



Attachment Style, Partner Violence & Stalking Behavior

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ATTACHMENT THEORY

- Bowlby (late 60's through 80's)
- Ainsworth, Blehar, Waters, and Wall (late 70's)
- Bartholomew and Horowitz (early 90's)

JOHN BOWLBY

- **expresses the relationship between the amount of time and care a guardian supplies to a child and the self-image that child forms**
- **a lack of confidence may develop if a caregiver is inattentive and rejects the child and that absence may stay with the child throughout development causing negative effects**
- **attachment styles in childhood can serve as predictors for how a relationship may work later in life**





Focus shifts to Adult Attachment

Ainsworth, Blehar, Waters, & Wall

1978

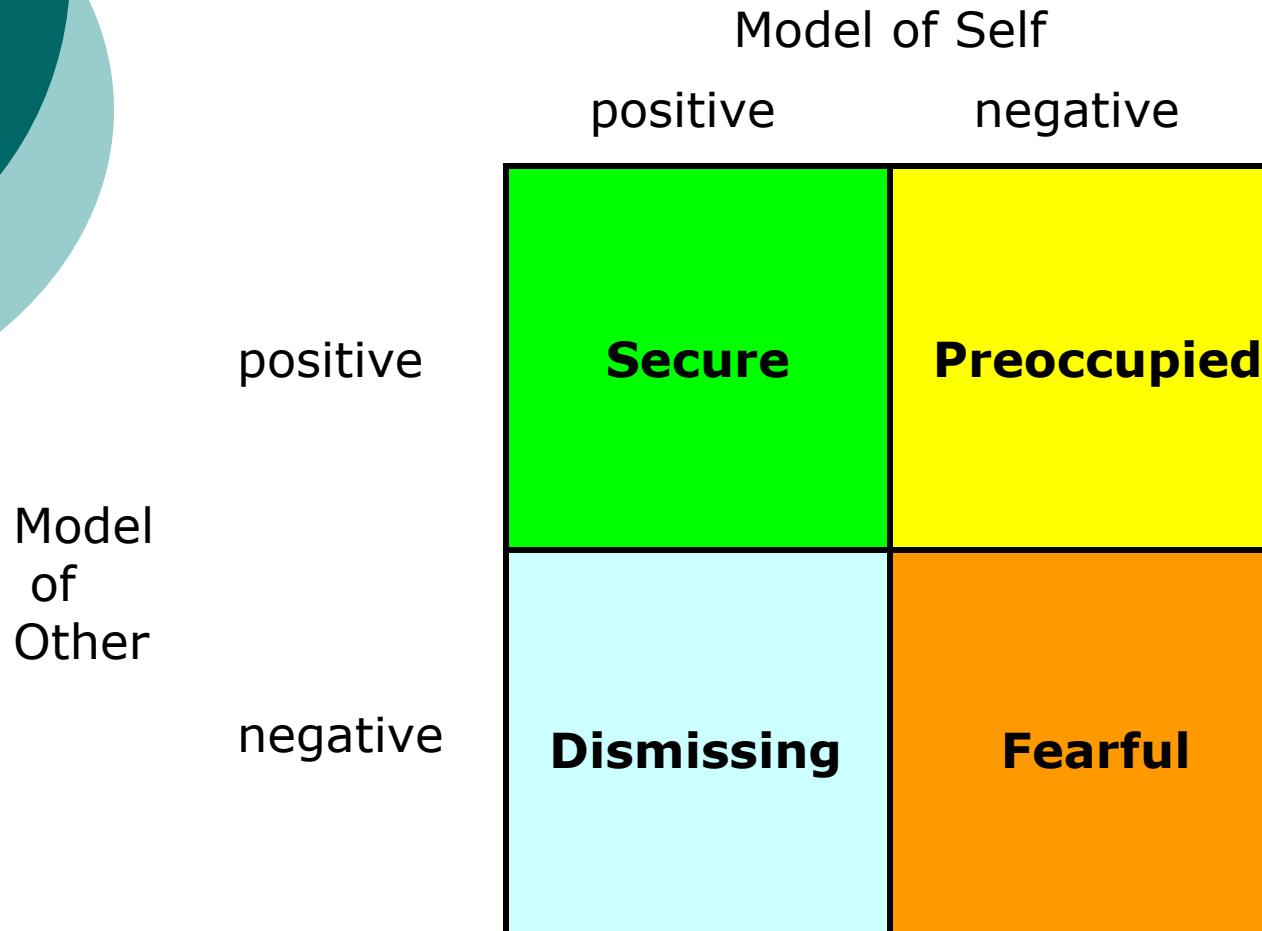
AINSWORTH, BLEHAR, WATERS, AND WALL

- **Secure** adults usually don't worry about being abandoned or about someone getting too close to them
- **Avoidant** adults are sometimes uncomfortable being close to others and find it hard to trust or depend on others
- **Anxious / ambivalent** adults feel that their partner won't stay with them or doesn't really love them so they try to completely fuse with another which may scare partners away

BARTHOLOMEW AND HOROWITZ

- **secure attachment** -positive sense of self-worth plus an expectation that others are trustworthy, reliable, and available
- **dismissing attachment** -positive working model of self, but a highly negative model of others (protects self by avoiding intimacy)
- **preoccupied attachment** -model of the self as unlovable or unworthy, but a positive model of others (show high dependency needs)
- **fearful attachment** -sense of self-unworthiness and a view that others are rejecting, untrustworthy, or unavailable (avoids intimate relationships)

Bartholomew's Model



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **What is it?**
- **Why should we care?**
 - our money:
 - costs the nation from \$5 to \$10 billion annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters and foster care, sick leave, absenteeism, and non-productivity
 - hot topics to research:
 - same sex issues; affect on children (witnesses/abuse); policies/laws; teens in violent relationships; male victims; violence in the workplace; minority differences

STALKING

○ How does it relate?

- it is a continuation of intimate partner violence
- cycle of violence

○ Tjaden and Thoennes (1998)

- first national study on stalking (16,000)
- more females are stalked-8.2 million/2 million
- more males are stalkers
- most victims are between 18-29 years old
- occurs during and after a relationship

ATTACHMENT AND STALKING



Other studies:

- Kraaij, Garnefski, Jan de Wilde, Dijkstra, Gebbhardt, Maes, and ter Doest (2003) -negative life events
- Mikulineer and Florian (1998)-stressful situations
- Roberts and Noller (1998)-communication



The Current Study

- Examines attachment style, relationship conflict tactics and stalking behaviors in a sample of undergraduates
- Main hypothesis:
 - Students with anxious attachment styles will have more trouble with partner violence and stalking behaviors after a break-up



The Sample

- 486 survey sets were distributed to introductory courses in criminal justice, psychology and sociology
- 256 anonymously completed surveys were returned
- This yielded a return rate of 53% without further follow-up

The Instruments

- Attachment style was assessed using the Multi-item Measure of Adult Romantic Attachment (MMARA)
 - Brennan, K.A., Clark, C.L. & Shaver, P.R. (1998)
- 36-item self-report, scored on 7-point Likert scale
 - Disagree strongly to Agree Strongly



The Instruments

- Conflict style was assessed using the Conflict Tactics Scale, 2nd version (CTS-2)
 - Straus, Hamby, Boney-McCoy & Sugarman (1996)
- 39-item, self-report of conflict style
- 39-item report of partner's conflict style

The Instruments

- Stalking behavior were assessed with the Stalking Behavior Checklist (SBC)
 - Coleman, F. (1997), Jnl. Interp. Viol.
- A 29-item, self-report measure of stalking behaviors
- Two factors:
 - Harassing Behaviors
 - Violent Behaviors



The Research Design

- An ***Ex Post Facto Control Group*** design was used by assigning those subjects who indicated that they had never experienced repeated, unwanted attention following a breakup and who had never given repeated, unwanted attention following a breakup to the control/comparison group condition



Experimental Groups

- Subjects who indicated that they were the recipient of repeated, unwanted attention following a breakup were assigned to the “Stalked” group
- Subjects who indicated that they had given repeated, unwanted attention following a breakup were assigned to the “Stalker” group

Results

Gender	Group		
	Control	Stalked	Stalker
Total	131	60	63
Male	55(43)	21(37)	21(34)
Female	73(57)	36(63)	41(66)

Percent in parentheses; Chi Sq N.S.

Results

Race	Group			
	Control	Stalked	Stalker	Total
White	110(87)	53(93)	55(89)	218(89)
Non-White	16(13)	4(7)	7(11)	27(11)

Percentages in parentheses

Results

Mean Age

Group

Control

Stalked

Stalker

Current

19.2

19.04

19.97

At Break-
up

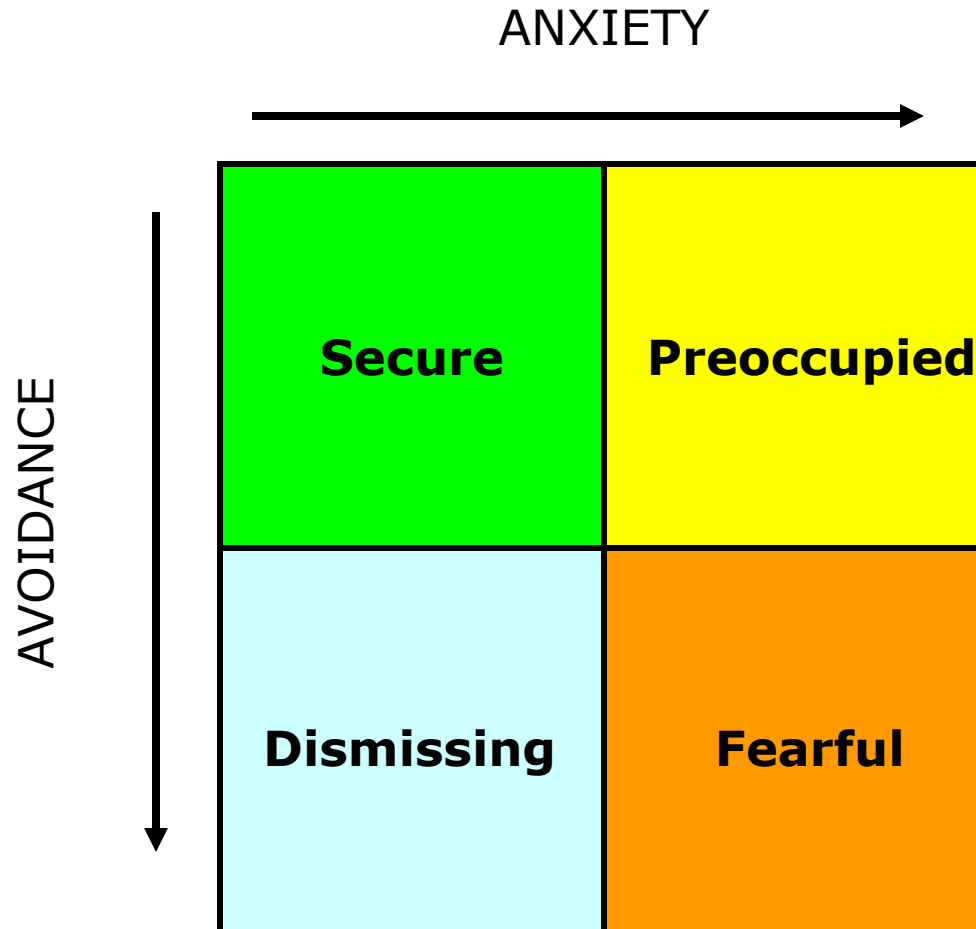
17.3

17.97

Results: MMARA (Attachment)

Avoidance	$F(2,223)=.075$	NS
Anxiety*	$F(2,231)=3.98$	$p<.05$
Secure*	$F(2,223)=3.06$	$p<.05$
Fearful	$F(2,223)=2.49$	NS
Preoccupied*	$F(2,223)=3.46$	$p<.05$
Dismissive	$F(2,223)=1.61$	NS

Bartholomew's Model



Results: CTS-2 Own Behavior

Negotiation	$F(2,246) = 1.43$	NS
Psychological Aggression*	$F(2,247) = 7.76$	$p < .001$
Physical Assault*	$F(2,247) = 3.58$	$p < .05$
Sexual Coercion	$F(2,247) = 1.54$	NS
Injury	$F(2,247) = 1.02$	NS

Results: CTS-2 Partner's Behavior

Negotiation	$F(2,245) = 0.26$	NS
Psychological Aggression*	$F(2,246) = 6.45$	$p < .01$
Physical Assault*	$F(2,247) = 4.59$	$p < .01$
Sexual Coercion	$F(2,244) = 2.9$	NS($p = .057$)
Injury	$F(2,248) = 0.49$	NS



Future Analysis

- Examine relationship between Attachment Style and conflict tactics generally
- For stalked/stalker group examine by attachment style and types of stalking behavior (harassing or violent)

Q&A

