

ACCURACY OF THIN SLICE JUDGMENTS OF SAME-SEX COUPLES

By

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THESIS ABSTRACT

Accuracy of Thin Slice Judgments of Same-Sex Couples

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People are surprisingly accurate in making snap judgments about others' personalities, relationships, and even sexual orientations. However, the majority of "accuracy research" has focused on examining heterosexual individuals and couples. The current study is unique in that it employs behavioral observations to examine self-observer agreement among gay male and lesbian couples. Seventy-two gay male couples and 72 lesbian couples were video recorded completing tasks that focused on health issues. All participants provided self-reports of the quality of their relationship and relationship satisfaction. Actor-Partner Interdependence Modeling was used to determine actor and partner effects, with participants' and their partners' self-reports of their relationship quality and satisfaction as predictors of Thin Slice observational ratings. Results indicate that there are actor effects for both gay men and lesbian women on the relationship dimensions of conflict and commitment, suggesting that conflict and commitment can be observed within just 30-seconds of behavioral observation. These findings have implications for social assessments made daily about others' relationships as well as therapeutic interventions.

Keywords: Thin Slice, same-sex couples, relationships, judgment accuracy

Accuracy of Thin Slice Judgments of Same-Sex Couples

Thin Slice judgments are short behavioral observations that can lead one to form opinions about others based on brief observations (Ambady, 2010). Judgments that are made based on these brief observations are surprisingly accurate and important because they allow us to draw conclusions that impact our perceptions of others (Ambady & Gray, 2002). Research suggests that Thin Slice judgments have been able to predict relationship success and dissolution at greater than chance odds (Gottman, Coan, Carrere, & Swanson, 1998). However, this research has focused on heterosexual individuals. This study seeks to examine the accuracy of self-other agreement of Thin Slice behaviors of same-sex couples. The ability to detect potentially successful relationships is important, and may help add to the theoretical understanding of relationships, as well as inform applied research and practice (Waldinger, Schulz, Hauser, Allen, & Crowell, 2004).

Relationship Research Examining Gay Men and Lesbian Women

In heterosexual relationships, research suggests that spouses are a large source of both stress and support (Kurdek, 1988). These findings have been replicated to some extent in studies of same-sex couples. For example, in a study of self-reported sources of social support, findings revealed that the main providers of social support for gay and lesbian individuals consist of friends, their partner, family, and co-workers, respectively (Kurdek, 1988). Because gay and lesbian individuals may receive less social support from family than their heterosexual counterparts, they may be more dependent on their romantic partners for support. Thus, a more complete understanding of the benefits and potential costs of romantic relationships in this population is particularly important (Markey, Markey, Nave, & August, 2014). However, little research has been conducted to examine same-sex couples' relationships.

There are contradicting findings in the literature about whether or not heterosexual and same-sex relationships are similar or dissimilar. Gottman and colleagues (2003) suggest that same-sex relationships operate according to the same guidelines and principles as heterosexual relationships, but Markey and colleagues (2014) point out some ways that relationship dynamics may differ among same-sex couples, when compared to heterosexual relationships. Specifically, findings indicate that lesbian women stress the importance of equality between partners and view affection as important, whereas gay males prioritize autonomy and validation in their romantic relationships (Gottman et al., 2003; Markey et al., 2014). Further, results indicate that the dynamics of gay and lesbian relationships may differ from one another (Markey et al., 2014). Interpersonal problems can exist in both same-sex and heterosexual relationships, but past research suggests that gay men and lesbian women do not differ from each other in overall discord. Given that there is no general consensus in the existing literature, further research should explore same-sex couples' relationship dynamics and interactions.

Self-reports of relationship experiences. When studying relationships, researchers have found that partners' communication is a critical determinant of relationship quality and satisfaction. Nonverbal behavior (e.g., tone of voice) is an essential factor in effective communication in the context of the relationship, suggesting that nonverbal behaviors are vital in expressing emotions in successful relationships (Carton, Kessler, & Pape, 1999). In other words, it may not be entirely what is said, but how it is said. Unhappily partnered heterosexual individuals make greater errors in interpreting nonverbal behavior, compared to happy couples, which may sometimes lead to misconceptions during interactions with their romantic partner (Carton et al., 1999).

Nonverbal decoding skills and relationship well-being may have a bidirectional relationship, and should be tested to see if the findings are consistent in same-sex relationships as well (Carton et al., 1999).

Not only may couples be subject to misinterpret their partners' non-verbal behaviors, which may result in misinterpreting communication with one's romantic partner and relationship dissatisfaction, but couples may also misreport satisfaction when asked in a global sense. In relevant research, Kenny and Acitelli (2001) found that accuracy of relationship judgments were stronger for variables that were less central to the definition of the romantic relationship (i.e., "To what extent do you have a sense of 'belonging' with your partner?"); findings revealed that the more a judgment is made with regard to the relationship on the whole, the less accurate the judgment (Kenny & Acitelli, 2001). Moreover, it is similarly important to determine the accuracy of others' reporting about these same global relationship variables because our opinions not only shape our perceptions, but also influence subsequent behavior towards others in social contexts. Determining which judgments are inconsistent among self and other reports will further knowledge in understanding relationships. The ability for both the individuals in the relationship, and those outside of the relationship (e.g., friends and clinicians), to detect potentially successful same-sex romantic relationships is important, and could not only ultimately help prevent couples' distress, but may even improve their relationship quality if applied to therapeutic interventions (Waldinger et al., 2004).

Others' reports of relationship experiences. In one study, Gottman and colleagues (1998) examined judges' ability to predict relationship satisfaction based on video-taped interactions of heterosexual couples. The researchers used audio-video tapes

of heterosexual couples during a conflict-ridden conversation. Results showed that raters were accurate at predicting the heterosexual relationships that would fail up to 9 years after follow-up with 80% accuracy (Gottman et al., 1998). In addition to determining relationship satisfaction and dissolution in heterosexual couples, Gottman and colleagues (2003) have observed same-sex couples' interactions. This research examined 20 gay male and 20 lesbian couples during three different videotaped conversations for a total of 15 minutes. Data collected included self-report, behavioral (i.e., The Specific Affect Coding System, developed to study communication), and physiological measures. The study concluded that same-sex relationships operate on the same guidelines and principles as heterosexual relationships (Gottman et al., 2003). Furthermore, Gottman and colleagues (2003) noted that contempt, disgust, and defensiveness were related to lower relationship satisfaction.

As mentioned, behavioral observations have shown to be accurate at predicting the heterosexual relationships that will ultimately fail with 80% accuracy (Gottman et al., 1998). In a follow-up study, judges were able to predict the heterosexual couples that would stay together after five years at 81% accuracy from observations of men's emotions and 83% accuracy using women's emotions (Waldinger et al., 2004). This research supports the belief that observers are able to make accurate judgments about the romantic relationships of others when presented with brief interactions using emotional and behavioral cues, and can even make subsequent predictions about subsequent relationship success or dissolution. A practical implication of Thin Slice relationship research includes assessing whether clinicians possess the ability to determine almost immediately whether there are problems in a relationship based on brief observations.

This may allow them to immediately treat issues with the hopes of preventing relationship distress and dissatisfaction. Moreover, knowledge of whether or not friends can detect whether there are issues in a relationship can help to tailor peer interventions to relieve relationship distress, especially among LGBT individuals, given the important role of friendships in their social support system.

Importance of Thin Slice Research

Research suggests that we process social information on two distinct levels (Frith & Frith, 2008). There are explicit processes, in which we carefully think about the decisions we are making and deliberate on why we are making particular judgments. In contrast, implicit processes are used when we intuitively make a decision without much awareness or reflection (Frith & Frith, 2008). Thin Slice judgments use intuitive, implicit processes (Ambady, 2010); these judgments are automatic impressions that we form of others with relatively no deliberation and are not influenced by processes that normally tax cognitive or attentional resources (Ambady, 2010). The Zero Acquaintance Paradigm states that people are accurate at making judgments about strangers on a variety of dimensions, which suggests that even when an observer does not have a relationship with the person they are observing, they are still capable of making assumptions and accurate judgments about that person (Carroll & Gilroy, 2002).

Remarkably, Thin Slice ratings by untrained judges can predict an assortment of other constructs with impressive accuracy. Studies have shown Thin Slice ratings can be correct in terms of detecting the following: pathological personality traits after 30-seconds (Friedman, Oltmanns, & Turkheimer, 2007); extraversion, openness, and conscientiousness from observations of a room or office (Gosling, Jin Ko, Morris, &

Mannarelli, 2002); teachers' job competency in comparison to ratings by students, peers, and supervisors (Ambady & Rosenthal, 1993); positive affect, negative affect, neuroticism, extraversion, conscientiousness, and intelligence after 30-seconds (Carney et al., 2007); divorce of newlyweds over a six year period based on conflict-ridden conversation (Carrere & Gottman, 1999); and sexual orientation (Rule & Ambady, 2008).

Research suggests that the greater the observability of the behavior, the greater the accuracy of the observer (Holleran & Mehl, 2008). For example, the personality trait extraversion is an easy construct to observe, and consequently, is easy for judges to assess, while the personality trait agreeableness, on the other-hand, can be very challenging to detect (Carney, Colvin, & Hall, 2007). In addition to observability, research suggests that negative affect can be detected more accurately than positive affect; an evolutionary advantage for the difference in accuracy for these constructs has been proposed (Carney et al., 2007).

Research indicates that accuracy will improve as deliberation declines, which suggests that using the Thin Slice methodology may yield more accurate judgments than longer behavioral ratings (Ambady, 2010). For instance, Carney, Colvin, and Hall (2007) found that judgments of positive and negative affect, the Big Five personality traits, and intelligence can be accurately identified after merely 20 seconds of watching an audio-video recording. Specifically, this study noted that in just five seconds, judges could accurately predict negative affect, neuroticism, openness, and intelligence at greater than chance odds (Carney et al., 2007). Bias can represent an attempt by a perceiver to "fill in the blanks" when there is not enough information to make an educated judgment on evidence alone (Kenny & Acitelli, 2001). Thus, it is essential to explore bias in

judgments as they relate to stigmatized populations to determine if perceiver stereotypes can impact accuracy when perceiving same-sex couples (Kenny & Acitelli, 2001).

As stated, research has shown that behavioral observations can be used to predict relationship satisfaction (Gottman et al., 1998; Gottman et al., 2003). However, research has yet to examine dyadic interactions of stigmatized couples, particularly same-sex couples, using the Thin Slice method to predict judgments of relationship experiences and satisfaction.

Importance of Gay and Lesbian Thin Slice Research

Members of stigmatized minority groups, such as same-sex couples, may encounter challenges not present among members of non-stigmatized groups. For example, stigmatized groups, such as gay men and lesbian women, may experience rejection, lack of acceptance, and targeted physical and verbal abuse (Skidmore, Linsenmeier, & Bailey, 2006). Research suggests that gay and lesbian individuals can recognize one another in social interactions implicitly and communicate with one another without others knowing. This perceptual accuracy is an exceptional skill that is thought to be an “intuitive phenomenon,” with an evolutionarily adaptive value (Carroll & Gilroy, 2002). Thin Slices of behavior only provide observers with a small amount of information, most of which requires the observer to rely on nonverbal cues (e.g., gestures, tone of voice, gaze, etc.), to make implicit judgments in social contexts. In the extant Thin Slice literature, as it relates to gay men and lesbian women, research has concentrated on the accuracy of determining others’ sexual orientation. Specifically, research by Rule and Ambady (2008) found that sexual orientation can be detected at 50-milliseconds based on still photographs shown to undergraduate judges. Additionally,

sexual orientation could also be detected across cultures (e.g., Americans were able to detect sexual the orientation of individuals from the Czech Republic) at better than chance accuracy after viewing 10-second video clips, and observing videos increased accuracy over still photographs of those rated (Valentova, Rieger, Havlicek, Linsenmeier, & Bailey, 2011). However, no research has been performed among same-sex couples using the Thin Slice paradigm. The present study aims to shed light on perceptual accuracy of verbal and nonverbal communication among gay and lesbian individuals interacting with their partners.

Actor-Partner Interdependence Models

To address whether or not judgments made about same-sex couples' relationships are accurate, Actor-Partner Interdependence Modeling was utilized. Actor-Partner Interdependence Models (APIM; Kenny, Kashy, & Cook, 2008) are statistical methods that make it possible to examine how an individual's predictor variable simultaneously and independently relates to his or her own criterion variable, as well as to his or her partner's criterion variable (Markey & Markey, 2010). In this context, an APIM can be used to examine how Thin Slice ratings of behavior are associated with self-reports and individuals' partners' reports of a variety of relationship constructs.

Figure 1 depicts a representative APIM with dyads (e.g., Person A and Person B) and two variables, X (e.g., love) and Y (e.g., Thin Slice ratings of love), for each dyad member. For example, in this model the association between Person A's love and Person A's Thin Slice ratings of love are called the "actor effect." In the current study, the actor effects represent the association between Person A's self-reported love and Person A's Thin Slice ratings of love, as indicated by judges. In Figure 1, the association between Person A's X (e.g., love) variable and Person B's Y (e.g., Thin Slice ratings of love)

variable is called the “partner effect.” The partner effect in the current study is represented by the association between Person A’s love and Person B’s Thin Slice rating of love, as indicated by judges. Both the actor and partner effects can be estimated using standardized coefficients (i.e., partial correlations) and interpreted in a manner similar to Pearson’s r correlation. Analyses were performed for the all relationship constructs (e.g., conflict, global relationship satisfaction, and commitment) as they were performed in the above example for love. Previous research has found a connection between self-reported constructs and Thin Slice observations of behavior; therefore, I expect actor effects to be significant and positive. Given the lack of dyadic Thin Slice research, the partner effect analyses in this experiment are exploratory.

Analytic Approach

Associations between judges’ Thin Slice scores and the participants’ and their partners’ self-reported scores were examined. Given the importance of understanding relationships, this study examined individuals’ and their partners’ self-reported relationship constructs (i.e., love, conflict, global relationship satisfaction, and relationship commitment) and Thin Slice behavioral ratings of relationship constructs to determine patterns of association. The hypotheses that can be tested for each effect yielded by the APIM (i.e., actor effect and partner effect) for both sets of couples (gay men and lesbian women) are presented below.

- 1) Actor effect: Consistent with past research indicating an association between self-reported ratings and behavioral ratings on a number of dimensions, I expect participants’ own self-reported love to be positively related to Thin Slice behavioral observations about love made by judges, even when controlling for

their romantic partners' self-reported love (i.e., paths A and A' in Figure 1 will be significant and positive). The same analyses will be used to examine associations between self-reports and Thin Slice behavioral ratings of conflict, global relationship satisfaction, and relationship commitment and a positive relationship is hypothesized for the remaining self-reported and Thin Slice constructs.

- 2) Partner effect: Given the lack of dyadic Thin Slice research on relationship satisfaction, partner effect analyses in this experiment are exploratory. However, I predict that participants' romantic partners' self-reports of relationship love will be positively related to individuals' Thin Slice behavioral ratings, even after controlling for their own self-reported relationship love (i.e., paths P and P' in Figure 1 will be significant and positive). The same analyses will be used to examine associations between partners' self-reports and individuals' Thin Slice behavioral ratings of conflict, global relationship satisfaction, and relationship commitment and a positive relationship is hypothesized for the remaining self-reported and Thin Slice constructs.

Method

Participants

Seventy-two gay male couples and 72 lesbian couples participated in the Couples' Health Study, which involved exploring romantic relationships and health among same-sex couples. The mean age for gay men was 34.13 years ($SD = 12.31$), and ranged from 19 to 71 years. On average, the participating gay male couples were romantically involved for 6.47 years ($SD = 9.97$ years). The mean age for lesbian women was 33.32 years ($SD = 10.21$), and ranged from 18 to 65 years. On average, the participating lesbian

couples were romantically involved for 4.64 years ($SD = 4.41$ years). Couples were required to have been in a committed relationship with one another for at least six months in order to participate. Behavioral coding could only be completed for 63 gay male couples ($n = 126$) and 47 lesbian couples ($n = 94$) due to issues with video quality.

Participants were recruited through Rutgers University-Camden and the surrounding areas by advertisements and referrals (i.e., snowball sampling). The study is cross-sectional; participants only came into the lab to complete the study with their partner on one occasion. In return for their participation, couples were compensated \$100.

Procedures

Participants came to the Healthy Development laboratory at Rutgers-Camden with their partners to participate in the Couples' Health Study. Physical health, demographic, and self-report questionnaire data were collected from the participants. Members of each couple filled out paper questionnaires separate from one another, then were reunited to complete structured health tasks. Interactions of the participants performing the health task with their partner were videotaped upon consent. The entire procedure took about 1.5 hours to complete, with time at the end for questions and referrals, if necessary. Rutgers' Institutional Review Board approved the study.

Health Tasks. Upon completing study surveys separately, participants were reunited with their partners to complete a health task. The lesbian couples completed one task, a body image task. The gay male couples completed two tasks, a health goals task and the body image task. The *Health Goals Task* consisted of the partners coming up with three health goals along with a way that their partner could help them accomplish

each of those goals. The gay male couples, but not lesbian couples, were asked to work together to come up with three goals each, and to then rank both of their goals on a numerical scale from 1, being the most, to 6, being the least, in order of importance (e.g., one partner's goal to quit smoking may have been ranked number one as opposed to their partner's goal to stop drinking soda may have ranked number four, given the relative importance of the goals; Appendix A). Both the lesbian and gay couples completed a *Body Image Task*, which consisted of the participants looking at the Contour Drawings Rating Scale (Thompson & Gray, 1995) and discussing with their partners their current and desired body type, as well as their partner's observed weight and desired weight (Appendix B and Appendix C). There was no time constraint on the length of the task, but those who finished before five minutes were asked to discuss their answers further to obtain a sufficient amount of behavioral data.

Behavioral coding. Undergraduate research assistants working in the Personality, Health, and Behavior Laboratory at Rutgers University-Camden coded the videotaped interactions. The untrained undergraduate judges signed a confidentiality agreement prior to viewing any videotaped interactions. Because the gay men completed two tasks, the tasks were counterbalanced. In other words, every other audio-video of the gay male couples started with the opposite task than the previous audio-video. Thus, judges viewed both types of health tasks for the gay male couples and only the body image task for the lesbian couples.

Eight judges coded each interaction; four judges assessed each participant at the individual level. Prior to watching the videos in separate rooms from one another in the Personality, Health, and Behavior lab, research assistants indicated at random whether

they would observe the participant on the left or the participant on the right during the interaction, prior to seeing the couple. Research assistants then set an online stop-watch timer that alerted them when the video had been playing for 30-seconds. Once the 30-seconds passed, the judge then paused the video to complete a Thin Slice impression questionnaire form on Google Forms (Appendix H).

Measures

Relationship satisfaction. Relationship satisfaction is used as an umbrella term in the context of this study and is operationalized by different measures in this study, which assessed the amount of love, conflict, global relationship satisfaction, and commitment present in the relationship and observed interaction. The Marital Interaction Scale (Braiker & Kelley, 1979) was given to each individual member of the couple to measure the amount of love (e.g., “How attached do you feel to your partner?”) and conflict (e.g., “How often do you and your partner argue with each other?”) present in the relationship (Appendix D). Responses were formatted on a 9-point Likert scale ranging from 1 “not at all” to 9 “very much.” For reliability analyses, correlations were used in analyses for constructs with only items variables, whereas alphas were reported for constructs with more than two items. Reliability analyses revealed $\alpha = .56$ for self-reported love and $r = .27, p < .05$ for self-reported conflict for gay males and $\alpha = .63$ for self-reported love and $r = .45, p < .05$ for self-reported conflict for lesbian women. Overall, the Marital Interaction Scale is comprised of 15 items, of which 5 questions (i.e., 3 questions for love and 2 questions for conflict) were chosen for analysis (see Table 1). These five items were used because they were behaviorally coded by research assistants using the Thin Slice method.

One question from the Attitudes on Body, Self, and Partner Scale (Markey & Markey, 2010; Appendix E), created specifically for the Couples Health Study, was chosen to evaluate participants' global satisfaction in their romantic relationship (e.g., "Overall, how satisfied would you say that you currently are with your romantic relationship?"). The question was formatted on a 9-point Likert scale ranging from 1 "not very satisfied" to 9 "very satisfied." This global relationship satisfaction question was included to ensure the construct validity of the overall satisfaction of each participant in terms of their romantic relationship.

Commitment. The Multiple Determinants of Relationship Commitment Inventory (MDRCI; Kurdek, 1995) is a 30-item scale used to assess one's relationship commitment (e.g., "One advantage to my relationship is that my partner and I have a lot in common and can talk to each other easily."). The scale assesses commitment using six factors: 1) rewards of the relationship, 2) costs of the relationship, 3) the degree to which the relationship matches expectations, 4) attractiveness of alternatives, 5) barriers to exiting the relationship, and 6) investments in the relationship (Appendix F). Responses were formatted on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 "Disagree strongly" to 5 "Agree strongly." Kurdek (1995) tested this measure on both same-sex and heterosexual couples and found it to be effective in measuring relationship commitment for both populations. Four items (see Table 1) were used to behaviorally assess the interaction between the couple using the Thin Slice method. Thus, these same four items were used as a self-report of participants' commitment. The self-reported MDRCI items resulted in $\alpha = .49$ for gay men and $\alpha = .60$ for lesbian women.

Coding tools. Questions were selected from the scales above due to their observability and behavioral relevance. Items were compiled to make the Thin Slice coding Google Form (Appendix H). Questions were re-worded for ease of observer interpretation. For instance, “How attached do you feel to your partner?” was changed to “Seems attached/close to his/her partner.” A comparison of the survey items that participants completed and the items that coders judged participants on are included in Table 1. Observer responses were obtained via computer survey on Google Forms. A strict protocol was put in place and located next to all of the computers to increase consistency and accuracy of behavioral ratings among the judges (Appendix I). A video checklist was also created to ensure that judges noted any potential issues with videos (e.g., participants did not speak loud enough) to determine whether the data from any of the videos should be excluded from analyses, and to remind coders of the steps in the coding process (Appendix J). The survey was compiled to be a forced choice Likert scale to guarantee that all Thin Slice judgments were answered by the judges. All thin slice ratings had to have predetermined cut-off of an inter-rater reliability of $\alpha = .80$ in order to be included in the analyses. Recodes were only used when they produced results that were higher than the first coding attempt. A total of 22 recodes were performed for gay males and lesbian women combined. There were 16 recodes for gay male couples, and 6 recodes for lesbian couples. Twelve recodes were used in subsequent analyses for gay males and six were used for the lesbian women. Four videos used the original behavioral ratings as opposed to the recodes. The overall inter-rater reliability for thin slice ratings were notably high for both gay males ($\alpha = .94$) and lesbian women ($\alpha = .93$).

APIM Results

Gay men and lesbian women's data were analyzed separately. Multilevel modeling was used to test a series of APIMs predicting Thin Slice judgments for love, conflict, global relationship satisfaction, and relationship commitment for actor effects and partner effects.

Gay males

This model was used to simultaneously test the unique contributions of actor relationship constructs and partner relationship constructs in predicting Thin Slice judgments of relationship satisfaction. The actor effect $t(61) 0.081, p = .94; r = .01$ and partner effect $t(61) 1.142, p = .26; r = .14$ for love were not statistically significant (see table 2 for a comparison of all correlations; also see Figure 2). The actor effect for conflict was statistically significant $t(61) 2.466, p = .02; r = .30$, but the partner effect was not significant $t(61) 1.651, p = .10; r = .21$ (see Figure 3). The actor effect for global relationship satisfaction approached significance $t(61) 1.893, p = .06; r = .24$, but the partner effect $t(61) 1.023, p = .31; r = .13$ was not statistically significant (see Figure 4). Finally, the actor effect for commitment was statistically significant $t(61) 2.421, p = .02; r = .30$, whereas the partner effect was not $t(61) 0.984, p = .33; r = .12$ (see Figure 5). In conclusion, actor effects were statistically significant for conflict and commitment, and the findings were approaching significance for the actor effect for global relationship satisfaction and the partner effects for conflict.

Lesbian women

Neither the actor effect $t(42) 0.341, p = .74; r = .05$, nor partner effect for love $t(42) 0.820, p = .42; r = .13$, were statistically significant (see table 2 for a comparison of all correlations; also see Figure 6). The actor effect for conflict $t(42) 2.438, p = .02; r =$

.35 was statistically significant, but the partner effect $t(42) 1.150, p = .26; r = .18$ was not statistically significant (see Figure 7). In terms of global relationship satisfaction, neither the actor effect $t(42) 0.861, p = .39; r = .13$ nor the partner effect $t(42) 1.115, p = .27; r = .17$ was statistically significant (see Figure 8). Finally, there was a significant actor effect $t(42) 2.058, p = .05; r = .30$ for relationship commitment, but not for the partner effect $t(42) 1.367, p = .18; r = .21$ (see Figure 9). In summary, actor effects were significant for conflict and commitment, suggesting that there is a relationship between self-report and Thin Slice judgments of conflict and commitment.

Discussion

The current study has been able to establish that observers are able to detect conflict and commitment, important components of relationship experiences among gay and lesbian couples, after just 30-seconds of observation. Our first hypothesis was supported for conflict and commitment, but our second hypothesis was not; partner effects were not predictive of our measure of global relationship constructs. Findings were similar across relationship constructs for gay males and lesbian women, consistent with previous relationship research predicting relationship dissolution with relatively the same accuracy when using men or women's emotions as predictors (Waldinger et al., 2004; see Table 2). Additionally, the findings from this study suggest that although couples are in relationships with another individual, only their own perception of their relationship was significantly related to Thin Slice judgments of relationship constructs made by observers. Thin Slice behavioral observations are representative of social interactions outside of the laboratory, when one is provided with limited information and is left to make judgments in social contexts.

Love. Associations among Thin Slice ratings of love and self-report ratings were similar for gay males and lesbian women. There were no statistically significant actor or partner effects for Thin Slice ratings of love. Research suggests that the greater the observability of the behavior, the greater the accuracy of the observer (Holleran & Mehl, 2008). There may not be an observed effect because love may be a difficult construct to observe. Love is often described as a complex emotional experience with a myriad of variations (Sternberg & Weis, 2006). Both environmental and social circumstances play a role in one's romantic receptiveness, which may differ across people and contexts (Sternberg & Weis, 2006). Because of individual differences, the subjective experience of love, and the fact that many people fall in love with different degrees of intensity than others (Sternberg & Weis, 2006), love may have been too difficult for judges to implicitly detect.

Conflict. Gay men and lesbian women had statistically significant effects for the actor, but not for the partner ratings of conflict, which is consistent with previous APIM research examining conflict among heterosexual couples (Smith, Heaven, & Ciarrochi, 2008). In other words, there is a relationship between Person A's conflict and Person A's Thin Slice rating of conflict but not for Person A's conflict and Person B's Thin Slice rating of conflict. As previously stated, conflict is a good predictor of declines in relationship satisfaction, and eventual dissolution (Smith, Heaven, & Ciarrochi, 2008). Conflict is also a construct that may be easily observed and agreed upon by those outside of the relationship. Given that constructs that are more easily observed (e.g., extraversion) are more accurately judged than those that are not (e.g., agreeableness), and conflict may be particularly visible, thus resulting in significant effects. Furthermore,

research states that negative affect is more accurately detected than positive affect (Carney et al., 2007), which could explain the difference in perceptual accuracy between judges' love and conflict ratings.

Global relationship satisfaction. In terms of global relationship satisfaction, there were no statistically significant effects for the actor or partner analyses for lesbian women, but actor effects for gay males were approaching significance ($p = .06$). The results are consistent with the literature and suggest that individuals may be particularly adept when it comes to reporting on their global relationship satisfaction, particularly when the questions asked are central to the definition of the relationship (i.e., "How happy are you in your current romantic relationship?"). Results from the current study and previous research suggest it is essential to also ask specific questions when assessing relationship satisfaction (Kenny & Acitelli, 2001). Furthermore, more specific questions may result in increased accuracy.

Commitment. Both gay men and lesbian women had statistically significant effects for the actor, but not for the partner effects for relationship commitment. It is not entirely clear what aspects of relationship commitment would have been visible to judges observing couples. But, it is likely that couples who were in longer-term, more committed relationships were more comfortable around each other. Subsequently, this comfort may have been discerned by the judges. Given the nature of costs and rewards (i.e., barriers and investments respectively) associated with relationship commitment, it may have been easy for members of the relationship, as well as judges, to make implicit judgments using an economic-related gains and losses approach; thus, resulting in agreement. Moreover, commitment may be a construct that is more behaviorally salient,

resulting in greater observability. Given that past research using the Multiple Determinants of Relationship Commitment Inventory (MDRCI) noted that gay and lesbian couples had similar scores when compared to their heterosexual counterparts, commitment may have been detected because it looks similar across sexual orientations (Kurdek, 1995).

Limitations

The current findings are novel in a variety of ways, but also limited in ways worth noting. Although there was a small, unequal sample size for gay men ($n = 122$) and lesbian women ($n = 84$), the sample is larger than those in previously published behavioral relationship (e.g., 20 gay male and 20 lesbian couples; Gottman et al., 2003). It would have been optimal if both sets of couples performed the exact same behavioral tasks. Gay males performed both a health goals and body image task, whereas lesbians only performed a body image task. Although this is a limitation, it may also extend the external validity of the study by demonstrating that the observations were consistent regardless of the task. Another concern is that participants may have felt anxious about being recorded, thus altering their behavior from what it may have been in a naturalistic setting. Future research could attempt to allow the participants to get even more comfortable with the setting beyond the five minute acclimation period, or examine behavioral observations from a later start point in the interaction. Although the current study only observed participants performing two structured health tasks, future research should examine participants performing less structured tasks to improve generalizability to external settings.

In regards to analysis, low reliability of self-reported measures is a limitation, but can be attributed to the relatively low number of questions analyzed; each scale only had between two and four items included in the reliability analyses. However, this means that any effects found may actually underestimate relations between these variables (i.e., more reliable measures are more likely to produce significant results).

Conclusions and Implications

For the first time, Thin Slices of behavior were analyzed to determine if untrained observers can detect relationship satisfaction in a stigmatized, understudied population. For same-sex couples, others' detection of relationship satisfaction, or dissatisfaction, may have implications for their well-being, social interactions, and social support systems. For instance, if a negative implicit judgment is made in regards to a couples' relationship, their friends may be less likely to spend time with them to avoid observing the couples' conflict, which in turn may result in less social support- a crucial component of well-being among gay and lesbian individuals (Kurdek, 1988). Given that judges are able to detect conflict in same-sex relationships, individuals may be able to use these findings to tailor peer interventions for friends in conflictual relationships. Detection of conflict by untrained judges could help relieve relationship distress and dissatisfaction by acknowledging tension sooner. Furthermore, given that conflict was easily detectible across untrained judges in a stigmatized population, hopes are that conflict can be detected even more accurately by trained relationship or marriage counselors. Conversely, individuals working on issues in their relationship may be able to improve their social networks by improving their own self-knowledge about the impressions that they make on others (Vazire & Carlson, 2011).

In conclusion, conflict and commitment can be detected in same-sex couples in just 30-seconds, using Thin Slices of behavioral observations. Results add to the existing literature by suggesting that even after just briefly observing others, individuals can implicitly make apt judgments about others' romantic relationships.

Table 1

Thin Slice Item Comparison

Thin Slice Item	Actual Questionnaire Wording	Item Type	Name of Actual Scale
Is satisfied with his/her relationship	“Overall, how satisfied are you with your romantic relationship?”	Global Relationship Satisfaction	Attitudes on Body, Self, and Partner
Seems attached/close to his/her partner	“How attached do you feel to your partner?”	Love	Marital Interaction Scale
Puts a lot of effort into his/her relationship	“How much do you feel you “give” to the relationship?”	Love	Marital Interaction Scale
Seems like he/she has a sense of belonging with his/her partner	“To what extent do you have a sense of ‘belonging’ with your partner?”	Love	Marital Interaction Scale
Tries to change things about his/her partner that bothers him/her	“To what extent do you try to change things about your partner that bother you (behaviors, attitudes, etc.)?”	Conflict	Marital Interaction Scale
There is tension/conflict between the partners**	“How often do you and your partner argue with each other?”	Conflict	Marital Interaction Scale
Would find it difficult to leave his/her partner	“It would be difficult to leave my partner because of the emotional pain involved.”	Commitment	Relationship Commitment
Couple has a lot in common and can talk easily**	“One advantage to my relationship is that my partner and I have a lot in common and can talk to each other easily.”	Commitment	Relationship Commitment
Thinks he/she puts more into the relationship than his/her partner	“I put more in my relationship than I get out of it.”	Commitment	Relationship Commitment
Finds his/her relationship rewarding	“Overall, I derive a lot of rewards and advantages from being in my relationship.”	Commitment	Relationship Commitment

**** Items were coded for the Couple**

Table 2

Summary of APIM Results

	<u>Gay Males</u>	<u>Lesbian Women</u>
<u>Love</u>		
Actor	.01	.05
Partner	.14	.13
<u>Conflict</u>		
Actor	.30*	.35*
Partner	.21 ⁺	.18
<u>Global Relationship Satisfaction</u>		
Actor	.24 ⁺	.13
Partner	.13	.17
<u>Commitment</u>		
Actor	.30*	.30*
Partner	.12	.21

Note: $n = 61$ gay male couples and $n = 42$ lesbian couples; Associations marked with an asterisk (*) were significant at $p \leq .05$, associations marked with a plus sign (+) were significant at $p \leq .10$.

List of Appendices

- A. Health Goals Task
- B. Body Image Task for Gay Males
- C. Body Image Task for Lesbian Women
- D. The Marital Interaction Scale
- E. The Attitudes on Body, Self, and Partner Scale
- F. Multiple Determinants of Relationship Commitment Inventory
- G. Background Information Questionnaire
- H. Thin Slice Coding Form
- I. Protocol
- J. Video Checklist

Appendix A

Health Goals Task

Partner 1

1) _____
How could you and your partner work together to accomplish this goal? Rank

2) _____
How could you and your partner work together to accomplish this goal? Rank

3) _____
How could you and your partner work together to accomplish this goal? Rank

Partner 2

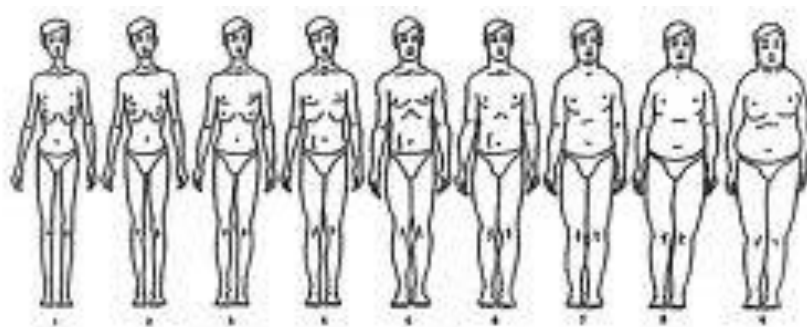
1) _____
How could you and your partner work together to accomplish this goal? Rank

2) _____
How could you and your partner work together to accomplish this goal? Rank

3) _____
How could you and your partner work together to accomplish this goal? Rank

Appendix B

Contour Drawing Rating Scale (Thompson & Gray, 1995)



Men: For the following questions, please look at the below pictures. To answer the questions, circle the number of the figure that is your answer.

Which figure looks most like you?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Which figure would you like to look like?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Which figure do you think your partner would like you to look like?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Which figure do you think your partner thinks you look like?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Which figure looks most like the average person?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Which figure looks most attractive?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Which figure looks most like your partner?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Which figure would you like your partner to look like?

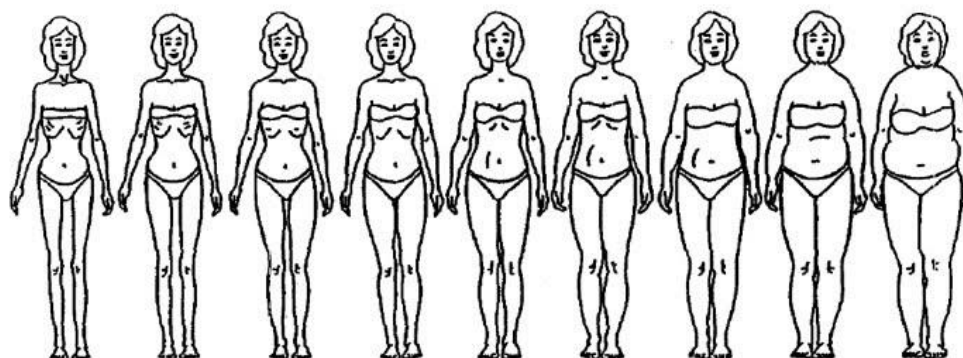
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

My partner thinks he looks like picture number:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Appendix C

Contour Drawing Rating Scale (Thompson & Gray, 1995)



Men: For the following questions, please look at the below pictures. To answer the questions, circle the number of the figure that is your answer.

Which figure looks most like you?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Which figure would you like to look like?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Which figure do you think your partner would like you to look like?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Which figure do you think your partner thinks you look like?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Which figure looks most like the average person?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Which figure looks most attractive?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Which figure looks most like your partner?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Which figure would you like your partner to look like?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

My partner thinks he looks like picture number:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Appendix D

Marital Interaction Scale (Braiker & Kelley, 1979)

Please read the following questions and circle the number that best describes your feelings about your romantic partner. The following items were measured on a nine point Likert scale with 1 being “not at all” and 9 being “very much so”.

1. To what extent do you have a sense of “belonging” with your partner?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
2. How often do you and your partner argue with one another?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
3. How much do you feel you “give” to the relationship?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
4. To what extent do you try to change things about your partner that bother you (behaviors, attitudes, etc)?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
5. To what extent do you love your partner at this stage?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
6. To what extent do you feel that things that happen to your partner also affect or are important to you?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
7. How often do you feel angry or resentful toward your partner?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
8. How committed do you feel toward your partner?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
9. How close do you feel toward your partner?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10. How much do you need your partner at this stage?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
11. How sexually intimate are you with your partner?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
12. How attached do you feel to your partner?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
13. When you and your partner argue, how serious are the problems or arguments?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
14. To what extent do you communicate negative feelings toward your partner (e.g., anger, dissatisfaction, frustration, etc.)?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
15. To what extent do you feel your relationship is special compared to other relationships you’ve been in?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Appendix E

Attitudes on Body, Self, and Partner (Markey & Markey, 2010)

Please circle your answer. The following items were measured on a nine point Likert scale with 1 “not very satisfied” to 9 “very satisfied.”

Overall, how satisfied would you say that you currently are with your body?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Overall, how satisfied would you say that you currently are with your face?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Overall, how satisfied would you say that you currently are with your physical appearance in general?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Overall, how satisfied would you say that you currently are with your romantic relationship?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Overall, how attractive do you feel your romantic partner is?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Overall, how attractive do you feel you are to members of the opposite sex?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Overall, how attractive do you feel you are to members of the same sex?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

How healthy do you think you are?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

How healthy do you think your partner is?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Appendix F

Multiple Determinants of Relationship Commitment Inventory (Kurdek, 1995)

Here are a number of characteristics that may or may not apply to you. Please write a number next to each statement to indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with that statement.

- | | <i>1</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>4</i> | <i>5</i> |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | <i>Strongly</i> | <i>Somewhat</i> | <i>Neither</i> | <i>Somewhat</i> | <i>Strongly</i> |
| | <i>disagree</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>disagree nor</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>agree</i> |
| | | | <i>agree</i> | | |
| 1. | | | | | |
| 2. | | | | | |
| 3. | | | | | |
| 4. | | | | | |
| 5. | | | | | |
| 6. | | | | | |
| 7. | | | | | |
| 8. | | | | | |
| 9. | | | | | |
| 10. | | | | | |
| 11. | | | | | |
| 12. | | | | | |
| 13. | | | | | |
| 14. | | | | | |
| 15. | | | | | |
| 16. | | | | | |
| 17. | | | | | |
| 18. | | | | | |
| 19. | | | | | |
| 20. | | | | | |
| 21. | | | | | |
| 22. | | | | | |
| 23. | | | | | |
| 24. | | | | | |
| 25. | | | | | |

26. Overall, I derive a lot of rewards and advantages from being in my relationship.
27. Overall, there are a lot of personal costs involved in being in my relationship.
28. Overall, alternatives to being in my relationship are appealing.
29. Overall, I'd say I have a lot invested in my relationship.
30. Overall, there is not much difference between my current relationship and my ideal relationship.

Appendix G

Background Information

Please answer the below questions to the best of your ability. If you have questions, feel free to ask the researcher for help.

1. For how many months have you known your romantic partner?

2. For how many months have you been *continuously* romantically involved with your romantic partner? _____
3. For how many months have you lived with your romantic partner?

4. Approximately how many hours a week (on average) do you spend with your romantic partner? _____
- 5a. Do you and your partner consider yourselves:
 - 1) dating
 - 2) committed (e.g., domestically partnered, civil union, married)
- 5b. Would you like to be legally married (with the rights and privileges of federally sanctioned marriage)?
 - 1) yes
 - 2) perhaps, someday
 - 3) no
 other comment: _____
6. How old are you now (in years)? _____
7. Do you and your romantic partner plan to have children? (circle one below)
 - in the next year
 - in the next 5 years
 - in the next 10 years
 - not at all
 - I don't know
 - I have a child(ren)
 - She has a child(ren)
 - We have a child(ren) together
8. What is your ethnicity (circle one)?
 - Black/ African American
 - White/Caucasian
 - American Indian/ Native American/ Aleutian or Eskimo
 - Asian/ Pacific Islander
 - Hispanic/Latino(a)
 - Other _____ please specify

9. What is your religious preference (circle one)?

Protestant

Roman Catholic

Mormon

Orthodox (such as Greek or Russian)

Jewish

Muslim

Other_____ please specify

I do not consider myself religious

10. What is your **personal income** from all sources before taxes (circle one)?

Under \$20,000

\$20,000 to \$49,000

\$50,000 to \$75,000

\$76,000 to \$99,000

\$100,000 or greater

11. What is your **household income** (people who live in your household) before taxes (circle one)?

Under \$20,000

\$20,000 to \$49,000

\$50,000 to \$75,000

\$76,000 to \$99,000

\$100,000 or greater

12. Are you currently employed?

Yes

No

13. If you answered yes to #12, how many hours do you work on average per week?

14. If you answered yes to #12, how long have you worked at this job (jobs)?

15. What is the highest grade or level of school that you have completed (circle one)?

8th grade or less

9th to 11th grade

12th grade, GED, or high school diploma

Some vocational/ technical/ or business school

Some vocational/ technical/ or business school diploma

Some college/ no degree

Associates degree

Bachelor's degree

Some graduate/ professional school

Graduate/ professional degree (Master's, Ph.D., M.D., etc.)

Appendix H

Gay Men Thin Slice

You should code all items based on your observation of the participant, unless you are SPECIFICALLY asked about the couple. The three couple questions have notes under the items.

* Required

Couple ID *

Couple ID followed by position (e.g., 27L)

Rater ID *

Your first and last initial

Is satisfied with his relationship. *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Strongly Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly Agree

Feels like he is a failure. *

	1	2	3	4	
Strongly Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly Agree

Feels his weight is important to him. *

	0	1	2	3	4	
Never	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Always

Engages in dieting. *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Never	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Always

Is satisfied with his life. *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Not Very Satisfied	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very Satisfied

There is tension/conflict between the partners. *

Code for the couple

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Strongly Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly Agree

Worries about how he looks. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Agree

Exercises/dresses well/manages his appearance. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Agree

Seems attached/close to his partner. *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Not At All	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very Much

Puts a lot of effort into his relationship. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Disagree Strongly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Agree Strongly

Couple has a lot in common and can talk easily. *

Code for the couple

	1	2	3	4	5	
Disagree Strongly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Agree Strongly

Thinks he puts more into the relationship than his partner does. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Disagree Strongly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Agree Strongly

Finds his relationship rewarding. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Disagree Strongly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Agree Strongly

Approaches physical contact. *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Extremely Uncharacteristic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extremely Characteristic
Smiles frequently. *										
Extremely Uncharacteristic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extremely Characteristic
Seems interested in what someone has to say. *										
Extremely Uncharacteristic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extremely Characteristic
Dominates the situation. *										
Extremely Uncharacteristic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extremely Characteristic
Expresses agreement frequently. *										
Extremely Uncharacteristic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extremely Characteristic
Appears to be relaxed and comfortable. *										
Extremely Uncharacteristic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extremely Characteristic
Expresses insecurity. *										
Extremely Uncharacteristic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extremely Characteristic
Says negative things about self. *										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	

Extremely Uncharacteristic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extremely Characteristic
-------------------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------------

Behaves in a stereotypical masculine manner. *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Extremely Uncharacteristic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extremely Characteristic

Engages in eye contact. *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Extremely Uncharacteristic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extremely Characteristic

Is expressive in face, voice, or gestures. *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Extremely Uncharacteristic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extremely Characteristic

Expresses warmth. *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Extremely Uncharacteristic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extremely Characteristic

Behaves in a stereotypical feminine manner. *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Extremely Uncharacteristic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extremely Characteristic

Is satisfied with self. *

	1	2	3	4	
Strongly Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly Agree

Seems ashamed of how he looks. *

0	1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---	---

Never  Always

Is preoccupied with trying to change his body weight. *

	0	1	2	3	4	
Never	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Always

Is satisfied with his body/appearance. *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	<hr/>									
Not Very Satisfied	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very Satisfied

Seems like he has a sense of belonging with his partner. *

[illegible]

Tries to change things about his partner that bothers him. *

[illegible]

Seems comfortable with how he looks. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Agree

Would find it difficult to leave his partner. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Disagree Strongly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Agree Strongly

Is knowledgeable about foods (calorie content, carbs, sweets). *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Disagree Strongly							Agree Strongly

(continued from page 7)

Appendix I

Gay Men Protocol Short Form – Rutgers

Please, I beg you, perform these tasks in the order given. Strict adherence to the protocol will minimize errors, and ensure coding consistency – Kyle

1. Log into the PHBLabRutgers@gmail.com account (password: Personality)
2. Open the “Couples Study Master List” file
 - a. This file is found in the Google Drive of the Gmail account
3. Fill out the relevant information on the Checklist to use as a reference during coding.
 - a. Target ID (Couple ID followed by position initial; L or R)
 - b. RA (your first and last initial)
 - c. Date (today’s date)
 - d. Time (time you started the video)
 - e. Video Start Time (time the task begins, as it appears on the Google Form Master List)
 - f. Video End Time (time the task ends, as it appears on the Google Form Master List)
 - g. Participant Coding For (choose either left or right)
 - h. Description (physical description of the participant you are coding for, as it appears on the Google Form Master List)
4. Begin watching the task at the Start Time you recorded on the checklist
5. Pause the video after 30 seconds and code the “Gay Men Thin Slice” Google Form
 - a. You may use a stopwatch function on your cellphone or a countdown timer on the internet (<http://www.online-stopwatch.com/countdown-timer/>)
6. Continue watching the task from where you paused it until the End Time you recorded on the checklist
7. Code the RBQ
8. Code the “Gay Men Whole Video” Google Form
9. Complete the checklist
 - a. Record the time you ended (the time you finished viewing and coding the video)
 - i. Note: You are not being evaluated on how quickly you watch the videos. Please give accurate viewing times so we can correctly assess our progress.
 - b. Comments? (Write anything that was unusual about the video, e.g., sound was low, task did not proceed as normal, or participants were interrupted by a research assistant)
10. Put the checklist in the hanging folder in the first drawer of the file cabinet

Appendix J

Gay Men Couples Interaction Task Video Checklist

Target ID: _____
& position initial (e.g., 17L)

RA: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Video Start Time: _____

Video End Time: _____

Description: _____

Computer #: _____

Participant Coding For (Circle One): **LEFT** or **RIGHT**

_____ Thin Slice ("Gay Men Thin Slice" Google Form)

_____ Full Video (RBQ and "Gay Men Whole Video" Google Form)

_____ **Record the time you ended**

Comments? Please explain:

Figure 1

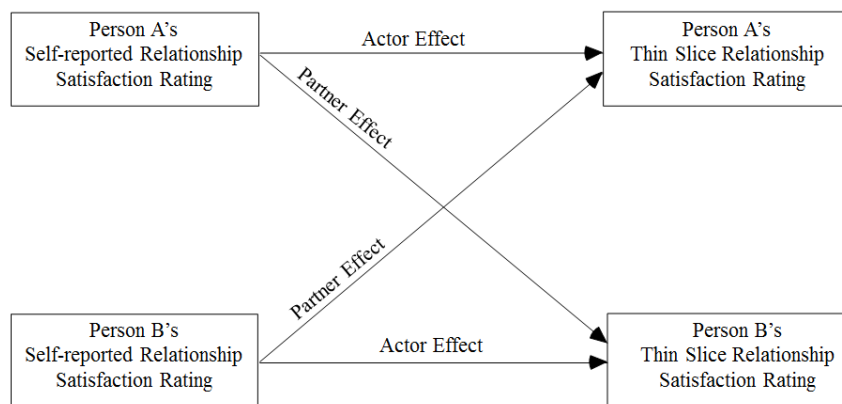
*Figure 1. Actor-Partner Interdependence Modeling*

Figure 2

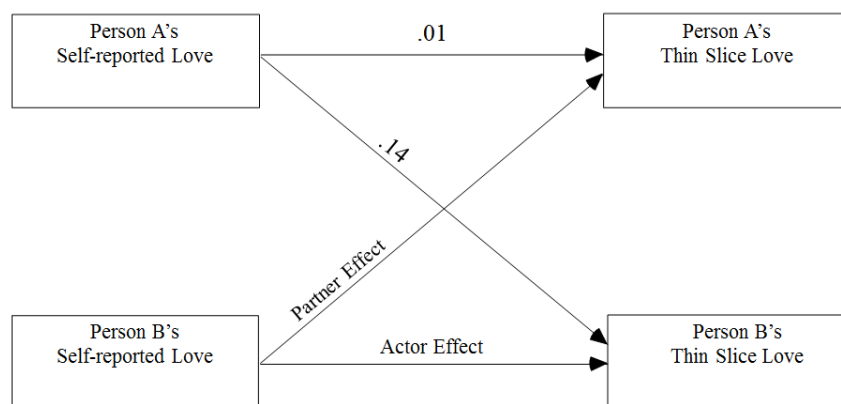
*Figure 2. Gay Male APIM for love*

Figure 3

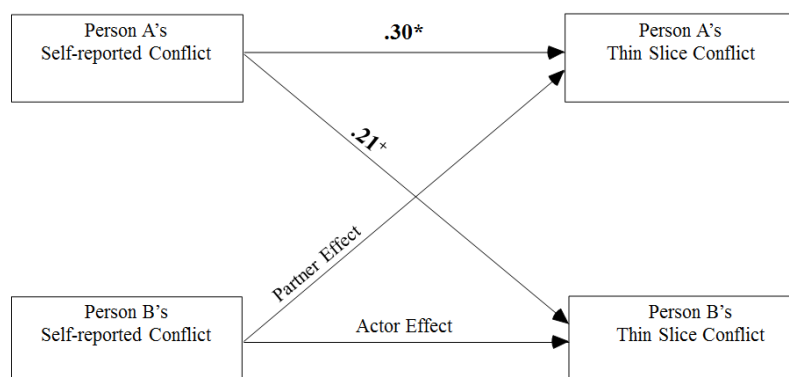
*Figure 3. Gay Male APIM for conflict*

Figure 4

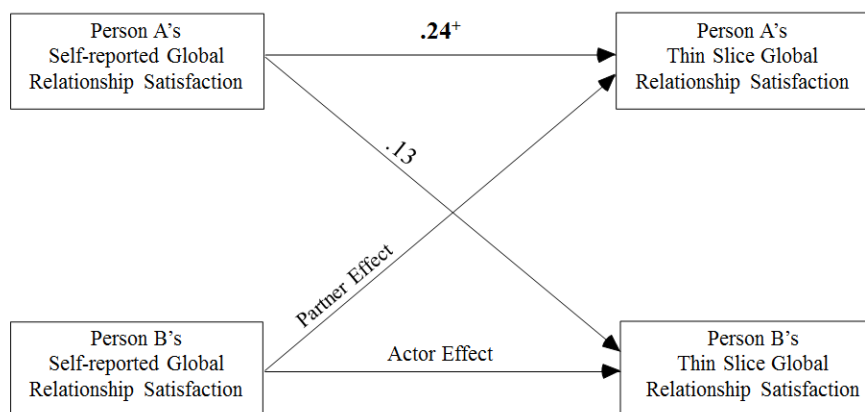
*Figure 4. Gay Male APIM for global relationship satisfaction*

Figure 5

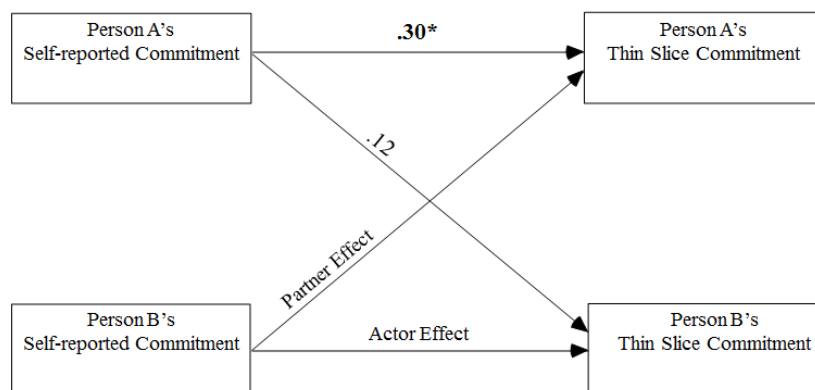
*Figure 5. Gay Male APIM for commitment*

Figure 6

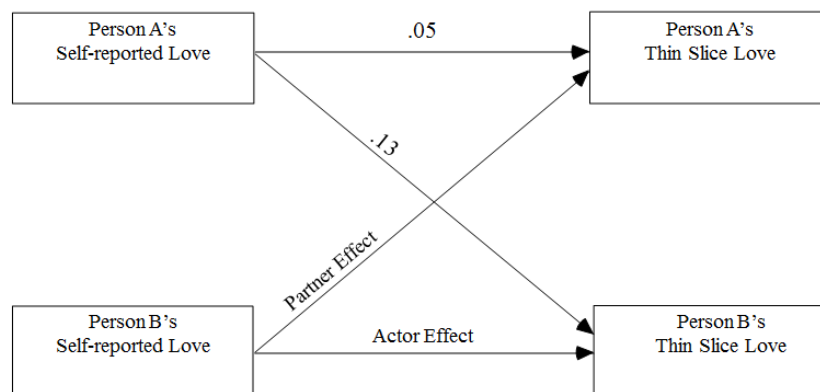
*Figure 6. Lesbian Women APIM for love*

Figure 7

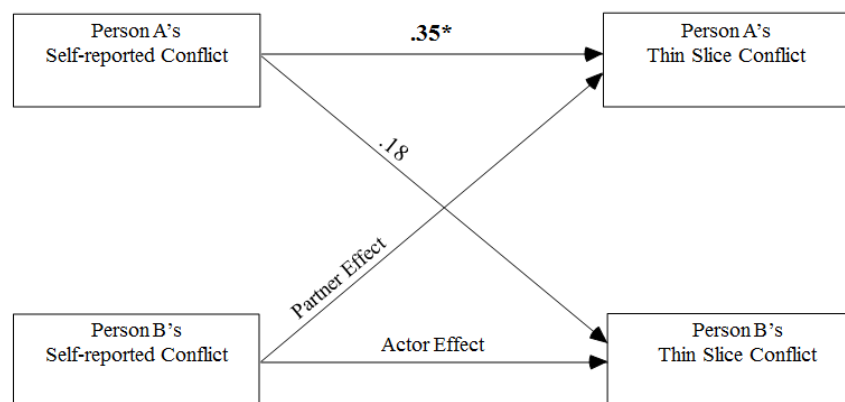
*Figure 7. Lesbian Women APIM for conflict*

Figure 8

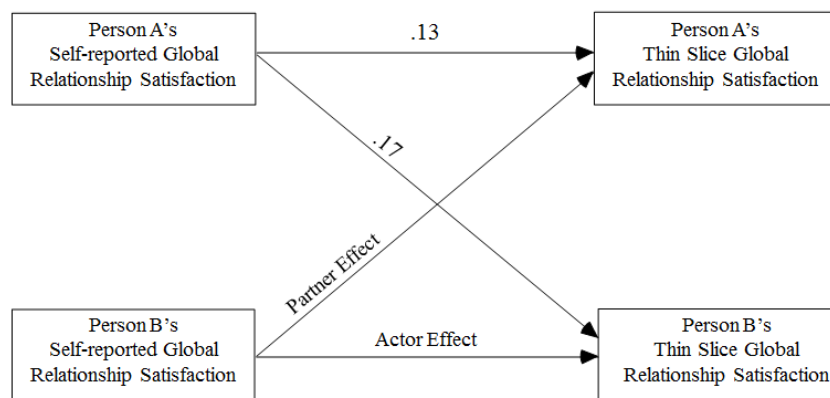
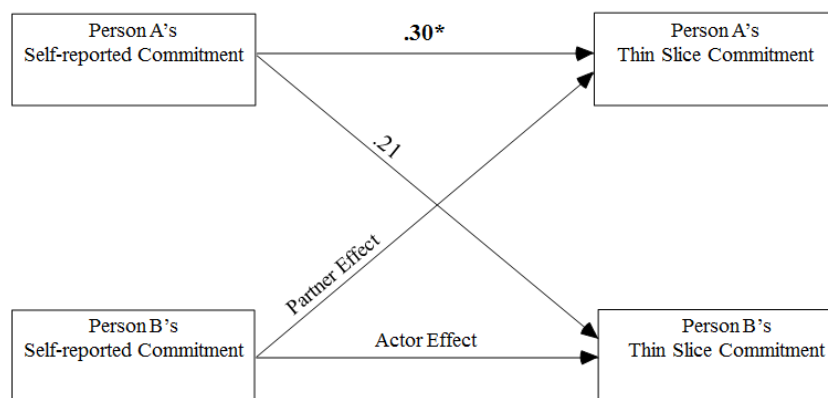
*Figure 8.* Lesbian Women APIM for global relationship satisfaction

Figure 9

*Figure 9. Lesbian Women APIM for commitment*

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