

Opposite-Sex Friendship Initiation: Some Dispositional Differences in Self-Monitoring

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Introduction Self-Monitoring

Low	High
Self-congruence	Social appropriateness
Attention to self	Attention to others

(Snyder, 1974)

Self-Monitoring and Sexual Relationships

Low	High
Restricted orientation	Unrestricted orientation
Committed	Uncommitted

(Snyder et al., 1986)

Reasons For OSF Initiation

Mate potential	Friendship
Self-esteem boost	Common interests
Resource acquisition	Emotional support
Physical protection	Advice about the opposite sex
Sexual attraction	Conversation
Desire for sex	Companionship

(Bleske-Rechek & Buss, 2001)

Hypotheses

Self-monitoring positively correlated with sexual gratification as a reason for initiating OSFs

Self-monitoring negatively correlated with companionship as a reason for initiating OSFs

Method

Participants

$N = 268$ (133 male and 135 female)
heterosexuals recruited via MTurk

Self-Monitoring

($\alpha = .74$) (Snyder, 1974)

“I find it hard to imitate the behavior of other people.” T F

Sociosexuality

($\alpha = .85$) (Penke & Asendorpf, 2007; Simpson & Gangestad, 1991)

Assessed as a covariate
“Sex without love is ok”

Reasons for Initiation

(Bleske-Rechek & Buss, 2001)

7- point rating scale of importance

Networking ($\alpha = .77$)	Sexual gratification ($\alpha = .77$)
Self esteem boost ($\alpha = .62$)	Info about opposite sex ($\alpha = .59$)
Resource gain ($\alpha = .74$)	Mate Potential ($\alpha = .87$)
Social Status ($\alpha = .75$)	Companionship ($\alpha = .77$)
Protection ($\alpha = .54$)	Sexual Access (single item)

Results

HSMs more often than LSMs initiated opposite sex friendships for most reasons measured when controlling for SOI

	B	SE	P value	LL 95% CI	UL 95% CI
Sex Gratification	0.37	0.10	<.001	0.16	0.58
Protection	0.16	0.05	0.001	0.06	0.26
Network	0.25	0.07	<.001	0.11	0.40
SE Boost	0.30	0.09	0.002	0.11	0.47
Opp Sex Info	0.13	0.05	0.001	0.03	0.23
Mate Potential	0.38	0.10	<.001	0.17	0.58
Resource Acq	0.13	0.05	0.009	0.03	0.23
Status Gain	0.27	0.05	<.001	0.16	0.38
Desirability Assess	0.08	0.03	0.007	0.02	0.14
Sexual Access*	0.04	0.03	0.13	- 0.01	0.09
Companionship*	0.31	0.21	0.143	-0.10	0.72

Conclusion

Discussion

- Companionship was not related to reasons to initiate an opposite sex friendship
- HSM are more likely than LSMs to initiate opposite sex friendships for all other reasons measured

Implications

- Extends the literature regarding friendship and individual differences
- Evidence personality related to why people choose friends

Limitations

- Self-report survey
- Correlational
- No dyadic analysis

Future Directions

- Replication in LGBTQ relationships
- Assessing protective versus acquisitive self-monitoring
- Examining at a dyadic level

