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FAMILY CONFLICT AND EMERGING ADULTS' ATTRIBUTIONS OF CONFLICT
IN ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

by
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M.S. University of Central Florida, 2005

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy
in the Department of Psychology
in the College of Sciences
at the University of Central Florida
Orlando, Florida

Fall Term
2008

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ABSTRACT

The impact of parents' marital conflict and parent-child conflict on the adjustment of children is well documented. Given the theoretical and empirical data to support a relationship between experiencing interparental and parent-child conflict during childhood and later conflict in romantic relationships, it is important to investigate the potential mechanisms that operate in this relationship. Thus, the present study sought to investigate the extent to which attributions of conflict mediate the relationship between experiencing interparental and parent-child conflict and later conflict in a romantic relationship. Results were based on the responses of emerging adults (190 males and 473 females) enrolled in psychology courses at a large southeastern university. Compared to males, females reported experiencing lower levels of permissive parenting, as well as higher levels of interparental psychological aggression, maternal emotional availability, attachment with mothers and peers, and overt violence in their current romantic relationships. Consistent with extant research, significant correlations were found among interparental conflict, parent-child conflict, attributions of conflict, parenting style, emotional availability of parents, attachment, and conflict with current romantic partners. Regression analyses (for males and females separately) suggested that different types of interparental and parent-child conflict predict greater hostile attributions and greater levels of conflict with current romantic partners. Although attributions of conflict predicted conflict with current romantic partners, conflict attributions did not mediate the relationship between family conflict and conflict with current romantic partners. These findings emphasized the importance of research investigating the long-term cognitive and emotional effects of family conflict and violence in order to provide a context for understanding the development of risk and resilience factors for relationship violence.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Dr. Kimberly Renk for guiding me throughout this process. I would not have reached this milestone without your patience, dedication, and mentorship. I would like to thank Dr. Valerie Sims, Dr. Jack McGuire, and Dr. Mark Winton for devoting your time and valuable input. It was a blessing to have such a supportive and collaborative committee. Final thanks go to my family and friends for your consistent faith and encouragement. This is your success as well.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

There is a prolific body of research devoted to parents' attributions of conflict and how these attributions relate to the intensity of parent-child conflict (Bugental, 1993; Murray & Sacco, 1998). Examination of children's attributions regarding the conflict that occurs in the relationship between their mothers and fathers or between their parents and themselves is neglected, however. Further, when studies examine children's attributions of conflict, those of younger children often are examined (Bugental & Martorell, 1999). The sole examination of young children is surprising, given that conflict with parents continues to be a stressor as children reach adolescence and emerging adulthood. In fact, college students, one group of individuals that may be classified as emerging adults (Arnett, 2000), report that their greatest stressors are conflicts with their parents, the expectations that their parents have for them, and conflict in their romantic relationships (Anderson & Yuenger, 1987; Archer & Lamnin, 1985).

Emerging adults are involved actively in developing romantic relationships with other individuals during this period of development (Arnett, 2000). Thus, this developmental task may serve as an impetus for emerging adults to recreate the experiences that they witnessed between their own mothers and fathers. As a result, what shapes or predicts attributions of conflict in relationships continues to be an area needing further investigation. The attributions that emerging adults develop in understanding and responding to conflict may be a pathway for understanding the protective factors that lead some children to demonstrate resilience in their adjustment as emerging adults, even after witnessing conflict between and experiencing conflict with their mothers and fathers. Such resilience may be important as children transition through emerging adulthood and develop romantic relationships despite high exposure to interparental conflict or conflict with their parents.

Interparental Conflict

A plethora of research indicates that interparental conflict predicts adjustment problems in children, including internalizing (Long, Slater, Forehand, & Fauber, 1988) and externalizing behavior problems (Clarke et al., 2007; Jouriles, Pfiffner, & O'Leary, 1988). Further, Mann and MacKenzie (1996) propose that the negative impact of interparental conflict on children results from the direct effect of their exposure to this conflict as well as the indirect effects of disruption in parenting processes and in the parent-child relationship. The impact of interparental conflict on children's development continues into later life, as such conflict is related to functioning in late adolescence and emerging adulthood (Mann & Gilliom, 2002). For instance, Hoffman and Weiss (1996) report that interparental conflict is related to the development of psychological problems in college students, even when they are separated physically from their parents (i.e., they are away at school).

Two frameworks are proposed for investigating and explaining the impact of interparental conflict on children: the cognitive-contextual model (Grych & Fincham, 1990) and the emotional-security hypothesis (Davies & Cummings, 1994). The cognitive-contextual model proposes that the stressor of observing conflict between parents elicits affective, cognitive, and behavioral responses as children attempt to cope with their parents' conflict. The three types of cognitions involved in appraising interparental conflict include assessment of threat, attributions regarding cause and blame, and perceived ability to cope with the conflict (Grych & Fincham, 1990). Consistent with the cognitive-contextual hypothesis, a longitudinal study of conflict appraisals indicates that boys' appraisals of threat and self-blame regarding interparental conflict predict their internalizing behavior problems one year later (Fincham, Grych, & Osborne, 1994). It may be that the repetition and generalization of maladaptive cognitions explain or mediate the

impact of conflict on children's adjustment. For example, concluding repeatedly that one is to blame for interparental conflict or appraising situations as threatening may lead to more generalized depressive or anxious cognitive styles (Mann & Gilliom, 2002).

In contrast, the emotional-security hypothesis states that, when children witness interparental conflict and anger, it is detrimental to children's emotional security. Children's feelings of emotional security (or lack thereof), in turn, are related to their adjustment (Davies & Cummings, 1994). The construct of emotional security is taken from attachment theory and expanded. In particular, emotional security is a regulatory process, similar to emotion self-regulation. Further, emotional security is related to the parent-child bond as well as other aspects of family functioning (e.g., marital interactions, parental supervision, discipline). The goal of children's responses to family events, including marital conflict, is to achieve this feeling of security (Cummings & Davies, 1996). Children who are exposed repeatedly to interparental conflict are thought to become distressed more easily when facing conflict or other stressors. In an effort to gain emotional security, children may respond with behaviors that change the current situation but that are maladaptive in the long-term (e.g., intervene in the conflict, withdraw, misbehave). There is some evidence that difficulty in regulating emotions (i.e., low emotional security) in response to conflict is associated with aggression (Klaczynski & Cummings, 1989).

In addition to learning maladaptive behaviors, children's competency in the realm of relationships is likely to suffer as their emotional security is threatened by the interparental conflict that they witness. They may form internal representations of relationships and conflict that guide future inferences and behaviors and impair their relationships in emerging adulthood (Erikson, 1963). Although longitudinal data are necessary to test these assumptions, a preliminary step is to document concurrent associations between adjustment and perceptions of

early experiences (Mann & Gilliom, 2002). One such study reports that emerging adults who experienced high levels of interparental conflict during their childhoods report fewer sources of social support and greater anxiety in interpersonal relationships, even when they no longer reside with their parents (Riggio, 2004). The scarce longitudinal data provide mixed findings, however. Neighbors, Forehand, and Bau (1997) indicate that witnessing interparental conflict during adolescence is unrelated to psychopathology and antisocial behavior in emerging adulthood (i.e., six years later). In contrast, another study suggests that higher levels of interparental conflict when children are 3-years old are related to poorer adaptation in emerging adulthood (Chess, Thomas, Korn, Mittelman, & Cohen, 1983). Thus, further research examining the relationships among interparental conflict, parent-child conflict, and the later emerging adult relationships of these children needs to be conducted.

Parent-Child Conflict

Interparental conflict also may affect children more directly, such as when conflict becomes an active part of the parent-child relationship. In fact, research documents an overlap between domestic violence and child maltreatment in 30 to 60 percent of cases (Appel & Holden, 1998). These statistics suggest that both forms of violence are likely to exist in the same families (Appel & Holden, 1998). Further, the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect (1995) states that domestic violence may be the single major precursor to child abuse and neglect fatalities in the United States. Thus, if conflict is occurring in families between mothers and fathers, it also is likely that parents will be experiencing conflict with their children, with some of these conflicts escalating to concerning levels of severity.

In fact, child maltreatment is a pervasive problem in the United States, affecting an estimated 906,000 children in 2003 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2005).

Research demonstrates that the trauma of maltreatment affects children in profound ways (Masten et al., 2008; Tajima, Herrenkohl, Huang, & Whitney, 2004). For instance, maltreatment is predictive of health risk outcomes in adolescence and beyond, including teenage pregnancy, depression, suicidality, delinquency, violence, and substance use (Widom, 2000). For instance, adolescents who retrospectively report childhood maltreatment are approximately twice as likely to report dropping out of high school and becoming pregnant during adolescence. These adolescents also are more than twice as likely to be involved in current violence as those who did not report childhood abuse (Tajima et al., 2004). Widom and Maxfield (2001) report that being abused or neglected as a child increases the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 59 percent, adult criminal behavior by 28 percent, and violent crime by 30 percent. Indeed, childhood maltreatment is associated with developing personality disorder symptoms in adulthood (Johnson, Cohen, Brown, Smailes, & Bernstein, 1999), and rates of maltreatment among adults with personality disorders are generally higher (Battle et al., 2004). Given such poor outcomes, the relationships that these children experience as emerging adults also are likely to be affected.

Even when considering nonclinical populations, conflict with parents continues to be a stressor, even as children grow into emerging adults (Anderson & Yuenger, 1987). In fact, college students report that their greatest stressor, closely following stress related to romantic relationships, consists of conflict with their parents (Archer & Lamnin, 1985). Further, in a recent study (Renk, McKinney, Klein, & Oliveros, 2005), maternal psychological aggression in childhood predicts higher levels of depression and anxiety and lower levels of self-esteem in female college students. Similarly, Reese-Weber and Marchand (2002) indicate that, in emerging adulthood, males' conflict resolution behaviors with current romantic partners are predicted by negative (e.g., escalation and negativity) and positive (e.g., validation and feedback) father-son

conflict resolution behavior. Further, for females, both mother-daughter and father-daughter conflict resolution strategies are predictive of females' conflict resolution behaviors with romantic partners (Reese-Weber & Marchand, 2002).

The importance of the parent-child relationship is underscored further when one considers that relationships with parents mediate the relationship between interparental conflict and emerging adults' romantic relationships (Black & Pedro-Carroll, 1993). For male emerging adults, feelings of security in their relationships with both parents mediate the negative effect of interparental conflict on their trust in romantic relationships. For female emerging adults, secure relationships with fathers, in particular, mediate the negative effect of interparental conflict on their trust in romantic relationships (Black & Pedro-Carroll, 1993). Further, having problematic relationships with parents (e.g., poor communication, high conflict) is associated with higher levels of psychopathology. For example, problematic relationships with fathers are correlated with antisocial behavior in emerging adults (Neighbors et al., 1997). Conversely, high quality relationships with parents are associated with the social support that emerging adults report, both with regard to the number of social support providers that they have and their respective levels of satisfaction with these supports (Riggio, 2004). Given these findings, the parent-child relationship may serve as either a risk or protective factor in the context of interparental conflict. Thus, characteristics of the parent-child relationship are likely to be important when studying interparental conflict and emerging adults' relationships.

Parental Attributions of Conflict

Several mechanisms are proposed to explain the relationship between conflict and children's adjustment and outcomes. A direct relationship may be noted when parents model aggression (Rutter, 1994) and disrupt their children's emotional regulation (Katz & Gottman,

1991). Another pathway involves the distortion of children's social information processing that occurs when children maintain attributions of self-blame (Fincham et al., 1994) or attributions of hostility in others (Rutter, 1994). Not only can interparental conflict potentially model a hostile attribution bias for children, it can be related to the quality of parent-child interactions. In particular, parents' social information processing may contribute to the way in which parents respond to their children and their children's subsequent development (Miller, 1995). Further, parents exhibit greater negative affect and stronger behavioral responses when they attribute negative child behaviors to the internal, stable, and controllable characteristics (i.e., the three dimensions of attribution identified by Weiner, 1979) of their children. In fact, parents' emotional responses may be related more highly to outcomes for their children than the explicit content of any disciplinary action. The general finding is that parents' optimistic attributions are associated with positive developmental outcomes. In contrast, parents who attribute children's behavior to children's intent and internal traits are more likely to have children with problematic behaviors, such as aggression or social withdrawal (see Miller, 1995, for a review).

Further, in forming their interpretations of child behavior, mothers rely on their history of interactions with their children most when the situational cues are ambiguous (Strassberg, 1995). This process of appraising a situation based on similar past experiences is what Smith and Lazarus (1990) have called schematic processing. This process of appraisal can occur automatically and unconsciously. Thus, mothers with a history of conflict, rather than harmony, with their children are likely to interpret their children's behavior more negatively, even when it is not clearly oppositional. These mothers use verbal aggression, hitting, and spanking more frequently (Strassberg, 1995). Ironically, the harsher discipline used by these mothers has the

potential to provoke greater opposition, rather than generate compliance (Patterson, 1982), and potentially escalate the levels of parent-child conflict in the family.

This aspect of parenting holds real implications for children's development. Aside from aggression in problem-solving, the degree to which mothers attribute ambiguous child behavior as hostile is the strongest predictor of children's social problem solving (Pettit, Dodge, & Brown, 1988). This finding may suggest a developmental path leading from mothers' expectations to children's social cognition and, ultimately, to children's social competence. It may be that children's exposure to maternal biases colors children's subsequent interpretation of social information. These interpretations then may be related to children's competence in peer settings (Pettit et al., 1988). Magai, Distel, and Liker (1995) similarly describe associations between attachment and parental rearing styles experienced during childhood and subsequent biases in decoding facial affect. Secure attachments and parental use of reasoning, rather than punishment, predict more accurate attributions of facial affect. Other discipline styles (e.g., punishment, love-withdrawal) are related to decoding errors, such as over-attribution of certain emotions and insensitivity to others (Magai et al., 1995). Thus, attachment and discipline experienced during childhood may lay the groundwork for understanding affect in others and in subsequent interpersonal relationships.

Bugental's (1993; Bugental, Blue, & Cruzcosa 1989; Bugental, Blue, & Lewis, 1990; Bugental & Shennum, 1984) model of dysfunctional interpersonal interactions further illustrates how relationship cognitions are related to children's experience. For instance, parents' perception of control modifies the potency of parents' communication patterns when dealing with an unresponsive child (Bugental, Caporael, & Shennum, 1980). In particular, parents who believe that life events are caused by their behavior (i.e., internal locus of control) are less likely

to ‘weaken’ when faced with uncontrollable, unresponsive child behavior than adults who believe life events are due to external causes (i.e., external locus of control). Overall, threat-oriented adults (i.e., those who tend to have an external locus of control) perceive themselves to be at a power disadvantage relative to their children and, thus, are more sensitive to possible challenges to their superficial, or tentative, authority. Threat-oriented schemata take over and polarize their categorization ability in such a way that they are more likely to ‘confirm’ the threat (e.g., children’s questions are interpreted as confrontation). Subsequently, a defensive system is engaged, adults’ communication and cognitions become increasingly negative, and the use of sanctions escalates (Bugental, 1993). These parents’ attempts to assert power are likely to fail (Bugental & Shennum, 1984). As a result, they view their children in an increasingly negative light (i.e., recalcitrant), justifying the defensive system and perpetuating the process (Bugental, 1993).

In a similar process explained by appraisal theory (Smith & Lazarus, 1990), parents’ anticipation of threat (e.g., oppositional behavior) and their accompanying threat-relevant emotions (e.g., anxiety) will lead them to reduce the threat as quickly as possible. This process results in parents attempting to overpower their children in an effort to resolve the threat to their authority (Strassberg, 1995). It seems likely that mothers’ hostile attribution tendencies predict a harsher disciplinary response that ultimately maintains children’s externalizing behavior problems. This cycle creates a self-fulfilling prophecy, implying that the children of ‘powerless’ parents may possibly come to share their parents’ biased view of social interaction and affecting the long-term adjustment of these children (Bugental & Martorell, 1999).

Bugental and Martorell (1999) examine directly whether parents’ perceptions of low social power predict a similar power-biased view of the social world and related competitive/

coercive behavior in their children (who range in age from 6- to 10- years old). Children's verbal competitiveness on a maze task is predicted by both children's low perceptions of control (LPC) and parents' LPC. Similar to the adult-child pattern, children with low perceived power show a verbally competitive style in interactions with their peers. Verbal competitiveness peaks when both children in the pair perceive themselves to be powerless. Further, children of mothers with low perceptions of power tend to engage in self-praise, a self-enhancing strategy that is not adaptive socially to the extent that it is accompanied by derogation of others (Bugental & Martorell, 1999).

Interestingly, the relationship between parents' perception of power and children's perception of power is only significant for mothers and sons (although there may have been a floor effect due to girls' low competitiveness in this study; Bugental & Martorell, 1999). Additionally, sons' perceived power mediates the relationship between mothers' perceived power and sons' verbal competitiveness. Children with LPC are prone to verbal competitiveness and self-praise, resulting in a self-defeating pattern of one-upmanship in relationships that parallels the communication style of adults with LPC (Bugental & Martorell, 1999). Thus, parental attribution may be related to parent-child interactions as well as to children's attributional style, thereby affecting children's social adjustment and later interaction style. Studying the early presentation of low self-perceived control may aid in creating programs to alter biased attributions (Bugental & Martorell, 1999). Thus, parental attributions may be related to parent-child interactions as well as factor into children's attributional style. Further, the relationship between these variables may have implications for children's social adjustment and later interactions.

Characteristics of the Parent-Child Relationship

In addition to the role of parents' attributions, other characteristics of the parent-child relationship may be associated with children's adjustment as they enter emerging adulthood. For example, the parenting style (i.e., the degree of warmth and control provided to children) that mothers and fathers utilize is associated with children's psychological and behavioral adjustment (Baumrind, 1993). The most widely used taxonomy describes several parenting styles. For example, authoritative parents are both highly demanding, in terms of limit setting and monitoring (i.e., behavioral control) of children's behavior, and highly responsive (i.e., accepting, nurturing). In contrast, the authoritarian parenting style consists of high behavioral control and low responsiveness. Parents with an indulgent or permissive parenting style are high on acceptance but low on behavioral control. Finally, unengaged or neglectful parents exhibit both low behavioral control and low responsiveness (Baumrind, 1993; Slicker, 1998). Children from different sociocultural groups whose parents are authoritative (i.e., they provide firm discipline as well as ample warmth) tend to be well adjusted and prosocial. In particular, these children experience low levels of internalizing and externalizing behavior problems and low levels of substance use. In contrast, daughters whose parents provide a medium level of both demandingness and discipline (termed good enough) tend to manifest internalizing behavior problems and low self-esteem, suggesting that children benefit from more than good enough parenting (Baumrind, 1993).

The parenting style used by mothers and fathers continues to matter as children reach adolescence and emerging adulthood. For example, Slicker (1998) reports that parenting styles are related significantly to adolescents' behavioral adjustment, even when controlling statistically for the effects of gender, socioeconomic status, and family structure. Authoritative

parenting is associated with adolescents' optimal adjustment, whereas indulgent and neglectful parenting styles are associated with poor outcomes. The adjustment of adolescents raised by authoritarian parents falls somewhere in between these two extremes. Similarly, Oliver and Berger (1992) indicate that college students who perceive their parents as providing more affectionless control, or an authoritarian discipline style, experience high level of depression. Further, in an examination of dyadic parent-late adolescent relationships, McKinney and Renk (2008) report that late adolescents' emotional adjustment (i.e., their ratings of their own anxiety, depression, and self-esteem) is related to the perceived parenting style that they endorse for their parents. In particular, those adolescents who indicate that they experience authoritative parenting in their interactions with one or both of their parents also endorse higher levels of emotional adjustment, with those who indicate that both of their parents use authoritative parenting endorsing the highest level of adjustment. These findings corroborate those of research noting the impact of parenting and discipline styles on the development of social competence (Strassberg, Dodge, Bates, & Pettit, 1992) and behavioral functioning, including internalizing (Blackson, Tarter, & Mezzich, 1996) and externalizing (Parke & Deur, 1972) behavior problems.

In addition to this typology, a style of parenting termed harmonious parenting is proposed as ideal in recent research (e.g., Greenspan, 2006). Harmonious parenting, which is high in warmth, moderate in control, and high in tolerance, often is excluded from the parenting typology used in most research due to the complicating addition of a third factor (i.e., tolerance). According to Greenspan (2006), tolerance refers to the ability of a parent to assess whether there is a disciplinary problem or not. For instance, if a child expresses negative affect while complying fully with a request, a harmonious parent would recognize the child's right to feel negatively and may engage in open communication regarding the child's feelings. One way to

address the importance of such responsiveness is to assess other aspects of the parent-child relationship.

Another facet of the parent-child relationship, attachment, is defined generally as an enduring affectionate bond of substantial intensity that results in a behavioral disposition to seek proximity to particular others, especially under conditions of vulnerability (e.g., fear or illness; Bowlby, 1977). With increasing age, proximity-seeking behavior more often involves symbolic communication (e.g., phone calls, correspondence) rather than direct physical contact. Despite these changes, attachment behavior that is based on earlier experiences is believed to persist and influence individuals' mode of relating to others (Armsden & Greenberg, 1987). In fact, Armsden and Greenberg (1987) document that 72 percent of adolescents (ranging in age from 16- to 20-years old) have the same attachment type (i.e., low security or high security) with peers as they do with their parents. Further, adolescents with secure attachments to their parents tend to have higher than average self-esteem, fewer feelings of alienation and resentment, lower symptomatic responses to stressful life events, and a higher likelihood of seeking social support. These findings substantiate the theorized buffering role of parental attachment for adjustment in general (Bowlby, 1977) and peer relationships in particular (Creasey, Kershaw, & Boston, 1999; Morrison, Frank, Holland, & Kates, 1999).

In cases where children are mistreated, abused, or neglected by caretakers, a secure attachment often is not possible (Morrison et al., 1999). In some cases, the dysfunction is such that these children may develop Reactive Attachment Disorder (Teicher, 2000), wherein they are extroverted socially in an indiscriminate manner or, on the contrary, show mistrust of nearly everyone. These early attachment difficulties are thought to translate to later difficulties in relationships with peers (Morrison et al., 1999) and in romantic relationships (Creasey et al.,

1999). Given the importance of these parent-child relationship characteristics in children's long-term functioning, more research is needed to investigate the extent to which parenting style and attachment are related to the attributions and behavior that these children eventually exhibit when they experience interpersonal relationships as emerging adults.

Concordance as a Protective Factor

Measurement issues are noted when comparing the ratings of interparental conflict as reported by parents and their children (Epstein, Renk, Duhig, Bosco, & Phares, 2004). Similarly, obtaining a measure of parent-child conflict, including child maltreatment, is complicated by the disagreement between parents and children regarding the extent to which conflict actually occurs (Tajima et al., 2004). Although it might be expected that adult respondents would over-report childhood adversity to gain sympathy or to rationalize current problems, underreporting occurs more frequently (Femina, Yeager, & Lewis, 1990; Kruttschnitt & Dornfeld, 1992; Tajima et al., 2004). When asked to recall reports of conflict retrospectively, a different pattern of results may emerge, however. In one relevant study, parent self-reports of current parenting identified 15 percent more cases of child maltreatment than did adolescents' retrospective reports of childhood experiences (Tajima et al., 2004). It is possible that early experiences may be forgotten or that perceptions of childhood events are reshaped by subsequent experiences in such a way that respondents do not view the experience as involving maltreatment or violence (Hilton, Harris, & Rice, 1998).

In an effort to provide an explanation for the discrepant reports obtained from parents and children regarding maltreatment, Femina and colleagues (1990) indicate that underreporting is most often due to embarrassment, the desire to protect parents, and the wish to forget the victimization. Another reason cited in the literature is the belief that one deserved the

punishment (Brown, Cohen, Johnson, & Salzinger, 1998). In other words, respondents' internal locus of attribution for the maltreatment, or the extent to which they attribute conflict to their own behavior rather than that of their parents, may result in a reduction of children's perception of parental aggression. Thus, the extent to which parents and children disagree in their ratings of conflict may be related to the attributions that they hold regarding the conflict.

Further, Tajima and colleagues (2004) suggest that adolescents who do not report being mistreated during childhood, but whose parents do report maltreatment, are significantly less likely to report committing severe assaults relative to a group of adolescents who agree with their parents that maltreatment took place. Both of these groups have significantly more severe assaults than do adolescents with no reports (adolescent or parent) of child abuse. Further, adolescents with parent-reported but not self-reported maltreatment have rates of alcohol and marijuana use similar to adolescents who neither self-report nor have parents who report maltreatment. Tajima and colleagues (2004) wonder whether the lower rates of violence and substance abuse among adolescents who have parent-reported abuse but do not self-report this abuse are related to some resilience factor in this group (Tajima et al., 2004). It is yet to be examined whether resilience is active in some way or if there is a third variable that serves to attenuate both the adolescents' report of abuse and the associated sequelae, such as the severity of the conflict or the adolescents' attributions regarding the conflict. Nonetheless, regularly gathering data from multiple sources and attending to the reasons for conflicting reports may advance our understanding of childhood victimization and associated outcomes (Epstein et al., 2004; Sternberg, Lamb, & Dawud-Noursi, 1998). Hence, the current study sought initially to obtain the ratings of conflict and attributions from emerging adults as well as those of their parents.

Conflict and Attributions in Romantic Relationships

The literature described previously suggests that parents' attributions are associated with the conflict that they experience with their children. Similarly, attributions about the behavior of current romantic partners are related differentially to conflict in romantic relationships. Generally, attributions for the behavior of romantic partners relate to current and future relationship satisfaction (Fincham & Bradburry, 1991). More specifically, attributing the undesirable behavior of one's current romantic partner as intentional, selfishly motivated, blameworthy, global, and stable accentuates the impact of that romantic partner's negative behavior, such that it promotes conflict and more negative behavior in response to that romantic partner (Fincham, 1994).

Further research is needed to elucidate the factors and processes that are involved in the types of attributions that individuals make in their current romantic relationships. One possibility, discussed previously, involves the internal representations regarding conflict and relationships that children construct out of their experiences in their families of origin. Emerging adults may use these childhood experiences as they develop relationships in adulthood (Erikson, 1963). For example, Bowlby (1988) proposes that internal working models for the self and others are constructed based on subjective experiences with attachment figures starting in infancy. These models then guide present and future appraisal of others' behavior and subsequent reactions. More relevant to cognitive thinking, Renk, Roddenberry, and Oliveros (2004) liken these internal working models to cognitive schemas. Thus, the internal representations that children form regarding their relationships with their parents may prime expectations concerning the behaviors of their current romantic partners as well as how they respond to conflict in their current romantic relationships.

In understanding how relevant this issue is for emerging adults, it is important to note that college students often mention romantic partners first when they are asked about attachment figures that are central to their lives (Buhrmester, 1996). Unfortunately, for emerging adults in romantic relationships, 82 percent report engaging in verbally abusive behavior, and 21 percent admit to engaging in physically abusive behavior in the past year (Shook, Gerrity, Jurich, & Segrist, 2000). Given the explanation above regarding the relationship between marital conflict and children's development of cognitive styles and emotional security, more research is needed to examine the extent to which relationship expectancies, especially regarding conflict, are derived from exposure to conflict in the parental relationship (Mann & Gilliom, 2002).

Present Study

There has been theoretical and empirical data to support a relationship between experiencing interparental and parent-child conflict during childhood and later conflict in adult romantic relationships (e.g., Black & Pedro-Carroll, 1993; Ponce, Williams, & Allen, 2004; Reese-Weber & Marchand, 2002). Given these findings, it is important to investigate the extent to which attribution styles regarding conflict may account for the relationship between conflict experienced during childhood and later conflict in romantic relationships. Thus, the purpose of the present study is to investigate the extent to which emerging adults' ratings of interparental conflict and parent-child conflict from their childhoods are associated with the attributions that they hold regarding conflict in their current romantic relationships. Secondly, this study sought to investigate the relationship between the conflicts that they experienced while growing up and the conflicts that they experience in their current romantic relationships. In addition, the extent to which attributions of conflict mediate the relationship between childhood conflict (i.e., interparental and parent-child conflict) and later conflict in current romantic relationships is

examined. Finally, this study explores potential correlates of emerging adults' attributions of conflict, including caregivers' parenting style, parental emotional availability, and emerging adults' security of attachment.

In view of the literature describing the deleterious effects of interparental (Clarke et al., 2007; Cummings & Davies, 1996; Mann & Gilliom, 2002) and parent-child conflict (Mann & MacKenzie, 1996; Masten et al., 2008; Widom, 2000) on children's adjustment through emerging adulthood (Hoffman & Weiss, 1987; Renk et al., 2004), it is hypothesized that higher ratings of interparental conflict and parent-child conflict will be associated with higher levels of conflict in emerging adults' current romantic relationships. Given the documented associations of attributions of conflict to parent-child aggression (Bugental, 1993; Bugental & Martorell, 1999; Strassberg, 1995) and conflict with romantic partners (Fincham, 1994; Fincham & Bradburry, 1991), more internal, global, and stable attributions of conflict are expected to predict higher ratings of conflict in emerging adults' current romantic relationships. Finally, based on the results of investigations with children regarding interparental (Markus, Lindahl, & Malik, 2001) and parent-child (Ponce et al., 2004) conflict, attributions of conflict are expected to mediate the relationship between ratings of interparental and parent-child conflict and emerging adults' ratings of conflict in their current romantic relationships.

To clarify, in order to address whether attributions of conflict mediate the relationship between experiencing interparental and parent-child conflict during childhood and later conflict in current romantic relationships, a series of regression analyses will be conducted. Establishing a mediational model will require several findings (Baron & Kenny, 1986). Interparental conflict and parent-child conflict will have to predict the level of hostile attributions of conflict that emerging adults experience in their current romantic relationships (Step 1) and the level of

conflict in these relationships (Step 2). Finally, the inclusion of emerging adults' attributions in the regression equation will have to decrease the relationship between interparental and parent-child conflict and emerging adults' conflict in their current romantic relationships to non-significance, indicating the mediational role of emerging adults' attributions of conflict (Step 3).

With regard to potential correlates of emerging adults' attributions of conflict, prior research suggests various associations. For instance, given that parenting that is high in warmth and limit-setting (i.e., an authoritative style) is associated with the most positive outcomes (e.g., Baumrind, 1993; McKinney & Renk, 2008; Slicker, 1998), it is expected that higher levels of authoritative parenting will be associated with lower levels of conflict-promoting attributions (i.e., lower levels of causal and responsibility attributions) in emerging adults. Similarly, it is anticipated that parents' greater emotional availability will be associated with lower levels of conflict-promoting attributions given that emotional availability is related to lower levels of emotional and behavioral problems in children and adolescents (Lum & Phares, 2005). Finally, based on attachment research proposing that a secure attachment to parents is related to healthier peer relationships (e.g., Creasey et al., 1999; Morrison et al., 1999), it is expected that greater attachment to parents will be related to lower levels of conflict-promoting attributions.

CHAPTER TWO: METHODS

Participants

Emerging adults who were college students were recruited utilizing a psychology department-wide web-based program for research participation at a large southeastern university. Only college students in the emerging adulthood age range of 18- to 24-years (Arnett, 2000) and who had been in a romantic relationship for more than three months (Shulman, Scharf, Lumer, & Maurer, 2001; Whisman & Allan, 1996) were invited to complete the full survey. Emerging adults were offered extra credit for their participation. Additionally, emerging adults were asked to invite their mothers and fathers to participate in a parent version of the study. Due to the anticipated low participation rate of parents, an attempt was made to over-recruit emerging adults. Based on power analyses, the suggested sample size for a multiple regression analysis ($\alpha = .05$) with four independent variables and statistical power of .80 is 84 participants (i.e., 84 males and 84 females) in order to detect a medium ($R = .36$) effect size (Cohen, 1992). Unfortunately, it was not possible to provide an additional incentive for parents to participate in the study; students could only be rewarded for their own participation. Thus, very few parents participated (i.e., 5 mothers and 2 fathers), precluding any substantial analysis of parental responses.

With regard to emerging adult participants, however, the present study examined information that was provided by 190 males and 473 females who ranged in age from 18- to 24-years ($M = 19.42$, $SD = 1.61$). Emerging adults' ethnic background was generally representative of the university as a whole, with 69.53% (461) of the emerging adults indicating that they were Caucasian, 12.82% (85) indicating that they were Hispanic, 6.03% (40) indicating that they were

African American, 3.17% (21) indicating that they were Asian American, 0.15% (1) indicating that they were Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 2.56% (17) indicating that they were from some other ethnicity, and 5.73% (38) identifying themselves as multi-racial. Most of the emerging adult participants (89.29%) were single, whereas 9.35% were living with a partner and 1.36% were married. Most of the emerging adult participants (50.98%) were completing their first year of college, whereas 13.12% were sophomores, 15.99% were juniors, 19.76% were seniors, and 0.15% were graduate students. Most of the emerging adult participants (78.43%) reported an income of \$20,000 or below (i.e., 6.40% fell in the \$20-30,000 range, 4.00% fell in the \$30-40,000 range, 3.17% fell in the \$40-50,000 range, 1.66% fell in the \$50-60,000 range, 0.45% fell in the \$60-70,000 range, and 5.88% reported an income above \$70,000). Most emerging adults reported being in a romantic relationship for the past 3 to 15 months (52.30%; $M = 20.10$; $SD = 16.90$). (This information was collected using a Demographics sheet, located in Appendix A.)

Measures

Interparental Conflict. The revised version of the *Conflict Tactics Scale* (CTS2; Straus, Hamby, Boney-McCoy, & Sugarman, 1995) consists of 39 items intended to measure the extent to which various conflict tactics occur in romantic relationships, including verbal aggression, psychological aggression, and physical assault. For this study, the measure was reworded to allow emerging adults to rate the marital conflict that they witnessed between their parents during their childhoods, yielding ratings for what tactics mothers and fathers used as part of their interparental conflict. For all questions regarding parent conflict, emerging adults were asked to provide their ratings regarding the year that they remember seeing the most conflict between their parents. Thus, the ratings used in this study represent the most severe interparental conflict

that participants could recall. The items used in this study yield the following subscales: Negotiation, Psychological Aggression, and Physical Assault (including Causing Injury) for mothers and fathers. Good internal consistency was reported for this scale in a previous study (Marcus, Lindahl, & Malik, 2001). In the present study, the internal consistency reliability coefficients for Negotiation, Psychological Aggression, and Physical Assault were .86, .74, and .90, respectively, for mothers and .86, .77, and .93, respectively, for fathers. See Appendix B for a sample of the CTS2.

In addition to the CTS2, emerging adults completed the *Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict Scale* (CPICS; Grych, Seid, & Fincham, 1992). This measure assesses multiple dimensions of marital conflict as perceived by children, including their cognitive appraisals. In particular, the Perceived Threat and Self-Blame subscales were used as measures of the extent to which emerging adults perceived interparental conflict as threatening and the extent to which they attributed self-blame for interparental conflict, respectively. In a previous study, alpha coefficients of reliability for these specific subscales were .83 and .84, respectively, and scores on these subscales were correlated with greater internalizing problems in males and females (Grych et al., 1992). In the present study, the internal consistency reliability coefficients for Perceived Threat and Self-Blame were .78, and .61, respectively. See Appendix C for a sample of the CPICS.

Parent-Child Conflict. Emerging adults completed the *Parent-Child Conflict Tactics Scales* (CTSPC; Straus, Hamby, Finkelhor, Moore, & Runyan, 1998) as a rating of the types of discipline practices used by parents during the emerging adults' childhoods. This measure is a revision of the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS1; Straus, 1979), a previous version of the CTS2 being used in the current study. The CTSPC consists of 22 items that compose three main scales:

Nonviolent Discipline, including explanation and time out; Psychological Aggression, such as making statements intended to cause psychological pain or fear; and Physical Assault, including a continuum of behaviors ranging from spanking to threatening with a knife or gun. In the instructions for this measure, emerging adults were asked to provide their ratings regarding the year that they remember having the most conflict with their parents. Thus, the ratings used in this study should represent the most severe parent-child conflict that participants could recall. Specifically, the scales were used to provide a measure of the frequency of nonviolent discipline, psychological aggression, and child-directed corporal punishment. Alpha coefficients of reliability for these specific scales were .70, .60, and .55, respectively, in a previous study. Straus and colleagues (1998) provide evidence of construct validity. For the present study, the measure was reworded to allow emerging adult participants to rate the discipline that they received from their mothers and fathers independently. In the present study, the internal consistency reliability coefficients for Nonviolent Discipline, Psychological Aggression, and Physical Assault were .63, .80, and .87, respectively, for mothers and .57, .79, and .86, respectively, for fathers. See Appendix D for a sample of the CTSPC.

Attributions of Intimate Partner Conflict. The *Relationship Attribution Measure* (RAM; Fincham & Bradburry, 1992) was used to assess attributions regarding the negative behavior of romantic partners. For the present study, emerging adults rated their attributions regarding their current romantic partners. The RAM asks raters to imagine their romantic partners performing four hypothetical negative behaviors (e.g., criticizes something you say). For each behavior, they are asked to use a 1 (disagree strongly) to 6 (agree strongly) scale to rate six attributional statements regarding locus, stability, globality, blame, intent, and motivation. Averaging the responses across the locus, stability, and globality items yields the Causal Composite, and

averaging the responses across the blame, intent, and motivation items yields the Responsibility Composite. High internal consistency (alpha coefficients of reliability $>.80$) and adequate test-retest reliability ($r > .60$) were reported for these composites in a previous study (Fincham & Bradbury, 1992). The validity of the RAM also was confirmed in concurrent (Fincham & Bradbury, 1992) and longitudinal studies (Fincham & Bradbury, 1993). In particular, higher scores on the Responsibility Composite are especially predictive of more hostile/angry conflict behaviors (Fincham & Bradbury, 1992). Consistent with Fincham and Bradbury (1992), a single composite score was used for analyses in the present study. In the present study, the internal consistency reliability coefficient for the RAM was .93. See Appendix E for a sample of the RAM.

Attributions of Parent-Child Conflict. The *Children's Relationship Attribution Measure* (CRAM; Fincham, Beach, Arias, & Brody, 1998) is patterned after the RAM (Fincham & Bradbury, 1992) but focuses on negative parental behavior. Emerging adults were asked to imagine their mothers and fathers engaging in two negative behaviors (i.e., yelling and criticizing) and to rate each of the parents' behaviors on six attributional statements. As in the RAM, the CRAM yields a Causal Composite (composed of locus, stability, and globality items) and a Responsibility Composite (composed of blame, intent, and motivation items). A total attribution composite is used in the present study; higher scores represent more conflict-promoting attributions. The CRAM demonstrated high internal consistency (alpha coefficients of reliability $>.75$) and correlated significantly and negatively with father-child and mother-child relationship positivity in a previous study (Fincham et al., 1998). In the present study, the internal consistency reliability coefficient for the CRAM was .93 for conflict with mothers and .93 for conflict with fathers. See Appendix F for a sample of the CRAM.

Parenting Style. The 30-item *Parental Authority Questionnaire* (PAQ; Buri, 1991) was used to obtain a measure of the permissive, authoritarian, and authoritative parenting to which emerging adults were exposed during their childhoods, with higher scores indicating higher levels of each parenting style. The Permissive, Authoritarian, and Authoritative subscales, each containing ten items, demonstrated good internal consistency (i.e., alpha coefficients of reliability ranged from .74 to .87) and test-retest reliability (ranging from .77 to .92) in a previous study (Buri, 1991). Divergent and criterion-rated validity also was documented for each scale (Buri, 1991). In the present study, internal consistency reliability coefficients for Permissive, Authoritarian, and Authoritative parenting were .75, .85, and .86, respectively, for mothers and .76, .86, and .86, respectively, for fathers. See Appendix G for a sample of the PAQ.

Emotional Availability. The *Lum Emotional Availability of Parenting Scale* (LEAP; Lum & Phares, 2005) was used as a measure of parents' emotional availability as reported by emerging adults. The scale was developed for the purpose of obtaining individuals' reports of their parents' emotional availability toward them in the past. The LEAP scale was temporally reliable in a previous study, with a test-retest correlation coefficient of .92 for ratings of mothers' behavior and .85 for ratings of fathers' behavior. The LEAP scale also demonstrated convergent validity, correlating highly with other measures of emotional warmth ($r = .81$) and care ($r = .75$). In addition, the lack of correlation in a previous study with ratings of social desirability provides evidence of discriminant validity. In the present study, this scale had internal consistency reliability coefficients of .98 for mothers and .98 for fathers. See Appendix H for a sample of the LEAP scale.

Attachment. The *Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment* (IPPA; Armsden & Greenberg, 1987) was designed to obtain adolescents' self-report of attachment with their

parents and peers. The IPPA contains three parental attachment scales and three peer attachment scales. Each of the scales had adequate internal consistency in a previous study. In a previous study, the Trust, Communication, and Alienation subscales for parents yielded alpha coefficients of .91, .91, and .86, respectively, for parents and .91, .87, and .72, respectively, for peers. For the present study, the peer attachment items were reworded slightly (i.e., replacing “friends” with “partner”) to obtain emerging adults’ ratings of their attachment relationship with their current romantic partners. A Total Attachment score is computed by summing the Trust and Communication scores and then subtracting the Alienation score. The creators of the IPPA recommend using the Total Attachment score for analyses, given that the subscales are correlated highly with each other and the item-content of the factors differs for mother and father attachment (M. Greenberg, May 28, 2008; email correspondence). In the present study, the Attachment scale achieved internal consistency reliability coefficients of .70 for mothers, .76 for fathers, and .81 for romantic partners. See Appendix I for a sample of the IPPA.

Emerging Adult Conflict. The Abuse Within Intimate Relationships Scale (AIRS; Borjesson, Aarons, & Dunn, 2003) was developed as a measure of the early stages of abusive behavior among older adolescents and young adults that may occur before violent behavior causes serious social and legal problems (Gondolf, 1999). Emerging adult participants completed this measure as a report of abusive behavior in their current romantic relationships. The original measure is composed of twenty-six items pertaining to perpetrating abusive behavior. For the purposes of the present study, the items were provided a second time, reworded so as to inquire about the extent to which emerging adults experience any of the noted abusive behaviors in the current relationship. The AIRS consists of a psychological abuse factor (e.g., ridicule, betrayal, and screaming) and a physical abuse factor (e.g., pushing and grabbing).

For the psychological abuse factor, alpha coefficients of reliability for the Emotional Abuse, Deception, and Verbal Abuse subfactors were .87, .80, and .73, respectively, in a previous study. For the Physical Abuse factor, alpha coefficients of reliability for the Overt Violence and Restrictive Violence subfactors were .86 and .77, respectively, in a previous study. In the present study, internal consistency reliability coefficients for the Emotional Abuse, Deception, and Verbal Abuse subfactors were .90, .83, and .79, respectively, for the ‘perpetrated’ items and .89, .85, and .80, respectively, for the ‘experienced’ items. The internal consistency reliability coefficients for the Overt and Restrictive Violence subfactors were .92 and .77, respectively, for the ‘perpetrated’ items and .92 and .79, respectively, for the ‘experienced’ items. For the higher-order factors in this study, Psychological Abuse and Physical Abuse, internal consistency reliability coefficients were .91 and .93, respectively, for ‘perpetrated’ items and .92 and .93, respectively, for ‘experienced’ items. Given the greater reliability of the higher-order factors and for the sake of parsimony, the subsequent analyses used the four higher-order factors of Perpetrated Psychological Abuse, Perpetrated Physical Abuse, Experienced Psychological Abuse, and Experienced Physical Abuse. See Appendix J for a sample of the AIRS.

Social Desirability. Given that the content of questionnaires used in the present study likely are related to socially-valued themes and that self-presentation concerns may influence participants’ responses, the *Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability Scale* (M-C SDS; Crowne & Marlowe, 1960) was utilized to obtain a measure of participants’ tendency to answer questions in a socially desirable, rather than truthful, manner. The measure contains 33 true-false items, with the socially desirable answer corresponding to a True answer on some items and to a False answer on other items (i.e., so as to avoid response set effects). It had a reported internal

consistency of .88 and showed positive correlations with the Lie scale of a widely used personality measure in a previous study (Crowne & Marlowe, 1960). In the present study, the M-C SDS had an internal consistency reliability coefficient of .75. See Appendix K for a sample of the M-C SDS.

Procedure

Utilizing a department-wide web-based program for research participation, students completed an online survey that included an initial screening inquiring as to whether they were within the emerging adulthood age range (i.e., 18- to 24- years old), if they were currently in a romantic relationship and for how long, and whether or not they have memories of both parents living with them during their childhoods. Emerging adults participated by following the link on the university's recruitment program to a separate online web-based survey program called Hostedsurvey (<http://www.hostedsurvey.com/home.html>). After emerging adults participated in the online survey, the survey software automatically generated an email confirming their participation and asking them to forward a provided invitation for research participation to their parents (Appendix L). The parent invitation provided a brief study description and asked parents to participate using the participant number provided in their email. The invitation included a link and internet address for web-based participation and gave parents the option to request the questionnaires as documents via postal mail. It was hoped that this procedure would prevent the exclusion of willing parent participants based on their comfort level with using a computer.

In accordance with the approved human rights protocol, the first page of the survey consisted of a consent form (Appendix M) explaining that participation was voluntary, that participants could withdraw at any time, and that participants' answers would remain

anonymous. In addition, participants were provided a debriefing form (Appendix N) upon completion of their survey to explain the purpose of the study and provide references of relevant research literature. There were no foreseeable costs or risks for participation in this study. Contact information for the investigators as well as for a community mental health clinic was provided for participants to use in the event that they had questions about the study and/or the need for mental health services, respectively.

CHAPTER THREE: RESULTS

Descriptive Statistics

To provide a context for the results of this study, descriptive statistics were examined for the variables of interest (see Table 1 for ranges, means, and standard deviations). With regard to ratings of interparental conflict during childhood (as measured by the CTS2), emerging adults reported generally a moderate frequency of negotiation behavior by mothers ($M = 60.33$, $SD = 43.48$) and fathers ($M = 58.09$, $SD = 40.92$). Emerging adults endorsed progressively fewer occurrences of psychological aggression ($M = 19.54$, $SD = 26.12$ for mothers; $M = 21.25$, $SD = 27.60$ for fathers), physical assault ($M = 4.71$, $SD = 18.36$ for mothers; $M = 4.49$, $SD = 19.16$ for fathers), and injury-causing incidents ($M = 2.04$, $SD = 10.11$ for mothers; $M = 2.59$, $SD = 10.35$ for fathers) during their childhoods. Regarding parent-child conflict variables during childhood (as measured by the CTSPC), emerging adults reported greater levels of nonviolent discipline ($M = 28.84$, $SD = 22.11$ for mothers; $M = 19.28$, $SD = 18.42$ for fathers) as well as progressively lower levels of psychological aggression ($M = 22.29$, $SD = 27.08$ for mothers; $M = 15.25$, $SD = 22.61$ for fathers) and physical assault ($M = 17.31$, $SD = 34.28$ for mothers; $M = 10.75$, $SD = 26.06$ for fathers).

Although emerging adults' cognitive appraisals regarding interparental conflict ranged from minimal to extreme (as measured by the CPICS), they reported moderate levels of self-blame ($M = 16.37$, $SD = 3.71$) and perceived threat ($M = 23.02$, $SD = 6.41$) associated with their parents' relationship conflict on average. Emerging adults also endorsed low to moderate hostile attributions of conflict with their mothers ($M = 32.09$, $SD = 13.08$) and fathers ($M = 30.68$, $SD = 13.51$; as measured by the CRAM). Similarly, emerging adults reported low to moderate hostile

attributions ($M = 26.52$, $SD = 13.47$) regarding conflict with their current romantic partners (as measured by the RAM) on average.

In terms of the parenting styles variables (as measured by the PAQ), emerging adults endorsed moderate levels of permissive ($M = 26.62$, $SD = 5.77$ for mothers; $M = 25.86$, $SD = 5.87$ for fathers) and authoritarian ($M = 30.86$, $SD = 7.04$ for mothers; $M = 31.96$, $SD = 7.58$ for fathers) parenting. Emerging adults reported slightly higher levels of authoritative parenting ($M = 36.18$, $SD = 6.60$ for mothers; $M = 34.78$, $SD = 7.30$ for fathers). Similarly, emerging adults endorsed relatively high emotional availability for their mothers ($M = 77.26$, $SD = 15.48$) and fathers ($M = 69.38$, $SD = 19.24$; as measured by the LEAP). Emerging adults also reported generally high levels of attachment in their relationships with their mothers ($M = 63.28$, $SD = 19.83$) and fathers ($M = 58.81$, $SD = 21.12$; as measured by the IPPA).

When asked about their current romantic relationships (as measured by the IPPA), emerging adults reported a moderate to high degree of attachment with their current romantic partners ($M = 61.39$, $SD = 14.29$). With regard to abusive behaviors in current romantic relationships (as measured by the AIRS), emerging adults endorsed that they perpetrated ($M = 16.71$, $SD = 14.60$) and experienced ($M = 15.60$, $SD = 14.56$) a low to moderate frequency of psychologically abusive behaviors. Emerging adults reported that they perpetrated ($M = 2.42$, $SD = 6.47$) and experienced ($M = 2.28$, $SD = 6.47$) a much lower frequency of physically abusive behaviors in their current romantic relationships. Finally, emerging adults' responses on the social desirability scale (as measured by the M-C SDS) reflected moderate self-presentation concerns ($M = 15.30$, $SD = 5.00$).

Differences Between Males and Females

Analyses using t-tests revealed significant differences between the responses of male and female emerging adults with regard to several variables (see Table 1). Relative to male emerging adults, female emerging adults endorsed significantly higher levels of interparental conflict with psychological aggression used by mothers ($t_{(326)} = -2.41, p < .05$) and fathers ($t_{(321)} = -2.15, p < .05$). Female emerging adults also reported lower levels of permissive parenting by mothers ($t_{(536)} = 2.94, p < .01$) and fathers ($t_{(536)} = 2.20, p < .05$). Further, female emerging adults reported higher levels of attachment in their relationships with their mothers ($t_{(536)} = -2.41, p < .05$) and with their current romantic partners ($t_{(535)} = -4.08, p < .001$). Lastly, female emerging adults endorsed the experience of a significantly higher frequency of physically abusive behaviors in their current romantic relationships ($t_{(201)} = 2.11, p < .05$) relative to male emerging adults.

Relationships Among Variables

The relationships among interparental conflict, parent-child conflict, emerging adults' attributions of conflict with their parents and significant others, parenting styles, the emotional availability of parents, the attachment to parents and significant others, and emerging adults' conflict in their current romantic relationships were explored using correlational analyses for males and females separately (given the significant differences noted above). Due to the number of correlations that were computed, an alpha level of .01 was adopted as a criterion for interpreting the significance of correlational analyses and to reduce the experiment-wise error rate (i.e., probability of Type I errors). See Table 2 and Table 3 for a full presentation of all correlations with mother-related and father-related variables, respectively.

Females and Mother-Related Variables.

According to the ratings provided by female emerging adults, their mothers' interparental conflict behavior was correlated significantly with their mothers' discipline tactics. In particular, mothers' use of negotiation in interparental conflict was correlated significantly with greater use of nonviolent discipline ($r = .28, p < .0005$). Further, their mothers' psychological aggression in interparental conflict was correlated significantly with higher levels of all three types of mother-daughter conflict (i.e., non-violent [$r = .17, p < .001$], psychological aggression [$r = .49, p < .0005$], and physical assault [$r = .37, p < .0005$]). Their mothers' physical interparental conflict also was correlated significantly with greater levels of physical assault in mother-daughter conflict ($r = .36, p < .0005$). Overall, female emerging adults who reported that their mothers were more frequently nonviolent in interparental conflict endorsed higher levels of nonviolent maternal discipline. In contrast, those who reported that their mothers were more frequently psychologically aggressive in interparental conflict endorsed more frequent discipline, and those who reported that their mothers were more frequently physically aggressive in interparental conflict endorsed higher levels of physical maternal discipline.

In addition, female emerging adults' ratings of their mothers' interparental conflict were correlated with their cognitive appraisals of conflict. Specifically, female emerging adults' ratings of maternal negotiation in interparental conflict were associated with lower levels of perceived threat regarding interparental conflict ($r = -.15, p < .003$), whereas maternal use of psychological and physical aggression in interparental conflict was associated with greater levels of perceived threat ($r = .44, p < .0005$, and $r = .21, p < .0005$, respectively) and self-blame ($r = .21, p < .0005$, and $r = .23, p < .0005$, respectively) regarding interparental conflict. Further, female emerging adults' ratings of maternal negotiation in interparental conflict were associated

significantly with lower levels of hostile attributions regarding mother-daughter conflict ($r = -.13, p < .01$). In contrast, female emerging adults' ratings of mothers' psychologically aggressive interparental conflict were correlated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding mother-daughter conflict ($r = .35, p < .0005$). In summary, female emerging adults who rated their mothers' interparental conflict as more psychologically or physically aggressive reported higher levels of perceived threat and self-blame regarding interparental conflict, and mothers' psychologically aggressive interparental conflict was associated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding mother-daughter conflict.

Female emerging adults' ratings of maternal interparental conflict also were associated with their ratings of maternal parenting style and parent-child relationship variables. In particular, maternal use of negotiation in interparental conflict was associated with higher ratings of maternal authoritative parenting style ($r = .26, p < .0005$). Mothers' psychologically aggressive interparental conflict also was correlated with higher ratings of authoritarian parenting ($r = .16, p < .002$) and lower levels of authoritative parenting ($r = -.24, p < .0005$). Further, maternal interparental negotiation was correlated significantly with higher ratings of maternal emotional availability ($r = .21, p < .0005$) and female emerging adults' attachment to their mothers ($r = .24, p < .0005$). Ratings of maternal psychological and physical aggression in interparental conflict, however, were correlated significantly with lower ratings of maternal emotional availability ($r = -.35, p < .0005$, and $r = -.21, p < .0005$, respectively) and attachment to their mothers ($r = -.35, p < .0005$, and $r = -.21, p < .0005$, respectively). Thus, when female emerging adults rated their mothers as using negotiation, rather than aggression, in interparental conflict, they also endorsed that their mothers were higher in the characteristics of authoritativeness, emotional availability, and attachment.

With regard to current romantic relationships, female emerging adults' ratings of maternal negotiation in interparental conflict were associated with lower ratings of hostile attributions regarding conflict with current romantic partners ($r = -.14, p < .008$), whereas maternal use of psychological ($r = .34, p < .0005$) and physical ($r = .20, p < .0005$) aggression in interparental conflict was associated significantly with higher levels of hostile attributions about conflict with current romantic partners. Similarly, maternal use of negotiation in interparental conflict was correlated significantly with emerging adults' higher ratings of attachment to their current romantic partners ($r = .19, p < .0005$), whereas emerging adults' ratings of maternal psychological ($r = -.17, p < .001$) and physical ($r = -.26, p < .0005$) aggression in interparental conflict were associated with lower levels of attachment to their current romantic partners. In addition, female emerging adults' ratings of maternal psychological aggression in interparental conflict were associated with higher ratings of perpetrated and experienced psychological ($r = .15, p < .004$, and $r = .16, p < .002$, respectively) and physical abuse ($r = .17, p < .001$, and $r = .16, p < .002$, respectively). Finally, female emerging adults' ratings of maternal physical interparental conflict were associated with higher ratings of perpetrated and experienced psychological ($r = .21, p < .0005$, and $r = .21, p < .0005$, respectively) and physical abuse ($r = .38, p < .0005$, and $r = .37, p < .0005$, respectively). Overall, female emerging adults' ratings of their mothers' psychological and physical aggression in interparental conflict were associated with higher levels of hostile attributions about conflict with their current romantic partners, lower levels of attachment to current romantic partners, and higher ratings of perpetrated and experienced psychological and physical abuse in current romantic relationships.

Female emerging adults' cognitive appraisals regarding interparental conflict also were associated significantly with their ratings of mother-daughter conflict and conflict attributions.

Specifically, ratings of perceived threat and self-blame regarding interparental conflict were associated with higher ratings of mother-daughter nonviolent discipline ($r = .13, p < .009$, and $r = .19, p < .0005$, respectively), psychological aggression ($r = .34, p < .0005$, and $r = .36, p < .0005$, respectively), and physical assault ($r = .25, p < .0005$, and $r = .35, p < .0005$, respectively). Ratings of perceived threat and self-blame also were correlated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding mother-daughter conflict ($r = .40, p < .0005$, and $r = .31, p < .0005$, respectively). Thus, female emerging adults' ratings of self-blame and perceived threat regarding interparental conflict were related positively to their endorsement of all types of discipline and to higher levels of hostile attributions regarding mother-daughter conflict.

In addition, female emerging adults' cognitive appraisals regarding interparental conflict were associated with their ratings of maternal parenting style and parent-child relationship variables. Ratings of perceived threat and self-blame were correlated with higher ratings of maternal authoritarian parenting style ($r = .19, p < .0005$, and $r = .13, p < .01$, respectively) and lower ratings of maternal authoritative parenting style ($r = -.19, p < .0005$, and $r = -.22, p < .0005$, respectively). Further, female emerging adults' higher ratings of perceived threat and self-blame in interparental conflict were associated with their lower ratings of mothers' emotional availability ($r = -.29, p < .0005$, and $r = -.29, p < .0005$, respectively) and their attachment to their mothers ($r = -.35, p < .0005$, and $r = -.33, p < .0005$, respectively). Thus, female emerging adults who endorsed greater levels of perceived threat and self-blame regarding interparental conflict rated their mothers as more authoritarian, less authoritative, less emotionally available, and lower in attachment.

Regarding current romantic relationships, perceived threat and self-blame were correlated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with current romantic partners ($r =$

.53, $p < .0005$, and $r = .35$, $p < .0005$, respectively) and lower levels of attachment to current romantic partners ($r = -.21$, $p < .0005$, and $r = -.15$, $p < .003$, respectively) for female emerging adults. In particular, perceived threat was correlated with higher ratings of perpetrated ($r = .16$, $p < .002$) and experienced ($r = .16$, $p < .003$) physical abuse. Self-blame also was associated with higher ratings of perpetrated physical abuse ($r = .14$, $p < .007$). Thus, female emerging adults' ratings of perceived threat and self-blame regarding interparental conflict were associated with higher levels of hostile conflict attributions toward current romantic partners, lower ratings of attachment to their current romantic partners, and higher ratings of perpetrated physically abusive behaviors. Perceived threat regarding interparental conflict also was associated with experienced physical abuse.

There were significant relationships among mother-daughter conflict variables and attributions of conflict as well. Mother-daughter nonviolent discipline ($r = .17$, $p < .001$), psychological aggression ($r = .55$, $p < .0005$), and physical assault ($r = .35$, $p < .0005$) were correlated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding mother-daughter conflict. In addition, mother-daughter nonviolent discipline, psychological aggression, and physical assault were correlated significantly with lower levels of maternal permissive parenting ($r = -.17$, $p < .001$; $r = -.27$, $p < .0005$; and $r = -.19$, $p < .0005$, respectively) and higher levels of maternal authoritarian parenting ($r = .18$, $p < .001$; $r = .41$, $p < .0005$; and $r = .28$, $p < .0005$, respectively). Only ratings of mother-daughter psychological aggression and physical assault were correlated significantly with lower levels of maternal authoritative parenting ($r = -.39$, $p < .0005$, and $r = -.25$, $p < .0005$, respectively). Higher levels of mother-daughter psychological aggression and physical assault also were associated with lower ratings of maternal emotional availability ($r = -.51$, $p < .0005$, and $r = -.45$, $p < .0005$, respectively) and attachment to mothers ($r = -.50$, $p <$

.0005, and $r = -.41, p < .0005$, respectively). Overall, female emerging adults who provided higher ratings of any type of mother-daughter conflict also endorsed higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their mothers and rated their mothers as less permissive and more authoritarian. In contrast, only female emerging adults' ratings of mother-daughter psychological and physical aggression were associated with their ratings of lower levels of maternal emotional availability and their attachment to their mothers.

With regard to current romantic relationships, female emerging adults' ratings of mother-daughter psychological aggression ($r = .44, p < .0005$) and physical assault ($r = .36, p < .0005$) were associated significantly with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with current romantic partners. Further, their ratings of mother-daughter psychological aggression ($r = -.13, p < .009$) and physical assault ($r = -.19, p < .0005$) were correlated significantly with lower levels of attachment to their current romantic partners. Mother-daughter physical assault also was associated with higher levels of perpetrated ($r = .18, p < .0005$) and experienced ($r = .20, p < .0005$) physical abuse in their current romantic relationships. Thus, female emerging adults' ratings of mother-daughter conflict involving psychological and physical aggression were associated with higher levels of hostile conflict attributions regarding current romantic partners and lower levels of attachment with these romantic partners. Mother-daughter physical assault also was associated with female emerging adults' ratings of perpetrated and experienced physically abusive behavior in their current romantic relationships.

In addition, female emerging adults' ratings of hostile attributions regarding mother-daughter conflict were correlated significantly with greater hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners ($r = .80, p < .0005$). Greater hostile attributions regarding mother-daughter conflict also were associated with lower levels of maternal permissive ($r = -.19,$

$p < .0005$) and authoritative ($r = -.50, p < .0005$) parenting but with higher ratings of maternal authoritarian parenting ($r = .34, p < .0005$). Further, ratings of hostile attributions regarding mother-daughter conflict were associated with lower levels of maternal emotional availability ($r = -.57, p < .0005$) and lower levels of attachment to their mothers ($r = -.61, p < .0005$). Mother-daughter conflict attributions also were related to lower ratings of attachment to current romantic partners ($r = -.20, p < .0005$). In summary, female emerging adults who reported more hostile attributions regarding conflict with their mothers also rated their mothers as more authoritarian, less permissive and authoritative, less emotionally available, and less of an attachment figure. These female emerging adults also reported higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners.

Female emerging adults' attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners were associated with several maternal variables. Specifically, ratings of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners were associated with higher levels of maternal authoritarian parenting style ($r = .20, p < .0005$) and lower ratings of authoritative parenting style ($r = -.39, p < .0005$). Their ratings of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners also were associated significantly with lower levels of maternal emotional availability ($r = -.50, p < .0005$) and attachment to their mothers ($r = -.57, p < .0005$). Further, higher ratings of hostile attributions regarding conflict with current romantic partners were associated with lower levels of attachment to these romantic partners ($r = -.22, p < .0005$) as well as with higher ratings of perpetrated and experienced psychological ($r = .13, p < .009$, and $r = .15, p < .004$, respectively) and physical abuse ($r = .13, p < .009$, and $r = .15, p < .003$, respectively). Thus, female emerging adults who endorsed more hostile attributions of conflict with their current romantic partners reported higher levels of authoritarian parenting

from their mothers as well as lower levels of maternal authoritative parenting, maternal emotional availability, and attachment to their mothers.

Female emerging adults' ratings of maternal parenting styles were correlated significantly with other mother-daughter relationship variables as well. Namely, ratings of maternal permissive parenting and authoritative parenting were associated significantly with higher levels of maternal emotional availability ($r = .23, p < .0005$, and $r = .61, p < .0005$, respectively) and attachment to mothers ($r = .19, p < .0005$, and $r = .66, p < .0005$, respectively). In contrast, higher levels of maternal authoritarian parenting were associated with lower levels of maternal emotional availability ($r = -.35, p < .0005$) and attachment to mothers ($r = -.33, p < .0005$). In addition, ratings of maternal permissive parenting were correlated with lower ratings of attachment to current romantic partners ($r = -.14, p < .007$), whereas ratings of maternal authoritative parenting were correlated with higher ratings of attachment to current romantic partners ($r = .28, p < .0005$). Thus, female emerging adults' ratings of maternal authoritarian parenting were associated with lower levels of maternal emotional availability and attachment to their mothers. In contrast, their ratings of permissive and authoritative parenting were associated with higher levels of maternal emotional availability and attachment to their mothers. Further, female emerging adults' ratings of their attachment to their current romantic partners were associated with lower levels of permissive parenting but higher levels of authoritative parenting from their mothers.

Further, there were significant correlations among mother-daughter relationship variables and female emerging adults' ratings of conflict with their current romantic partners. Their ratings of maternal emotional availability were associated with higher levels of attachment to their mothers ($r = .80, p < .0005$) and lower ratings of perpetrated and experienced physical abuse ($r =$

-.19, $p < .0005$, and $r = -.20$, $p < .0005$, respectively). Similarly, their ratings of their attachment to their mothers were associated with lower ratings of perpetrated and experienced psychological ($r = -.18$, $p < .0005$. and $r = -.18$, $p < .0005$, respectively) and physical abuse ($r = -.17$, $p < .001$, and $r = -.17$, $p < .001$, respectively). Overall, female emerging adults' ratings of their mothers' emotional availability were associated with higher levels of attachment to their mothers and to lower ratings of experienced and perpetrated physical abuse in current relationships. In addition, attachment ratings were associated with lower ratings of experienced and perpetrated psychological and physical abuse in current relationships.

Females and Father-Related Variables.

According to the ratings of female emerging adults, their fathers' interparental conflict behavior was correlated significantly with paternal discipline tactics. In particular, their ratings of paternal negotiation in interparental conflict was correlated significantly with higher levels of nonviolent discipline ($r = .28$, $p < .0005$) and lower ratings of father-daughter physical assault ($r = -.14$, $p < .006$). Their ratings of paternal psychological aggression in interparental conflict was correlated significantly with higher levels of all three types of father-daughter conflict (i.e., nonviolent discipline [$r = .17$, $p < .001$], psychological aggression [$r = .53$, $p < .0005$], and physical assault [$r = .44$, $p < .0005$]). Their fathers' physical aggression in interparental conflict was correlated significantly with higher levels of father-daughter psychological aggression ($r = .22$, $p < .0005$) and physical assault ($r = .59$, $p < .0005$). Thus, female emerging adults who reported more frequent nonviolent interparental conflict involving their fathers endorsed higher levels of nonviolent paternal discipline. In contrast, those who reported more frequent physically aggressive interparental conflict for their fathers endorsed higher levels of psychologically and

physically aggressive paternal discipline. Higher levels of paternal psychologically aggressive interparental conflict also were related to higher levels of all three types of discipline.

Female emerging adults' ratings of their fathers' interparental conflict were correlated with their cognitive appraisals of conflict. Specifically, female emerging adults' ratings of paternal negotiation in interparental conflict were associated with higher levels of perceived threat regarding interparental conflict ($r = -.25, p < .0005$), whereas paternal use of psychological and physical aggression was associated with higher levels of perceived threat ($r = .54, p < .0005$, and $r = .20, p < .0005$, respectively) and self-blame ($r = .24, p < .0005$, and $r = .24, p < .0005$, respectively) regarding interparental conflict. In addition, ratings of paternal negotiation in interparental conflict were associated significantly with lower levels of hostile attributions regarding father-daughter conflict ($r = -.21, p < .0005$). In contrast, ratings of fathers' psychologically ($r = .46, p < .0005$) and physically ($r = .15, p < .004$) aggressive interparental conflict were correlated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding father-daughter conflict. In other words, female emerging adults' ratings of paternal psychological and physical aggression in interparental conflict were related to higher levels of perceived threat and self-blame regarding interparental conflict as well as higher levels of hostile attributions regarding father-daughter conflict.

In addition, female emerging adults' ratings of paternal interparental conflict were associated with their ratings of their fathers' parenting styles and parent-child relationship variables. In particular, ratings of paternal negotiation in interparental conflict were correlated significantly with higher levels of paternal authoritative parenting style ($r = .34, p < .0005$). Female emerging adults' ratings of fathers' psychologically aggressive interparental conflict were correlated with higher levels of authoritarian parenting ($r = .30, p < .0005$) and lower levels

of fathers' permissive ($r = -.23, p < .0005$) and authoritative ($r = -.34, p < .0005$) parenting. Their ratings of paternal physical aggression in interparental conflict were correlated significantly with lower levels of fathers' authoritative parenting ($r = -.24, p < .0005$). Further, paternal interparental negotiation was correlated significantly with higher levels of paternal emotional availability ($r = .28, p < .0005$) and female emerging adults' attachment to their fathers ($r = .27, p < .0005$). In contrast, ratings of paternal psychological and physical aggression in interparental conflict were correlated significantly with lower levels of paternal emotional availability ($r = -.37, p < .0005$, and $r = -.24, p < .0005$, respectively) and female emerging adults' attachment to their fathers ($r = -.41, p < .0005$, and $r = -.26, p < .0005$, respectively). Thus, when female emerging adults rated their fathers as using negotiation rather than aggression in interparental conflict, they also endorsed higher levels of authoritative parenting, emotional availability, and attachment for their fathers.

With regard to current romantic relationships, female emerging adults' ratings of paternal negotiation in interparental conflict were associated with lower levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners ($r = -.19, p < .0005$), whereas paternal use of psychological ($r = .38, p < .0005$) and physical ($r = .16, p < .002$) aggression in interparental conflict was associated significantly with higher levels of hostile attributions about conflict with current romantic partners. Similarly, paternal use of negotiation in interparental conflict was correlated significantly with higher levels of attachment to current romantic partners ($r = .18, p < .0005$), whereas physical aggression in interparental conflict was associated with lower levels of attachment to current romantic partners ($r = -.22, p < .0005$). In addition, female emerging adults' ratings of paternal psychological aggression in interparental conflict were associated with higher levels of perpetrated physical abuse in current romantic relationships ($r = .14, p < .007$).

Ratings of paternal physical interparental conflict also were associated with higher levels of perpetrated and experienced psychological ($r = .18, p < .001$, and $r = .19, p < .0005$, respectively) and physical abuse ($r = .33, p < .0005$, and $r = .31, p < .0005$, respectively) in current romantic relationships. Overall, female emerging adults' ratings of paternal negotiation in interparental conflict were associated with lower levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict and higher levels of attachment with current romantic partners. In contrast, fathers' interparental psychological aggression was associated with female emerging adults' perpetrated physical abuse in current romantic relationships. Fathers' interparental physical aggression also was associated with female emerging adults' perpetrated and experienced psychological and physical abuse in current romantic relationships.

Further, female emerging adults' cognitive appraisals regarding interparental conflict were associated significantly with their ratings of father-daughter conflict and conflict attributions. Specifically, ratings of perceived threat regarding interparental conflict were associated with higher levels of father-daughter psychological aggression ($r = .36, p < .0005$) and physical assault ($r = .26, p < .0005$). Further, ratings of self-blame regarding interparental conflict were associated with higher levels of father-daughter nonviolent discipline ($r = .19, p < .0005$), psychological aggression ($r = .27, p < .0005$), and physical assault ($r = .23, p < .0005$). Finally, ratings of perceived threat and self-blame were correlated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding father-daughter conflict ($r = .49, p < .0005$, and $r = .26, p < .0005$, respectively). Thus, female emerging adults who reported self-blame and perceived threat regarding interparental conflict also endorsed higher levels of psychologically and physically aggressive discipline as well as higher levels of hostile attributions regarding father-daughter conflict.

Cognitive appraisals about interparental conflict also were associated with ratings of paternal parenting style and parent-child relationship variables. Ratings of perceived threat were correlated with higher levels of paternal authoritarian parenting ($r = .25, p < .0005$), and ratings of both perceived threat and self-blame were correlated with lower levels of paternal authoritative parenting ($r = -.33, p < .0005$, and $r = -.15, p < .004$, respectively). In addition, higher levels of perceived threat and self-blame in interparental conflict were associated with lower levels of paternal emotional availability ($r = -.37, p < .0005$, and $r = -.24, p < .0005$, respectively) and female emerging adults' attachment to their fathers ($r = -.42, p < .0005$, and $r = -.30, p < .0005$, respectively). Thus, female emerging adults who endorsed higher levels of perceived threat and self-blame regarding interparental conflict also rated their fathers as being less authoritative, less emotionally available, and less of an attachment figure.

Regarding current romantic relationships, perceived-threat and self-blame were correlated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with current romantic partners ($r = .53, p < .0005$, and $r = .35, p < .0005$, respectively) and lower levels of attachment to current romantic partners ($r = -.21, p < .0005$, and $r = -.15, p < .003$, respectively). In addition, perceived threat was correlated with higher levels of perpetrated ($r = .16, p < .002$) and experienced ($r = .16, p < .003$) physical abuse in current romantic relationships. Self-blame also was associated with higher levels of perpetrated physical abuse ($r = .14, p < .007$) in current romantic relationships. Thus, female emerging adults who endorsed higher levels of perceived threat and self-blame regarding interparental conflict also reported higher levels of hostile attributions about conflict with their current romantic partners and lower levels of attachment to their current romantic partners. Further, female emerging adults who endorsed higher levels of

perceived threat endorsed higher levels of perpetrated and experienced physical abuse, and those who endorsed higher levels of self-blame endorsed higher levels of perpetrated physical abuse.

Further, there were significant relationships among father-daughter conflict variables and female emerging adults' attributions of conflict. Father-daughter nonviolent discipline ($r = .15, p < .003$), psychological aggression ($r = .53, p < .0005$), and physical assault ($r = .32, p < .0005$) were correlated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding father-daughter conflict. In addition, father-daughter nonviolent discipline, psychological aggression, and physical assault were correlated significantly with lower levels of paternal permissive parenting ($r = -.16, p < .001$; $r = -.36, p < .0005$; and $r = -.15, p < .005$, respectively) and higher levels of paternal authoritarian parenting ($r = .22, p < .0005$; $r = .48, p < .0005$; and $r = .27, p < .0005$, respectively). Only father-daughter psychological aggression and physical assault were correlated significantly with lower levels of paternal authoritative parenting ($r = -.39, p < .0005$, and $r = -.30, p < .0005$, respectively). Father-daughter psychological aggression and physical assault also were associated with lower levels of paternal emotional availability ($r = -.41, p < .0005$, and $r = -.31, p < .0005$, respectively) and female emerging adults' attachment to their fathers ($r = -.39, p < .0005$, and $r = -.29, p < .0005$, respectively). Overall, female emerging adults who endorsed higher levels of each type of father-daughter conflict also reported higher levels of hostile attributions regarding father-daughter conflict and rated fathers as less permissive and more authoritarian. Further, female emerging adults' ratings of father-daughter psychological and physical aggression were associated with lower ratings of fathers as authoritative, emotionally available, and a source of attachment.

With regard to current romantic relationships, female emerging adults' ratings of father-daughter psychological ($r = .38, p < .0005$) aggression and physical assault ($r = .26, p < .0005$)

were associated significantly with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with current romantic partners. In addition, father-daughter physical assault was associated with higher ratings of perpetrated ($r = .29, p < .0005$) and experienced ($r = .28, p < .0005$) physical abuse in female emerging adults' current romantic relationships. Thus, female emerging adults who endorsed father-daughter psychologically and physically aggressive conflict also reported higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners. In addition, ratings of father-daughter physical assault were associated with higher levels of physical abuse perpetrated and experienced by females in their current romantic relationships.

In addition, female emerging adults' ratings of hostile attributions regarding father-daughter conflict were associated with lower levels of paternal permissive ($r = -.29, p < .0005$) and authoritative ($r = -.45, p < .0005$) parenting but with higher levels of paternal authoritarian parenting ($r = .40, p < .0005$). Higher ratings of hostile attributions regarding father-daughter conflict were associated with lower levels of paternal emotional availability ($r = -.52, p < .0005$) and lower levels of attachment to their fathers ($r = -.52, p < .0005$). With regard to current romantic relationships, ratings of hostile attributions regarding father-daughter conflict were correlated significantly with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with current romantic partners ($r = .75, p < .0005$) and higher ratings of perpetrated and experienced psychological abuse ($r = .14, p < .005$, and $r = .15, p < .003$, respectively) in current romantic relationships. To summarize, female emerging adults who reported hostile attributions regarding conflict with their fathers also rated their fathers as more authoritarian, less permissive and authoritative, less emotionally available, and less of an attachment figure. These female emerging adults also endorsed similar hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners and higher levels of perpetrated and experienced psychological abuse.

Female emerging adults' attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners were associated with several paternal variables. Specifically, ratings of hostile attributions were associated with higher levels of paternal authoritarian parenting ($r = .23, p < .0005$) and lower levels of paternal authoritative parenting ($r = -.42, p < .0005$). Their ratings of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners also were associated significantly with lower levels of paternal emotional availability ($r = -.47, p < .0005$) and attachment to their fathers ($r = -.58, p < .0005$). With regard to current romantic relationships, ratings of hostile attributions regarding conflict with current romantic partners were correlated significantly with lower levels of attachment to these romantic partners ($r = -.22, p < .0005$) and higher levels of perpetrated and experienced psychological ($r = .13, p < .009$, and $r = .15, p < .004$, respectively) and physical abuse ($r = .13, p < .009$, and $r = .15, p < .004$, respectively) in their current romantic relationships. Thus, female emerging adults who endorsed hostile attributions of conflict with their current romantic partners reported higher levels of authoritarian parenting from their fathers as well as lower levels of paternal authoritative parenting, paternal emotional availability, and attachment to their fathers. They also reported lower levels of attachment to their current romantic partners and higher levels of perpetrated and experienced psychological and physical abuse in their current romantic relationships.

Further, female emerging adults' ratings of paternal parenting styles were correlated significantly with other father-daughter relationship variables. Namely, higher levels of paternal permissive and authoritative parenting were associated significantly with higher ratings of paternal emotional availability ($r = .31, p < .0005$, and $r = .64, p < .0005$, respectively) and attachment to their fathers ($r = .24, p < .0005$, and $r = .68, p < .0005$, respectively). In contrast, higher levels of paternal authoritarian parenting were associated with lower levels of paternal

emotional availability ($r = -.30, p < .0005$) and attachment to their fathers ($r = -.29, p < .0005$). In addition, ratings of paternal permissive parenting were correlated with lower levels of attachment to their current romantic partners ($r = -.17, p < .001$), whereas ratings of paternal authoritative parenting were correlated with higher ratings of attachment to their current romantic partners ($r = .22, p < .0005$). Thus, female emerging adults who rated their fathers as permissive and authoritative endorsed higher levels of paternal emotional availability and attachment toward fathers; the inverse was true for ratings of authoritarian fathers. Further, female emerging adults who rated their fathers as being less permissive and more authoritative endorsed higher levels of attachment to their current romantic partners.

There were significant correlations among father-daughter relationship variables and female emerging adults' ratings of conflict with their current romantic partners. Female emerging adults' ratings of paternal emotional availability were associated with higher levels of attachment to their fathers ($r = .80, p < .0005$). Female emerging adults' ratings of paternal emotional availability ($r = .20, p < .0005$) and their attachment to their fathers ($r = .32, p < .0005$) were associated with higher levels of attachment to their current romantic partners. Further, their ratings of paternal emotional availability were associated with lower levels of perpetrated and experienced psychological ($r = -.13, p < .0005$, and $r = -.14, p < .0005$, respectively) and physical abuse ($r = -.15, p < .0005$, and $r = -.17, p < .0005$, respectively) in their current romantic relationships. Similarly, their ratings of attachment to their fathers were associated with lower levels of perpetrated and experienced psychological ($r = -.16, p < .0005$, and $r = -.15, p < .0005$, respectively) and physical abuse ($r = -.14, p < .0005$, and $r = -.14, p < .0005$, respectively) in their current romantic relationships. In summary, female emerging adults who endorsed greater paternal emotional availability and attachment to their fathers reported

higher levels of attachment to their current romantic partners and a lower frequency of perpetrated and experienced psychologically abusive behaviors in their current romantic relationships.

Relationships Among Other Variables for Females.

Other relationships also were of interest for female emerging adults. According to female emerging adults' ratings of their current romantic relationships, the level of attachment to their current romantic partners was correlated significantly with lower levels of perpetrated and experienced psychological ($r = -.41, p < .0005$, and $r = -.45, p < .0005$, respectively) and physical abuse ($r = -.33, p < .0005$, and $r = -.34, p < .0005$, respectively). Further, higher ratings for one type of abusive behavior were associated with higher levels of each of the other types of abusive behaviors. In particular, higher ratings of perpetrated psychological abuse were correlated with higher levels of perpetrated physical abuse ($r = .41, p < .0005$). In addition, higher ratings of perpetrated psychological and physical abuse were each correlated significantly with higher levels of experienced psychological ($r = .95, p < .0005$, and $r = .44, p < .0005$, respectively) and physical abuse ($r = .38, p < .0005$, and $r = .95, p < .0005$, respectively) in current romantic relationships. Higher ratings of experienced psychological abuse also were associated with higher levels of experienced physical abuse ($r = .43, p < .0005$) in current romantic relationships. Overall, different types of abuse appeared to co-occur. Further, those female emerging adults who reported experiencing or perpetrating psychological or physical abuse tended to endorse lower levels of attachment to their current romantic partners.

Finally, social desirability was correlated significantly with female emerging adults' ratings of lower levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their mothers ($r = -.17, p < .001$), fathers ($r = -.20, p < .0005$), and current romantic partners ($r = -.19, p < .0005$). In

addition, higher ratings of social desirability were correlated significantly with higher levels of attachment to mothers ($r = .18, p < .0005$), fathers ($r = .22, p < .0005$), and current romantic partners ($r = .16, p < .001$). Finally, social desirability ratings were correlated with lower levels of perpetrated and experienced psychological abuse ($r = -.32, p < .0005$, and $r = -.29, p < .0005$, respectively) in their current romantic relationships. Thus, female emerging adults who endorsed higher ratings of social presentation concerns endorsed lower levels of hostile conflict attributions and greater attachment to their parents and current romantic partners as well as lower levels of perpetrating and experiencing psychological abuse in their current romantic relationships.

Males and Mother-Related Variables.

According to the ratings provided by male emerging adults, mothers' interparental conflict behavior was correlated significantly with their mothers' discipline tactics. In particular, their mothers' use of negotiation in interparental conflict was correlated significantly with higher levels of nonviolent discipline ($r = .26, p < .001$). Further, their mothers' psychological aggression in interparental conflict was correlated significantly with higher levels of mother-son psychological aggression ($r = .36, p < .0005$) and physical assault ($r = .28, p < .0005$). Finally, their mothers' physical interparental conflict was correlated significantly with higher levels of mother-son physical assault ($r = .28, p < .0005$). Overall, male emerging adults who reported that their mothers were more frequently nonviolent in interparental conflict reported higher levels of nonviolent maternal discipline. In contrast, those male emerging adults who reported that their mothers were more frequently psychologically aggressive in interparental conflict endorsed higher levels of psychologically and physically aggressive maternal discipline and those who

reported that their mothers were more frequently physically aggressive in interparental conflict endorsed higher levels of physical maternal discipline.

Male emerging adults' ratings of their mothers' interparental conflict also were correlated with their cognitive appraisals of conflict. Specifically, their ratings of maternal psychological aggression in interparental conflict were associated with higher levels of perceived threat ($r = .29, p < .0005$), and their ratings of maternal physical aggression in interparental conflict were associated with higher levels of self-blame ($r = .22, p < .007$). In addition, male emerging adults' ratings of their mothers' psychologically aggressive interparental conflict were correlated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding mother-son conflict ($r = .31, p < .0005$). In summary, male emerging adults who rated their mothers as physically aggressive in interparental conflict endorsed higher levels of self-blame, whereas those who rated mothers as psychologically aggressive in interparental conflict endorsed higher levels of perceived threat regarding interparental conflict and hostile attributions for mother-son conflict.

In addition, male emerging adults' ratings of interparental conflict were associated with their ratings of their mothers' parenting styles and parent-child relationship variables. Ratings of maternal negotiation in interparental conflict were correlated significantly with higher levels of maternal authoritative parenting ($r = .22, p < .006$), and maternal physical aggression in interparental conflict was correlated significantly with lower levels of maternal authoritative parenting ($r = -.25, p < .002$). Further, male emerging adults' ratings of maternal interparental negotiation were correlated significantly with higher levels of attachment to their mothers ($r = .21, p < .008$), whereas their ratings of maternal physical aggression in interparental conflict were correlated significantly with lower ratings of their attachment to their mothers ($r = -.23, p < .004$). Thus, male emerging adults who rated their mothers as negotiating in interparental conflict

endorsed higher levels of authoritative parenting and attachment to their mothers, whereas those who rated their mothers as physically aggressive in interparental conflict endorsed lower levels of authoritative parenting and attachment to their mothers.

With regard to current romantic relationships, male emerging adults' ratings of maternal psychological ($r = .28, p < .0005$) and physical ($r = .29, p < .0005$) aggression in interparental conflict were associated significantly with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners. Male emerging adults' ratings of maternal negotiation in interparental conflict were correlated significantly with higher levels of attachment to their current romantic partners ($r = .29, p < .0005$), whereas their ratings of maternal physical aggression in interparental conflict were associated with lower ratings of attachment to their current romantic partners ($r = -.25, p < .002$). Further, maternal psychological aggression in interparental conflict was associated with higher ratings of perpetrated and experienced psychological ($r = .34, p < .0005$, and $r = .38$, respectively, $p < .0005$) and physical abuse ($r = .31, p < .0005$, and $r = .28, p < .0005$, respectively) in male emerging adults' current romantic relationships. Similarly, ratings of maternal physical interparental conflict were associated with higher levels of perpetrated and experienced psychological ($r = .44, p < .0005$, and $r = .42, p < .0005$, respectively) and physical abuse ($r = .62, p < .0005$, and $r = .59, p < .0005$, respectively) in their current romantic relationships. Overall, male emerging adults who rated their mothers as psychologically and physically aggressive in interparental conflict endorsed higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners and higher levels of perpetrated and experienced psychological and physical abuse in their current relationships. In contrast, higher ratings of maternal negotiation in interparental conflict were related to higher levels of attachment to their current romantic partners.

Male emerging adults' cognitive appraisals regarding interparental conflict also were associated significantly with their ratings of mother-son conflict and conflict attributions. Specifically, their ratings of self-blame regarding interparental conflict were associated with higher levels of mother-son physical assault ($r = .21, p < .008$). Ratings of perceived threat and self-blame also were correlated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding mother-son conflict ($r = .42, p < .0005$, and $r = .37, p < .0005$, respectively). Thus, those male emerging adults who blamed themselves for interparental conflict endorsed higher levels of mother-son physical assault, and those who blamed themselves and perceived threat regarding interparental conflict endorsed higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their mothers.

In addition, male emerging adults' cognitive appraisals regarding interparental conflict were associated with their ratings of their mothers' parenting style and parent-child relationship variables. Ratings of self-blame were correlated with higher levels of maternal authoritarian parenting ($r = .27, p < .001$). Further, their ratings of perceived threat and self-blame regarding interparental conflict were correlated with lower levels of maternal emotional availability ($r = -.22, p < .005$, and $r = -.26, p < .001$, respectively) and attachment to their mothers ($r = -.26, p < .001$, and $r = -.35, p < .0005$, respectively). Regarding current romantic relationships, perceived threat and self-blame were correlated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with current romantic partners ($r = .47, p < .0005$, and $r = .44, p < .0005$, respectively). Self-blame also was correlated with lower ratings of attachment to current romantic partners ($r = -.21, p < .007$). Thus, male emerging adults who endorsed greater perceived threat and self-blame regarding interparental conflict reported lower levels of maternal emotional availability and attachment to their mothers. Self-blame ratings also were related to higher levels of maternal

authoritarian parenting and attachment to current romantic partners. Further, cognitive appraisals of interparental conflict were associated with higher levels of hostile conflict attributions.

There were significant relationships among mother-son conflict variables and attributions of conflict as well. Mother-son psychological aggression ($r = .34, p < .0005$) and physical assault ($r = .25, p < .002$) were correlated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding mother-son conflict. In addition, mother-son psychological aggression and physical assault were correlated significantly with higher levels of maternal authoritarian parenting ($r = .29, p < .0005$, and $r = .30, p < .0005$, respectively) and lower levels of authoritative parenting ($r = -.27, p < .001$, and $r = -.33, p < .0005$, respectively). Mother-son psychological aggression and physical assault also were correlated with lower levels of maternal emotional availability ($r = -.29, p < .0005$, and $r = -.30, p < .0005$, respectively) and male emerging adults' attachment to their mothers ($r = -.25, p < .001$, and $r = -.32, p < .0005$, respectively). With regard to current romantic relationships, mother-son psychological aggression and physical assault were correlated significantly with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners ($r = .25, p < .002$, and $r = .26, p < .001$, respectively). Overall, male emerging adults who reported experiencing higher levels of mother-son psychological and physical aggression during childhood endorsed higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with mothers and higher levels of authoritarian parenting as well as lower levels of authoritative parenting, maternal emotional availability, and attachment to mothers.

Male emerging adults' ratings of hostile attributions regarding mother-son conflict were correlated with higher levels of maternal authoritarian parenting ($r = .27, p < .0005$) and lower levels of authoritative parenting ($r = -.33, p < .0005$). In addition, higher levels of hostile attributions regarding mother-son conflict were associated with lower levels of maternal

emotional availability ($r = -.53, p < .0005$) and attachment to their mothers ($r = -.58, p < .0005$).

With regard to current romantic relationships, ratings of hostile attributions regarding mother-son conflict were correlated significantly with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with current romantic partners ($r = .82, p < .0005$) and lower levels of attachment to current romantic partners ($r = -.25, p < .002$). Overall, male emerging adults who reported higher levels of hostile attributions regarding mother-son conflict reported that their mothers were more authoritarian, less authoritative, less emotionally available, and less of an attachment figure. They also reported higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners and lower levels of attachment to their current romantic partners.

Further, male emerging adults' ratings of maternal parenting styles were correlated significantly with other mother-son relationship variables. Specifically, ratings of maternal authoritative parenting were associated with higher levels of maternal emotional availability ($r = .56, p < .0005$) and their attachment to their mothers ($r = .62, p < .0005$). With regard to current relationship variables, male emerging adults' ratings of maternal authoritarian parenting were correlated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners ($r = .21, p < .008$). In contrast, their ratings of maternal authoritative parenting were associated with lower levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners ($r = -.41, p < .0005$) and higher ratings of their attachment to their partners ($r = .41, p < .0005$). Overall, male emerging adults who rated their mothers as authoritative endorsed higher levels of maternal emotional availability and attachment to mothers as well as lower levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners and greater attachment with their current romantic partners.

There were significant correlations among variables assessing the mother-son relationship and male emerging adults' conflict with their current romantic partners. Ratings of maternal emotional availability were associated with higher levels of male emerging adults' attachment to their mothers ($r = .78, p < .0005$). Further, male emerging adults' ratings of maternal emotional availability and their attachment to their mothers were associated with lower levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners ($r = -.54, p < .0005$, and $r = -.65, p < .0005$, respectively) and higher levels of attachment to their current romantic partners ($r = .40, p < .0005$, and $r = .58, p < .0005$, respectively). Thus, male emerging adults who reported greater attachment to their mothers and greater maternal emotional availability endorsed lower levels of hostile attributions of conflict and attachment regarding their current romantic partners.

Males and Father-Related Variables.

According to the ratings provided by male emerging adults, fathers' interparental conflict behavior was correlated significantly with their fathers' discipline tactics. In particular, their ratings of paternal negotiation in interparental conflict were correlated significantly with higher levels of paternal nonviolent discipline ($r = .31, p < .0005$). In addition, their ratings of paternal psychological aggression in interparental conflict were correlated significantly with higher levels of father-son psychological aggression ($r = .50, p < .0005$) and physical assault ($r = .40, p < .0005$). Their ratings of paternal physical aggression in interparental conflict also were correlated significantly with higher levels of father-son physical assault ($r = .29, p < .0005$). Overall, male emerging adults who reported that their fathers were nonviolent in interparental conflict endorsed higher levels of nonviolent paternal discipline. In contrast, those who reported that their fathers were psychologically aggressive in interparental conflict endorsed both psychologically and

physically aggressive father-son conflict, and those who reported that their fathers were physically aggressive in interparental conflict endorsed higher levels of father-son physical assault.

In addition, male emerging adults' ratings of their fathers' interparental conflict were correlated with their cognitive appraisals of conflict. Specifically, male emerging adults' ratings of paternal psychological aggression in interparental conflict were associated with higher levels of perceived threat regarding interparental conflict ($r = .22, p < .006$) and higher levels of hostile attributions regarding father-son conflict ($r = .42, p < .0005$). Their ratings of paternal physical aggression in interparental conflict were associated with higher levels of self-blame ($r = .24, p < .003$) regarding interparental conflict. In other words, male emerging adults who reported more frequent paternal psychological aggression in interparental conflict endorsed higher levels of perceived threat regarding interparental conflict as well as hostile attributions regarding father-son conflict. Those who reported more frequent paternal physical aggression in interparental conflict endorsed higher levels of self-blame regarding interparental conflict.

Male emerging adults' ratings of interparental conflict also were associated with their ratings of paternal parenting style and father-son relationship variables. In particular, their ratings of paternal negotiation in interparental conflict were correlated significantly with higher levels of paternal authoritative parenting ($r = .28, p < .0005$). Their ratings of paternal physical aggression in interparental conflict were correlated significantly with lower levels of paternal authoritative parenting ($r = -.24, p < .003$). Further, male emerging adults' ratings of paternal interparental negotiation were correlated significantly with higher levels of paternal emotional availability ($r = .23, p < .005$) and attachment to fathers ($r = .25, p < .002$). Finally, ratings of fathers' psychological aggression in interparental conflict were correlated significantly with lower levels

of attachment to their fathers ($r = -.21, p < .01$). Thus, male emerging adults who rated their fathers as using negotiation in interparental conflict were likely to endorse higher levels of fathers' authoritative parenting, paternal emotional availability, and attachment to their fathers. In contrast, male emerging adults who rated their fathers as using physical aggression were likely to endorse lower levels of fathers' authoritative parenting, and those who rated their fathers as using psychological aggression in interparental conflict were likely to endorse lower levels of attachment to their fathers.

With regard to current romantic relationships, male emerging adults' ratings of their fathers' psychological ($r = .29, p < .0005$) and physical ($r = .31, p < .0005$) aggression in interparental conflict were associated significantly with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners. In addition, male emerging adults' ratings of their fathers' use of negotiation in interparental conflict were correlated significantly with higher ratings of their attachment to their current romantic partners ($r = .24, p < .004$). Thus, paternal negotiation in interparental conflict was associated with higher levels of attachment to current romantic partners, whereas paternal psychological and physical aggression in interparental conflict was associated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with current romantic partners.

In addition, male emerging adults' cognitive appraisals regarding interparental conflict were associated significantly with their ratings of father-son conflict and their hostile attributions regarding conflict with their fathers. Specifically, their ratings of perceived threat regarding interparental conflict were associated with higher levels of father-son psychological aggression ($r = .21, p < .008$). Further, male emerging adults' ratings of self-blame regarding interparental conflict were associated with higher levels of father-son physical assault ($r = .22, p < .006$).

Their ratings of perceived threat and self-blame also were correlated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding father-son conflict ($r = .46, p < .0005$, and $r = .39, p < .0005$, respectively). Overall, male emerging adults who endorsed self-blame and perceived threat regarding interparental conflict also reported higher levels of hostile attributions regarding father-son conflict. In particular, their perceived threat was associated with higher levels of father-son psychological aggression, and their self-blame was associated with higher levels of father-son physical assault.

Cognitive appraisals about interparental conflict also were associated with ratings of fathers' parenting styles and father-son relationship variables. Male emerging adults' ratings of self-blame were correlated significantly with higher levels of paternal authoritarian parenting ($r = .21, p < .008$) and lower levels of paternal emotional availability ($r = -.21, p < .009$). Further, male emerging adults' ratings of perceived threat and self-blame regarding interparental conflict were correlated with lower ratings of their attachment to their fathers ($r = -.26, p < .001$, and $r = -.28, p < .0005$, respectively). Thus, for male emerging adults, perceived threat and self-blame regarding interparental conflict were associated with lower levels of attachment to their fathers. Self-blame ratings also were related with higher levels of paternal authoritarian parenting and lower levels of paternal emotional availability.

Regarding current romantic relationships, perceived threat and self-blame regarding interparental conflict were correlated significantly with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with current romantic partners ($r = .47, p < .0005$, and $r = .44, p < .0005$, respectively). Male emerging adults' ratings of self-blame were correlated with lower levels of attachment to their current romantic partners ($r = -.21, p < .007$). Thus, male emerging adults who provided higher ratings of perceived threat or self-blame regarding interparental conflict

endorsed higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners. Self-blame, in particular, was related to lower levels of attachment to current romantic partners.

There were significant relationships among father-son conflict variables and male emerging adults' attributions of conflict as well. Father-son psychological aggression ($r = .44, p < .0005$) and physical assault ($r = .27, p < .001$) were correlated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding father-son conflict. In addition, father-son nonviolent discipline and psychological aggression were correlated significantly with lower levels of paternal permissive parenting ($r = -.30, p < .0005$, and $r = -.23, p < .004$, respectively) and with higher levels of paternal authoritarian parenting ($r = .30, p < .0005$, and $r = .33, p < .0005$, respectively). Male emerging adults' ratings of father-son psychological aggression were associated with lower levels of paternal authoritative parenting ($r = -.21, p < .008$), lower levels of paternal emotional availability ($r = -.28, p < .0005$), and attachment to fathers ($r = -.25, p < .002$). Thus, for male emerging adults, higher ratings of father-son psychological and physical aggression were related to higher levels of hostile attributions regarding father-son conflict. Their ratings of nonviolent discipline and father-son psychological aggression were associated with lower levels of permissive parenting and higher levels of authoritarian parenting by their fathers. Their ratings of father-son psychological aggression also were associated with lower levels of authoritative parenting, emotional availability, and attachment regarding their fathers.

With regard to current romantic relationships, male emerging adults' ratings of father-son psychological aggression ($r = .23, p < .004$) and physical assault ($r = .23, p < .004$) were associated significantly with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners. Father-son physical assault also was associated with higher levels of

perpetrated and experienced psychological ($r = .26, p < .001$, and $r = .26, p < .001$, respectively) and physical ($r = .29, p < .0005$, and $r = .28, p < .0005$, respectively) abuse in current romantic relationships. Thus, male emerging adults' ratings of father-son psychologically and physically aggressive conflict were associated with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding current romantic partner conflict, and ratings of father-son physical assault were associated with higher levels of perpetrating and experiencing physical abuse in current romantic relationships.

Male emerging adults' ratings of hostile attributions regarding father-son conflict also were associated with higher levels of paternal authoritarian parenting ($r = .29, p < .0005$) and lower levels of paternal authoritative parenting ($r = -.36, p < .0005$). In addition, higher ratings of hostile attributions regarding father-son conflict were associated with lower levels of emotional availability ($r = -.54, p < .0005$) and attachment regarding fathers ($r = -.60, p < .0005$). Pertaining to male emerging adults' current romantic relationships, ratings of hostile attributions regarding father-son conflict were correlated significantly with higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners ($r = .84, p < .0005$) and lower levels of attachment to their current romantic partners ($r = -.24, p < .003$). In summary, male emerging adults who endorsed hostile attributions regarding father-son conflict also rated their fathers as more authoritarian, less authoritative, and less emotionally available. They reported similar hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners and endorsed lower levels of attachment to their fathers as well as to their current romantic partners.

Moreover, male emerging adults' ratings of their fathers' parenting were correlated significantly with other father-son relationship variables. Namely, male emerging adults' ratings of paternal permissive and authoritative parenting were associated significantly with higher levels of paternal emotional availability ($r = .22, p < .005$, and $r = .70, p < .0005$, respectively).

Their ratings of paternal authoritative parenting also were associated with higher levels of their attachment to their fathers ($r = .65, p < .0005$). In addition, ratings of paternal authoritative parenting were correlated with lower levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners ($r = -.37, p < .0005$) and higher ratings of their attachment to their partners ($r = .36, p < .0005$). Thus, male emerging adults who rated their fathers as more authoritative endorsed higher levels of paternal emotional availability and attachment to their fathers as well as lower levels of hostile attributions of conflict in their current romantic relationships and greater attachment to their current romantic partners.

There also were significant correlations among variables assessing the father-son relationship and male emerging adults' conflict with their current romantic partners. Male emerging adults' ratings of their fathers' emotional availability were associated with higher levels of attachment to their fathers ($r = .82, p < .0005$). Further, their ratings of paternal emotional availability and their attachment to their fathers were associated with lower levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners ($r = -.53, p < .0005$, and $r = -.65, p < .0005$, respectively) and higher levels of attachment to their current romantic partners ($r = .45, p < .0005$, and $r = .56, p < .0005$, respectively). Finally, their ratings of paternal emotional availability were associated with lower levels of perpetrated and experienced physical abuse ($r = -.25, p < .002$, and $r = -.23, p < .003$, respectively) in their current romantic relationships. Overall, male emerging adults who endorsed greater paternal emotional availability and attachment to their fathers reported lower levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners and higher levels of attachment to their current romantic partners. Ratings of paternal emotional availability also were related to male emerging

adults' report of lower levels of perpetrating and experiencing physically abusive behaviors in their current romantic relationships.

Relationships Among Other Variables for Males.

Other relationships also were of interest for male emerging adults. Male emerging adults' ratings of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners were associated with lower levels of attachment to their current romantic partners ($r = -.38, p < .0005$). Their ratings of attachment to their current romantic partners were correlated significantly with lower levels of perpetrated and experienced psychological ($r = -.24, p < .003$, and $r = -.24, p < .003$, respectively) and physical abuse ($r = -.26, p < .001$, and $r = -.25, p < .002$, respectively) in their current romantic relationships. Further, higher ratings in one type of abusive behavior were associated with higher ratings in the other types of abusive behaviors. In particular, higher ratings of perpetrated psychological abuse were correlated with higher levels of perpetrated physical abuse ($r = .69, p < .0005$). Similarly, higher ratings of perpetrated psychological and physical abuse were correlated significantly with higher ratings of experienced psychological ($r = .95, p < .0005$, and $r = .65, p < .0005$, respectively) and physical abuse ($r = .67, p < .0005$, and $r = .97, p < .0005$, respectively) in current romantic relationships. Finally, higher ratings of experienced psychological abuse were associated with higher levels of experienced physical abuse ($r = .66, p < .0005$) in current romantic relationships. Overall, male emerging adults who reported lower ratings of attachment to their current romantic partners endorsed higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners as well as more frequent perpetrated and experienced psychological and physical abuse in current romantic relationships.

Regression Analyses for the Mediation Model

Based on the hypothesized mediational model, it was expected that family conflict would predict conflicts with current romantic partners by way of relationship attributions. This model was tested using a series of regression analyses. Based on Baron and Kenny (1986), evidence of a mediational model would require several findings (see Figure 1). First, family conflict (measured by ratings of interparental and parent-child psychological and physical aggression) would have to predict higher levels of hostile attributions (path a) and predict higher levels of conflict with current romantic partners (measured by ratings of the psychologically and physically abusive behaviors that were experienced and perpetrated; path b). Relationship attributions also would have to predict conflicts with current romantic partners (path c) in an equation where interparental and parent-child conflict (i.e., in addition to relationship attributions) served as predictor variables and conflicts with current romantic partners served as the criterion variable. Once relationship attributions were included in the prediction equation, the relationship between family conflict and conflicts with current romantic partners would no longer be significant, indicating the mediational role of relationship attributions. For the results described below, the family conflict variable that predicted hostile attributions (path a) oftentimes was different from the type of family conflict that predicted current conflict with romantic partners (path b). All variables were retained for each step, however, in order to explore the possible influence of each family conflict variable while accounting for all others. See Table 4 and Table 5 for a presentation of these regression analyses.

Females and Family Conflict with Mothers.

As described above, the first regression analysis should examine the relationship between conflict and attributions. For females, interparental conflict and mother-daughter conflict

predicted significantly attributions of conflict, $F(4, 350) = 24.53, p < .001$. In particular, mother-daughter psychological aggression accounted for a significant amount of the variance in conflict attributions ($p < .001$), with higher levels of mother-daughter psychological aggression being related to higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflicts with current romantic partners ($r = .44, p < .01$). The second and third set of regressions will be described first in reference to predicting perpetrated and then experienced psychological abuse, followed by perpetrated and then experienced physical abuse, in female emerging adults' current romantic relationships.

Perpetrated Psychological Abuse. In the second regression equation of the mediational model, mothers' interparental conflict and mother-daughter conflict predicted significantly perpetrated psychological abuse, $F(4, 351) = 4.96, p < .001$. In particular, mothers' interparental physical assault accounted for a significant amount of the variance in perpetrated psychological abuse ($p < .001$), with higher levels of interparental physical assault being related to higher levels of perpetrated psychological abuse ($r = .21, p < .01$). Thus, the individual predictor in this equation is different from that in the first equation. In the third set of equations for the mediational model, mothers' interparental and mother-daughter conflict as well as relationship attributions were included as predictor variables. Although the model continued to be significant, $F(5, 350) = 4.46, p < .001$, relationship attributions did not account for a significant amount of the variance. Thus, a mediational model did not explain the relationship between interparental and mother-daughter conflict and female emerging adults' perpetrated psychologically abusive behaviors when hostile attributions were used as a mediator.

Experienced Psychological Abuse. With regard to experienced psychologically abusive behaviors, the second regression equation suggested that interparental conflict and mother-

daughter conflict predicted significantly experienced psychological abuse, $F(4, 351) = 4.67, p < .001$. In particular, mothers' interparental physical assault accounted for a significant amount of the variance in experienced psychological abuse ($p < .001$), with higher levels of mothers' interparental physical assault being related to higher levels of experienced psychological abuse ($r = .21, p < .01$). Thus, the individual predictor in this equation is different from that in the first equation. In the third set of equations for the mediational model, interparental and mother-daughter conflict as well as relationship attributions were included as predictor variables. Although the model continued to be significant, $F(5, 350) = 4.51, p < .001$, relationship attributions did not account for a significant amount of the variance. Thus, a mediational model did not explain the relationship between interparental and mother-daughter conflict and female emerging adults' experienced psychologically abusive behaviors when hostile attributions were used as a mediator.

Perpetrated Physical Abuse. With regard to perpetrated physically abusive behaviors, the second regression equation suggested that interparental conflict and mother-daughter conflict predicted significantly perpetrated physical abuse, $F(4, 351) = 14.99, p < .001$. In particular, mothers' interparental physical assault accounted for a significant amount of the variance in perpetrated physical abuse ($p < .001$), with higher levels of mothers' interparental physical assault being related to higher levels of perpetrated physical abuse ($r = .38, p < .01$). Thus, the individual predictor in this equation is different from that in the first equation. In the third set of equations for the mediational model, interparental conflict and mother-daughter conflict as well as relationship attributions were included as predictor variables. Although the model continued to be significant, $F(5, 350) = 12.39, p < .001$, relationship attributions did not account for a significant amount of the variance. Thus, a mediational model did not explain the relationship

between interparental and mother-daughter conflict and female emerging adults' perpetrated physically abusive behaviors when hostile attributions were used as a mediator.

Experienced Physical Abuse. With regard to experienced physically abusive behaviors, the second regression equation suggested that interparental conflict and mother-daughter conflict predicted significantly experienced physical abuse, $F(4, 351) = 13.93, p < .001$. In particular, mothers' interparental physical assault accounted for a significant amount of the variance in experienced physical abuse ($p < .001$), with higher levels of mothers' interparental physical assault being related to higher levels of experienced physical abuse ($r = .37, p < .01$). Thus, the individual predictor in this equation is different from that in the first equation. In the third set of equations for the mediational model, interparental conflict and mother-daughter conflict as well as relationship attributions were included as predictor variables. Although the model continued to be significant, $F(5, 350) = 11.79, p < .001$, relationship attributions did not account for a significant amount of the variance. Thus, a mediational model did not explain the relationship between interparental and mother-daughter conflict and female emerging adults' experienced physically abusive behaviors when hostile attributions were used as a mediator.

Females and Family Conflict with Fathers.

For female emerging adults, the first regression equation needed to determine mediation suggested that interparental conflict and father-daughter conflict predicted significantly attributions of conflict, $F(4, 356) = 18.27, p < .001$. In particular, fathers' interparental psychological aggression ($p < .001$) and father-daughter psychological aggression ($p < .01$) accounted for a significant amount of the variance in conflict attributions. In particular, higher ratings of interparental and father-daughter psychological aggression were related to higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflicts with current romantic partners ($r = .38, p < .01$,

and $r = .38, p < .01$, respectively). The second and third set of regressions will be described first in reference to predicting perpetrated and then experienced psychological abuse, followed by perpetrated and then experienced physical abuse, in female emerging adults' current romantic relationships.

Perpetrated Psychological Abuse. In the second regression equation of the mediational model, interparental conflict and father-daughter conflict predicted significantly perpetrated psychological abuse, $F(4, 356) = 3.86, p < .004$. In particular, fathers' interparental physical assault ($p < .01$) and father-daughter psychological aggression ($p < .05$) accounted for a significant amount of the variance in perpetrated psychological abuse, with higher levels of fathers' interparental physical assault ($r = .18, p < .01$) and father-daughter psychological aggression ($r = .12, p < .05$) being related to higher levels of perpetrated psychological abuse in conflicts with current romantic partners. Thus, the individual predictor in this equation is different from that in the first equation. In the third set of equations for the mediational model, interparental conflict and father-daughter conflict as well as relationship attributions were included as predictor variables. Although the model continued to be significant, $F(5, 356) = 3.75, p < .003$, relationship attributions did not account for a significant amount of the variance. Thus, a mediational model did not explain the relationship between interparental and father-daughter conflict and female emerging adults' perpetrated psychologically abusive behaviors when hostile attributions were used as a mediator.

Experienced Psychological Abuse. With regard to experienced psychologically abusive behaviors, the second regression equation suggested that interparental and father-daughter conflict predicted significantly experienced psychological abuse, $F(4, 356) = 4.23, p < .002$. In particular, fathers' interparental physical assault ($p < .001$) accounted for a significant amount of

the variance in experienced psychological abuse, with higher levels of interparental physical assault being related to higher levels of experienced psychological abuse in conflicts with current romantic partners ($r = .19, p < .001$). Thus, the individual predictor in this equation is different from that in the first equation. In the third set of equations for the mediational model, fathers' interparental conflict and father-daughter conflict as well as relationship attributions were included as predictor variables. Interparental and father-daughter conflict as well as female emerging adults' relationship attributions predicted significantly experienced psychological abuse, $F(5, 356) = 4.32, p < .001$. In the new model, relationship attributions accounted significantly for the variance in experienced psychological abuse ($p < .05$), with higher levels of hostile attributions being related to higher levels of experienced psychological abuse ($r = .15, p < .01$). Nonetheless, fathers' interparental physical assault continued to account for a significant amount of variance ($p < .001$). Thus, attributions of conflict did not mediate the relationship between interparental and father-daughter conflict and female emerging adults' experienced psychologically abusive behaviors.

Perpetrated Physical Abuse. With regard to perpetrated physically abusive behaviors, the second regression equation suggested that interparental and father-daughter conflict predicted significantly perpetrated physical abuse, $F(4, 356) = 13.19, p < .001$. In particular, fathers' interparental physical assault ($p < .001$) and father-daughter physical assault ($p < .01$) accounted for a significant amount of the variance in perpetrated physical abuse, with higher levels of interparental and father-daughter physical assault being related to higher levels of perpetrated physical abuse in conflicts with current romantic partners ($r = .33, p < .01$, and $r = .29, p < .01$, respectively). Thus, the individual predictor in this equation is different from that in the first equation. In the third set of equations for the mediational model, interparental and father-

daughter conflict as well as relationship attributions were included as predictor variables.

Although the model continued to be significant, $F(5, 356) = 11.37, p < .001$, and relationship attributions did account for a significant amount of the variance ($p < .05$), fathers' interparental ($p < .001$) and father-daughter physical assault ($p < .01$) continued to account for a significant amount of variance. Thus, a mediational model did not explain the relationship between interparental and father-daughter conflict and female emerging adults' perpetrated physically abusive behaviors when hostile attributions were used as a mediator.

Experienced Physical Abuse. With regard to experienced physically abusive behaviors, the second regression equation suggested that fathers' interparental and father-daughter conflict predicted significantly experienced physical abuse, $F(4, 356) = 11.60, p < .001$. In particular, fathers' interparental physical assault ($p < .01$) and father-daughter physical assault ($p < .01$) accounted for a significant amount of the variance in experienced physical abuse. Higher levels of interparental and father-daughter physical assault were related to higher levels of experienced physical abuse in conflicts with current romantic partners ($r = .31, p < .01$, and $r = .28, p < .01$, respectively). Thus, the individual predictor in this equation is different from that in the first equation. In the third set of equations for the mediational model, fathers' interparental and father-daughter conflict as well as relationship attributions were included as predictor variables.

Although the model continued to be significant, $F(5, 350) = 11.79, p < .001$, and relationship attributions did account for a significant amount of the variance ($p < .01$), fathers' interparental ($p < .01$) and father-daughter physical assault ($p < .01$) continued to account for a significant amount of variance. Thus, a mediational model did not explain the relationship between interparental and father-daughter conflict and female emerging adults' experienced physically

abusive behaviors when hostile attributions were used as a mediator. At best, relationship attributions could be considered a partial mediator.

Males and Family Conflict with Mothers.

For male emerging adults, the first regression equation needed to test for mediation suggested that interparental conflict and mother-son conflict predicted significantly attributions of conflict, $F(4, 144) = 5.80, p < .001$. The second and third set of regressions will be described first in reference to predicting perpetrated and then experienced psychological abuse, followed by perpetrated and then experienced physical abuse, in male emerging adults' current romantic relationships.

Perpetrated Psychological Abuse. In the second regression equation of the mediational model, interparental and mother-son conflict predicted significantly perpetrated psychological abuse, $F(4, 144) = 10.01, p < .001$. In particular, mothers' interparental physical assault accounted for a significant amount of the variance in perpetrated psychological abuse ($p < .001$), with higher levels of interparental physical assault being related to higher levels of perpetrated psychological abuse ($r = .44, p < .01$). Thus, the individual predictor in this equation is different from that in the first equation. In the third set of equations for the mediational model, interparental and mother-son conflict as well as relationship attributions were included as predictor variables. Although the model continued to be significant, $F(5, 144) = 8.07, p < .001$, relationship attributions did not account for a significant amount of variance. Thus, a mediational model did not explain the relationship between interparental and mother-son conflict and male emerging adults' perpetrated psychologically abusive behaviors when hostile attributions were used as a mediator.

Experienced Psychological Abuse. With regard to experienced psychologically abusive behaviors, the second regression equation suggested that interparental and mother-son conflict predicted significantly experienced psychological abuse, $F(4, 144) = 10.66, p < .001$. In particular, mothers' interparental psychological aggression ($p < .01$) and physical assault ($p < .01$) accounted for a significant amount of the variance in experienced psychological abuse, with higher levels of interparental psychological aggression and physical assault being related to higher levels of experienced psychological abuse in conflict with current romantic partners ($r = .38, p < .01$, and $r = .42, p < .01$, respectively). Thus, the individual predictor in this equation is different from that in the first equation. In the third set of equations for the mediational model, interparental and mother-son conflict as well as relationship attributions were included as predictor variables. Although the model continued to be significant, $F(5, 144) = 8.73, p < .001$, relationship attributions did not account for a significant amount of the variance. Thus, a mediational model did not explain the relationship between interparental and mother-son conflict and male emerging adults' experienced psychologically abusive behaviors when hostile attributions were used as a mediator.

Perpetrated Physical Abuse. With regard to perpetrated physically abusive behaviors, the second regression equation suggested that interparental and mother-son conflict predicted significantly perpetrated physical abuse, $F(4, 144) = 23.60, p < .001$. In particular, mothers' interparental physical assault ($p < .001$) and mother-son psychological aggression ($p < .05$) accounted for a significant amount of the variance in perpetrated physical abuse, with higher levels of interparental physical assault being related to higher levels of perpetrated physical abuse in conflicts with current romantic partners ($r = .62, p < .01$). Thus, the individual predictor in this equation is different from that in the first equation. In the third set of equations for the

mediational model, interparental and mother-son conflict as well as relationship attributions were included as predictor variables. Although the model continued to be significant, $F(4, 144) = 18.75, p < .001$, relationship attributions did not account for a significant amount of the variance. Thus, a mediational model did not explain the relationship between interparental and mother-son conflict and male emerging adults' perpetrated physically abusive behaviors when hostile attributions were used as a mediator.

Experienced Physical Abuse. With regard to experienced physically abusive behaviors, the second regression equation suggested that interparental and mother-son conflict predicted significantly experienced physical abuse, $F(4, 144) = 19.65, p < .001$. In particular, mothers' interparental physical assault accounted for a significant amount of the variance in experienced physical abuse ($p < .001$), with higher levels of mothers' interparental physical assault being related to higher levels of experienced physical abuse ($r = .59, p < .01$). Thus, the individual predictor in this equation is different from that in the first equation. In the third set of equations for the mediational model, interparental and mother-son conflict as well as relationship attributions were included as predictor variables. Although the model continued to be significant, $F(5, 144) = 15.61, p < .001$, relationship attributions did not account for a significant amount of the variance. Thus, a mediational model did not explain the relationship between interparental and mother-son conflict and male emerging adults' experienced physically abusive behaviors when hostile attributions were used as a mediator.

Males and Family Conflict with Fathers.

For male emerging adults, the first regression equation needed to test for mediation suggested that interparental conflict and father-son conflict predicted significantly attributions of conflict, $F(4, 147) = 5.95, p < .001$. In particular, fathers' interparental physical assault ($p <$

.01) accounted for a significant amount of the variance in conflict attributions, with higher levels of fathers' interparental physical assault being related to higher levels of hostile attributions regarding conflicts with current romantic partners ($r = .31, p < .01$). The second and third set of regressions will be described first in reference to predicting perpetrated and then experienced psychological abuse, followed by perpetrated and then experienced physical abuse, in male emerging adults' current romantic relationships.

Perpetrated Psychological Abuse. In the second regression equation of the mediational model, interparental and father-son conflict did not predict significantly perpetrated psychological abuse, $F(4, 147) = 1.48, p < .21$. In the third set of equations for the mediational model, interparental and father-son conflict as well as relationship attributions were included as predictor variables. The model was not significant, $F(5, 147) = 1.18, p < .32$. Thus, a mediational model did not explain the relationship between interparental and father-son conflict and male emerging adults' perpetrated psychologically abusive behaviors when hostile attributions were used as a mediator.

Experienced Psychological Abuse. With regard to experienced psychologically abusive behaviors, the second regression equation suggested that interparental and father-son conflict did not predict significantly experienced psychological abuse, $F(4, 147) = 1.77, p < .14$. In the third set of equations for the mediational model, fathers' interparental conflict and father-son conflict as well as relationship attributions were included as predictor variables. The model was not significant, $F(5, 147) = 1.41, p < .22$. Thus, a mediational model did not explain the relationship between interparental and father-son conflict and male emerging adults' experienced psychologically abusive behaviors when hostile attributions were used as a mediator.

Perpetrated Physical Abuse. With regard to perpetrated physically abusive behaviors, the second regression equation suggested that interparental and father-son conflict predicted significantly perpetrated physical abuse, $F(4, 147) = 2.82, p < .03$. In particular, father-son physical assault accounted for a significant amount of the variance in perpetrated physical abuse ($p < .05$), with higher levels of father-son physical assault being related to higher levels of perpetrated physical abuse in conflicts with current romantic partners ($r = .17, p < .05$). Thus, the individual predictor in this equation is different from that in the first equation. In the third set of equations for the mediational model, interparental and father-son conflict as well as relationship attributions were included as predictor variables. Although the model continued to be significant, $F(5, 147) = 2.62, p < .03$, relationship attributions did not account for a significant amount of the variance. Thus, a mediational model did not explain the relationship between interparental and father-son conflict and male emerging adults' perpetrated physically abusive behaviors when hostile attributions were used as a mediator.

Experienced Physical Abuse. With regard to experienced physically abusive behaviors, the second regression equation suggested that interparental and father-son conflict predicted significantly experienced physical abuse, $F(4, 147) = 2.81, p < .03$. In particular, father-son physical assault ($p < .01$) accounted for a significant amount of the variance in perpetrated physical abuse, with higher levels of father-son physical assault being related to higher levels of perpetrated physical abuse in conflicts with current romantic partners ($r = .17, p < .05$). Thus, the individual predictor in this equation is different from that in the first equation. In the third set of equations for the mediational model, interparental and father-son conflict as well as relationship attributions were included as predictor variables. Although the model continued to be significant, $F(5, 147) = 2.51, p < .03$, relationship attributions did not account for a significant

amount of the variance. Thus, a mediational model did not explain the relationship between interparental and father-son conflict and male emerging adults' experienced physically abusive behaviors when hostile attributions were used as a mediator.

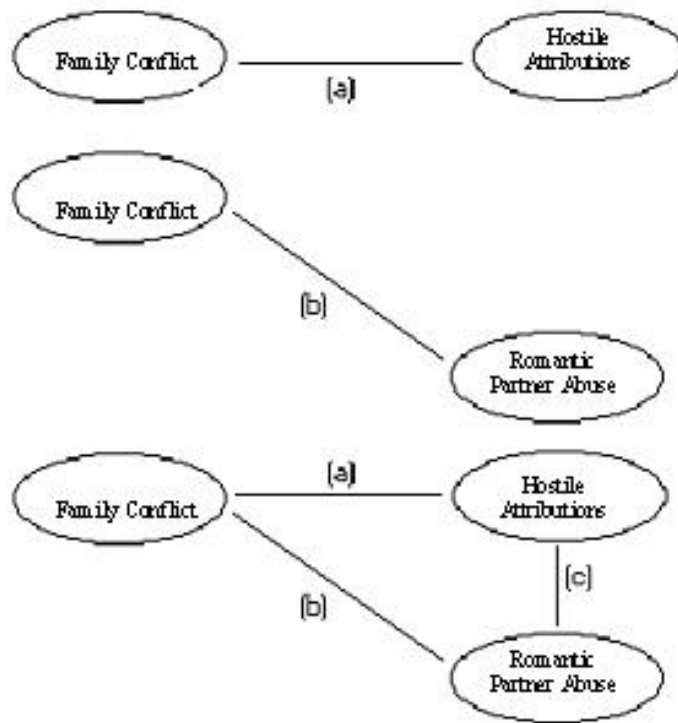


Figure 1. Mediation Model.

Table 1. Differences Between Males and Females

Variable	Range	Group	N	M	SD	t	df	p
Fx-parent negotiation	0-150	males	152	55.16	37.51	-1.10	313	.27
		females	373	59.28	42.22			
Fx-parent psych aggression	0-200	males	155	17.44	25.24	-2.15	320	.03
		females	377	22.82	28.39			
Fx-parent physical assault	0-300	males	151	4.29	16.50	-0.15	512	.88
		females	363	4.57	20.18			
Fx-parent causing injury	0-150	males	154	2.85	11.18	0.37	527	.71
		females	375	2.48	10.00			
Fx-parent Physical Composite	0-450	males	149	6.49	25.26	-0.22	507	.82
		females	360	7.11	29.20			
Mx-parent negotiation	0-150	males	154	56.51	42.42	-1.29	529	.20
		females	377	61.89	43.87			
Mx-parent psych aggression	0-200	males	153	15.52	23.39	-2.41	326	.02
		females	368	21.21	27.02			
Mx-parent physical assault	0-300	males	150	6.35	22.84	1.13	213	.26
		females	368	4.05	16.18			
Mx-parent causing injury	0-150	males	153	3.04	12.16	1.30	226	.20
		females	370	1.62	9.11			
Mx-parent Physical Composite	0-450	males	148	8.94	33.40	1.13	210	.26
		females	361	5.54	23.70			
CPICS Perceived Threat	11-44	males	158	22.74	6.10	-0.46	536	.64
		females	380	23.02	6.41			
CPICS Self Blame	9-36	males	158	16.68	4.08	0.85	536	.39
		females	380	16.37	3.71			
Mx-child nonviolent discipline	0-100	males	158	28.39	21.95	-0.30	536	.76
		females	380	29.02	22.20			
Mx-child psych aggression	0-125	males	158	20.47	24.81	-1.00	536	.32
		females	380	23.04	27.97			
Mx-child physical assault	0-350	males	158	19.21	37.31	0.83	536	.41
		females	380	16.52	32.96			
Fx-child nonviolent discipline	0-100	males	158	19.77	18.79	0.40	535	.69
		females	379	19.08	18.29			
Fx-child psych aggression	0-125	males	158	14.85	21.16	-0.27	535	.79
		females	379	15.42	23.21			
Fx-child physical assault	0-350	males	158	13.30	26.02	1.47	535	.14
		females	379	9.68	26.04			
Mx-child conflict attributions	12-72	males	158	30.53	12.63	-1.79	535	.07
		females	379	32.74	13.23			
Fx-child conflict attributions	12-72	males	158	30.74	13.99	0.07	536	.94
		females	380	30.65	13.32			
Partner conflict attributions	12-72	males	158	25.36	13.75	-0.31	270	.76
		females	379	25.75	12.47			

(table continues)

Variable		Group	N	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t</i>	df	<i>p</i>
Mx permissive style	10-50	males	158	27.75	6.01	2.94	536	.003
		females	380	26.15	5.60			
Fx permissive style	10-50	males	158	26.72	6.50	2.20	536	.03
		females	380	25.50	5.56			
Mx authoritarian style	10-50	males	158	31.13	6.85	0.56	536	.57
		females	380	30.75	7.13			
Fx authoritarian style	10-50	males	158	32.15	8.11	0.36	536	.72
		females	380	31.88	7.36			
Mx authoritative style	10-50	males	158	35.92	6.27	-0.59	536	.56
		females	380	36.28	6.73			
Fx authoritative style	10-50	males	158	34.32	7.43	-0.94	536	.35
		females	380	34.97	7.24			
Mx emotional availability	15-90	males	158	75.32	15.93	-1.87	536	.06
		females	380	78.06	15.25			
Fx emotional availability	15-90	males	158	67.96	20.12	-1.11	536	.27
		females	380	69.97	18.86			
Attachment to Mx	12-60	males	158	60.11	19.73	-2.41	536	.02
		females	380	64.61	19.75			
Attachment to Fx	12-60	males	158	56.75	21.33	-1.46	536	.14
		females	380	59.67	21.00			
Attachment to partner	25-125	males	158	57.54	14.04	-4.08	535	.001
		females	379	62.99	14.11			
Perpetrate psych abuse	0-112	males	158	17.80	16.40	1.11	536	.27
		females	380	16.26	13.77			
Perpetrate physical abuse	0-70	males	158	2.91	8.43	1.14	536	.25
		females	380	2.21	5.46			
Experience psych abuse	0-112	males	158	17.49	16.27	1.94	536	.05
		females	380	14.82	13.74			
Experience physical abuse	0-70	males	158	3.41	8.88	2.11	201	.04
		females	380	1.82	5.09			
Social desirability	0-33	males	158	14.98	4.61	-0.95	536	.34
		females	380	15.43	5.15			

Note. Fx = Father; Mx = Mother.

Table 2. Correlations Including Maternal Variables

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1. Mx-parent negotiation	—	.01	-.04	-.15**	-.02	.28***	.05	-.02	-.13**	-.14**	-.02	-.03	.26***	.21***	.24***	.19***	.00	-.02	-.01	-.02	-.01
2. Mx-parent psych aggression	.02	—	.41***	.44***	.21***	.17**	.49***	.37***	.35***	.34***	-.11*	.16**	-.24***	-.35***	-.35***	-.17**	.15**	.17**	.16**	.16**	-.06
3. Mx-parent physical	-.04	.53***	—	.21***	.23***	.02	.13*	.36***	.12*	.20***	.09	.01	-.12*	-.21***	-.21***	-.26***	.21***	.38***	.21***	.37***	.01
4. Perceived Threat	.03	.29***	.18*	—	.39***	.13**	.34***	.25***	.40***	.53***	-.05	.19***	-.19***	-.29***	-.35***	-.21***	.08	.16**	.12*	.16**	-.10*
5. Self Blame	.02	.08	.22**	.51***	—	.19***	.36***	.35***	.31***	.35***	-.06	.13**	-.22***	-.29***	-.33***	-.15**	.09	.14**	.09	.13*	-.10*
6. Mx-child nonviolent disc.	.26**	.05	-.09	.05	.07	—	.44***	.39***	.17**	.12*	-.17**	.18**	.08	-.09	-.05	.07	.00	-.05	-.02	-.04	-.07
7. Mx-child psych aggression	-.02	.36***	.13	.13	.16	.38***	—	.66***	.55***	.44***	-.27***	.41***	-.39***	-.51***	-.50***	-.13**	.12*	.04	.09	.03	-.12*
8. Mx-child physical assault	-.01	.28***	.28***	.14	.21**	.30***	.70***	—	.35***	.36***	-.19***	.28***	-.25***	-.45***	-.41**	-.19***	.11*	.18***	.10	.20***	-.03
9. Mx-child conf. attributions	-.18*	.31***	.14	.42***	.37***	.08	.34***	.25**	—	.80***	-.19***	.34***	-.50***	-.57***	-.61***	-.20***	.09	.07	.10*	.08	-.17**
10. Partner conflict attributions	-.13	.28***	.29***	.47***	.44***	.03	.25**	.26**	.82***	—	-.05	.20***	-.39***	-.50***	-.57***	-.22***	.13**	.13**	.15**	.15**	-.19***
11. Permissive Mx	-.01	-.08	.04	.07	.05	-.17*	-.11	-.13	.01	.08	—	-.54***	.21***	.23***	.19***	-.14**	.02	.11*	.04	.12*	.03
12. Authoritarian Mx	-.06	.08	.02	.13	.27**	.10	.29***	.30***	.27***	.21**	-.07	—	-.26***	-.35***	-.33***	-.04	.07	-.04	.07	-.05	-.03
13. Authoritative Mx	.22**	-.18*	-.25**	-.08	-.20*	.12	-.27**	-.33***	-.33***	-.41***	.30**	.06	—	.61***	.66***	.28***	-.05	-.05	-.05	-.04	.03
14. Mx emotional availability	.13	-.18*	-.15	-.22**	-.26**	.04	-.29***	-.30***	-.53***	-.54***	.10	-.14	.56***	—	.80***	.28***	-.11*	-.19***	-.10*	-.20***	.09
15. Attachment to Mx	.21**	-.15	-.23**	-.26**	-.35***	.12	-.25**	-.32***	-.58***	-.65***	-.06	-.19*	.62***	.78***	—	.41***	-.18***	-.17**	-.18***	-.17**	.18***
16. Attachment to partner	.29***	-.12	-.25**	-.15	-.21**	.12	-.06	-.13	-.25**	-.38***	-.18*	.07	.41***	.40***	.58***	—	-.41***	-.33***	-.45***	-.34***	.16**
17. Perpetrate psych abuse	-.02	.34***	.44***	.19*	.16*	-.02	.08	.15	.08	.12	.08	.06	-.15	-.01	-.11	-.24**	—	.41***	.95***	.38***	-.32***
18. Perpetrate physical abuse	-.05	.31***	.62***	.16*	.16*	-.16*	.00	.19*	.09	.19*	.09	-.02	-.18*	-.06	-.22**	-.26**	.69***	—	.44***	.95***	-.10
19. Experience psych abuse	-.01	.38***	.42***	.19*	.15	-.01	.10	.13	.09	.10	.12	.03	-.13	-.02	-.10	-.24**	.95***	.65***	—	.43***	-.29***
20. Experience physical abuse	-.04	.28***	.59***	.15	.16*	-.16*	.03	.18*	.08	.17*	.12	-.04	-.17*	-.07	-.22**	-.25**	.67***	.97***	.66***	—	-.08
21. Social desirab.	.03	-.01	.05	-.08	-.03	-.11	-.18*	-.09	-.12	-.10	-.05	-.02	.07	.18*	.12	.16*	-.12	.05	-.10	.04	—

Note. Correlations for males are below the diagonal. Correlations for females are above the diagonal. * $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$

Table 3. Correlations Including Paternal Variables

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1. Fx-parent negotiation	—	-.16**	-.14*	-.25***	.002	.28***	-.08	-.14**	-.21***	-.19***	.10	-.13*	.34***	.28***	.27***	.18***	-.002	-.01	-.01	-.02	-.01
2. Fx-parent psych aggression	.02	—	.45***	.54***	.24***	.17**	.53***	.44***	.46***	.38***	-.23***	.30***	-.34***	-.37***	-.41***	-.08	.08	.14**	.07	.13*	-.05
3. Fx-parent physical	-.12	.44***	—	.20***	.24***	.08	.22***	.59***	.15**	.16**	.02	.06	-.24***	-.24***	-.26***	-.22**	.18**	.33***	.19***	.31***	.01
4. Perceived Threat	-.08	.22**	.15	—	.40***	.07	.36***	.26***	.49***	.53***	-.10	.25***	-.33***	-.37***	-.42***	-.21***	.08	.16**	.12*	.16**	-.10*
5. Self Blame	-.05	.06	.24**	.51***	—	.19***	.27***	.23***	.26***	.35***	-.04	.08	-.15**	-.24***	-.30***	-.15**	.09	.14**	.09	.13*	-.10*
6. Fx-child nonviolent disc.	.31***	.20*	-.02	.20*	.19*	—	.39***	.30***	.15**	.11*	-.16**	.22***	.06	.01	-.04	.01	.08	.07	.07	.06	-.07
7. Fx-child psych aggression	.03	.50***	.06	.21**	.20*	.47***	—	.64***	.53***	.38***	-.36***	.48***	-.39***	-.41***	-.39***	.003	.13*	.10	.11*	.08	-.07
8. Fx-child physical assault	-.09	.41***	.29***	.16*	.22**	.34***	.63***	—	.32***	.26***	-.15**	.27***	-.30***	-.31***	-.29***	-.08	.12*	.29***	.12*	.28***	.01
9. Fx-child conf. attributions	-.13	.42***	.21*	.46***	.39***	.18*	.44***	.27**	—	.75***	-.29***	.40***	-.45***	-.56***	-.52***	-.12*	.14**	.10*	.15**	.12*	-.20***
10. Partner conflict attributions	-.14	.29***	.31***	.47***	.44***	.08	.23**	.23**	.84***	—	-.07	.23***	-.42***	-.47***	-.58***	-.22***	.13**	.13**	.15**	.15**	-.19***
11. Permissive Fx	-.03	-.18*	-.09	-.01	.03	-.30***	-.23**	-.10	-.08	.01	—	-.55***	.31***	.31***	.24***	-.17**	-.001	.08	.001	.08	.04
12. Authoritarian Fx	.01	.16*	-.16*	.19*	.21**	.30***	.33***	.15	.29***	.14	-.20*	—	-.28***	-.30***	-.29***	.02	.11*	.00	.11*	.002	-.07
13. Authoritative Fx	.28***	-.17*	-.24**	-.06	-.17*	.07	-.21**	-.12	-.36***	-.37***	.36***	.08	—	.64***	.68***	.22***	-.08	-.08	-.08	-.08	.05
14. Fx emotional availability	.23**	-.20*	-.21*	-.19*	-.21**	.01	-.28***	-.20*	-.54***	-.53***	.22**	.03	.70***	—	.80***	.20***	-.13**	-.15**	-.14**	-.17**	.16**
15. Attachment to Fx	.25**	-.21**	-.18*	-.26**	-.28***	.06	-.25**	-.19*	-.60***	-.65***	.05	-.11	.65***	.82***	—	.32***	-.16**	-.14**	-.15**	-.14**	.22***
16. Attachment to partner	.24**	-.07	-.20*	-.15	-.21**	.11	-.06	-.18*	-.24**	-.38***	-.18*	.20*	.36***	.45***	.56***	—	-.41***	-.33***	-.45***	-.34***	.16**
17. Perpetrate psych abuse	-.08	.20*	.08	.19*	.16*	.03	.16*	.26**	.13	.12	.04	.06	-.18*	-.15	-.12	-.24**	—	.41***	.95***	.38***	-.32***
18. Perpetrate physical abuse	-.13	.20*	.17*	.16*	.16*	-.10	.06	.29***	.13	.19*	.05	-.12	-.18*	-.25**	-.20*	-.26**	.69***	—	.44***	.95***	-.10
19. Experience psych abuse	-.06	.18*	.09	.20*	.15	.07	.16*	.26**	.10	.10	.07	.02	-.16*	-.11	-.10	-.24**	.95***	.65***	—	.43***	-.29***
20. Experience physical abuse	-.13	.19*	.17*	.15	.16*	-.12	.05	.28***	.10	.17*	.10	-.15	-.18*	-.23**	-.20*	-.25**	.67***	.97***	.66***	—	-.08
21. Social desirab.	.01	-.08	-.01	-.08	-.03	-.04	-.17*	-.10	-.14	-.10	-.01	-.09	.05	.10	.11	.16*	-.12	.05	-.10	.04	—

Note. Correlations for males are below the diagonal. Correlations for females are above the diagonal. * $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$

Table 4: Regression Analyses for Mediational Hypothesis in Females

Path and Variable	SE B	β	T
A: Attributions on Mother Conflict [$F(4, 350) = 24.53, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .21$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.03	.15	2.46*
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.03	.07	1.26
Mother-daughter Psych Aggression	.03	.30	4.15***
Mother-daughter Physical Assault	.03	.08	1.14
B: Perpetrated Psych Abuse on Mother Conflict [$F(4, 351) = 4.96, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .04$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.04	-.01	-.13
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.04	.22	3.54***
Mother-daughter Psych Aggression	.04	.13	1.63
Mother-daughter Physical Assault	.03	-.06	-.82
C: Perp. Psych Abuse on Mother Conflict & Attributions [$F(5, 350) = 4.46, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .05$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.04	-.03	-.46
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.04	.22	3.51***
Mother-daughter Psych Aggression	.04	.10	1.25
Mother-daughter Physical Assault	.03	-.07	-.88
Relationship Attributions	.06	.09	1.52
B: Experienced Psych Abuse on Mother Conflict [$F(4, 351) = 4.67, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .04$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.03	.02	.27
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.04	.22	3.43***
Mother-daughter Psych Aggression	.04	.10	1.30
Mother-daughter Physical Assault	.03	-.07	-.94
C: Exp. Psych Abuse on Mother Conflict & Attributions [$F(5, 350) = 4.51, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .05$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.04	.07	.84
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.04	.22	3.40***
Mother-daughter Psych Aggression	.04	-.01	-.14
Mother-daughter Physical Assault	.03	-.08	-1.03
Relationship Attributions	.06	.12	1.94*
B: Perpetrated Physical Abuse on Mother Conflict [$F(4, 351) = 14.99, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .14$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.01	-.07	-1.07
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.01	.41	6.90***
Mother-daughter Psych Aggression	.01	.02	.20
Mother-daughter Physical Assault	.01	-.01	-.17
C: Perp. Physical Abuse on Mother Conflict & Attributions [$F(5, 350) = 12.39, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .14$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.01	-.08	-1.29
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.01	.41	6.84***
Mother-daughter Psych Aggression	.01	-.01	-.08
Mother-daughter Physical Assault	.01	-.02	-.22
Relationship Attributions	.02	.07	1.23

(table continues)

Path and Variable	SE B	B	T
B: Experienced Physical Abuse on Mother Conflict [$F(4, 351) = 13.93, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .13$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.01	-.07	-1.05
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.01	.39	6.51***
Mother-daughter Psych Aggression	.01	-.01	-.12
Mother-daughter Physical Assault	.01	.02	.25
C: Exp. Physical Abuse on Mother Conflict & Attributions [$F(5, 350) = 11.79, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .13$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.01	-.08	-1.28
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.01	.38	6.39***
Mother-daughter Psych Aggression	.01	-.04	-.50
Mother-daughter Physical Assault	.01	.01	.15
Relationship Attributions	.02	.10	1.73
A: Attributions on Father Conflict [$F(4, 356) = 18.27, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .16$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.03	.26	4.15***
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.03	.01	.16
Father-daughter Psych Aggression	.04	.23	3.17**
Father-daughter Physical Assault	.04	-.03	-.43
B: Perpetrated Psych Abuse on Father Conflict [$F(4, 356) = 3.86, p < .004, \text{adj}R^2 = .03$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.03	-.07	-1.00
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.03	.23	3.18**
Father-daughter Psych Aggression	.05	1.6	2.00*
Father-daughter Physical Assault	.05	-.10	-1.17
C: Perp. Psych Abuse on Father Conflict & Attributions [$F(5, 356) = 3.75, p < .003, \text{adj}R^2 = .037$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.03	-.09	-1.33
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.03	.23	3.17**
Father-daughter Psych Aggression	.05	.13	1.66
Father-daughter Physical Assault	.05	-.10	-1.13
Relationship Attributions	.07	.10	1.79
B: Experienced Psych Abuse on Father Conflict [$F(4, 356) = 4.23, p < .002, \text{adj}R^2 = .04$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.03	-.07	-1.0
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.03	.26	3.60***
Father-daughter Psych Aggression	.05	.14	1.73
Father-daughter Physical Assault	.04	-1.2	-1.37
C: Exp. Psych Abuse on Father Conflict & Attributions [$F(5, 356) = 4.32, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .05$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.03	-.10	-1.42
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.03	.26	3.60***
Father-daughter Psych Aggression	.05	.11	1.36
Father-daughter Physical Assault	.04	-.11	-1.33
Relationship Attributions	.06	.12	2.12*

(table continues)

Path and Variable	SE B	β	T
B: Perpetrated Physical Abuse on Father Conflict [$F(4, 356) = 13.19, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .12$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.01	-.02	-.28
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.01	.23	3.33***
Father-daughter Psych Aggression	.02	-.08	-1.12
Father-daughter Physical Assault	.02	.22	2.67**
C: Perp. Physical Abuse on Father Conflict & Attributions [$F(5, 356) = 11.37, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .13$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.01	-.05	-.69
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.01	.23	3.32***
Father-daughter Psych Aggression	.02	-.11	-1.43
Father-daughter Physical Assault	.02	.22	2.72**
Relationship Attributions	.03	.10	1.92*
B: Experienced Physical Abuse on Father Conflict [$F(4, 356) = 11.60, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .11$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.01	-.01	-.08
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.01	.21	2.99**
Father-daughter Psych Aggression	.02	-.10	-1.35
Father-daughter Physical Assault	.02	.22	2.64**
C: Exp. Physical Abuse on Father Conflict & Attributions [$F(5, 356) = 10.55, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .12$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.01	-.04	-.59
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.01	.21	2.99**
Father-daughter Psych Aggression	.02	-.13	-1.74
Father-daughter Physical Assault	.02	.22	2.71**
Relationship Attributions	.02	.13	2.40**

Note. * $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$

Table 5. Regression Analyses for Mediational Hypothesis in Males

Path and Variable	SE B	β	T
A: Attributions on Mother Conflict [$F(4, 144) = 5.80, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .12$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.06	.15	1.55
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.04	.16	1.65
Mother-son Psych Aggression	.06	.07	.58
Mother-son Physical Assault	.04	.13	1.13
B: Perpetrated Psych Abuse on Mother Conflict [$F(4, 144) = 10.01, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .20$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.07	.21	2.24
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.05	.32	3.47***
Mother-son Psych Aggression	.07	-.08	-.70
Mother-son Physical Assault	.05	.07	.59
C: Perp. Psych Abuse on Mother Conflict & Attributions [$F(5, 144) = 8.07, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .20$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.07	.22	2.30*
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.05	.33	3.53***
Mother-son Psych Aggression	.07	-.08	-.67
Mother-son Physical Assault	.05	.07	.66
Relationship Attributions	.10	-.06	-.68
B: Experienced Psych Abuse on Mother Conflict [$F(4, 144) = 10.66, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .21$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.07	.29	3.11**
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.05	.27	2.95**
Mother-son Psych Aggression	.07	-.07	-.66
Mother-son Physical Assault	.05	.04	.32
C: Exp. Psych Abuse on Mother Conflict & Attributions [$F(5, 144) = 8.73, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .21$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.07	.30	3.21**
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.05	.28	3.06**
Mother-son Psych Aggression	.07	-.07	-.61
Mother-son Physical Assault	.05	.05	.42
Relationship Attributions	.10	-.08	-1.01
B: Perpetrated Physical Abuse on Mother Conflict [$F(4, 144) = 23.60, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .39$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.03	.07	.84
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.02	.57	7.03***
Mother-son Psych Aggression	.03	-.21	-2.12*
Mother-son Physical Assault	.02	.14	1.47
C: Perp. Physical Abuse on Mother Conflict & Attributions [$F(4, 144) = 18.75, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .38$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.03	.07	.81
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.02	.57	6.92***
Mother-son Psych Aggression	.03	-.21	-2.12*
Mother-son Physical Assault	.02	.14	1.45
Relationship Attributions	.05	.01	.14

(table continues)

Path and Variable	SE B	B	T
B: Experienced Physical Abuse on Mother Conflict [$F(4, 144) = 19.65, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .34$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.03	.04	.42
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.02	.57	6.76***
Mother-son Psych Aggression	.04	-.14	-1.33
Mother-son Physical Assault	.02	.09	.86
C: Exp. Physical Abuse on Mother Conflict & Attributions [$F(5, 144) = 15.61, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .34$]			
Mother's Interparental Psych Aggression	.03	.04	.43
Mother's Interparental Physical Assault	.02	.57	6.68***
Mother-son Psych Aggression	.04	-.14	-1.32
Mother-son Physical Assault	.02	.09	.85
Relationship Attributions	.05	-.004	-.06
A: Attributions on Father Conflict [$F(4, 147) = 5.95, p < .001, \text{adj}R^2 = .12$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.06	.06	.58
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.05	.27	2.85**
Father-son Psych Aggression	.07	.17	1.40
Father-son Physical Assault	.06	.02	.22
B: Perpetrated Psych Abuse on Father Conflict [$F(4, 147) = 1.48, p < .21, \text{adj}R^2 = .01$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.08	.04	.36
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.06	.01	.09
Father-son Psych Aggression	.10	-.02	-.18
Father-son Physical Assault	.07	.19	1.71
C: Perp. Psych Abuse on Father Conflict & Attributions [$F(5, 147) = 1.18, p < .320, \text{adj}R^2 = .01$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.08	.04	.35
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.07	.003	.03
Father-son Psych Aggression	.10	-.03	-.20
Father-son Physical Assault	.07	.19	1.70
Relationship Attributions	.11	.02	.23
B: Experienced Psych Abuse on Father Conflict [$F(4, 147) = 1.77, p < .139, \text{adj}R^2 = .02$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.08	.04	.38
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.06	.01	.11
Father-son Psych Aggression	.10	-.04	-.32
Father-son Physical Assault	.07	.22	1.95
C: Exp. Psych Abuse on Father Conflict & Attributions [$F(5, 147) = 1.41, p < .224, \text{adj}R^2 = .01$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.08	.04	.37
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.07	.01	.06
Father-son Psych Aggression	.10	-.04	-.34
Father-son Physical Assault	.07	.22	1.94
Relationship Attributions	.11	.02	.19

(table continues)

Path and Variable	SE B	β	T
B: Perpetrated Physical Abuse on Father Conflict [$F(4, 147) = 2.82, p < .027, \text{adj}R^2 = .05$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.04	.004	.04
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.03	.10	1.00
Father-son Psych Aggression	.05	-.17	-1.34
Father-son Physical Assault	.04	.29	2.58*
C: Perp. Physical Abuse on Father Conflict & Attributions [$F(5, 147) = 2.62, p < .027, \text{adj}R^2 = .05$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.04	-.003	-.03
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.03	.07	.66
Father-son Psych Aggression	.05	-.18	-1.49
Father-son Physical Assault	.04	.28	2.56*
Relationship Attributions	.05	.12	1.33
B: Experienced Physical Abuse on Father Conflict [$F(4, 147) = 2.81, p < .028, \text{adj}R^2 = .05$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.04	.01	.04
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.03	.09	.95
Father-son Psych Aggression	.05	-.18	-1.49
Father-son Physical Assault	.04	.29	2.62**
C: Exp. Physical Abuse on Father Conflict & Attributions [$F(5, 147) = 2.51, p < .033, \text{adj}R^2 = .05$]			
Father's Interparental Psych Aggression	.04	-.001	-.01
Father's Interparental Physical Assault	.03	.07	.67
Father-son Psych Aggression	.05	-.20	-1.61
Father-son Physical Assault	.04	.29	2.60**
Relationship Attributions	.06	.10	1.12

Note. * $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$

CHAPTER FOUR: DISCUSSION

The present investigation examined the relationships among emerging adults' family conflict (i.e., interparental and parent-child conflict), the parenting of their mothers and fathers, their parents' emotional availability, their attachment to their parents and their romantic partners, their cognitive attributions regarding conflict, and the conflict that they experience in their current romantic relationships. In particular, the present study examined whether the association between the family conflict (i.e., interparental and parent-child conflict) that emerging adults experienced during childhoods and the conflict that they experience in their current romantic relationships is explained (or mediated) by emerging adults' attributions of conflict in their current romantic relationships.

As suggested by previous literature noting sex-based discrepancies in parenting (e.g., McKinney & Renk, 2008), several significant differences emerged in the responses of male and female emerging adults. In particular, female emerging adults reported significantly lower levels of permissive parenting from their mothers and fathers than did male emerging adults. This finding is consistent with those of previous studies indicating that parents are more likely to see sons, rather than daughters, as able to fend for themselves (Holmbeck, Paikoff, & Brooks-Gunn, 1995). In addition, female emerging adults reported higher levels of interparental psychological aggression than did male emerging adults. It may be that females are more attuned to subtle forms of aggression between parents (e.g., disrespectful or demeaning behavior). This hypothesis seems reasonable given that previous literature documents sex differences in interpersonal awareness and empathy, with females showing higher levels of these characteristics relative to males (Dawda & Hart, 2002).

Similarly, female emerging adults reported higher levels of attachment to their mothers and to their current romantic partners than did male emerging adults. This finding may suggest that females (i.e., relative to males) bond in a unique way to their mothers and current romantic partners or that females actually experience differential treatment in these relationships, making it more likely that they would feel a stronger sense of attachment. For example, given the previously described finding that sons are more likely to be seen as autonomous, females may be more likely to have additional warmth and guidance offered to them (Russell et al., 1998). Finally, female emerging adults reported significantly higher ratings of experiencing physically abusive behaviors in their current romantic relationships. This finding mirrors national statistics noting that females who are 12-years of age and older are five times more likely to be subject to (nonfatal) violence from their romantic partners (U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2007). An alternate or supplemental explanation for this finding could be that males underreport relationship abuse due to the social stigma associated with taking on the victim role (see Hamel, 2007).

Consistent with the hypotheses for this study, correlational analyses revealed several significant relationships among the variables examined. For both male and female emerging adults, parenting variables were associated with emerging adults' attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners. In particular, higher levels of authoritative parenting (i.e., parenting that is high in warmth and control), emotional availability, and attachment with parents were each associated with lower levels of hostile attributions regarding conflict with current romantic partners. These associations held true for paternal and maternal variables as reported by both male and female emerging adults. These findings corroborate extant literature indicating that authoritative parenting (McKinney & Renk, 2008; Slicker, 1998), emotional availability

(Lum & Phares, 2005), and attachment (Creasey et al., 1999) are related to healthier emotional and social adjustment.

Regression analyses were conducted to examine whether attributions of conflict mediate the relationship between experiencing family conflict (i.e., interparental and parent-child conflict) and later conflict in romantic relationships. Separate analyses were conducted for male and female emerging adults regarding their ratings of their mothers' and fathers' family conflict behaviors. For female emerging adults' ratings of maternal behavior, mother-daughter psychological aggression predicted significantly hostile attributions regarding conflict in current romantic relationships. In addition, female emerging adults' ratings of maternal physical assault in interparental conflict predicted higher levels of perpetrated and experienced psychological and physical abuse in current romantic relationships. Thus, female emerging adults who endorsed higher levels of psychological aggression by their mothers also reported higher levels of hostile attributions of conflict with their current romantic partners. Similarly, female emerging adults who recalled higher levels of their mothers' physically assaultive behaviors in the context of conflict with their other parent also endorsed higher levels of abusive behaviors in their current relationships. Although family conflict variables predicted both conflict attributions and abusive behaviors in their current relationships, conflict attributions did not explain the relationship between family conflict and current relationship conflict.

With regard to female emerging adults' ratings of their fathers, psychological aggression in interparental conflict and father-daughter conflict predicted significantly more hostile attributions of conflict with current romantic partners. Female emerging adults' ratings of physical aggression in interparental conflict and father-daughter conflict also predicted higher levels of perpetrated and experienced physical abuse in their current romantic relationships.

Female emerging adults' ratings of their fathers' physical aggression in interparental conflict and psychological aggression in father-daughter conflict also predicted higher levels of perpetrated psychological abuse in their current romantic relationships. Similar to the findings for female emerging adults and their mothers, these relationships were not mediated by conflict attributions. Thus, although females emerging adults' ratings of experienced psychological abuse in current relationships were predicted by higher ratings of both fathers' physical aggression and their hostile conflict attributions, the relationship between family conflict and current romantic relationship conflict was not explained by ratings of conflict attributions.

For male emerging adults' ratings of their mothers, hostile attributions of conflict with current romantic partners were predicted by maternal interparental conflict and mother-son conflict. Maternal conflict variables also predicted the frequency of male emerging adults' abusive behaviors in their current romantic relationships. Specifically, mothers' physical aggression in interparental conflicts predicted higher levels of male emerging adults' perpetrated psychological abuse. Mothers' psychological and physical aggression in interparental conflicts also predicted higher levels of male emerging adults' experienced psychological abuse. In addition, mothers' physical aggression in interparental conflicts and psychological aggression in mother-son conflicts predicted higher levels of male emerging adults' perpetrated physical abuse. Finally, mothers' physical aggression in interparental conflicts predicted higher levels of male emerging adults' experienced physical abuse. Although male emerging adults' ratings of abuse in current romantic relationships were predicted by these family conflict ratings, this association was not explained by their conflict attributions.

Finally, with regard to male emerging adults' ratings of their fathers, attributions of conflict in current relationships were predicted by their ratings of fathers' physical aggression in

interparental conflict. Fathers' conflict variables predicted physically abusive behaviors, but not psychologically abusive behaviors, in male emerging adults' current romantic relationships. Specifically, fathers' physical assault in father-son conflict predicted higher levels of the physical abuse that male emerging adults reported perpetrating and experiencing in their current romantic relationships. Although male emerging adults' ratings of physical abuse in their current romantic relationships were predicted by ratings of fathers' conflicts, this association was not explained by male emerging adults' conflict attributions.

Overall, these findings indicated that higher ratings of interparental conflict and parent-child conflict were predictive of higher levels of conflict in emerging adults' current romantic relationships. Although family conflict accounted for a small amount of the variance in current conflict, these findings are consistent with those of previous research describing the harmful effects of interparental conflict (Clarke et al., 2007; Cummings & Davies, 1996; Mann & Gilliom, 2002) and parent-child conflict (Mann & MacKenzie, 1996; Masten et al., 2008; Widom, 2000) on children's adjustment from childhood through emerging adulthood (Hoffman & Weiss, 1987; Renk et al., 2004). Family conflict also predicted the extent to which emerging adults made hostile attributions regarding conflict with their current romantic partners (i.e., attributions that are more internal, global, and stable to the partner). This finding is consistent with literature suggesting that experiencing interparental (Fincham et al., 1994) and parent-child aggression (Ponce et al., 2004) may lead children to develop maladaptive cognitions (e.g., a self-schema that includes not having control, and other-schema of malevolence) that affect future relationships. It is worth noting that emerging adults' attributions of conflict and the level of conflict in current romantic relationships were each predicted by different types of family conflict. It is possible that some forms of family conflict (e.g., psychological aggression) may

impact cognitive processing of conflict whereas other conflict variables (e.g., physical aggression) may influence the behavioral response to conflict in future relationships.

Although hostile attributions of conflict predicted the frequency of the psychologically abusive behaviors that are experienced and the physically abusive behaviors that are experienced and perpetrated by female emerging adults in their current romantic relationships, consistent findings were not noted for male emerging adults. It is important to note that attributions accounted for a small amount of the variance. Further, contrary to expectations, attributions of conflict were not found to explain the relationship between ratings of interparental and parent-child conflict and emerging adults' ratings of conflict in their current romantic relationships. Counter to the literature suggesting such a mediational model (Markus, Lindahl, & Malik, 2001; Ponce et al., 2004), this study did not provide evidence that conflict attributions for current romantic relationships mediate or explain the relationship between experiencing family psychological and physical conflict during childhood and later experiencing or perpetrating psychologically or physically abusive behaviors in conflicts with current romantic partners. One possible obstacle to assessing whether attributions mediate the relationship between family conflict and conflict in current relationships consists of the divergence between the types of family conflict that predicted attributions and the types that predicted conflict behavior.

It may be that other factors contribute to conflict behavior, such as emotional or affective elements in children's development. For example, given the current findings, the emotional-security hypothesis (Davies & Cummings, 1994) may be a better explanation for the relationship between family conflict during childhood and conflict in later romantic relationship. In particular, the emotional-security hypothesis proposes that disrupted parent-child attachment leads to a deficit in emotional security. This deficit then leads to children's difficulty in

regulating emotions and greater interpersonal difficulties. Creasey (2002; Creasey & Hesson-McInnis, 2001) has provided evidence of an association between late adolescents' attachment orientations and conflict tactics in their current romantic relationships, wherein attachment insecurity predicted negative relationship conflict, particularly controlling behavior.

Indeed, the present study indicated that there was a significant correlation between the levels of attachment that male and female emerging adults endorsed for their mothers and fathers and their attachment ratings for their current romantic partners. Further, for male and female emerging adults, their attachment to current romantic partners was associated with their ratings of experienced and perpetrated physical and psychological abuse in their current romantic relationships. Specifically, for female emerging adults, their attachment to their mothers and fathers was correlated with their ratings of conflict in their current romantic relationships. For male emerging adults, their attachment to their mothers (but not to their fathers) was associated with their ratings of physically abusive behaviors in their current romantic relationships. This pattern of results suggests the importance of emerging adults' attachment to their mothers and fathers in the context of attachments to current romantic partners. Further, another possible explanation for the regression results failing to reach significance is attributions are not as important as other variables as an explanatory variable. For example, attachment may be a variable that is worthy of further examination. In particular, attachment may moderate conflict attributions when predicting conflict in current romantic relationship. Perhaps making a clear prediction would require accounting for both cognitive and affective factors. Future studies should examine this topic further.

As with all studies, the current investigation should be interpreted within the context of its limitations. One main threat to external validity involved the exclusive participation of

emerging adults who were also college students. Although emerging adults are a particularly important group to study (Arnett, 2000), there may be differences inherent in a group of emerging adults who are pursuing higher education relative to those who are pursuing different pathways through emerging adulthood. Relative to other emerging adults who are not in college, college students may have higher levels of family support (e.g., financial as well as social). In fact, most emerging adults in this study endorsed high levels of authoritative parenting for their mothers and fathers. They also reported generally high levels of attachment and emotional availability for their parents, indicating that the emerging adults in this sample perceived their relationships with their parents as being warm and supportive. These characteristics also may limit the generalizability of the findings of this study to other groups of emerging adults.

In addition, there may be limits to the internal validity of this study, given that it is subject to monomethod bias. Despite attempts to recruit parents for their independent report of interparental conflict and parent-child relationship variables, not enough parents of the emerging adults in this sample participated for meaningful analyses to be conducted. In future studies, it would be worthwhile to utilize recruitment or compensation strategies that would increase parental participation. In this way, cross-informant strategies for examining conflict as well as the emotional and behavioral functioning of participants could be incorporated into the methodology used for future studies (e.g., Epstein et al., 2004). It also is noteworthy that the current investigation relies solely on retrospective reports, which are not often concordant with prospective assessments (see Renk, Roberts, Klein, Rojas-Vilches, & Sieger, 2005). Thus, it would be preferable in future research to utilize longitudinal data regarding family conflict for a better understanding of the development of affective and cognitive predictors of violence.

The results of this investigation hopefully shed some light on the variables critical to the emerging adults' current romantic relationships, particularly with respect to family conflict (i.e., interparental conflict and parent-child conflict) and the occurrence of conflict in current romantic relationships. Variations in the cognitive and emotional development of emerging adults may be a pathway for understanding the protective factors that lead some youth to demonstrate resilience in their adjustment as they transition through emerging adulthood and develop romantic relationships, despite high exposure to family conflict during childhood. Future studies assessing these variables along a wider continuum of severity and in longitudinal designs may be used to inform future research and intervention programs targeting the adjustment of emerging adults. The findings of such studies may be especially important in providing information about the early stages of problematic relationship conflict that may occur before violent behavior causes serious social, legal, and health-related problems for emerging adults.

APPENDIX A: DEMOGRAPHICS QUESTIONNAIRE

Less than once a week	1-2 times a week	3-4 times a week	5-6 times a week
1-2 times a day	3-4 times a day	5-6 times a day	More than 7 times a day

12. How often do you contact your **father** (include conversing by phone, email, or in person):

Less than once a week	1-2 times a week	3-4 times a week	5-6 times a week
1-2 times a day	3-4 times a day	5-6 times a day	More than 7 times a day

13. Do you have any children? Yes No

Please list the age and gender of your child(ren) and whether or not they live with you.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Gender</i>		<i>Live with you?</i>	
_____	M	F	Y	N
_____	M	F	Y	N
_____	M	F	Y	N
_____	M	F	Y	N

14. Estimate your yearly income, including help from parents/family (Please circle one):

Less than \$10,000	\$10,000 - \$20,000	\$20,000 - \$30,000	\$40,000 - \$50,000
\$50,000 - \$60,000	\$60,000 - \$70,000	More than \$70,000	

15. What is your romantic partner's gender? Male Female

16. What is the highest level of education completed by your romantic partner? (Circle one)

Doctoral degree	Masters degree	Bachelor degree
Associates degree	High school diploma/GED	

If none of the above, please indicate highest grade completed: _____

General Instructions: In some of the questions below, you will read statements about your parents. Please think about the parents/caregivers you associate with taking care of you for most of your upbringing. You will be asked to rate your *Mother's* and *Father's* behavior. If the caregivers you are thinking about are not your mother and father, please specify who they were. Check or write-in up to two:

__ father's girlfriend __ father's wife __ mother's boyfriend __ mother's husband
 __ other: _____ __ other: _____

Demographics- Parent Form

Instructions: Please circle or fill-in your response to each question. When asked about your college student, please answer with regard to your college student who is participating in this study.

1. Your Gender: Male Female

2. Your Age: _____

3. What best describes your race/ethnicity (mark all that apply)?

Caucasian/White African-American/Black Hispanic Asian
American Indian/Alaska native Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Other_____

4. How often do you contact your college student (including phone, email, or in person):

Less than once a week	1-2 times a week	3-4 times a week	5-6 times a week
1-2 times a day	3-4 times a day	5-6 times a day	More than 7 times a day

5. Do you live in the same house as your college student's other parent: Yes No

6. Specify your relationship status:

single (never married) engaged married divorced widowed/widower
living w/partner remarried (how many previous marriages:) other:_____

7. From the time your college student was born (ages 0 to 24), who was/were your romantic partner(s)? Indicate below the age of the college student while you were in that relationship and how much conflict you recall within that romantic relationship(s)? **Conflict = bickering, arguing, or fighting**

		None/never	Rarely	Frequent	Every day
Child's other parent:	From age ___ to age ___	1	2	3	4
Boy/girlfriend:	From age ___ to age ___	1	2	3	4
Boy/girlfriend #2:	From age ___ to age ___	1	2	3	4
Live-in partner/spouse:	From age ___ to age ___	1	2	3	4
Live-in partner/spouse#2:	From age ___ to age ___	1	2	3	4
_____ :	From age ___ to age ___	1	2	3	4

8. Your highest level of education:

Doctoral degree Masters degree Bachelor degree
 Associates degree High school diploma/GED
 If none of the above, please indicate highest grade completed: _____

9. The highest level of education of your child's other parent:

Doctoral degree Masters degree Bachelor degree
Associates degree High school diploma/GED

If none of the above, please indicate highest grade completed: _____

10. Please estimate your yearly household income (Please circle one):

Less than \$10,000 \$10,000 - \$20,000 \$20,000 - \$30,000 \$40,000 - \$50,000
\$50,000 - \$60,000 \$60,000 - \$70,000 More than \$70,000

APPENDIX B. REVISED CONFLICT TACTICS SCALE

CTS2-Parent Form

This is a list of things that might happen when a couple has conflict. Some questions are about you and others are about your partner. *For the following questions, please think about the relationship you identified before as having the most conflict while you were raising your college student. Think specifically about the year during which you and that partner had the most conflict. Circle the response that describes how many times these things happened in that year. If one of these things did not happen in that year, but it happened at some other time, circle "7".*

First, how old was your child during the year you remember having the most conflict with your partner? ____

How often did this happen in the year that you and your partner had the most conflict?	Once	Twice	3-5 times	6-10 times	11-20 times	More than 20 times	Yes, but Not that year	Never
1. I showed my partner I cared even though we disagreed.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
2. My partner showed care for me even though we disagreed.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
3. I explained my side of a disagreement to my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
4. My partner explained his/her side of a disagreement to me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
5. I insulted or swore at my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
6. My partner insulted or swore at me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
7. I threw something at my partner that could hurt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
8. My partner threw something at me that could hurt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
9. I twisted my partner's arm or hair.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
10. My partner twisted my arm or hair.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
11. I had a sprain, bruise, or small cut because of a fight with my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
12. My partner had a sprain, bruise, or small cut because of a fight with me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
13. I showed respect for my partner's feelings about an issue.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
14. My partner showed respect for my feelings about an issue.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
15. I made my partner have sex without a condom.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
16. My partner made me have sex without a condom.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
17. I pushed or shoved my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
18. My partner pushed or shoved me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
19. I used force (like hitting, holding down, or using a weapon) to make my partner have oral or anal sex.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
20. My partner used force to make me have oral or anal sex.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
21. I used a knife or gun on my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
22. My partner used a knife or gun on me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
23. I passed out from being hit on the head by my partner in a fight.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
24. My partner passed out from being hit on the head by me in a fight.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
25. I called my partner fat or ugly.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
26. My partner called me fat or ugly.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
27. I punched or hit my partner with something that could hurt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
28. My partner punched or hit me with something that could hurt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
29. I destroyed something belonging to my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
30. My partner destroyed something that belonged to me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
31. I went to a doctor because of a fight with my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
32. My partner went to a doctor because of a fight with me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
33. I choked my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
34. My partner choked me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
35. I shouted or yelled at my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
36. My partner shouted or yelled at me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
37. I slammed my partner against a wall.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
38. My partner slammed me against a wall.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
39. I said I was sure we could work out a problem.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
40. My partner was sure we could work it out.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
41. I needed to see a doctor because of a fight with my partner, but I didn't.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
42. My partner needed to see a doctor because of a fight with me, but didn't.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0

How often did this happen in the year that you and your partner had the most conflict?	Once	Twice	3-5 times	6-10 times	11-20 times	More than 20 times	Yes, but Not that year	Never
43. I beat up my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
44. My partner beat me up.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
45. I grabbed my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
46. My partner grabbed me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
47. I used force (like hitting, holding down, or using a weapon) to make my partner have sex.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
48. My partner used force to make me have sex.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
49. I stomped out of the room, house, or yard during a disagreement.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
50. My partner stomped out the room, hour, or yard during a disagreement.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
51. I insisted on sex when my partner did not want to (but did not use physical force).	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
52. My partner insisted on sex when I did not want to (but did not use physical force).	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
53. I slapped my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
54. My partner slapped me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
55. I had a broken bone from a fight with my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
56. My partner had a broken bone from a fight with me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
57. I used threats to make my partner have oral or anal sex.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
58. My partner used threats to make me have oral or anal sex.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
59. I suggested a compromise to a disagreement.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
60. My partner suggested a compromise to a disagreement.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
61. I burned or scalded my partner on purpose.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
62. My partner burned or scalded me on purpose.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
63. I insisted my partner have oral or anal sex (but did not use physical force).	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
64. My partner insisted I have oral or anal sex (but did not use physical force).	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
65. I accused my partner of being a lousy lover.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
66. My partner accused me of being a lousy lover.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
67. I did something to spite my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
68. My partner did something to spite me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
69. I threatened to hit or throw something at my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
70. My partner threatened to hit or throw something at me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
71. I felt physical pain that still hurt the next day because of a fight with my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
72. My partner still felt physical pain the next day because of a fight we had.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
73. I kicked my partner.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
74. My partner kicked me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
75. I used threats to make my partner have sex.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
76. My partner used threats to make me have sex.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
77. I agreed to try a solution to a disagreement that my partner suggested.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
78. My partner agreed to try a solution I suggested.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0

CTS2-Student Form

This is a list of things that might happen when a couple has conflict. *For the following questions, parents could refer to any of the caregiver combinations you identified before (e.g., mother & father, parent & boy/girlfriend/spouse). Please think about the year during which you remember your parents/caregivers had the most conflict with each other. Circle the response that describes how many times these things happened in that year. If one of these things did not happen in that year, but it happened at some other time, circle "7".*

First, how old were you during the year you remember your parents having the most conflict with each other? _____

Part 1

How often did this happen during the year that your parents had the most conflict with each other?	Once	Twice	3-5 times	6-10 times	11-20 times	More than 20 times	Yes, but Not that year	Never
1. My father showed my mother that he cared even though they disagreed.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
2. My father explained his side of a disagreement to my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
3. My father insulted or swore at my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
4. My father threw something at my mother that could hurt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
5. My father twisted my mother's arm or hair.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
6. My mother had a sprain, bruise, or small cut because of a fight with my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
7. My father showed respect for my mother's feelings about an issue.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
8. My father pushed or shoved my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
9. My father used a knife or gun on my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
10. My mother passed out from being hit on the head by my father in a fight.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
11. My father called my mother fat or ugly.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
12. My father punched or hit my mother with something that could hurt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
13. My father destroyed something belonging to my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
14. My mother went to a doctor because of a fight with my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
15. My father choked my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
16. My father shouted or yelled at my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
17. My father slammed my mother against a wall.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
18. My father said he was sure they could work out a problem.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
19. My mother needed to see a doctor because of a fight with my father, but didn't.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
20. My father beat up my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
21. My father grabbed my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
22. My father stomped out of the room, house, or yard during a disagreement.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
23. My father slapped my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
24. My mother had a broken bone from a fight with my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
25. My father suggested a compromise to a disagreement.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
26. My father burned or scalded my mother on purpose.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
27. My father accused my mother of being a lousy lover.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
28. My father did something to spite my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
29. My father threatened to hit or throw something at my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
30. My mother felt physical pain that still hurt the next day because of a fight with my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
31. My father kicked my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
32. My father agreed to try a solution to a disagreement that my mother suggested.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0

Part 2

How often did this happen during the year that your parents had the most conflict with each other?	Once	Twice	3-5 times	6-10 times	11-20 times	More than 20 times	Yes, but Not that year	Never
33. My mother showed my father that she cared even though they disagreed.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
34. My mother explained her side of a disagreement to my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
35. My mother insulted or swore at my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
36. My mother threw something at my father that could hurt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
37. My mother twisted my father's arm or hair.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
38. My father had a sprain, bruise, or small cut because of a fight with my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
39. My mother showed respect for my father's feelings about an issue.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
40. My mother pushed or shoved my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
41. My mother used a knife or gun on my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
42. My mother passed out from being hit on the head by my father in a fight.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
43. My mother called my father fat or ugly.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
44. My mother punched or hit my father with something that could hurt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
45. My mother destroyed something belonging to my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
46. My father went to a doctor because of a fight with my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
47. My mother choked my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
48. My mother shouted or yelled at my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
49. My mother slammed my father against a wall.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
50. My mother said she was sure they could work out a problem.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
51. My father needed to see a doctor because of a fight with my mother, but didn't.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
52. My mother beat up my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
53. My mother grabbed my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
54. My mother stomped out of the room, house, or yard during a disagreement.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
55. My mother slapped my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
56. My father had a broken bone from a fight with my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
57. My mother suggested a compromise to a disagreement.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
58. My mother burned or scalded my father on purpose.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
59. My mother accused my father of being a lousy lover.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
60. My mother did something to spite my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
61. My mother threatened to hit or throw something at my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
62. My father felt physical pain that still hurt the next day because of a fight with my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
63. My mother kicked my father.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
64. My mother agreed to try a solution to a disagreement that my father suggested.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0

APPENDIX C. CHILDREN'S PERCEPTION OF INTERPARENTAL CONFLICT SCALE

CPICS

In every family there are times when the parents don't get along. Think about how your parents (the ones identified above as having the most conflict) got along while you were growing up. For each item, circle the number that indicates how much you agree or disagree.

	Disagree	Disagree somewhat	Agree somewhat	Agree
1. I never saw my parents arguing or disagreeing.	1	2	3	4
2. When my parents had arguments they usually worked it out.	1	2	3	4
3. My parents often got into arguments about things I did at school.	1	2	3	4
4. My parents got really mad when they argued.	1	2	3	4
5. When my parents argued, I could do something to make myself feel better.	1	2	3	4
6. I got scared when my parents argued.	1	2	3	4
7. I felt caught in the middle when my parents argued.	1	2	3	4
8. I was not to blame when my parents had arguments.	1	2	3	4
9. They might have thought I didn't know, but my parents argued or disagreed a lot.	1	2	3	4
10. Even after my parents would stop arguing, they would stay mad at each other.	1	2	3	4
11. My parents argued because they were not happy together.	1	2	3	4
12. When my parents had a disagreement, they discussed it quietly.	1	2	3	4
13. I didn't know what to do when my parents argued.	1	2	3	4
14. My parents were often mean to each other, even if I was around.	1	2	3	4
15. When my parents argued I worried about what would happen to me.	1	2	3	4
16. I did not feel like I had to take sides when my parents had an argument.	1	2	3	4
17. It was usually my fault when my parents argued.	1	2	3	4
18. I often saw my parents arguing.	1	2	3	4
19. When my parents disagreed about something, they would usually come up with a solution.	1	2	3	4
20. My parents' arguments were usually about something I did.	1	2	3	4
21. The reasons my parents argued never changed.	1	2	3	4
22. When my parents had an argument, they said mean things to each other.	1	2	3	4
23. When my parents argued or disagreed I could usually help make things better.	1	2	3	4
24. When my parents argued I was afraid that something bad would happen.	1	2	3	4
25. My mom wanted me to be on her side when she and my dad argued.	1	2	3	4
26. Even if they didn't say it, I knew I was to blame when my parents argued.	1	2	3	4
27. My parents hardly ever argued.	1	2	3	4
28. When my parents argued, they usually made up right away.	1	2	3	4
29. My parents usually argued or disagreed because of things that I did.	1	2	3	4
30. My parents argued because they didn't really love each other.	1	2	3	4
31. When my parents had an argument they yelled a lot.	1	2	3	4
32. When my parents argued there was nothing I could do to stop them.	1	2	3	4
33. When my parents argued I worried that one of them would get hurt.	1	2	3	4

	Disagree	Disagree somewhat	Agree somewhat	Agree
34. I felt like I had to take sides when my parents had a disagreement.	1	2	3	4
35. My parents often nagged and complained about each other around the house.	1	2	3	4
36. My parents hardly ever yelled when they had a disagreement.	1	2	3	4
37. My parents often got into arguments when I did something wrong.	1	2	3	4
38. My parents have broken or thrown things during an argument.	1	2	3	4
39. After my parents would stop arguing, they would be friendly to each other.	1	2	3	4
40. When my parents argued I was afraid that they would yell at me too.	1	2	3	4
41. My parents blamed me when they had arguments.	1	2	3	4
42. My dad wanted me to be on his side when he and my mom argued.	1	2	3	4
43. My parents have pushed or shoved each other during an argument.	1	2	3	4
44. When my parents argued or disagreed there was nothing I could do to make myself feel better.	1	2	3	4
45. When my parents argued I worried that they might get divorced.	1	2	3	4
46. My parents would continue to act mean after having an argument.	1	2	3	4
47. My parents had arguments because they didn't know how to get along.	1	2	3	4
48. Usually, it was not my fault when my parents had arguments.				
49. When my parents argued they did not listen to anything I said.	1	2	3	4

APPENDIX D. PARENT-CHILD CONFLICT TACTICS SCALRE

CTSPC- Parent Form

Children often do things that are wrong, disobey, or make their parents angry. We would like to know what you have done when your child did something wrong or made you upset or angry. This is a list of things that parents sometimes do when children misbehave. Think about your child who is now in college and what you did when he/she misbehaved as a child. During the year when your child's behavior was most difficult, how often did you do each of the following things? For each item below, please indicate whether you did it once in that year; twice in that year; or 3 to 5 times, 6 to 10 times, 11 to 20 times, or more than 20 times in that year. If you did not do it during that one year you are thinking about, but have done it at any time, then circle "7" as your answer. Please focus on your child in college who is participating in this study.

First, how old was your child during the year you remember having the most conflict? _____

How often did this happen during that year?	Once	Twice	3-5 times	6-10 times	11-20 times	More than 20 times	Not this year, but yes in the past	Never
1. You explained why something was wrong.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
2. You put your child in "time out" (or sent the child to his/her room).	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
3. You shook your child.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
4. You hit your child on the bottom with something like a belt, hairbrush, stick, or some other hard object.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
5. You gave your child something else to do instead of what he or she was doing wrong.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
6. You shouted, yelled, or screamed at your child.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
7. You hit your child with a fist or kicked your child hard.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
8. You spanked your child on the bottom with your bare hand.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
9. You grabbed your child around the neck and choked him or her.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
10. You swore or cursed at your child.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
11. You beat your child up (hit him/her over and over as hard as you could).	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
12. You said you would send your child away or kick him/her out of the house.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
13. You burned or scalded you child on purpose.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
14. You threatened to spank or hit your child but did not actually do it.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
15. You hit your child on some other part of the body besides the bottom with something like a belt, hairbrush, stick, or some other hard object.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
16. You slapped your child on the hand, arm, or le.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
17. You took away privileges or grounded your child.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
18. You pinched your child.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
19. You threatened your child with a knife or gun.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
20. You threw or knocked your child down.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
21. You called your child dumb, lazy, or some other name like that.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
22. You slapped your child on the face, head, or ears.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0

CTSPC- Student Form

Children often do things that are wrong, disobey, or make their parents angry. This is a list of things that parents sometimes do when children misbehave. Think about what your parents did when you misbehaved as a child. During the year when you remember the most conflict with you mother, how often did each of this things happen? For each item below, please indicate whether it happened once in that year; twice in that year; or 3 to 5 times, 6 to 10 times, 11 to 20 times, or more than 20 times in that year. If it did not happen during that one year you are thinking about, but it did happen at any time, then circle "7" as your answer.

How old were you during the year you remember having the most conflict with your *mother*? ___

How often did your <i>mother</i> do the following during that year?	Once	Twice	3-5 times	6-10 times	11-20 times	More than 20 times	Yes, but not that year	Never
1. Explained why something was wrong	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
2. Put you in "time out" (or sent you to your room)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
3. Shook you	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
4. Hit you on the bottom with something like a belt, hairbrush, stick, or some other hard object	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
5. Gave you something else to do instead of what you were doing wrong	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
6. Shouted, yelled, or screamed at you	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
7. Hit you with a fist or kicked you hard	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
8. Spanked you on the bottom with her bare hand	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
9. Grabbed you around the neck and choked you	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
10. Swore or cursed at you	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
11. Beat you up (hit you over and over as hard as she could)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
12. Said she would send you away or kick you out of the house	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
13. Burned or scalded you on purpose	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
14. Threatened to spank or hit you but did not actually do it	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
15. Hit you on some other part of the body besides the bottom with something like a belt, hairbrush, stick, or some other hard object	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
16. Slapped you on the hand, arm, or leg	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
17. Took away privileges or grounded you	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
18. Pinched you	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
19. Threatened you with a knife or gun	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
20. Threw or knocked you down	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
21. Called you dumb, lazy, or some other name like that	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
22. Slapped you on the face, head, or ears.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0

During the year when you remember the most conflict with you father, how often did each of this things happen? For each item below, please indicate whether it happened once in that year; twice in that year; or 3 to 5 times, 6 to 10 times, 11 to 20 times, or more than 20 times in that year. If it did not happen during that one year you are thinking about, but it did happen at any time, then circle “7” as your answer.

How old were you during the year you remember having the most conflict with your *father*? ___

How often did your <i>father</i> do the following during that year?	Once	Twice	3-5 times	6-10 times	11-20 times	More than 20 times	Yes, but not that year	Never
1. Explained why something was wrong	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
2. Put you in “time out” (or sent you to your room)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
3. Shook you	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
4. Hit you on the bottom with something like a belt, hairbrush, stick, or some other hard object	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
5. Gave you something else to do instead of what you were doing wrong	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
6. Shouted, yelled, or screamed at you	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
7. Hit you with a fist or kicked you hard	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
8. Spanked you on the bottom with his bare hand	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
9. Grabbed you around the neck and choked you	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
10. Swore or cursed at you	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
11. Beat you up (hit you over and over as hard as he could)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
12. Said he would send you away or kick you out of the house	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
13. Burned or scalded you on purpose	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
14. Threatened to spank or hit you but did not actually do it	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
15. Hit you on some other part of the body besides the bottom with something like a belt, hairbrush, stick, or some other hard object	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
16. Slapped you on the hand, arm, or leg	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
17. Took away privileges or grounded you	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
18. Pinched you	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
19. Threatened you with a knife or gun	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
20. Threw or knocked you down	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
21. Called you dumb, lazy, or some other name like that	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
22. Slapped you on the face, head, or ears.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0

APPENDIX E. RELATIONSHIP ATTRIBUTION MEASURE

RAM

This questionnaire describes several things that your romantic partner might do. Imagine your partner performing each behavior and then read the statements that follow it. Please circle the number that indicates how much you agree or disagree with each statement, using the rating scale below:

A) <i>Your partner criticizes something you say</i>	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Disagree somewhat	Agree somewhat	Agree	Agree Strongly
1. It was due to something about him/her (like personality or mood)	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. The reason he/she criticized me is not likely to change	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. The reason he/she criticized me is something that affects other areas of our relationship	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. He/she criticized me on purpose, not unintentionally	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. He/she was motivated by selfish rather than unselfish concerns	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. My partner deserves to be blamed for criticizing me.	1	2	3	4	5	6

B) <i>Your partner begins to spend less time with you</i>	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Disagree somewhat	Agree somewhat	Agree	Agree Strongly
1. It was due to something about him/her (like personality or mood)	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. The reason for spending less time with me is not likely to change	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. The reason he/she spends less time with me is something that affects other areas of our relationship	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. He/she spends less time with me on purpose, not unintentionally	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. He/she was motivated by selfish rather than unselfish concerns	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. My partner deserves to be blamed for spending less time with me.	1	2	3	4	5	6

C) <i>Your partner does not pay attention to what you are saying</i>	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Disagree somewhat	Agree somewhat	Agree	Agree Strongly
1. It was due to something about him/her (like personality or mood)	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. The reason he/she does not pay attention to what I am saying is not likely to change	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. The reason he/she does not pay attention to what I am saying is something that affects other areas of our relationship	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. He/she does not pay attention to what I am saying on purpose, not unintentionally	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. He/she was motivated by selfish rather than unselfish concerns	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. My partner deserves to be blamed for not paying attention to what I am saying.	1	2	3	4	5	6

D) <i>Your partner is cool and distant</i>	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Disagree somewhat	Agree somewhat	Agree	Agree Strongly
1. It was due to something about him/her (like personality or mood)	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. The reason he/she is cool and distant is not likely to change	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. The reason he/she is cool and distant is something that affects other areas of our relationship	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. He/she is cool and distant on purpose, not unintentionally	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. He/she was motivated by selfish rather than unselfish concerns	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. My partner deserves to be blamed for being cool and distant.	1	2	3	4	5	6

APPENDIX F. CHILDREN'S RELATIONSHIP ATTRIBUTION MEASURE

CRAM

This questionnaire describes several things that your mother or father might do. Imagine your mother or father performing each behavior and then read the statements that follow it. Please circle the number that indicates how much you agree or disagree with each statement, using the rating scale below:

A) <i>Imagine you <u>mother</u> criticized you</i>	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Disagree somewhat	Agree somewhat	Agree	Agree Strongly
1. It was due to something about her- because she was tired, in a bad mood, or because that is the way she is.	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. The reason she criticized me is not likely to change	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. The reason she criticized me is something that affects other areas of our relationship	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. She criticized me on purpose to hurt my feelings	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. My mother was thinking only of herself when she criticized me	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. My mother deserves to be blamed for criticizing me	1	2	3	4	5	6

B) <i>Imagine your <u>mother</u> yelled at you</i>	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Disagree somewhat	Agree somewhat	Agree	Agree Strongly
1. It was due to something about her- because she was tired, in a bad mood, or because that is the way she is.	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. The reason she yelled at me is not likely to change	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. The reason she yelled at me is something that affects other areas of our relationship	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. She yelled at me on purpose to hurt my feelings	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. My mother was thinking only of herself when she yelled at me	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. My mother deserves to be blamed for yelling at me	1	2	3	4	5	6

A) <i>Imagine you <u>father</u> criticized you</i>	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Disagree somewhat	Agree somewhat	Agree	Agree Strongly
1. It was due to something about him- because he was tired, in a bad mood, or because that is the way he is.	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. The reason he criticized me is not likely to change	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. The reason he criticized me is something that affects other areas of our relationship	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. He criticized me on purpose to hurt my feelings	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. My father was thinking only of himself when he criticized me	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. My father deserves to be blamed for criticizing me	1	2	3	4	5	6

B) <i>Imagine your <u>father</u> yelled at you</i>	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Disagree somewhat	Agree somewhat	Agree	Agree Strongly
1. It was due to something about him- because he was tired, in a bad mood, or because that is the way he is.	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. The reason he yelled at me is not likely to change	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. The reason he yelled at me is something that affects other areas of our relationship	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. He yelled at me on purpose to hurt my feelings	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. My father was thinking only of himself when he yelled at me	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. My father deserves to be blamed for yelling at me	1	2	3	4	5	6

APPENDIX G. PARENTAL AUTHORITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Neutral 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
------------------------	---------------	--------------	------------	---------------------

<i>My mother</i>	<i>My father</i>

- | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| 15. Consistently gives the children in his/her family direction and guidance in rational and objective ways | 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 16. Gets very upset if I try to disagree with him/her | 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 17. Feels that most problems in society would be solved if parents would not restrict their children's activities, decisions, and desires | 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 18. Lets me know what behavior he/she expects of me, and if I don't meet those expectations, punishes me | 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 19. Allows me to decide most things for myself without a lot of direction from him/her | 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 20. Takes the children's opinions into consideration when making family decisions, but does not decide for something simply because the children want it | 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 21. Does not view himself/herself as responsible for directing and guiding my behavior | 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 22. Has clear standards of behavior for the children in our home, but is willing to adjust those standards to the needs of each of the individual children in the family | 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 23. Gives me direction for my behavior and activities and expects me to follow his/her direction, but is always willing to listen to my concerns and to discuss that direction with me | 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 24. Allows me to form my own point of view on family matters and generally allows me to decide for myself what I am going to do | 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 25. Feels that most problems in society would be solved if we could get parents to strictly and forcibly deal with their children when they don't do what they are supposed to | 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 26. Often tells me exactly what he/she wants me to do and how he/she expects me to do it | 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 27. Gives me clear direction for my behaviors and activities, but is also understanding when I disagree with him/her | 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 28. Does not direct the behaviors, activities, and desires of the children in the family | 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 3 4 5 |

Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Neutral 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5		
					<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
					<i>My mother</i>	<i>My father</i>
					1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
					1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

PAQ: Parent Form

Instructions: In this questionnaire, you will read statements about yourself. You will be asked to rate your *own* behavior. For all questions, answer the statement as to how you parented your child who is a college student participating in this study and circle your answer.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5
<hr/>				
Please rate your <i>own</i> behavior toward your child by circling your answer				
1.	I feel that in a well-run home the children should have their way in the family as often as parents do			1 2 3 4 5
2.	Even if children don't agree, I feel that it is for their own good if they are forced to conform to what I think is right			1 2 3 4 5
3.	Whenever I tell him/her to do something, I expect him/her to do it immediately without asking any questions			1 2 3 4 5
4.	Once family policy has been established, I discuss the reasoning behind the policy with the children in the family			1 2 3 4 5
5.	I always encourage verbal give-and-take whenever he/she feels that family rules and restrictions are unreasonable			1 2 3 4 5
6.	I feel that what children need is to be free to make up their own minds and to do what they want to do, even if this does not agree with what their parents might want			1 2 3 4 5
7.	I do not allow him/her to question any decision I have made			1 2 3 4 5
8.	I direct the activities and decisions of the children in the family through reasoning and discipline			1 2 3 4 5
9.	I feel that more force should be used by parents in order to get their children to behave the way they are supposed to			1 2 3 4 5
10.	I do not feel that he/she needs to obey rules and regulations of behavior simply because someone in authority has established them			1 2 3 4 5
11.	He/she knows what I expect of him/her in the family, but he/she also feels free to discuss those expectations when he/she feels that they are unreasonable			1 2 3 4 5
12.	I feel that wise parents should teach their children early just who is boss in the family			1 2 3 4 5
13.	I seldom give him/her expectations and guidelines for his/her behavior			1 2 3 4 5
14.	Most of the time, I do what the children in the family want when making family decisions			1 2 3 4 5
15.	I consistently give the children in my family direction and guidance in rational and objective ways			1 2 3 4 5
16.	I get very upset if he/she tries to disagree with me			1 2 3 4 5

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5
<u>Please rate your <i>own</i> behavior toward your child by circling your answer</u>				
17. I feel that most problems in society would be solved if parents would not restrict their children's activities, decisions, and desires				1 2 3 4 5
18. I let him/her know what behavior I expect of him/her, and if he/she doesn't meet those expectations, I punish him/her				1 2 3 4 5
19. I allow him/her to decide most things for himself/herself without a lot of direction from me				1 2 3 4 5
20. I take the children's opinions into consideration when making family decisions, but I do not decide for something simply because the children want it				1 2 3 4 5
21. I do not view myself as responsible for directing and guiding his/her behavior				1 2 3 4 5
22. I have clear standards of behavior for the children in our home, but I am willing to adjust those standards to the needs of each of the individual children in the family				1 2 3 4 5
23. I give him/her direction for his/her behavior and activities and expect him/her to follow my direction, but I am always willing to listen to his/her concerns and to discuss that direction with him/her				1 2 3 4 5
24. I allow him/her to form his/her own point of view on family matters and generally allow him/her to decide for himself/herself what he/she is going to do				1 2 3 4 5
25. I feel that most problems in society would be solved if we could get parents to strictly and forcibly deal with their children when they don't do what they are supposed to				1 2 3 4 5
26. I often tell him/her exactly what I want him/her to do and how I expect him/her to do it				1 2 3 4 5
27. I give him/her clear direction for his/her behaviors and activities, but I am also understanding when he/she disagrees with me				1 2 3 4 5
28. I do not direct the behaviors, activities, and desires of the children in the family				1 2 3 4 5
29. He/she knows what I expect of him/her in the family and I insist that he/she conforms to those expectations simply out of respect for my authority				1 2 3 4 5
30. If I make a decision in the family that hurts him/her, I am willing to discuss that decision with him/her and to admit it if I make a mistake				1 2 3 4 5

APPENDIX H. LUM EMOTIONAL AVAILABILITY OF PARENTING SCALE

LEAP: Student Form

Instructions: In this questionnaire, you will read statements about your parents. You will be asked to rate your *Mother's* and *Father's* behavior. For all questions, answer the statement as to how each parent acts toward you and circle your answer. Please rate whomever you identified previously (e.g., mother's husband, step-mother etc.) and specify who in the boxes provided.

	Never 1	Rarely 2	Sometimes 3	Often 4	Very Often 5	Always 6
Please rate your <i>Mother's</i> and <i>Father's</i> behavior by circling your answer						
					My mother	My father
1. Supports me					<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
					1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
2. Consoles me when I am upset (Example: Makes me feel better when I am upset)					1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
3. Shows me he/she cares about me					1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
4. Shows a genuine interest in me (Example: Pays attention and is curious about me)					1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
5. Remembers things that are important to me					1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
6. Is available to talk anytime					1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
7. Asks questions in a caring manner					1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
8. Spends extra time with me just because she wants to					1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
9. Is willing to talk about my troubles					1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
10. Pursues talking with me about my interests (Example: Tries to talk to me about what I like)					1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
11. Values my input (Example: cares about my ideas)					1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
12. Is emotionally available to me					1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
13. Makes me feel wanted					1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
14. Praises me (Example: tells me good things about myself)					1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
15. Is understanding					1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6

LEAP: Parent Form

Instructions: In this questionnaire, you will read statements about yourself. You will be asked to rate your *own* behavior. For all questions, answer the statement as to how you act toward your child who is participating in this study and circle your answer.

Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Always
1	2	3	4	5	6

Please rate your *own* behavior toward your child by circling your answer

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Support him/her | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 2. Console him/her when he/she is upset
(Example: Make him/her feel better when he/she is upset) | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 3. Show him/her I care about him/her | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 4. Show a genuine interest in him/her
(Example: Pay attention and am curious about him/her) | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 5. Remember things that are important to him/her | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 6. Am available to talk anytime | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 7. Ask questions in a caring manner | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 8. Spend extra time with him/her just because I want to | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 9. Am willing to talk about his/her troubles | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 10. Pursue talking with him/her about his/her interests
(Example: Try to talk to him/her about what he/she likes) | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 11. Value his/her input
(Example: Care about his/her ideas) | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 12. Am emotionally available to him/her | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 13. Make him/her feel wanted | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 14. Praise him/her
(Example: Tell him/her good things about himself/herself) | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 15. Am understanding | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |

APPENDIX I. INVENTORY OF PARENT AND PEER ATTACHMENT

IPPA

Instructions: In this questionnaire, you will read statements about your parents. You will be asked to rate your agreement with these statements regarding your *Mother* and *Father*. For all questions, answer the statement according to your experiences with each parent and circle your answer. Please rate whomever you identified previously and specify who in the boxes provided.

Strongly Disagree **Disagree** **Neutral** **Agree** **Strongly Agree**
1 **2** **3** **4** **5**

Please rate your views/feelings about your *Mother* and *Father* by circling your answer.

	<i>Mother</i>	<i>Father</i>
1. My parents respect my feelings.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
2. My parents are good parents.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
3. I wish I had different parents.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
4. My parents accept me as I am.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
5. I can't depend on my parents to help me solve a problem.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
6. I like to get my parents' view on things I am worried about.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
7. It does not help to show my feelings when I am upset.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
8. My parents can tell when I'm upset about something.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
9. I feel silly or ashamed when I talk about my problems with my parents.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
10. My parents expect too much from me.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
11. I get upset easily at home (parents' home).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
12. I get upset a lot more than my parents know about.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
13. When I talk about things with my parents, they listen to what I think.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
14. My parents listen to my opinions.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
15. My parents have their own problems, so I don't bother them with mine.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

Strongly Disagree **Disagree** **Neutral** **Agree** **Strongly Agree**
1 **2** **3** **4** **5**

Please rate your views/feelings about your *Mother* and *Father* by circling your answer.

	<i>Mother</i>	<i>Father</i>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
16. My parents help me to understand myself better.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
17. I tell my parents about my problems and troubles.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
18. I feel angry with my parents.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
19. I don't get much attention at home (parents' home).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
20. My parents support me to talk about my worries.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
21. My parents understand me.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
22. I don't know who I can depend on.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
23. When I am angry about something, my parents try to understand.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
24. I trust my parents.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
25. My parents don't understand my problems.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
26. I can count on my parents when I need to talk about a problem.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
27. No one understands me.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
28. If my parents know that I am upset about something, they ask me about it.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

IPPA part 2

Instructions: Please rate your behavior and feelings regarding your *romantic partner*. Rate how much you agree with each statement and circle your answer.

Strongly Disagree **Disagree** **Neutral** **Agree** **Strongly Agree**
1 **2** **3** **4** **5**

Please rate your experience and feelings about your *romantic partner* by circling your answer.

1. I like to get my partner's opinions on things I'm worried about. 1 2 3 4 5
2. My partner can tell when I'm upset about something. 1 2 3 4 5
3. When we talk, my partner listens to my opinion. 1 2 3 4 5
4. I feel silly or ashamed when I talk about my problems with my partner. 1 2 3 4 5
5. I wish I had a different partner. 1 2 3 4 5
6. My partner understands me. 1 2 3 4 5
7. My partner supports me to talk about my worries. 1 2 3 4 5
8. My partner accepts me as I am. 1 2 3 4 5
9. I feel the need to be around my partner more often. 1 2 3 4 5
10. My partner does not understand my problems. 1 2 3 4 5
11. I do not feel like I belong when I am with my partner. 1 2 3 4 5
12. My partner listens to what I have to say. 1 2 3 4 5
13. My partner is a good partner. 1 2 3 4 5
14. My partner is fairly easy to talk to. 1 2 3 4 5
15. When I am angry about something, my partner tries to understand. 1 2 3 4 5
16. My partner helps me to understand myself better. 1 2 3 4 5
17. My partner cares about the way I feel. 1 2 3 4 5
18. I feel angry with my partner. 1 2 3 4 5

Strongly Disagree **Disagree** **Neutral** **Agree** **Strongly Agree**
1 **2** **3** **4** **5**

Please rate your experience and feelings about your *romantic partner* by circling your answer.

19. I can count on my partner to listen to me when something is bothering me. 1 2 3 4 5
20. I trust my partner. 1 2 3 4 5
21. My partner respects my feelings. 1 2 3 4 5
22. I get upset a lot more than my partner knows about. 1 2 3 4 5
23. My partner gets annoyed with me for no reason. 1 2 3 4 5
24. I tell my partner about my problems and troubles. 1 2 3 4 5
25. If my partner knows that I am upset about something, he/she asks me about it. 1 2 3 4 5

APPENDIX J. ABUSE WITHIN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS SCALE

AIRS

Instructions: Please rate how often each of these behaviors have occurred. Circle your answer.

	Once	1-2 times	3-4 times	1-2 times	3-4 times	Once a	More	
Never		a month	a month	a week	a week	day	than once	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	a day	
							7	
1. I have mocked my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. My partner has mocked me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. I have sneered at my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. My partner has sneered at me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. I have criticized my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. My partner has criticized me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. I have purposely insulted my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. My partner has purposely insulted me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9. I have ridiculed my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10. My partner has ridiculed me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11. I have belittled my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12. My partner has belittled me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13. I have degraded my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14. My partner has degraded me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15. I have betrayed my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16. My partner has betrayed me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17. I have deceived my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18. My partner has deceived me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19. I have kept secrets from my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20. My partner has kept secrets from me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21. I have lied to my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22. My partner has lied to me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23. I have blamed my partner for uncontrollable things.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24. My partner has blamed me for uncontrollable things.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25. I have ignored my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

26. My partner has ignored me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
27. I have given my partner the silent treatment.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28. My partner has given me the silent treatment.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29. I have used profanity with my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30. My partner has used profanity with me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31. I have screamed at my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
32. My partner has screamed at me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
33. I have physically attacked my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
34. My partner has physically attacked me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
35. I have had pushing matches with my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
36. My partner has had pushing matches with me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37. I have thrown objects at my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
38. My partner has thrown objects at me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
39. I have used an object to hit my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
40. My partner has used an object to hit me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
41. I have forcefully pushed my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
42. My partner has forcefully pushed me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
43. I have pushed my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
44. My partner has pushed me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
45. I have shoved my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
46. My partner has shoved me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
47. I have forcefully squeezed my partner.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
48. My partner has forcefully squeezed me.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
49. I have grabbed my partner roughly.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
50. My partner has grabbed me roughly.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
51. I have grabbed my partner's arm.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
52. My partner has grabbed my arm.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

APPENDIX K. MARLOWE-CROWNE SOCIAL DESIRABILITY SCALE

Personal Reaction Inventory

Instructions: Listed below are a number of statements concerning personal attitudes and traits. Circle **T** if the statement is true for you or **F** if the statement is false for you.

- T F 1. Before voting, I thoroughly investigate the qualifications of all the candidates.
- T F 2. I never hesitate to go out of my way to help someone.
- T F 3. It is sometimes hard for me to go on with my work if I am not encouraged.
- T F 4. I have never intensely disliked anyone.
- T F 5. On occasion, I have had doubts about my ability to succeed in life.
- T F 6. I sometimes feel resentful when I don't get my way.
- T F 7. I am always careful about my manner of dress.
- T F 8. My table manners at home are as good as when I eat out in a restaurant.
- T F 9. If I could get into a movie without paying and be sure I was not seen, I would probably do it.
- T F 10. On a few occasions, I have given up doing something because I thought too little of my ability.
- T F 11. I like to gossip at times.
- T F 12. There have been times when I felt like rebelling against people in authority even though I knew they were right.
- T F 13. No matter who I'm talking to, I'm always a good listener.
- T F 14. I can remember "playing sick" to get out of something.
- T F 15. There have been occasions when I have taken advantage of someone.
- T F 16. I'm always willing to admit it when I make a mistake.
- T F 17. I always try to practice what I preach.
- T F 18. I don't find it particularly difficult to get along with loud-mouthed, obnoxious people.
- T F 19. I sometimes try to get even rather than forgive and forget.
- T F 20. When I don't know something, I don't at all mind admitting it.
- T F 21. I'm always courteous, even to people who are disagreeable.
- T F 22. At times, I have really insisted on having things my own way.
- T F 23. There have been occasions when I felt like smashing things.
- T F 24. I would never think of letting someone else be punished for my wrongdoings.
- T F 25. I never resent being asked to return a favor.
- T F 26. I have never been irked when people expressed ideas very different from my own.
- T F 27. I never make a long trip without checking the safety of my car.
- T F 28. There have been times when I was quite jealous of the good fortune of others.
- T F 29. I have almost never felt the urge to tell someone off.
- T F 30. I am sometimes irritated by people who ask favors of me.
- T F 31. I have never felt that I was punished without cause.
- T F 32. I sometimes think when people have misfortune they only got what they deserved.
- T F 33. I have never deliberately said something that hurt someone's feelings.

APPENDIX L. INVITATION FOR PARENTS



Department of Psychology

Dear Parent(s),

Greetings from the Department of Psychology at the University of Central Florida! You are being contacted because your son or daughter has elected to participate in a research project and has been asked to forward this information to you so that you can decide whether you would like to participate as well. Some of the information we are hoping to collect can be provided by you alone. Thus, your participation is very important in completing this research.

For this project, we are hoping that you would be willing to complete a packet of questionnaires. You may participate by visiting the following website: <http://www.hostedsurvey.com/home.html>, and entering the following survey code: _____. If you do not have access to a computer, please call 407-823-5219. Paper questionnaires will be mailed to you with a stamped, self-addressed envelope in which to return the questionnaires after you complete them. Regardless of how you choose to participate, any information that you provide will be kept anonymous and none of your responses will be seen by your son or daughter (likewise, you will not be able to see your child's responses). Your answers will be identified only with the number above so that the responses of each of your family members who participated in the project can be linked. Please be assured that electronic data will be stored in a locked filing cabinet and/or computer in a secure Psychology office at the University of Central Florida and will be used for research purposes only. Some of the questions you will be asked are of a delicate nature. You may skip any questions and may discontinue participation at any time. Please know that your responses are necessary to answer our research questions and that we appreciate your taking the time to answer all of the items. This may take about an hour of your time. If you are participating online, you may leave the site and return to continue as many times as you like.

If you have any questions regarding this research, or to request that the questionnaires be mailed to you, please call 407-823-5219. Be assured that this is worthwhile research that seeks to advance our understanding of family conflict. All of these issues affect emerging adults greatly. We would really appreciate it if you could complete our survey. We thank you in advance for considering participating in this research and hope you and your family have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,

Arazais Oliveros, M.S.
Clinical Psychology Doctoral Student

Kimberly Renk, Ph.D.
Associate Professor; Florida Licensed Psychologist

APPENDIX M. CONSENT FORM

CONSENT FORM—Please Keep This For Your Records

PROJECT: Interparental Conflict and Emerging Adults' Attributions
INVESTIGATORS: Arazais Oliveros, M.S., & Kimberly Renk, Ph. D.
CONTACT: Kimberly Renk, Ph.D., 823-2218, krenk@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu
University of Central Florida, Howard Phillips Hall 409G

You are being asked to participate in a project conducted through the Psychology Department at the University of Central Florida. A basic description of the purpose of the project, the procedures to be used, and the potential benefits and risks of participation are provided below. Please read this explanation carefully, and ask any questions prior to signing the form. If you then choose to participate, please check “yes” below. This and filling out the survey constitutes your consent to participate.

The information obtained in this study will be used to evaluate interparental conflict, parent-child relationship characteristics, attributions/beliefs regarding conflict, and romantic relationship conflict. Your participation will consist of completing a packet of questionnaires regarding interparental conflict, parent-child conflict, your own beliefs about conflict, your romantic relationship, and a demographics questionnaire. This may take about an hour of your time (if you are participating online, you may leave the site and return to continue as many times as you like.)

Your responses will be kept anonymous. The surveys you will be completing will be labeled with an identification number only. Questionnaires completed by students and parents will be matched by the identification number, but will be otherwise unidentifiable. Questionnaires will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in a locked psychology laboratory in Howard Phillips Hall. Only research team members who guarantee to maintain the confidentiality of research materials will handle your surveys, which will be anonymous. If you are completing the questionnaires online, your responses will be tied to an identification number and not your name. Thus, your responses will remain anonymous.

By completing the questionnaire, you will be able to learn first-hand what it is like to participate in a research project. You will also increase your awareness of your perceptions of conflict in romantic relationships and in parent-child relationships. There is a minimal risk (i.e., emotional discomfort) associated with participating in this project, given that some of the questions being asked are delicate in nature. Should you have an emotional reaction to any of the material presented in the questionnaires, please notify the faculty investigator listed above. Your participation in this project is completely voluntary, and you have the right to withdraw at any time during the project without penalty.

Information regarding your rights as a research volunteer may be obtained from:

Barbara Ward
Institutional Review Board (IRB)
University of Central Florida (UCF)
12201 Research Parkway, Suite 501
Orlando, Florida 32826-3246
Telephone: (407) 823-2901

If you believe you have been injured during participation in this research project, you may file a claim with UCF Environmental Health & Safety, Risk and Insurance Office, P.O. Box 163500, Orlando, FL 32816-3500 (407) 823-6300. The University of Central Florida is an agency of the State of Florida for purposes of sovereign immunity and the university's and the state's liability for personal injury or property damage is extremely limited under Florida law. Accordingly, the university's and the state's ability to compensate you for any personal injury or property damage suffered during this research project is very limited.

I acknowledge that the benefits and risks involved in this research study have been fully explained to me, and I have been informed that I may withdraw from participation at any time without penalty.

I certify that I am at least 18 years of age and that I agree to participate freely and voluntarily in this research project.

Yes

No

APPENDIX N. DEBRIEFING FORM

DEBRIEFING FORM

PROJECT: Interparental Conflict and Emerging Adults' Attributions
INVESTIGATORS: Arazais Oliveros & Kimberly Renk

Thank you for participating in this research project. This project is being conducted so that we may find out more about the relationship between interparental conflict, parents' attributions of conflict, and emerging adults' attributions regarding conflict in romantic relationships. In your packet of questionnaires, you completed several questionnaires inquiring about your parents' marital conflict, the relationships you had with your parents, and your own beliefs about conflict with your romantic partner. The responses to these questionnaires will be used to explore the relationship between childhood experiences, conflict-related beliefs, and current conflict. It may be that conflict in romantic relationships is managed differently depending on the interpretations made regarding another's behavior, which may stem from the understanding of conflict shaped during childhood. Additional information may be obtained from the characteristics of the parent-child relationship, the first model for social interactions.

If you would like more information about marital conflict and attributions, or the effect of attributions on parenting, please refer to the following sources:

- Fincham, F. D. & Bradbury, T. N. (1991). Cognition in marriage: A program of research on attributions. *Advances in Personal Relationships*, 2, 159-203.
- Fincham, F. D., Harold, G. T., & Gano-Phillips, S. (2000). The longitudinal association between attribution and marital satisfaction: Direction of effects and role of efficacy expectations. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 14, 276-285.
- Okagaki, L. & Bingham, G. E. (2005). Parents' social cognitions and their parenting behaviors. In T. Luster & L. Okagaki (Eds.), *Parenting: An ecological perspective* (pp.129-158). New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

If you have any further questions about this research study, please contact Kimberly Renk, Ph.D., by phone (823-2218) or e-mail (krenk@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu). If you have questions regarding psychological or evaluation services, please contact the Student Counseling Center (if you are a UCF student) or the Community Counseling Clinic (if you are not a UCF student) at the University of Central Florida at 407-823-2052.

APPENDIX O: IRB APPROVAL



University of Central Florida Institutional Review Board
Office of Research & Commercialization
12201 Research Parkway, Suite 501
Orlando, Florida 32826-3246
Telephone: 407-823-2901, 407-882-2012 or 407-882-2276
www.research.ucf.edu/compliance/irb.html

EXPEDITED CONTINUING REVIEW APPROVAL NOTICE

From : UCF Institutional Review Board
FWA00000351, Exp. 5/07/10, IRB00001138

To : Kimberly Renk

Date : October 05, 2007

IRB Number: SBE-06-03881

Study Title: **Interparental Conflict and Emerging Adults' Attributions in Romantic Relationships**

Dear Researcher,

This letter serves to notify you that the continuing review application for the above study was reviewed and approved by the IRB Chair on **10/5/2007** through the expedited review process according to 45 CFR 46 (and/or 21 CFR 50/56 if FDA-regulated).

Continuation of this study has been approved for a one-year period. The expiration date is 10/4/2008. This study was determined to be no more than minimal risk and the category for which this study qualified for expedited review is:

7. Research on individual or group characteristics or behavior (including, but not limited to, research on perception, cognition, motivation, identity, language, communication, cultural beliefs or practices, and social behavior) or research employing survey, interview, oral history, focus group, program evaluation, human factors evaluation, or quality assurance methodologies.

Use of the approved, stamped consent document(s) is required. The new form supersedes all previous versions, which are now invalid for further use. Only approved investigators (or other approved key study personnel) may solicit consent for research participation. Subjects or their representatives must receive a copy of the consent form(s).

All data must be retained in a locked file cabinet for a minimum of three years (six if HIPAA applies) past the completion of this research. Any links to the identification of participants should be maintained on a password-protected computer if electronic information is used. Additional requirements may be imposed by your funding agency, your department, or other entities. Access to data is limited to authorized individuals listed as key study personnel.

To continue this research beyond the expiration date, a Continuing Review Form must be submitted 2 – 4 weeks prior to the expiration date. Use the Unanticipated Problem Report Form or the Serious Adverse Event Form (within 5 working days of event or knowledge of event) to report problems or events to the IRB. Do not make changes to the study (i.e., protocol methodology, consent form, personnel, site, etc.) before obtaining IRB approval. Changes can be submitted for IRB review using the Addendum/Modification Request Form. An Addendum/Modification Request Form **cannot** be used to extend the approval period of a study. All forms may be completed and submitted online at <https://iris.research.ucf.edu>.

On behalf of Tracy Dietz, Ph.D., UCF IRB Chair, this letter is signed by:

Signature applied by Joanne Muratori on 10/05/2007 10:29:04 AM EDT

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