital sex-role incongruency (PMSRI) was such that in addition to the mother being perceived as the more egalitarian of the two parents, mothers were also perceived as less egalitarian than were the mothers of non-white male subjects. No such significant differences were found for the women in the study.

EDUCATION:

Parents' level of education was found to correlate with individual's marital sex-role incongruencies. A negative correlation (significant at the .02 level) was found between a couple's actual marital sex-role incongruency (CMSRI) and the education attained by the husband's mother (Table 23). Men whose actual marital incongruency was such that their wives were the more

Table 20

1-way ANOVA for the Relationship Between Ethnicity
and Perceived Parental Marital Quality (DASM/DASF)

<u>Husbands</u>		<u>Wives</u>	
1. WHITE & DASM	p= .0133*	WHITE & DASM	p=.8222
white \bar{x} = 107.59		white \bar{x} = 97.94	
(N=17)	(N=17)	(N=17)	
nonwhite \bar{x} = 81.18		nonwhite \bar{x} = 95.60	
	(N=11)		(N=10)
2. WHITE & DASF	p= .0101*	WHITE & DASF	p= .6148
white \bar{x} = 107.47		white \bar{x} = 99.88	
nonwhite \bar{x} = 81.45		nonwhite \bar{x} = 95.20	

* p<.05

Key

1. Individual's ethnicity (white vs. nonwhite) and his/her perceived dyadic adjustment of mother (DASM)
2. Individual's ethnicity and his/her perceived dyadic adjustment of father (DASF)

Table 21

1-way ANOVA for the Relationship Between Ethnicity
and Self-Perceived Marital Quality (DASS)

Husbands	Wives
1. WHITE & DASS p= .9253	1. WHITE & DASS p= .6148
white \bar{x} = 114.89	white \bar{x} = 113.83
(N=18)	(N=18)
nonwhite \bar{x} = 115.36	nonwhite \bar{x} = 110.80
(N=11)	(N=10)

Key

1. Individual's ethnicity and his/her self-perceived
dyadic adjustment (DASS)

Table 23

Correlation Between Couple's Actual Sex-Role
Incongruency (CMSRI) and Level of Education of
Subject's Mother

	<u>N</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>p</u>
Husbands	29	-.4181	.024*
<u>Wives</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>.1229</u>	<u>.525</u>

Pearson r, 2-tailed test

* $p < .05$

egalitarian of the two, had mothers who were more highly educated than did other men.

A negative correlation (significant at the .005 level) was found between a husband's level of education and his self-perceived marital sex-role incongruency (SMSRI) (Table 24). Men whose actual marital incongruency was such that their wives were the more egalitarian of the two, were more highly educated than other men. No significant difference was found for the wives.

When the levels of education indicated in the frequency tables (Table 1) were condensed into 2 groups (completed graduate school vs. other), correlations were found between a woman's level of education (WEDUC) and her perceived sex-role attitude rating for her father (SRESF - significant at the .04 level) and her mother (SRESM - significant at the .03 level) (Table 25). Women who completed graduate school perceived both parents as more egalitarian than did women who completed an education level below graduate school.

No significant difference was found among the male subjects of this study (husbands) regarding differences in perception of parental marital sex-role attitudes and the subject's level of education.

BIRTHORDER

After condensing birthorder information into the categories of first born, last and other, significant

Table 24

Correlation Between Individual's Level
of Education and Self-Perceived Marital
Sex-Role Incongruency (SMSRI)

	<u>N</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>p</u>
Husbands	29	-.5030	.005**
<u>Wives</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>-.1020</u>	<u>.598</u>

Pearson r, 2-tailed test

** p<.01

Table 25

1-way ANOVA for the Relationship Between Women's
 Level of Education and Perceived Parental
 Marital Sex-Role Attitude (SRESM/F)

1. WEDUC. & WSRESF $p = .0361^*$
 grad.school $\bar{x} = 62.36$ (N=11)
 other $\bar{x} = 53.44$ (N=18)

2. WEDUC. & HSRESM $p = .0282^*$
 grad.school $\bar{x} = 65.27$
 other $\bar{x} = 57.55$

* $p < .05$

Key

1. wife's level of education (grad.school vs. other) and her perception of her father's marital sex-role attitude (WSRESF)
2. wife's level of education (grad, school vs. other) and her husband's perception of his mother's marital sex-role attitude (HSRESM)

differences were found between the birth order of male subjects and their self-perceived sex-role attitude (SRESS) as well as that of their wife's (Table 26). No significant differences were found for the women in the study. Men who were first borns perceived themselves as more highly egalitarian within their marriage than did men who were born in differing ordinal positions. They also have spouses who perceive themselves as more highly egalitarian than those women whose husbands were not firstborns.

Of the 13 men who were firstborns 10 had had the experience of having female siblings but only 3 of their wives had had the experience of having at least 1 brother. Thus, only 3 of these 13 couples were in either complementary or partial complementary sibling positions. According to Toman (1976), a complementary sibling position in marriage would be one that resembles one's sibling position in childhood, by both rank and sex (ie: a firstborn male with a younger sister, marries a second born child that had an older brother). A partial complementary sibling position requires that both spouses have had several sibling relationships in their original families that are complementary to each other by rank and sex, in addition to noncomplementary ones. Ten of the couples were in noncomplementary sibling positions (ie: the marriage partners have either or both a rank and sex conflict). Table 27 presents the absence or presence of other sibling

Table 26

1-way ANOVA for the Relationship Between
 Husband's Birth Order and Self-Perceived Marital
 Sex-Role Attitude of the Husband (SRESS) and
 the Wife (SRESS)

	<u>Husband's birth order</u>			<u>p</u>
	<u>First born</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>Other</u>	
1. HSRESS	$\bar{x} = 81.92$	$\bar{x} = 60.00$	$\bar{x} = 78.00$	0015**
2. WSRESS	$\bar{x} = 82.39$	$\bar{x} = 68.67$	$\bar{x} = 81.00$.0384*

* $p < .05$

** $p < .01$

Key

1. HSRESS - Husband's self-perceived marital sex-role attitude
2. WSRESS - Wife's self-perceived marital sex-role attitude

Table 27

Complementarity of Sibling Positions for Couples in
Which the Husband was First-Born in His Family of Origin

Siblings in family of origin

<u>Couple #</u>	<u>Husband</u>		<u>Wife</u>				<u>Level of Complementarity</u>
	<u>YB</u>	<u>YS</u>	<u>YB</u>	<u>YS</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>OS</u>	
1	+	+	-	-	-	+	NC
2	+	+	-	+	-	-	NC
3	+	+	+	+	+	-	PC
4	+	-	+	+	+	+	NC
5	+	-	+	+	+	-	NC
6	+	+	-	+	-	+	NC
7	-	+	-	+	-	-	NC
8	-	+	-	-	+	-	C
9	+	+	-	+	-	+	NC
10	+	+	-	+	-	-	NC
11	-	+	-	-	-	+	NC
12	-	+	-	-	+	-	C
13	+	-	+	+	+	+	NC

Key

YB (younger brother)

PC (partial complementarity)

YS (younger sister)

NC (noncomplementarity)

OB (older brother)

(-) indicates absence of sibling

OS (older sister)

(+) indicates presence of sibling

C (complementarity)

positions for the 13 first-born men and their spouses. Eight women had had the experience of being an older sibling, thus having had a similar experience of leadership, as had their husbands.

Discussion of additional findings

Additional statistical analyses were conducted to assess the influence of ethnicity, education and birthorder on marital sex-role attitudes and marital quality. White parents were less likely to have been divorced than were non-white parents, white parents were more likely to have been seen as having better marriages and white mothers were perceived as being the more egalitarian parents, although they were perceived as less egalitarian than non-white mothers.

The census figures show a higher divorce rate for Black families, but one must attribute that to their social context. The well-documented stress to which non-whites are subjected to in this country is very likely reflected in tensions in their marital relationships, tensions evident to their children. It may also be that non-white subjects have a more pessimistic view of life including their own marital happiness and that of their parents.

Women's perception of each of their parents' level of education when the distinction was being made between

women who completed graduate and those who did not. Not unlike the finding that women with military status perceived their fathers as being the more egalitarian parent, such a perception of or experience with an egalitarian father may influence a woman towards setting higher educational goals.

In this study, the more educated men were and the more educated their mothers were, the more likely these men perceived their wives as the more egalitarian partner. Perhaps their own process of attaining higher levels of education made them more responsive to those spousal needs.

Analysis of birthorder effects indicated a greater tendency for first born males to perceive themselves and to have wives who perceive themselves, as more egalitarian than did men who were not first born.

One might suspect that differential socialization of first born men had some influence on the development of a greater egalitarian sex-role attitude than it did for men of other ordinal positions. Various studies have found evidence that first born adolescents report having more communication with and being more influenced by their parents, first born college males perceive themselves more similarly to and identify more closely with their father, and first born college women are more likely to perceive themselves as more similar to adults than those of other ranks (Singer, 1971; Palmer, 1966; Sutton-Smith et al., 1970

Given this study's findings that men and women perceive greater parental marital quality when the father rates high on egalitarianism, one might suppose that this would be a sex-role attitude one might aspire to and identify with. Thus, if first borns generally report greater similarity with their parents, then they may also be more likely to have greater egalitarian attitudes than individuals that were not first born.

APPENDIX F
Testing Items

1. LETTER TO PARTICIPANTS
2. SELF-CODING FORM
3. DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONNAIRE
4. MARLOWE-CROWNE SOCIAL DESIRABILITY SCALE SHORT FORM C
5. SEX-ROLE EGALITARIANISM SCALE FOR SELF
6. SEX-ROLE EGALITARIANISM SCALE FOR IDEAL
7. SEX-ROLE EGALITARIANISM SCALE FOR SPOUSE
8. DYADIC ADJUSTMENT SCALE FOR SELF
9. DYADIC ADJUSTMENT SCALE FOR FATHER
10. SEX-ROLE EGALITARIANISM SCALE FOR FATHER
11. SEX-ROLE EGALITARIANISM SCALE FOR MOTHER
12. DYADIC ADJUSTMENT SCALE FOR MOTHER

Miriam Rendón Ivey
729 Point Sur
Oceanside, CA 92054

To Participants in Research:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the research on married couples. I am a Clinical Psychology student at the City University of New York conducting research to partially fulfill the requirements for a Ph.D. degree.

This research is being conducted to collect information on husbands' and wives' attitudes and their perceptions of their parents' marriage. All of the information that you provide will remain strictly confidential. The responses will be separated from any identification. Only group findings, and no individual responses will be reported.

Before you begin, make certain that you are working on the color-coded packet for your gender (ie: husband's packet has the blue square on the top, right-hand corner of packet; wife's packet has the red square.)

Please note the time that you start on the front of your questionnaire packet. As you will notice, some questionnaires will appear in multiples. Please read the instructions for each one carefully, as you will be asked to answer questions from different perspectives. When finished, note the time of completion on the last page of your packet. If you are interrupted before you finish, just list dates and time for each occasion that you respond.

Please mail both sets of questionnaires in the enclosed self-stamped and addressed envelope.

If you have any questions about the study, you are welcome to call me about them at (619)722-4717, or write them down at the end of the packet.

Also, if you want to receive a summary of the results or would be willing to be interviewed about these matters, please indicate it on the form included in this packet.

Thank you very much for your valued help.

Sincerely,



Miriam Rendón Ivey

Your returns will be confidential. Furthermore, only grouped responses will be reported.

The following procedures are to insure that this privacy is protected.

Please choose any combination of 3 letters and/or numbers. This will be your code that will enable us to keep your responses together.

We will not attach your name to your responses after we have checked to see that you answered all the questions.

If you have agreed to be interviewed, we will ask for your code. If you agree we will then be able to ask you to tell us more about some of the answers. Otherwise, we will ask for your reactions without connecting them to your responses.

Please write your code here: _____

Please keep this paper for your future reference.

BE SURE TO WRITE YOUR CODE ON EACH PAGE.

And please answer the questionnaires in the order in which you have them.

Code #: _____

11. Do you work for pay outside of the home?
1. Yes. (What is your job/occupation? _____
How many hours a week? _____)
 2. No.
 3. Not at present, but I did before (What was your
job/occupation?) _____
12. Are you a member of the military services?
1. Yes _____
 2. No _____
 3. If yes, which branch? (Please circle) USMC USN USA USAF
 4. Are you an officer? _____Yes _____No
 5. Please state your rank: _____
13. In what religion were you raised? _____
14. What is your present religious affiliation? _____
15. Are you currently affiliated with an organized religious group?
Yes _____ No _____
16. Do you attend services and other activities?
1. Yes, frequently. _____
 2. Yes, occasionally. _____
 3. Very rarely. _____
 4. No. _____
17. Number of years your parents have been or were married (or lived
together). _____
18. Since you were 12 years old, have your parents separated or divorced?
1. Yes. How old were you? _____
 2. No. _____
19. Since you were 12 years old, did one or both of your parents die?
Mother _____ Father _____
If yes, how old were you? _____
20. Did you live with your parents until that age?
1. Yes _____
 2. No _____
 3. If no, indicate until what age you lived with both of them: _____
21. If divorced or widowed, have either of your parents remarried ?
(Please circle.)
1. Mother Yes No
 2. Father Yes No

Code #: _____

22. If your parents divorced or one was widowed while you were between the ages of 12 and 18, with whom did you live? (Please circle)

1. Mother only
2. Father only
3. Mother and stepfather
4. Father and stepmother
5. Other _____

23. Were your parents married to other individuals before they married each other? (Please circle)

1. Mother Yes No
2. Father Yes No

24. Did your parents have children from previous marriages?

1. Mother Yes No

_____Boys Ages _____
 _____Girls Ages _____

Who were they raised by? (Please circle)

1. your mother and father
2. their father only
3. their father and a stepmother
4. other _____

2. Father Yes No

_____Boys Ages _____
 _____Girls Ages _____

Who were they raised by? (Please circle)

1. your father and mother
2. their mother only
3. their mother and a stepfather
4. other _____

24. Which husband and wife pair do you believe most influenced your perception of husband and wife roles as you were growing up?(Circle)

1. mother and father
2. mother and stepfather
3. father and stepmother
4. grandparents (maternal/paternal)
5. other _____

Code #: _____

25. Your father's occupation: _____
26. Father's highest level of education completed:
1. Less than eighth grade.
 2. Eighth grade
 3. Some high school.
 4. High school graduate.
 5. Vocational training (What kind? _____)
 6. Some college.
 7. College graduate.
 8. Graduate school (Highest Degree _____)
 9. Other (What kind? _____)
27. Mother's occupation: _____
28. Mother's highest level of education completed:
1. Less than eighth grade.
 2. Eighth grade
 3. Some high school.
 4. High school graduate.
 5. Vocational training (What kind? _____)
 6. Some college.
 7. College graduate.
 8. Graduate school (Highest Degree _____)
 9. Other (What kind? _____)
29. Your birth order from your parents' union: _____
30. How many brothers do you have from your parents' marriage? _____
Please list their ages. _____
31. How many sisters do you have from your parents' marriage? _____
Please list their ages. _____

Code #: _____

For each statement, circle either TRUE or FALSE to indicate the response which best describes your point of view. Please do not omit any statements.

-
- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. It is sometimes hard for me to go on with my work if I am not encouraged. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 2. I sometimes feel resentful when I don't get my way. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3. On a few occasions, I have given up doing something because I thought too little of my ability. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 4. There have been times when I felt like rebelling against people in authority even though I knew they were right. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 5. No matter who I'm talking to, I'm always a good listener. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 6. There have been occasions when I took advantage of someone. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 7. I'm always willing to admit it when I make a mistake. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 8. I sometimes try to get even rather than forgive and forget. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 9. I am always courteous, even to people who are disagreeable. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 10. I have never been irked when people expressed ideas very different from my own. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 11. There have been times when I was quite jealous of the good fortune of others. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 12. I am sometimes irritated by people who ask favors of me. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 13. I have never deliberately said something that hurt someone's feelings. | TRUE | FALSE |

Code #: _____

FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING 19 QUESTIONS ACCORDING TO HOW YOU FEEL NOW.

For each statement, circle the letter which seems to best describe your opinion. Please do not omit any statements. Remember to circle only one of the five possible choices for each statement.

SA - Strongly agree
 A - Agree
 N - Neutral or undecided or no opinion
 D - Disagree
 SD - Strongly disagree

-
- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|---|----|
| 1. Working husbands and wives should equally sacrifice their careers for the sake of home duties. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 2. It should be the wife's responsibility to fit her life to her husband's more than a husband's responsibility to fit his life to his wife's. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 3. It is just natural that the wife rather than the husband assume responsibility for sending out Christmas cards. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 4. A wife should be the one to decide on a couple's social activities. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 5. A marriage is probably happier if the husband has more education than the wife. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 6. Husbands and wives should be equally responsible for housekeeping. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 7. Cleaning up the dishes should be the joint responsibility of husbands and wives. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 8. Husbands and wives should jointly plan the family budget. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 9. A husband and wife should jointly make decisions affecting the family as a whole. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 10. It is far worse for a woman to cheat on her husband than for a man to cheat on his wife. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 11. The husband should be the head of the family. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 12. A wife is more qualified than a husband to decide which house the couple should buy. | SA | A | N | D | SD |

Code #: _____

CONTINUE ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS ACCORDING TO HOW YOU FEEL NOW.

- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|---|----|
| 13. The important decisions about career-related issues should be left to the husband. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 14. The decision to divorce should be made only by the husband. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 15. The family is best served if the husband and wife jointly handle the family's legal affairs. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 16. A husband should not meddle with the domestic affairs of the household. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 17. When a married couple is invited to a party, the wife, not the husband, should be responsible to RSVP. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 18. It's okay for the wife to earn as much as her husband. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 19. A marriage is more likely to succeed if the wife is the boss. | SA | A | N | D | SD |

Code #: _____

FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING 19 QUESTIONS TO INDICATE THE BEST WAY A PERSON COULD STRIVE TO BE.

For each statement, circle the letter which seems to best describe your opinion. Please do not omit any statements. Remember to circle only one of the five possible choices for each statement.

SA - Strongly agree
 A - Agree
 N - Neutral or undecided or no opinion
 D - Disagree
 SD - Strongly disagree

-
- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|---|----|
| 1. Working husbands and wives should equally sacrifice their careers for the sake of home duties. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 2. It should be the wife's responsibility to fit her life to her husband's more than a husband's responsibility to fit his life to his wife's. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 3. It is just natural that the wife rather than the husband assume responsibility for sending out Christmas cards. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 4. A wife should be the one to decide on a couple's social activities. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 5. A marriage is probably happier if the husband has more education than the wife. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 6. Husbands and wives should be equally responsible for housekeeping. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 7. Cleaning up the dishes should be the joint responsibility of husbands and wives. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 8. Husbands and wives should jointly plan the family budget. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 9. A husband and wife should jointly make decisions affecting the family as a whole. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 10. It is far worse for a woman to cheat on her husband than for a man to cheat on his wife. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 11. The husband should be the head of the family. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 12. A wife is more qualified than a husband to decide which house the couple should buy. | SA | A | N | D | SD |

Code #: _____

CONTINUE ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS TO INDICATE THE THE BEST WAY A PERSON
COULD STRIVE TO BE.

- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|---|----|
| 13. The important decisions about career-related issues should be left to the husband. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 14. The decision to divorce should be made only by the husband. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 15. The family is best served if the husband and wife jointly handle the family's legal affairs. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 16. A husband should not meddle with the domestic affairs of the household. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 17. When a married couple is invited to a party, the wife, not the husband, should be responsible to RSVP. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 18. It's okay for the wife to earn as much as her husband. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 19. A marriage is more likely to succeed if the wife is the boss. | SA | A | N | D | SD |

Please note that you will be asked to respond to these questions according to the way you believe various other people feel or did feel about these items. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO NOT ASK THEM OR DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS WITH THEM BEFORE YOU RESPOND. WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR IDEAS ABOUT HOW THEY FEEL, NOT HOW THEY ACTUALLY FEEL. SO PLEASE DO NOT DISCUSS THE QUESTIONNAIRE WITH YOUR SPOUSE OR WITH YOUR PARENTS PRIOR TO RESPONDING THE WAY YOU THINK THEY FEEL.
Be sure to respond according to the directions on each page.

Code #: _____

FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING 19 QUESTIONS THE WAY YOUR SPOUSE FEELS NOW. Do not discuss the questions with your spouse, however.

For each statement, circle the letter which seems to best describe your opinion. Please do not omit any statements. Remember to circle only one of the five possible choices for each statement.

SA - Strongly agree
 A - Agree
 N - Neutral or undecided or no opinion
 D - Disagree
 SD - Strongly disagree

-
- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|---|----|
| 1. Working husbands and wives should equally sacrifice their careers for the sake of home duties. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 2. It should be the wife's responsibility to fit her life to her husband's more than a husband's responsibility to fit his life to his wife's. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 3. It is just natural that the wife rather than the husband assume responsibility for sending out Christmas cards. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 4. A wife should be the one to decide on a couple's social activities. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 5. A marriage is probably happier if the husband has more education than the wife. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 6. Husbands and wives should be equally responsible for housekeeping. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 7. Cleaning up the dishes should be the joint responsibility of husbands and wives. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 8. Husbands and wives should jointly plan the family budget. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 9. A husband and wife should jointly make decisions affecting the family as a whole. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 10. It is far worse for a woman to cheat on her husband than for a man to cheat on his wife. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 11. The husband should be the head of the family. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 12. A wife is more qualified than a husband to decide which house the couple should buy. | SA | A | N | D | SD |

Code #: _____

CONTINUE ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS THE WAY YOUR SPOUSE FEELS NOW.

- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|---|----|
| 13. The important decisions about career-related issues should be left to the husband. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 14. The decision to divorce should be made only by the husband. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 15. The family is best served if the husband and wife jointly handle the family's legal affairs. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 16. A husband should not meddle with the domestic affairs of the household. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 17. When a married couple is invited to a party, the wife, not the husband, should be responsible to RSVP. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 18. It's okay for the wife to earn as much as her husband. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 19. A marriage is more likely to succeed if the wife is the boss. | SA | A | N | D | SD |

Code #: _____

FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING 32 QUESTIONS AS THEY PERTAIN TO YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR SPOUSE.

Most persons have disagreements in their relationships. Please indicate below the approximate extent of agreement or disagreement between you and your partner for each item on the following list. Circle the star under one answer for each item.

	Always Agree	Almost Always Agree	Occasionally Disagree	Frequently Disagree	Almost Always Disagree	Always Disagree
1. Handling family finances	*	*	*	*	*	*
2. Matters of recreation	*	*	*	*	*	*
3. Religious matters	*	*	*	*	*	*
4. Demonstrations of affection	*	*	*	*	*	*
5. Friends	*	*	*	*	*	*
6. Sex relations	*	*	*	*	*	*
7. Conventionality (correct or proper behavior)	*	*	*	*	*	*
8. Philosophy of life	*	*	*	*	*	*
9. Ways of dealing with parents or in-laws	*	*	*	*	*	*
10. Aims, goals and things believed important	*	*	*	*	*	*
11. Amount of time spent together	*	*	*	*	*	*
12. Making major decisions	*	*	*	*	*	*
13. Household tasks	*	*	*	*	*	*
14. Leisure time interests and activities	*	*	*	*	*	*
15. Career decisions	*	*	*	*	*	*

Code #: _____

CONTINUE ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS AS THEY PERTAIN TO YOUR RELATIONSHIP
WITH YOUR SPOUSE.

	All the time	Most of the time	More often than not	Occa- sionally	Rarely	Never
16. How often do you discuss or have you considered divorce or separation?	*	*	*	*	*	*
17. How often do you or your mate leave the house after a fight?	*	*	*	*	*	*
18. In general, how often do you think that things between you and your spouse are going well? *	*	*	*	*	*	*
19. Do you confide in your mate?	*	*	*	*	*	*
20. Do you ever regret that you married?	*	*	*	*	*	*
21. How often do you and your partner quarrel?	*	*	*	*	*	*
22. How often do you and your mate "get on each other's nerves?"	*	*	*	*	*	*

	Every Day	Almost Every Day	Occa- sionally	Rarely	Never
23. Do you kiss your mate?	*	*	*	*	*
24. Do you and your mate engage in outside interests together?	*	*	*	*	*

Code #: _____

CONTINUE ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS AS THEY PERTAIN TO YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR SPOUSE.

How often would you say the following occurs between you and your mate?

	Never	Less than once a month	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Once a day	More often
25. Have a stimulating exchange of ideas?	*	*	*	*	*	*
26. Laugh together?	*	*	*	*	*	*
27. Calmly discuss something?	*	*	*	*	*	*
28. Work together on a project?	*	*	*	*	*	*

These are things about which couples sometimes agree and sometimes disagree. Indicate if either item below caused differences of opinions or were problems in your relationships during the past few weeks. (Circle the star under yes or no.)

	Yes	No	
29.	*	*	Being too tired for sex.
30.	*	*	Not showing love.

31. The stars on the following line represent different degrees of happiness in your relationship. The middle point, "happy", represents the degree of happiness of most relationships. Please circle the star which best describes the degree of happiness, all things considered, of your relationship.

* * * * * * *

Extremely Unhappy Fairly Unhappy A Little Unhappy Happy Very Happy Extremely Happy Perfect Happy

32. Which of the following statements best describes how you feel about the future of your relationship? Circle the letter for one statement.

- A I want desperately for my relationship to succeed, and would go to almost any length to see that it does.
- B I want very much for my relationship to succeed, and will do all I can to see that it does.
- C I want very much for my relationship to succeed, and will do my fair share to see that it does.
- D It would be nice if my relationship succeeded, but I can't do much more than I am doing now to keep the relationship going.
- E It would be nice if it succeeded, but I refuse to do any more than I am doing now to keep the relationship going.
- F My relationship can never succeed, and there is no more that I can do to keep the relationship going.

Code #: _____

FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING 32 QUESTIONS AS YOUR FATHER WOULD HAVE WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP.

Most persons have disagreements in their relationships. Please indicate below the approximate extent of agreement or disagreement between you and your partner for each item on the following list. Circle the star under one answer for each item.

	Always Agree	Almost Always Agree	Occa- sionally Disagree	Fre- quently Disagree	Almost Always Disagree	Always Disagree
1. Handling family finances	*	*	*	*	*	*
2. Matters of recreation	*	*	*	*	*	*
3. Religious matters	*	*	*	*	*	*
4. Demonstrations of affection	*	*	*	*	*	*
5. Friends	*	*	*	*	*	*
6. Sex relations	*	*	*	*	*	*
7. Conventionality (correct or proper behavior)	*	*	*	*	*	*
8. Philosophy of life	*	*	*	*	*	*
9. Ways of dealing with parents or in-laws	*	*	*	*	*	*
10. Aims, goals and things believed important	*	*	*	*	*	*
11. Amount of time spent together	*	*	*	*	*	*
12. Making major decisions	*	*	*	*	*	*
13. Household tasks	*	*	*	*	*	*
14. Leisure time interests and activities	*	*	*	*	*	*
15. Career decisions	*	*	*	*	*	*

Code #: _____

CONTINUE FILLING THIS OUT AS YOUR FATHER WOULD HAVE WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP.

	All the time	Most of the time	More often than not	Occa- sionally	Rarely	Never
16. How often do you discuss or have you considered divorce or separation?	*	*	*	*	*	*
17. How often do you or your mate leave the house after a fight?	*	*	*	*	*	*
18. In general, how often do you think that things between you and your spouse are going well? *	*	*	*	*	*	*
19. Do you confide in your mate?	*	*	*	*	*	*
20. Do you ever regret that you married?	*	*	*	*	*	*
21. How often do you and your partner quarrel?	*	*	*	*	*	*
22. How often do you and your mate "get on each other's nerves?"	*	*	*	*	*	*

	Every Day	Almost Every Day	Occa- sionally	Rarely	Never
23. Do you kiss your mate?	*	*	*	*	*
24. Do you and your mate engage in outside interests together?	*	*	*	*	*

Code #: _____

CONTINUE FILLING THIS OUT AS YOUR FATHER WOULD HAVE WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP.

How often would you say the following occurs between you and your mate?

	Never	Less than once a month	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Once a day	More often
25. Have a stimulating exchange of ideas?	*	*	*	*	*	*
26. Laugh together?	*	*	*	*	*	*
27. Calmly discuss something?	*	*	*	*	*	*
28. Work together on a project?	*	*	*	*	*	*

These are things about which couples sometimes agree and sometimes disagree. Indicate if either item below caused differences of opinions or were problems in your relationships during the past few weeks. (Circle the star under yes or no.)

	Yes	No	
29.	*	*	Being too tired for sex.
30.	*	*	Not showing love.

31. The stars on the following line represent different degrees of happiness in your relationship. The middle point, "happy", represents the degree of happiness of most relationships. Please circle the star which best describes the degree of happiness, all things considered, of your relationship.

* * * * * * *

Extremely Unhappy	Fairly Unhappy	A Little Unhappy	Happy	Very Happy	Extremely Happy	Perfect
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32. Which of the following statements best describes how you feel about the future of your relationship? Circle the letter for one statement.

- A I want desperately for my relationship to succeed, and would go to almost any length to see that it does.
- B I want very much for my relationship to succeed, and will do all I can to see that it does.
- C I want very much for my relationship to succeed, and will do my fair share to see that it does.
- D It would be nice if my relationship succeeded, but I can't do much more than I am doing now to keep the relationship going.
- E It would be nice if it succeeded, but I refuse to do any more than I am doing now to keep the relationship going.
- F My relationship can never succeed, and there is no more that I can do to keep the relationship going.

Code #: _____

FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING 19 QUESTIONS AS YOUR FATHER WOULD HAVE WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP.

For each statement, circle the letter which seems to best describe your opinion. Please do not omit any statements. Remember to circle only one of the five possible choices for each statement.

SA - Strongly agree
 A - Agree
 N - Neutral or undecided or no opinion
 D - Disagree
 SD - Strongly disagree

-
- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|---|----|
| 1. Working husbands and wives should equally sacrifice their careers for the sake of home duties. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 2. It should be the wife's responsibility to fit her life to her husband's more than a husband's responsibility to fit his life to his wife's. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 3. It is just natural that the wife rather than the husband assume responsibility for sending out Christmas cards. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 4. A wife should be the one to decide on a couple's social activities. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 5. A marriage is probably happier if the husband has more education than the wife. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 6. Husbands and wives should be equally responsible for housekeeping. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 7. Cleaning up the dishes should be the joint responsibility of husbands and wives. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 8. Husbands and wives should jointly plan the family budget. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 9. A husband and wife should jointly make decisions affecting the family as a whole. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 10. It is far worse for a woman to cheat on her husband than for a man to cheat on his wife. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 11. The husband should be the head of the family. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 12. A wife is more qualified than a husband to decide which house the couple should buy. | SA | A | N | D | SD |

Code #: _____

CONTINUE ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS AS YOUR FATHER WOULD HAVE WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP.

- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|---|----|
| 13. The important decisions about career-related issues should be left to the husband. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 14. The decision to divorce should be made only by the husband. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 15. The family is best served if the husband and wife jointly handle the family's legal affairs. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 16. A husband should not meddle with the domestic affairs of the household. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 17. When a married couple is invited to a party, the wife, not the husband, should be responsible to RSVP. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 18. It's okay for the wife to earn as much as her husband. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 19. A marriage is more likely to succeed if the wife is the boss. | SA | A | N | D | SD |

Code #: _____

FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING 19 QUESTIONS AS YOUR MOTHER WOULD HAVE WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP.

For each statement, circle the letter which seems to best describe your opinion. Please do not omit any statements. Remember to circle only one of the five possible choices for each statement.

SA - Strongly agree
 A - Agree
 N - Neutral or undecided or no opinion
 D - Disagree
 SD - Strongly disagree

-
- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|---|----|
| 1. Working husbands and wives should equally sacrifice their careers for the sake of home duties. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 2. It should be the wife's responsibility to fit her life to her husband's more than a husband's responsibility to fit his life to his wife's. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 3. It is just natural that the wife rather than the husband assume responsibility for sending out Christmas cards. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 4. A wife should be the one to decide on a couple's social activities. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 5. A marriage is probably happier if the husband has more education than the wife. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 6. Husbands and wives should be equally responsible for housekeeping. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 7. Cleaning up the dishes should be the joint responsibility of husbands and wives. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 8. Husbands and wives should jointly plan the family budget. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 9. A husband and wife should jointly make decisions affecting the family as a whole. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 10. It is far worse for a woman to cheat on her husband than for a man to cheat on his wife. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 11. The husband should be the head of the family. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 12. A wife is more qualified than a husband to decide which house the couple should buy. | SA | A | N | D | SD |

Code #: _____

CONTINUE ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS AS YOUR MOTHER WOULD HAVE WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP.

- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|---|----|
| 13. The important decisions about career-related issues should be left to the husband. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 14. The decision to divorce should be made only by the husband. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 15. The family is best served if the husband and wife jointly handle the family's legal affairs. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 16. A husband should not meddle with the domestic affairs of the household. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 17. When a married couple is invited to a party, the wife, not the husband, should be responsible to RSVP. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 18. It's okay for the wife to earn as much as her husband. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 19. A marriage is more likely to succeed if the wife is the boss. | SA | A | N | D | SD |

Code #: _____

FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING 32 QUESTIONS AS YOUR MOTHER WOULD HAVE WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP.

Most persons have disagreements in their relationships. Please indicate below the approximate extent of agreement or disagreement between you and your partner for each item on the following list. Circle the star under one answer for each item.

	Always Agree	Almost Always Agree	Occasionally Disagree	Frequently Disagree	Almost Always Disagree	Always Disagree
1. Handling family finances	*	*	*	*	*	*
2. Matters of recreation	*	*	*	*	*	*
3. Religious matters	*	*	*	*	*	*
4. Demonstrations of affection	*	*	*	*	*	*
5. Friends	*	*	*	*	*	*
6. Sex relations	*	*	*	*	*	*
7. Conventionality (correct or proper behavior)	*	*	*	*	*	*
8. Philosophy of life	*	*	*	*	*	*
9. Ways of dealing with parents or in-laws	*	*	*	*	*	*
10. Aims, goals and things believed important	*	*	*	*	*	*
11. Amount of time spent together	*	*	*	*	*	*
12. Making major decisions	*	*	*	*	*	*
13. Household tasks	*	*	*	*	*	*
14. Leisure time interests and activities	*	*	*	*	*	*
15. Career decisions	*	*	*	*	*	*

Code #: _____

CONTINUE FILLING THIS OUT AS YOUR MOTHER WOULD HAVE WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP.

	All the time	Most of the time	More often than not	Occa- sionally	Rarely	Never
16. How often do you discuss or have you considered divorce or separation?	*	*	*	*	*	*
17. How often do you or your mate leave the house after a fight?	*	*	*	*	*	*
18. In general, how often do you think that things between you and your spouse are going well?	*	*	*	*	*	*
19. Do you confide in your mate?	*	*	*	*	*	*
20. Do you ever regret that you married?	*	*	*	*	*	*
21. How often do you and your partner quarrel?	*	*	*	*	*	*
22. How often do you and your mate "get on each other's nerves?"	*	*	*	*	*	*

	Every Day	Almost Every Day	Occa- sionally	Rarely	Never
23. Do you kiss your mate?	*	*	*	*	*
24. Do you and your mate engage in outside interests together?	*	*	*	*	*

Code #: _____

CONTINUE FILLING THIS OUT AS YOUR MOTHER WOULD HAVE WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP.

How often would you say the following occurs between you and your mate?

	Never	Less than once a month	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Once a day	More often
25. Have a stimulating exchange of ideas?	*	*	*	*	*	*
26. Laugh together?	*	*	*	*	*	*
27. Calmly discuss something?	*	*	*	*	*	*
28. Work together on a project?	*	*	*	*	*	*

These are things about which couples sometimes agree and sometimes disagree. Indicate if either item below caused differences of opinions or were problems in your relationships during the past few weeks. (Circle the star under yes or no.)

	Yes	No	
29.	*	*	Being too tired for sex.
30.	*	*	Not showing love.

31. The stars on the following line represent different degrees of happiness in your relationship. The middle point, "happy", represents the degree of happiness of most relationships. Please circle the star which best describes the degree of happiness, all things considered, of your relationship.

*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Extremely Unhappy	Fairly Unhappy	A Little Unhappy	Happy	Very Happy	Extremely Happy	Perfect

32. Which of the following statements best describes how you feel about the future of your relationship? Circle the letter for one statement.

- A I want desperately for my relationship to succeed, and would go to almost any length to see that it does.
- B I want very much for my relationship to succeed, and will do all I can to see that it does.
- C I want very much for my relationship to succeed, and will do my fair share to see that it does.
- D It would be nice if my relationship succeeded, but I can't do much more than I am doing now to keep the relationship going.
- E It would be nice if it succeeded, but I refuse to do any more than I am doing now to keep the relationship going.
- F My relationship can never succeed, and there is no more that I can do to keep the relationship going.

Code #: _____

Date: _____ Time began: _____ Time ended: _____

Date: _____ Time began: _____ Time ended: _____

Date: _____ Time began: _____ Time ended: _____

I would be willing to be interviewed. Yes _____ No _____

I would like to receive a summary of the results. Yes _____ No _____
If yes:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

Thank you very much for your cooperation! If you have any questions about the study, please call me at (619-722-4717) or write them here.

Please mail both sets of questionnaires to:

Miriam Rendón Ivey
729 Point Sur
Oceanside, CA 92054

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