Method

Participants

In Study 3, participants will be 350 undergraduates enrolled in psychology courses. Additionally, students in upper level psychology courses may participate. In these cases, professors may offer extra credit at their discretion.

Instruments

Participants will complete a demographic and relationship biography questionnaire. The background questionnaire may be found in Appendix C. The love and relationship biography includes measures of commitment (Lund, 1985), length of relationship, and frequency of contact with partner. The biography also assesses how often the participant has been in love and if the participant’s current relationship is sexual. This measure may be found in Appendix D.

**Relationship satisfaction.** S. Hendrick’s (1988) Relationship Assessment Scale (RAS) will be used to examine relationship satisfaction. The RAS is a seven-item scale that provides an overall measure of relationship satisfaction. This scale is widely used in the close relationship literature and has demonstrated high reliability in other studies. The RAS may be found in Appendix E.

**Love styles.** C. Hendrick and Hendrick’s (1998) Love Attitudes Scale: Short form will also be included in Study 3. This scale has six subscales with four items each. The subscales are Ludus (game-playing love), Storge (friendship love), Eros (passionate love), Mania (possessive, dependent love), Pragma (practical love), and Agape (altruistic love). The LAS may be found in Appendix F.
Respect. S. Hendrick and Hendrick’s (2006) Respect Scale will be used to measure respect toward partner and perceived respect from partner. Each of these two subscales consists of six items. The scale may be found in Appendix G.

Sexual attitudes. C. Hendrick, Hendrick, and Reich’s (2006) Brief Sexual Attitudes Scale will be used to measure general attitudes toward sexuality. The scale consists of 23 items with four subscales: Permissiveness, Communion, Birth Control, and Instrumentality. The SAS may be found in Appendix H.

Self-disclosure. Miller, Berg, and Archer’s (1983) 10-item Self-disclosure Index will be used to assess self-disclosure. This scale was developed to measure an individual’s tendency to disclose information to a significant other. For this study, the target person was the individual’s romantic partner. The scale may be found in Appendix I.

Conflict. Two measures of conflict will be included in Study 3. First, the Romantic Partner Conflict Scale (RPCS) will be used in the current study. As determined in Study 2, the RPCS includes six subscales: Compromise, Domination, Submission, Separation, Avoidance, and Interactional Reactivity. The scale consists of 39 items with 3 additional items that were part of the emotional reactivity scale from Study 1. These three items were not used in any analyses in Study 3. The Romantic Partner Conflict Scale may be found in Appendix J.

The Episode-Specific Conflict Tactics Scale (ESCT; Canary, Cunningham, & Cody, 1988) will also be included in Study 3. The conflict tactics scale includes three subscales: integrative tactics, distributive tactics, and avoidance tactics. Integrative tactics are constructive and involve compromise, collaboration, and sharing of
information. An example of an integrative item is “I calmly discussed the issue.” Distributive tactics are destructive and include sarcasm and anger. An example of a distributive item is “I shouted at him/her.” Finally, avoidance tactics include shifting topics or denying that the conflict is present. An example of an avoidance item is “I tried to change the subject.” For Study 3, only the self-reported measure of the participant’s own conflict strategies was included. This scale was included for the purpose of validating the Romantic Partner Conflict Scale. Specifically, correlations between subscales from both conflict scales were calculated to determine how the subscales are related. The Episode-Specific Conflict Tactics Scale may be found in Appendix K.

**Sexual communication.** Catania’s (e.g., 1998) Dyadic Sexual Communication Scale (DSC) will be used to measure individuals’ perceptions of communication processes involving sexual issues with their partner. This scale includes 13 items and has demonstrated high reliability in previous research (alpha = .81). The DSC has been used to discriminate individuals reporting sexual problems from those not reporting sexual problems. An example of an item from this scale is “My partner rarely responds when I want to talk about our sex life.” The scale may be found in Appendix L.

**Sociosexuality.** Simpson’s (e.g., 1998) Sociosexual Orientation Inventory (SOI) will be used to measure sociosexuality. This inventory was designed to measure individual differences in attitudes and behaviors related to engaging in casual sexual relationships. In Study 1, two factors emerged from this scale: Sociosexual Attitudes and Sociosexual Behaviors. High scorers on this scale are said to have an unrestricted sociosexual orientation while low scorers are said to have a restricted sociosexual orientation. The scale may be found in Appendix M.
Esteem. Three measures of self-esteem will be included in Study 3. Rosenberg’s (1965; Crandal, 1973; Wylie, 1974) Self-Esteem Scale will be included. This scale is a ten-item measure of general feelings toward the self. An example of an item from this scale is “I am able to do things as well as most other people.” This scale may be found in Appendix N. Additionally, Robins, Hendin, and Trzesniewski’s (2001) Single-Item Measure of Self-Esteem will be used. This item provides a global measure of self-esteem. This scale is item number 212 in Appendix N. Finally, a three item measure of self-esteem often used in close relationship studies will be included (e.g., C. Hendrick, Hendrick, & Dicke, 1998). This measure has shown good reliability in previous studies. These three items include items # 5 and 6 in Appendix C and item # 211 in Appendix N. An example of an item from this measure is “The way I feel about myself generally is.” These items are measured on a 5-point Likert-type scale.

Procedure

Prior to completing the packet of questionnaires, participants will read and sign the consent form (See Appendix B). Participants will complete the packet of questionnaires which will be in a fixed order. Once the participants are finished, the research assistant will give them a written debriefing form (See Appendix O) which includes contact information for counseling centers on campus.