

# Interracial Marriage

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# History of Interracial Marriage in the US

- Supreme Court 1967, Loving v. Virginia, makes it legal
- Interracial Marriage is on the rise
  - ✓ About 15% of all new marriages
  - ✓ About 8% of all marriages
  - ✓ Hispanics and Asian-Americans more likely to marry outside their race than Blacks or Whites
  - ✓ Attitudes towards social equality would suggest that there should be more interracial marriages in the US

# Contradictions

- Interracial marriages are more likely to result in divorce than intra-racial marriages BUT
- Previous research has indicated no differences in the relational satisfaction, conflict style, coping, or attachment styles of individuals in interracial versus intra-racial relationships

# Pro-Social Relationship Maintenance

- Positivity
- Assurances
- Openness
- Social Networks
- Sharing Tasks
- Advice
- Conflict Management

# Negative Relationship Maintenance

- Jealousy Induction
- Avoidance
- Spying
- Destructive Conflict
- Infidelity
- Allowing Control

# Interdependence Theory

Maintenance



Satisfaction



Commitment

# This Study

- 90 individuals in an interracial marriage filled out a survey
- 60% men, 40% women
- Average age was 45, average time married was nearly 20 years
- Race/ethnicity
  - ✓ 42% Black-White couple
  - ✓ 10% Black-Hispanic couple
  - ✓ 14% Black-Mixed couple
  - ✓ 15% White-Hispanic couple
  - ✓ 14% White-Mixed couple
  - ✓ 5% Hispanic-Mixed couple

# RQ1: To what extent does relationship maintenance predict marital satisfaction?

- 56% of the variance predicted by
  - ✓ social networks
  - ✓ infidelity (negative predictor)
  - ✓ conflict management
  - ✓ avoidance (negative predictor)



RQ2: Does marital satisfaction mediate the relationship between maintenance behavior and commitment?

- Yes, results support an interdependence theory explanation for interracial marriage

# Implications

- Role of social networks significantly more important in interracial marriage versus intra-racial marriage
- Importance of NOT avoiding and conflict management suggests that engaging in communication is very important to make interracial marriage work