

Dissertations

Newlywed Couples' Marital Satisfaction and Patterns of Cortisol Reactivity and Recovery as a Response to Differential Marital Power

[Download](#)

[SHARE](#)

Mattitiyahu Scott Zimble, University of Massachusetts - Amherst

[Follow](#)

Date of Award
5-2012

Document Type
Open Access Dissertation

Degree Name
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Degree Program
Psychology

First Advisor
Paula Pietromonaco

Second Advisor
Maureen Perry-Jenkins

Third Advisor
Sally Powers

Keywords
Cortisol, Division of Labor, Gender, Perceptions of Fairness, Romantic Relationships

Subject Categories
Psychology | Social Psychology

Abstract
This study investigated the extent to which gender moderates, and perceptions of fairness mediate, the link between marital power and overall marital satisfaction, as well as cortisol stress trajectories in response to marital distress. Study 1 examined a sample of 213 opposite sex newlywed couples from western Massachusetts, and focused on marital satisfaction as the dependent variable. Findings from the structural equation analysis suggested that perceptions of relationship fairness concerning the division of labor completely mediated the association between marital power and marital satisfaction for wives, but not for husbands. These results also implied an association between wives' perceptions of fairness and husbands' marital satisfaction. Study 2 looked at a subsample (N = 158 couples) of newlywed couples and investigated the effect of experiencing marital power on cortisol stress

Enter search terms:

in this series

[Advanced Search](#)

[Notify me via email or RSS](#)

[Browse](#)

[Collections](#)

[Disciplines](#)

[Authors](#)

[Author Corner](#)

[Author FAQ](#)

reactivity and recovery in response to a marital conflict discussion. Findings from the structural equation model suggested a significant association between marital power and stress reactivity & recovery for all participants, with low power wives exhibiting a failure to recover back to baseline levels of stress post-conflict. Methodological and measurement issues pertaining to the study of marital power are discussed, as well as potential implications of this work on future studies related to marital well-being.

Recommended Citation

Zimble, Mattitiyahu Scott, "Newlywed Couples' Marital Satisfaction and Patterns of Cortisol Reactivity and Recovery as a Response to Differential Marital Power" (2012). *Dissertations*. Paper 599.

http://scholarworks.umass.edu/open_access_dissertations/599

This page is sponsored by the [University Libraries](#).

© 2009 [University of Massachusetts Amherst](#) • [Site Policies](#)