

dyadic adjustment scale pdf

dyadic adjustment scale pdf is a critical resource for professionals and researchers assessing relationship quality and marital satisfaction. The Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS) is a widely used instrument in psychology and social sciences for measuring the adjustment and satisfaction levels within couples. Accessing the dyadic adjustment scale pdf allows clinicians, counselors, and academics to utilize this standardized tool efficiently for evaluation and research purposes. This article provides a detailed exploration of the dyadic adjustment scale pdf, including its history, components, scoring methods, and practical applications. Additionally, it discusses how to interpret the results and the importance of the DAS in clinical and research settings. Readers will also find guidance on where to find legitimate versions of the dyadic adjustment scale pdf and how it compares to other relationship assessment tools.

- Overview of the Dyadic Adjustment Scale
- Components of the Dyadic Adjustment Scale
- Accessing and Using the Dyadic Adjustment Scale PDF
- Scoring and Interpretation of the Dyadic Adjustment Scale
- Applications in Clinical and Research Settings
- Comparison with Other Relationship Assessment Tools

Overview of the Dyadic Adjustment Scale

The Dyadic Adjustment Scale is a comprehensive questionnaire designed to measure the quality and adjustment of dyadic relationships, primarily focusing on marriages and long-term partnerships. Developed by Graham Spanier in 1976, the DAS has become a standard tool in both research and clinical practice due to its reliability and validity. The scale evaluates multiple aspects of relationship dynamics, providing a holistic view of how partners perceive their relationship functioning. The availability of the dyadic adjustment scale pdf facilitates easy distribution and administration of the instrument in various settings.

Historical Background and Development

The dyadic adjustment scale pdf originates from Spanier's efforts to create a concise yet thorough instrument that captures the complexity of marital adjustment. Initially, the DAS was formulated based on empirical research and theoretical foundations relating to

interpersonal relationships. Over time, it has undergone revisions and validation studies to ensure its applicability across diverse populations and cultural contexts.

Purpose and Importance

The primary purpose of the DAS is to assess the quality of a dyadic relationship, identifying strengths and areas of conflict. It serves as a diagnostic tool for therapists to tailor interventions effectively and for researchers to study relationship dynamics systematically. The dyadic adjustment scale pdf format supports widespread accessibility and ease of use in clinical assessments and academic research.

Components of the Dyadic Adjustment Scale

The DAS consists of 32 items grouped into four subscales that capture distinct dimensions of dyadic adjustment. Each subscale addresses specific facets of relationship quality, allowing for a nuanced evaluation.

Dyadic Consensus

This subscale measures the degree of agreement between partners on matters related to their relationship, such as financial decisions, household responsibilities, and leisure activities. Higher consensus scores indicate better alignment on key issues, contributing to relationship satisfaction.

Dyadic Satisfaction

This dimension assesses the frequency and intensity of conflict and the partners' overall contentment with the relationship. It evaluates how often disagreements occur and the perceived resolution effectiveness, providing insight into the couple's emotional climate.

Dyadic Cohesion

Dyadic cohesion explores the extent of shared activities and emotional bonding between partners. This subscale reflects the closeness and togetherness experienced in the relationship, which are critical for maintaining intimacy and connection.

Affectional Expression

Affectional expression captures the degree to which partners express love, affection, and sexual intimacy. This component is essential for understanding the emotional and physical expressiveness within the relationship.

Accessing and Using the Dyadic Adjustment Scale PDF

The dyadic adjustment scale pdf is a practical format that enables the standardized distribution of the assessment tool. It is commonly sought by mental health professionals, researchers, and educators for use in various contexts.

Where to Find the Dyadic Adjustment Scale PDF

Reliable versions of the dyadic adjustment scale pdf can often be found through academic publications, university repositories, or professional psychological associations. It is important to use authorized or validated versions to ensure the accuracy and legality of its application.

Administration Guidelines

The DAS is typically self-administered by each partner individually to capture honest and independent responses. The dyadic adjustment scale pdf facilitates easy printing and digital sharing, making it convenient for in-person or remote administration. Instructions emphasize completing the questionnaire in a distraction-free environment for optimal reliability.

Ethical Considerations

When using the dyadic adjustment scale pdf, professionals must ensure confidentiality and informed consent. Sensitive information collected through the scale requires careful handling to protect participants' privacy and foster trust in therapeutic or research settings.

Scoring and Interpretation of the Dyadic

Adjustment Scale

Scoring the DAS involves summing item responses within each subscale and calculating a total adjustment score. The dyadic adjustment scale pdf typically includes scoring guidelines that assist practitioners in interpreting results accurately.

Score Calculation

Each item on the DAS is rated on a Likert-type scale, with numerical values assigned to responses. Scores for the four subscales—consensus, satisfaction, cohesion, and affectional expression—are computed separately, then combined to form the total dyadic adjustment score. Higher total scores indicate better overall relationship adjustment.

Interpretive Benchmarks

Research provides normative data and cutoff scores used to classify relationship adjustment levels, such as distressed versus non-distressed relationships. Understanding these benchmarks helps clinicians identify couples in need of intervention or support based on their DAS results.

Limitations and Considerations

While the dyadic adjustment scale pdf is a robust tool, interpretation should consider contextual factors such as cultural background, relationship duration, and external stressors. Scores alone do not provide a comprehensive diagnosis but serve as one component in a broader assessment process.

Applications in Clinical and Research Settings

The dyadic adjustment scale pdf is invaluable in a variety of professional contexts, enhancing understanding and treatment of relationship issues.

Clinical Counseling and Therapy

Counselors and therapists use the DAS to evaluate relationship satisfaction and identify specific problem areas. The scale aids in monitoring progress over time and tailoring therapeutic interventions to improve couple functioning.

Academic and Social Science Research

Researchers employ the dyadic adjustment scale pdf to study patterns of marital satisfaction, predictors of relationship stability, and the impact of various psychosocial factors. Its standardized format allows for comparison across studies and populations.

Pre-Marital and Relationship Education

Educational programs utilize the DAS to help couples understand their compatibility and communication styles. The results can guide discussions and exercises aimed at strengthening the relationship foundation.

Comparison with Other Relationship Assessment Tools

Several instruments exist for assessing relationship quality, and the dyadic adjustment scale pdf is often compared to these to determine the best fit for specific purposes.

Couples Satisfaction Index (CSI)

The CSI is another widely used measure focusing on relationship satisfaction with a more concise item set. Compared to the DAS, the CSI emphasizes satisfaction rather than adjustment and consensus.

Marital Satisfaction Inventory (MSI)

The MSI provides a broader assessment of marital issues, including communication and conflict resolution, with more detailed subscales. The DAS is viewed as more streamlined and easier to administer.

Benefits of the Dyadic Adjustment Scale PDF

- Comprehensive assessment of multiple relationship dimensions
- Proven reliability and validity across diverse populations
- Standardized scoring facilitating consistent interpretation

- Accessibility in PDF format for easy administration and distribution
- Supports both clinical and research applications effectively

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS)?

The Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS) is a widely used self-report questionnaire designed to assess the quality and adjustment of relationships, particularly in married or cohabiting couples.

Where can I find a free Dyadic Adjustment Scale PDF?

Free PDFs of the Dyadic Adjustment Scale can often be found through academic resources, university websites, or psychological research portals, but it's important to ensure the source is legitimate and respects copyright.

What does the Dyadic Adjustment Scale PDF typically include?

A Dyadic Adjustment Scale PDF usually includes the questionnaire items, scoring instructions, and sometimes normative data or interpretation guidelines.

How many items are on the Dyadic Adjustment Scale?

The standard Dyadic Adjustment Scale consists of 32 items that measure different aspects of relationship quality and adjustment.

Can the Dyadic Adjustment Scale PDF be used for clinical assessment?

Yes, the DAS is often used by clinicians and researchers to assess relationship satisfaction and adjustment, but it should be administered and interpreted by trained professionals.

Is the Dyadic Adjustment Scale available in different languages in PDF format?

Yes, the DAS has been translated into multiple languages, and PDFs of these versions are available in various research publications and academic repositories.

How is the Dyadic Adjustment Scale scored?

The DAS is scored by summing responses across items, with higher scores indicating

better dyadic adjustment; detailed scoring instructions are usually provided in the PDF.

Can I use the Dyadic Adjustment Scale PDF for my research?

Generally, yes, but you should check for any copyright restrictions and properly cite the original source when using the DAS in research.

What are the main subscales of the Dyadic Adjustment Scale?

The DAS includes four subscales: Dyadic Consensus, Dyadic Satisfaction, Dyadic Cohesion, and Affectional Expression.

How reliable is the Dyadic Adjustment Scale PDF for relationship assessment?

The DAS is considered a reliable and valid tool for assessing relationship quality, with extensive research supporting its psychometric properties.

Additional Resources

1. Dyadic Adjustment Scale: A Comprehensive Guide

This book offers an in-depth exploration of the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS), detailing its development, psychometric properties, and applications in research and clinical practice. It provides practical advice on administering and interpreting the scale, making it an essential resource for psychologists and counselors working with couples. The guide also includes case studies that illustrate how DAS scores can inform therapeutic interventions.

2. Assessing Marital Quality: Tools and Techniques

Focusing on various assessment instruments including the Dyadic Adjustment Scale, this book reviews methods for evaluating relationship satisfaction and adjustment. It compares the DAS with other scales and discusses their reliability and validity. Clinicians will find useful discussions on selecting appropriate tools for different populations and research goals.

3. Couples Therapy and the Dyadic Adjustment Scale

This volume explores how the Dyadic Adjustment Scale can be integrated into couples therapy to track progress and outcomes. It highlights practical strategies for using DAS scores to tailor interventions and enhance communication between partners. The book also addresses cultural considerations and adaptations of the scale for diverse couples.

4. Measuring Relationship Satisfaction: The Dyadic Adjustment Scale in Research

Ideal for researchers, this book delves into the statistical foundations and applications of the DAS in relationship studies. It covers factor analysis, scoring procedures, and interpretation of results. Readers will gain insights into how DAS data contributes to

understanding relationship dynamics and predicting relationship stability.

5. Marital Assessment and Counseling: Utilizing the Dyadic Adjustment Scale

This text provides a clinical perspective on using the Dyadic Adjustment Scale in marital counseling settings. It discusses assessment protocols, common patterns identified through DAS results, and how to address problem areas. Therapists will benefit from guidelines on integrating DAS findings into treatment planning.

6. Psychometrics of the Dyadic Adjustment Scale

A technical resource, this book reviews the psychometric evaluation of the DAS, including reliability, validity, and normative data across populations. It examines revisions and alternative versions of the scale, offering critical analysis and recommendations for future research. Scholars interested in measurement theory will find this particularly valuable.

7. Relationship Assessment Tools: A Focus on the Dyadic Adjustment Scale

This book surveys a range of relationship assessment instruments with a special emphasis on the DAS. It provides comparative analyses and practical advice for clinicians choosing among tools. The author discusses the strengths and limitations of the DAS in various clinical and research contexts.

8. Couples in Crisis: Using the Dyadic Adjustment Scale for Intervention

Targeted at practitioners working with distressed couples, this book demonstrates how the DAS can identify critical areas of dysfunction. It offers intervention strategies informed by DAS results to improve communication and satisfaction. The book includes case examples and exercises designed to engage couples in treatment.

9. Foundations of Marital Quality Measurement

This foundational text traces the history and theoretical underpinnings of marital quality measurement, with significant coverage of the Dyadic Adjustment Scale. It explores conceptual frameworks and the evolution of assessment tools over time. Students and professionals will appreciate its comprehensive overview of how the DAS fits within the broader field of relationship assessment.

Dyadic Adjustment Scale Pdf

Dyadic Adjustment Scale PDF

Ebook Title: Understanding and Applying the Dyadic Adjustment Scale: A Comprehensive Guide

Ebook Outline:

Introduction: The Importance of Marital Adjustment and the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS)

Chapter 1: The History and Development of the DAS: Origins, theoretical underpinnings, and evolution of the scale.

Chapter 2: Understanding the DAS Subscales: Detailed explanation of each of the four subscales (Consensus, Cohesion, Affection, and Satisfaction).

Chapter 3: Administering and Scoring the DAS: Step-by-step instructions for administering the scale, scoring procedures, and interpretation of results.

Chapter 4: Interpreting DAS Scores and Clinical Applications: Understanding different score ranges, identifying potential marital problems, and utilizing the DAS in therapeutic settings.

Chapter 5: Limitations and Criticisms of the DAS: Acknowledging the scale's limitations, considering cultural biases, and exploring alternative measures.

Chapter 6: Research Applications of the DAS: Examples of how the DAS has been used in various research studies related to marital adjustment.

Chapter 7: The DAS in Practice: Case Studies and Examples: Practical applications of the DAS in different therapeutic contexts with illustrative case studies.

Conclusion: Summarizing key takeaways, future directions for research, and the ongoing relevance of the DAS in understanding marital relationships.

Understanding and Applying the Dyadic Adjustment Scale: A Comprehensive Guide

Introduction: The Importance of Marital Adjustment and the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS)

Marital adjustment, the degree to which a couple experiences satisfaction and stability in their relationship, is a crucial aspect of overall well-being. A strong and healthy marital relationship contributes significantly to individual happiness, mental health, and even physical health.

Conversely, marital discord and dissatisfaction can lead to significant emotional distress, impacting various aspects of life, from career success to physical health outcomes. The Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS), developed by Spanier (1976), is a widely used and respected instrument for assessing the quality of marital adjustment. This comprehensive guide will delve into the intricacies of the DAS, covering its historical development, its application in clinical and research settings, its limitations, and its continued relevance in understanding marital dynamics. Understanding the DAS allows clinicians, researchers, and even couples themselves to gain valuable insights into the health and stability of their relationships.

Chapter 1: The History and Development of the DAS

The Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS) emerged from a need for a reliable and valid instrument to quantify marital adjustment. Developed by David Spanier in 1976, the DAS built upon previous research that attempted to measure various aspects of marital satisfaction and relationship quality. Spanier's work emphasized the multidimensional nature of marital adjustment, moving beyond simplistic notions of overall happiness to encompass several key components. The original scale was carefully constructed, using item analysis and factor analysis to ensure its psychometric properties were robust. Its theoretical underpinnings draw from various relationship theories, recognizing the importance of factors such as communication, conflict resolution, affection, and shared values in creating a successful marriage. Over the years, the DAS has undergone some minor revisions and adaptations, but its core structure and purpose have remained consistent, establishing it as a cornerstone in the field of marital research and therapy.

Chapter 2: Understanding the DAS Subscales

The DAS is not a single measure but rather comprises four distinct subscales, each assessing a crucial aspect of marital adjustment:

Consensus: This subscale measures the degree of agreement between partners on important life decisions, values, and goals. High consensus indicates a strong sense of shared direction and purpose within the relationship.

Cohesion: This subscale assesses the emotional closeness and interdependence of the partners. High cohesion reflects a strong sense of unity and togetherness.

Affection: This subscale measures the amount of positive affect, such as love, care, and intimacy, expressed between partners. High affection indicates a warm and loving relationship.

Satisfaction: This subscale evaluates the overall level of satisfaction each partner experiences within the marriage. It incorporates aspects of the other three subscales to provide a comprehensive assessment of marital contentment.

Understanding the individual subscales allows for a nuanced evaluation of a couple's relationship, identifying specific areas of strength and weakness. A couple may score high on affection but low on consensus, indicating a loving but potentially conflicted relationship. This type of detailed analysis provides valuable insights for therapeutic intervention.

Chapter 3: Administering and Scoring the DAS

Administering the DAS is relatively straightforward. The scale is typically self-administered, with each partner completing the questionnaire independently. The questions are simple and easy to understand, minimizing the potential for ambiguity. The scoring procedure involves summing the responses for each subscale and calculating a total dyadic adjustment score. Detailed scoring instructions are usually provided with the scale itself, enabling researchers and clinicians to accurately interpret the results. This chapter would contain detailed instructions, including examples of how to complete the questionnaire and calculate the final scores, accompanied by illustrations.

Chapter 4: Interpreting DAS Scores and Clinical Applications

Interpreting DAS scores involves comparing a couple's results to established norms. The scale provides cut-off points that categorize couples into different levels of marital adjustment, ranging from highly distressed to highly adjusted. Clinicians use these scores to identify couples who may benefit from marital therapy, tailoring interventions to address specific areas of difficulty highlighted by the subscale scores. For instance, a couple with low scores on consensus might benefit from communication skills training, while a couple with low affection might engage in activities to enhance intimacy. This chapter will also explain how to use the DAS to guide therapeutic interventions and to monitor progress over time.

Chapter 5: Limitations and Criticisms of the DAS

Despite its widespread use, the DAS is not without limitations. Some critics point to potential cultural biases, suggesting that the scale may not be equally applicable to diverse populations. The

scale also assumes a relatively traditional view of marriage, potentially overlooking the complexities of modern relationships. Furthermore, the self-report nature of the DAS opens the door to biases such as social desirability, where participants may answer questions in a way they perceive as socially acceptable rather than truthfully. This chapter will address these criticisms, discuss alternative measures of marital adjustment, and emphasize the importance of using the DAS judiciously and within its appropriate context.

Chapter 6: Research Applications of the DAS

The DAS has been extensively used in a wide variety of research studies examining marital adjustment and related constructs. Researchers have employed the DAS to investigate the impact of various factors on marital success, including personality traits, stress levels, and communication patterns. The DAS has also been used to compare marital adjustment across different cultural groups and to evaluate the effectiveness of marital therapy interventions. This chapter will present examples of studies that have effectively utilized the DAS, illustrating its contribution to our understanding of marital relationships.

Chapter 7: The DAS in Practice: Case Studies and Examples

This chapter will showcase real-world applications of the DAS, providing illustrative case studies demonstrating how the scale is used in different therapeutic settings. The case studies will highlight how the DAS can be integrated into clinical practice, guiding the assessment process and informing therapeutic interventions. It will also offer examples of how the results of the DAS can be interpreted and communicated to couples effectively.

Conclusion: Summarizing Key Takeaways, Future Directions for Research, and the Ongoing Relevance of the DAS in Understanding Marital Relationships

The Dyadic Adjustment Scale remains a valuable tool for assessing marital adjustment, despite its limitations. This ebook has provided a thorough exploration of its theoretical underpinnings, application, and interpretations. Future research could focus on refining the DAS to enhance its cultural sensitivity and address contemporary relationship dynamics. The ongoing relevance of the DAS lies in its ability to provide a quantitative measure of a multidimensional construct, facilitating both clinical and research endeavors aimed at enhancing the quality of marital relationships. This understanding is crucial in creating interventions that effectively promote marital well-being and contribute to overall societal health.

FAQs

1. What is the difference between the DAS and other marital satisfaction scales? The DAS is unique in its multidimensional assessment, encompassing consensus, cohesion, affection, and satisfaction, offering a more comprehensive understanding than scales focusing solely on satisfaction.
2. Can the DAS be used with same-sex couples? While originally developed for heterosexual couples, the DAS can be adapted for use with same-sex couples, acknowledging that some items may require

contextual modification.

3. What is the reliability and validity of the DAS? The DAS demonstrates good reliability and validity, with numerous studies supporting its psychometric properties, although its limitations should be considered.

4. How long does it take to complete the DAS? The DAS takes approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

5. Is the DAS suitable for all cultural contexts? The DAS may not be fully culturally appropriate across all contexts, requiring adaptation or the use of alternative culturally sensitive measures.

6. Can I use the DAS without professional training? While the DAS is straightforward to administer, professional interpretation of the results is recommended, especially for clinical applications.

7. Where can I find the DAS questionnaire? The DAS questionnaire is often available through academic databases or research publishers. Permission may be needed depending on usage.

8. Are there any specific software programs that help with scoring the DAS? While dedicated software for DAS scoring is not common, general statistical packages can be used to calculate and analyze the scores.

9. What are some alternative measures of marital adjustment? Alternatives include the Marital Adjustment Test (MAT), the ENRICH inventory, and the Couple Satisfaction Index (CSI).

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dyadic adjustment scale pdf: Studying Interpersonal Interaction Barbara M. Montgomery,

Steve Duck, 1993-11-01 This volume presents a comprehensive, critical examination of current research methods used to study human social behavior as it occurs in interpersonal settings such as families, acquaintanceships, friendships, and romantic partnerships. Multidisciplinary in approach, the book's chapters are written by leading figures in communication, social psychology, sociology, and family studies who explore the methodological choices a researcher must make in order to study interpersonal interaction. To permit clear comparison, all chapters in this volume reference the same, common research problem to develop examples, illustrate controversial issues, and describe the potential of the particular method under discussion. Written in an accessible style, chapters openly discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each method, consider underlying philosophy and assumptions, and note limitations as well as advantages. The result is an originally crafted work that offers readers a unique way to learn about, compare, and ultimately judge the many methods presently available to the researcher or student of interpersonal interaction. Part I considers the assumptions researchers must make about the nature of a social interaction in order to study it. Chapters address issues related to formulating research problems, choosing a research paradigm, determining a viewpoint (participant, peer, or observer) from which to gather data, deciding on appropriate levels and units of analysis, incorporating time, and assessing the mutual adaptation that characterizes interpersonal communication. Part II focuses on procedures for gathering data. These include using accounts and narratives, logs and diaries, retrospective self reports, discourse records, direct observation, and experimentation. Part III highlights new and newly re-discovered methods for analyzing interaction data. Assuming that the reader is familiar with traditional regression and mean-differences approaches, chapters build on this knowledge base to discuss content analysis, tests of sequential association in categorical data, ways of dealing with interdependence in dyadic data, and longitudinal analytic techniques such as time-series analysis, phasic analysis, and meta-analysis. The book concludes with a chapter that both summarizes previous chapters and convincingly argues for methodological pluralism. Encompassing the broad range of central concerns in designing research studies--from conceptualization, through assessment, to data analysis--this book is an ideal reference source for all those engaged in actual research projects. It is also highly valuable for advanced undergraduate and graduate methods courses.

dyadic adjustment scale pdf: Cognitive-Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD Candice M. Monson, Steffany J. Fredman, 2012-07-23 Presenting an evidence-based treatment for couples in which one or both partners suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), this step-by-step manual is packed with practical clinical guidance and tools. The therapy is carefully structured to address both PTSD symptoms and associated relationship difficulties in a time-limited framework. It is grounded in cutting-edge knowledge about interpersonal aspects of trauma and its treatment. Detailed session outlines and therapist scripts facilitate the entire process of assessment, case conceptualization, and intervention. In a large-size format for easy photocopying, the book includes 50 reproducible handouts and forms.

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Psychiatry and Mental Health Lee Baer, Mark A. Blais, 2009-10-03 Psychiatric clinicians should use rating scales and questionnaires often, for they not only facilitate targeted diagnoses and treatment; they also facilitate links to empirical literature and systematize the entire process of management. Clinically oriented and highly practical, the Handbook of Clinical Rating Scales and Assessment in Psychiatry and Mental Health is an ideal tool for the busy psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, family physician, or social worker. In this ground-breaking text, leading researchers provide reviews of the most commonly used outcome and screening measures for the major psychiatric diagnoses and treatment scenarios. The full range of psychiatric disorders are covered in brief but thorough chapters, each of which provides a concise review of measurement issues related to the relevant condition, along with recommendations on which dimensions to measure – and when. The Handbook also includes ready-to-photocopy versions of the most popular, valid, and reliable scales and checklists, along with scoring keys and links to websites containing on-line versions. Moreover, the Handbook describes well known, structured, diagnostic interviews and the specialized training requirements for each. It also includes details of popular psychological tests (such as neuropsychological, personality, and projective tests), along with practical guidelines on when to request psychological testing, how to discuss the case with the assessment consultant and how to integrate information from the final testing report into treatment. Focused and immensely useful, the Handbook of Clinical Rating Scales and Assessment in Psychiatry and Mental Health is an invaluable resource for all clinicians who care for patients with psychiatric disorders.

dyadic adjustment scale pdf: Cancer, Intimacy and Sexuality Yacov Reisman, Woet L. Gianotten, 2017-02-16 This book provides a wide-ranging overview of the sexual consequences of cancer and its treatment with the aim of equipping physicians and other health care providers with the awareness and knowledge required in order to offer patients effective treatment. While sexuality may not be the primary focus for cancer patients, at some point, whether because of sexual changes or relationship issues, many patients come to acknowledge the effects that cancer and its treatment have had on their sexuality. Although the impacts are frequently similar, significant variation is observed. Some patients experience changes in all phases of sexual response, while others experience none; moreover, the consequences of the effects may be felt differently by patients and partners. Unfortunately, many physicians and health care providers remain insufficiently aware of the impact of cancer on sexuality and/or lack knowledge about the concerns of patients and the available treatments and coping strategies. A further issue is the reticence of physicians to discuss sexuality and the fear of sexologists to talk to patients about cancer. Readers will find this book to be a rich source of help in overcoming these constraints and delivering suitable care to patients.

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engage. Although many social scientists would profess to share this belief, it is nonetheless true that the study of human relationships has been one of the most neglected tasks in the history of the social sciences-including psychology. What Heider found in the 1920s-that most psychologists acknowledged the importance of studying human relationships but at the same time tended to focus their own research on more tractable topics such as memory and cognition-is still very much evident in the 1980s. Even within the more specific domain of social psychology, a majority of researchers still choose to address those hybrid topics (social cognition, social categorization and stereotyping, person memory, etc.) that relate most directly to traditional areas of psychological research. Still other researchers, while choosing to study such important interpersonal phenomena as altruism, aggression, conflict, and interpersonal attraction, tend to focus so exclusively on these isolated and abstracted phenomena that they fail to provide a more inclusive view of the relationships in which these phenomena occur.

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poised to meet its moment as few books of this generation have. Sherif Girgis, Ryan T. Anderson, and Robert P. George offer a devastating critique of the idea that equality requires redefining marriage. They show why both sides must first answer the question of what marriage really is. They defend the principle that marriage, as a comprehensive union of mind and body ordered to family life, unites a man and a woman as husband and wife, and they document the social value of applying this principle in law. Most compellingly, they show that those who embrace same-sex civil marriage leave no firm ground—none—for not recognizing every relationship describable in polite English, including polyamorous sexual unions, and that enshrining their view would further erode the norms of marriage, and hence the common good. Finally, *What Is Marriage?* decisively answers common objections: that the historic view is rooted in bigotry, like laws forbidding interracial marriage; that it is callous to people's needs; that it can't show the harm of recognizing same-sex couplings or the point of recognizing infertile ones; and that it treats a mere "social construct" as if it were natural or an unreasoned religious view as if it were rational.

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helping to explain previous findings to this end. Similarly social psychology and relationships researchers have focused on the impact of cognitions, emotions, and behaviors on people's relationships. In their work, relationships researchers demonstrate that both contextual characteristics and individual differences influence the quality of interactions. Many of these studies seek to understand which characteristics strengthen the bonds between people, encourage empathy and trust and create a sense of well-being after a close interaction. This work seeks to integrate the field of human motivation and interpersonal relationships. Both fields have seen extensive growth in the past decade and each can contribute to the other. However, no single compiled work is available that targets both fields. This is the case, in part because only now is there enough work to make a strong and compelling case for their integration. In the previous years, research has been conducted to show that motivation is relevant and important for interactions among strangers and in close relationships. In addition developmental mechanisms for these relations are identified and mechanisms by which motivation strengthens people's relationships. Finally recent work has demonstrated the many implications for interpersonal relationships, showing that motivation impacts a range of interpersonal processes from prejudice regulation and objectification of others to empathy and care. This book seeks to summarize and organize all these findings and present them in a way that is relevant to both motivation researchers and social and relationship researchers.

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