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## Relationship Satisfaction and Similarity of Personality Traits, Personal Values, and Attitudes

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2018-03-01

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Leikas , S , Ilmarinen , V , Verkasalo , M , Vartiainen , H-L & Lönnqvist , J-E 2018 , ' Relationship Satisfaction and Similarity of Personality Traits, Personal Values, and Attitudes ' , Personality and Individual Differences , vol. 123 , pp. 191-198 . <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2017.11.024>

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<http://hdl.handle.net/10138/313192>

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2017.11.024>

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Abstract

Spousal similarity and its consequences are widely studied, but methodologically challenging topics. We employed Response Surface Analysis to examine similarity along political attitudes, personal values, and personality traits. Opposite-sex couples (624 individuals) expecting a child were recruited. Spouses were highly similar regarding their political attitudes and moderately similar regarding trait Openness and the personal values Universalism and Tradition. Similarity for other traits and values was weak (e.g. Conscientiousness, Power values) or non-existent (e.g. Neuroticism, Benevolence values). Similarity in conservative vs. liberal attitudes was non-linear: a conservative-conservative union was most common. Women's relationship satisfaction was related to similarity in left-right and liberal-conservative political attitudes, and both partners' satisfaction was related to similarity in Self-Direction values. Similarity in personality traits was unrelated to relationship satisfaction.

Keywords: Personality Traits, Personal Values, Political Attitudes, Relationship Satisfaction, Human Mate Selection

## 1. Introduction

A central theme in research on human mating patterns is assortative mating. Are people drawn to like individuals, or do opposites attract? Is the similarity of spouses associated with marital happiness? These questions have evoked a lot of interest and a substantial amount of research (e.g. Bouchard & Loehlin, 2001; Buss, 1984; Eysenck, 1990; Klohnen, & Mendelsohn, 1998; Luo & Klohnen, 2005; Mathews & Reus, 2001; McCrae, Martin, Hrebickova, Urbánek, Boomsma, Willemsen, & Costa, 2008; Vandenberg, 1972; Watson, Klohnen, Casillas, Simms, Haig, & Berry, 2004). The present study seeks to contribute to this literature by investigating similarity in three major domains: attitudes, values, and personality. Furthermore, we employ response surface analysis (RSA; Nestler, Grimm, & Schönbrodt, 2015), a method that overcomes some of the problems related to traditional measures of similarity, such as difference scores.

### 1.1 Spousal similarity

In previous research on couple similarity, spouses have shown strong similarity in political orientation, attitudes, and religiosity (e.g., D'Onofrio, Eaves, Murrelle, Maes & Spilka, 1999; Feng & Baker, 1994; McCrae, 1996; Nagoshi, Johnson, & Honbo, 1992; Vandenberg, 1972), moderate similarity in social and personal values (Caspi & Herbener, 1993; Vandenberg, 1972), and little if any similarity in personality traits (e.g. Gattis, Berns, Simpson, & Christensen, 2004; Humbad, Donnellan, Iacono, McGue, & Burt, 2010; McCrae et al., 2008; Watson et al., 2004; Zeidner & Kaluda, 2008). However, due to methodological obstacles in the assessment of similarity and its associations with various outcomes (e.g. Edwards, 2002), some of the basic questions regarding similarity have not been properly addressed. First, the commonly used similarity measures of difference scores and profile correlations are spurious (Edwards, 2002). Second, the possible non-uniformity of spousal similarity, recently

observed in the context of friendship formation (Ilmarinen, Lönnqvist, & Paunonen, 2016), has not been previously investigated.

### **1.2 Spousal similarity and relationship satisfaction**

Spousal similarity does not seem to be associated with relationship satisfaction. A recent meta-analysis (Montoya, Horton, & Kirchner, 2008) revealed that similarity of attitudes and traits breeds attraction only at zero acquaintance. Consistent with these results, a study employing nationally representative samples from three Western countries showed that personality similarity among married couples is unrelated to relationship satisfaction (Dyrenforth, Kashy, Donnellan, & Lucas, 2010). A recent review by Weidmann, Ledermann, and Grob (2016) also concludes that studies that have controlled for the main effects of personality traits have found very small effects of personality similarity on satisfaction in couples.

The few studies that have been conducted on value/attitude similarity on relationship satisfaction suggest small or negligible effects (e.g., Gaunt, 2006; Luo & Klohnen, 2005; Moore, Uchino, Baucom, Behrends, & Sanbonmatsu, 2017); however, these studies have often been hampered by methodological issues (e.g., use of profile correlations or difference scores as indices of similarity).

### **1.3 Purpose of the present research**

The first purpose of the present research was to examine couple similarity for attitudes, values, and personality. The second purpose was to investigate the uniformity of the similarity distributions. The third purpose was to examine whether similarity is related to relationship satisfaction.

## **2. Methods**

## 2.1 Participants and Procedure

A sample of 312 Finnish opposite-sex couples (mean age of women = 31.12 ( $SD = 4.11$ ); mean age of men = 33.08 ( $SD = 5.11$ )) was contacted via city of Helsinki child health clinics. Four couples reported not being in a romantic relationship and were excluded. Participating couples had been in their current relationships for an average of 5.44 years ( $SD = 3.09$ ). 468 participants were expecting their first, 148 participants their second, and 6 participants their third child (two participants did not report their number of children).

## 2.2 Measures

**2.2.3 Political Attitudes.** Three types of political attitudes were examined: political orientation on the left versus right (11-point scale from 0 (*extreme left-wing orientation*) to 10 (*extreme right-wing orientation*)) and on the liberal versus conservative - continuum (11-point scale from 0 (*extremely liberal attitudes*) to 10 (*extremely conservative attitudes*)), and environmental attitudes, measured with two items – “I would give up my income for environmental causes” and “I would support higher taxes, if this money were to be used for preventing environmental pollution” – responded to on a 4-point scale, ranging from 1 (*strongly agree*) to 4 (*strongly disagree*); the Spearman-Brown –reliability was .85.

**2.2.4 Personal Values.** The ten basic values identified by Schwartz’ (1992) Values Theory – Power, Achievement, Hedonism, Stimulation, Self-Direction, Universalism, Benevolence, Tradition, Conformity, and Security – were measures with the 57-item PVQ-5X (Schwartz et al., 2012). Each item describes a person in terms of his or her values. An example item for the Stimulation value is “it is important to him to take risks that make life exciting”, whereas an example item of Conformity is “It is important to him never to violate rules or regulations”. Respondents are asked to rate “How much is this person like you” on a

scale ranging from 1 (*not like me at all*) to 6 (*very much like me*). All values scores were centered on the individuals' mean value scores (Schwartz et al., 2012).

**2.2.5 Personality Traits.** Participants rated their personality traits on the Finnish language version of the 30-item eXtra Short Five (XS5; Konstabel et al., 2017) personality questionnaire. Each item is responded to on a seven-point scale from 1 (*the description is completely wrong*) to 7 (*the description is completely right*). The internal consistency reliabilities are presented in Table 1.

**2.2.6 Relationship satisfaction.** Relationship satisfaction was measured using one item: "How satisfied are you in your relationship with your spouse?" rated on a scale from 0 (*unsatisfied*) to 10 (*satisfied*).

## 2.3 Statistical analyses

**2.3.1 Couple similarity.** Couple similarity in terms of political attitudes, personal values, and personality traits was examined by means of within-couple bivariate correlations. To control for the possible effects of assimilation (couples becoming more similar in the course of their relationships) and age, we also computed partial correlations with relationship length and participant age partialled out.

Curvilinearity of within-couple correlations was examined with regression analyses in which attitude, value, or trait of one member of couple was regressed on the same characteristic and its square term from the other member of each couple while controlling for relationship length and age. To assure that possible sex differences would not confound the results, whether man or woman of each couple would be assigned to the dependent (DV) and independent variable (IV) was randomly chosen. This procedure was repeated 5000 times, so that the DVs and IVs would consist of different set of scores of women and men each time. Across these bootstrap samples, mean estimates for linear and squared IVs were calculated

alongside non-parametric 95 % confidence intervals from which statistical significance was examined. An example of this procedure with simulated data in R code is available at [https://osf.io/m68rj/?view\\_only=00954e9117f947c1b5e3b6c6bdb1f6b5](https://osf.io/m68rj/?view_only=00954e9117f947c1b5e3b6c6bdb1f6b5).

**2.3.2 Couple similarity and relationship satisfaction.** Polynomial regression analysis followed by response surface analysis (RSA) was used for examining the associations between relationship satisfaction and couples' dyadic combinations of each characteristic (Barranti et al., 2017; Edwards, 2002). The procedure closely followed that used by Weidmann et al. (2017). The most important difference to their procedure was testing invariance between models for women's and men's relationship satisfaction also in terms whether women's (and men's) characteristics have equal effect on both outcomes alongside testing invariance according to actor's and partner's characteristics. Moreover, in case of any indication of dyadic effects, the overall orientation of the surface defined by principal axes (PA1 and PA2) was examined prior to interpreting the effects (Edwards, 2002). The full procedure from model selection and invariance testing to interpreting response surfaces alongside equations for all model variants and simulated example for the entire procedure is available at [https://osf.io/m68rj/?view\\_only=00954e9117f947c1b5e3b6c6bdb1f6b5](https://osf.io/m68rj/?view_only=00954e9117f947c1b5e3b6c6bdb1f6b5).

### 3. Results

#### 3.1 Couple similarity

Descriptive statistics and within-couple correlations for all variables are presented in Table 1. Partialing out relationship length and participants' age had virtually no effect on the similarity correlations, indicating that assimilation over time did not cause the observed similarity.

Couples were highly similar in political attitudes, especially on the left vs. right dimension ( $r = .63$ ), but the liberal vs. conservative dimension ( $r = .49$ ) and environmental attitudes ( $r = .46$ ) also showed strong similarity.

All personal values except Stimulation and Benevolence showed some level of spousal similarity. The strongest correlation was observed for Universalism ( $r = .51$ ), followed by Tradition ( $r = .37$ ). Correlations stronger than  $r = .20$  were also observed for Power, Hedonism, and Conformity.

Significant, albeit weak, similarity was observed for all personality traits, except for Neuroticism. The strongest similarity correlation was observed for Openness to Experience:  $r = .30$ , with correlations for the other FFM traits ranging from .11 to .20.

### **3.2 Non-linearity of couple similarity**

Parameter estimates and confidence intervals from the analysis of curvilinear correlations are presented in Table 1. Squared term was significant for liberal vs. conservative political attitudes. Simple slopes interpreted with linear effect, indicated that the correlation coefficient, was .62 at the conservative end (+1 *SD*) and .22 at the liberal end (−1 *SD*) of the liberal-conservative continuum. Examination of significance of a simple slope by Johnson-Neyman technique (Miller, Stromeyer, & Schwieterman, 2013) indicated that the correlation is non-significant ( $p \geq .05$ ) −0.92 *SD* and below from the mean. Thus, the correlation is significant in the middle and at the conservative end of the continuum. For all other characteristics, squared coefficients were non-significant.

### **3.3 Couple similarity and relationship satisfaction**

In the section below, the selected models are presented and interpreted for each political attitudes and personality traits. Only characteristics for which the selected model had significant parameter estimates are reported. Selected models and their interpretation for



personal values as well as model fits for all examined models are presented at

[https://osf.io/m68rj/?view\\_only=00954e9117f947c1b5e3b6c6bdb1f6b5](https://osf.io/m68rj/?view_only=00954e9117f947c1b5e3b6c6bdb1f6b5).

**3.4 Political attitudes.** Results for political attitudes and relationship satisfaction are presented in Table S1 (for women) and Table S2 (for men). Response surfaces for selected models are presented in Figure 1.

For left vs. right dimension, model with separately estimated parameters for women and men was selected. Couple similarity on the left vs. right dimension was associated with women's relationship satisfaction,  $a4 = -0.37$ ,  $p < .001$ . The orientation of the surface along the LOS and LODS was also supported by PA1 parameters. Although there was also a trend towards similarity in left vs. right dimension being associated with men's relationship satisfaction,  $a4 = -0.26$ ,  $p = .051$ , the non-significant slope of PA1 did not support the interpretation of this effect,  $p = .120$ .

For liberal vs. conservative dimension, model selection resulted in the unconstrained full model. For women, similarity in liberal vs. conservative political attitudes was associated with relationship satisfaction,  $a4 = -0.35$ ,  $p = .033$ , supported by PA1 parameters. For men, there was a trend towards similarity in liberal vs. conservative dimension being associated with relationship satisfaction,  $a4 = -0.35$ ,  $p = .071$ , supported with statistically non-significant intercept,  $p10 = 0.24$ ,  $p = .207$ , and significant slope for PA1,  $p11 = 0.23$ ,  $p = .037$ . However, the slope for PA1 for men also deviated from one,  $p11 - 1 = -0.77$ ,  $p < .001$ , indicating that the relationship satisfaction surface is not rotated along the LOS and LODS. The  $a4$ -variant (curvature along a line that is perpendicular to PA1 and crosses the origin in the women-men characteristic plane), however, was non-significant,  $p = .269$ . Thus, the results for men mostly indicate quadratic partner effect,  $b5 = -0.26$ ,  $p = .012$ ,

that demonstrates that men are most satisfied with partner's around the middle of liberal vs. conservative attitudes.

**3.5 Personal values.** The polynomial regression coefficients and response surface parameters indicative of associations between within-couple combinations of personal values and relationship satisfaction are presented in Tables S3 (for women) and S4 (for men). Response surfaces for selected models are presented in Figure 2.

For Self-Direction, a model for which all effects were equal across gender and across actor and partner was selected. The response surface parameters indicated that similarity in Self-Direction was associated with relationship satisfaction of women and men,  $a4 = -0.18$ ,  $p = .029$ . Because of trend for curvature along LOS,  $a2 = -0.14$ ,  $p = .085$ , the surfaces had concave shape which indicates that the similarity effect is maximized in the middle of Self-direction continuum.

For Benevolence, a model with equal effects from women's and men's benevolence alongside equal interaction term across gender was selected. The  $a4$ -parameter, indicative of similarity effect, was significant,  $a4 = -0.15$ ,  $p = .03$ , but the surfaces were not aligned along the LOS and LODS, indicating that the surfaces were not minimized and maximized as a function of similarity and/or dissimilarity. Inspecting the polynomial regression coefficients indicated that  $a4$  was mostly fueled by significant effect from square of women's Benevolence,  $b3$  for women =  $b5$  for men =  $-0.13$ ,  $p = .02$ . In addition, there was linear effect from men's Benevolence,  $b2$  for women =  $b1$  for men =  $.08$ ,  $p = .04$ . Thus, relationship satisfaction was associated with independent effects from women's and men's Benevolence.

For Conformity, a model with all parameters constrained across gender and also across actor and partner was selected. The response surface parameters for slope,  $a1 = 0.13$ ,  $p$

= .036, and curvature along the LOS,  $a_2 = -0.12$ ,  $p = .03$ , were statistically significant, but curvature along the LODS was non-significant,  $a_4 = 0.12$ ,  $p = .144$ . This pattern of parameters is indicative of mismatch pattern for low scores of Conformity, so that if both partners are low on Conformity, relationship satisfaction is lower than for all other dyadic combinations.

**3.6 Personality traits.** The polynomial regression coefficients and response surface parameters indicative of associations between within-couple combinations of personality traits and relationship satisfaction are presented in Tables S5 (for women) and S6 (for men). Response surfaces are presented in Figure 3.

Unconstrained full model was selected for Neuroticism. The response surface parameters showed negative additivity for women's,  $a_1 = -0.30$ ,  $p < .001$ , and men's,  $a_1 = -0.33$ ,  $p < .001$ , relationship satisfaction. However, for men, this effect was only fueled by actor effect,  $b_1 = -0.26$ ,  $p < .001$ , whereas partner effect was non-significant,  $b_2 = -0.07$ ,  $p = .189$ . For women, actor effect,  $b_1 = -0.11$ ,  $p = .03$ , and partner effect,  $b_2 = -0.19$ ,  $p = .00$ , were both statistically significant. In addition to linear effects, squared men's Neuroticism was positively associated with men's relationship satisfaction,  $b_3 = 0.14$ ,  $p = .00$ , whereas squared women's Neuroticism was negatively associated with men's relationship satisfaction,  $b_5 = -0.11$ ,  $p = .02$ , and also marginally associated with women's relationship satisfaction,  $b_3 = -0.09$ ,  $p = .08$ . The slope coefficients for PA1 were non-significant for both women and men, indicating that the surfaces were not aligned with the LOS and LODS, and therefore the effects from Neuroticism of women and men are to be interpreted separately. Also, examining the lateral shift parameters for the surfaces indicated that the PA2 for men was shifted by 1.08,  $p = .001$ , indicating that the relationship satisfaction surface for men is minimized at around 1 SD above the mean in Neuroticism for men. This means that males with higher Neuroticism have lower relationship satisfaction, and there is linear and quadratic

increase towards low Neuroticism. In addition, men's relationship satisfaction is higher with women with non-extreme scores of Neuroticism. For females, the response surface is mostly indicative of negative additivity, but with squared effect from women's Neuroticism so that below average levels of Neuroticism of women do not increase their satisfaction.

Model comparisons for Agreeableness resulted in selection of full model in which all parameters were constrained across gender and also across actor and partner. In the selected model, the slope for the LOS was significant,  $a1 = 0.26$ ,  $p < .001$ , indicating that overall amount of Agreeableness in the relationship is associated with relationship satisfaction of both, women and men.

For Conscientiousness, APIM with separately estimated parameters for women and men was selected. For women's relationship satisfaction, actor's Conscientiousness,  $b1 = 0.17$ ,  $p = .00$ , as well as partner's Conscientiousness,  $b2 = 0.13$ ,  $p = .01$  were statistically significant. For men's relationship satisfaction, only actor's Conscientiousness was statistically significant,  $b1 = 0.15$ ,  $p = .00$ .

For Extraversion, model selection resulted in full model that was equivalent for both genders. The non-significant slope for PA1,  $p11 = 2.60$ ,  $p = .11$ , however, indicated that the surface was not aligned along the LOS and LODS but along actor's Extraversion for which the squared effect was significant,  $b3 = -0.09$ ,  $p = .01$ , but linear effect non-significant,  $b1 = 0.07$ ,  $p = .10$ . Relationship satisfaction of women and men is therefore associated with actor's non-extreme levels of Extraversion.

The model selection procedure for Openness resulted in full model with constrained effects from women and men across gender. In the selected model, curvature along the LODS was significant,  $a4 = -0.24$ ,  $p = .04$ . However, because slopes for PA1s were non-significant ( $p = .39$ ), the  $a4$ -parameter was not indicative of similarity-association.

Indeed,  $a_4$  was merely fueled by statistically significant squared effect from women's Openness,  $b_3$  for women =  $b_5$  for men =  $-0.18$ ,  $p = .02$ , that is indicative that relationship satisfaction is higher in relationships with non-extreme levels of women's Openness.

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1 Spousal similarity

Overall, the majority of our results regarding similarity were in line with the previous literature. Couples were highly similar in terms of political attitudes. Regarding personality, similarity was moderate for Openness to Experience and weak for other traits. Substantial differences in similarity were found between value types: spousal similarity was strong for Tradition and Universalism, moderate for Hedonism and Conformity, and weak for the other values. These results are in line with those of the only other study that we are aware of that has used Schwartz' values framework to study spousal similarity (Gaunt, 2006). It seems that individuals are drawn to partners with similar levels of Universalism, Tradition, Hedonism, and Conformity, whereas similarity in Benevolence and Stimulation is not very relevant in mate choice. Furthermore, relationship length was unrelated to all indicators of similarity, supporting the view that similarity is more due to initial attraction than to assimilation.

Non-uniformity in spousal similarity was found for the liberal vs. conservative attitude dimension: Similarity was strongest at the conservative end of the attitude continuum: conservatives were more likely to form a couple with another conservative than liberals were likely to form a couple with another liberal.

### 4.2 Similarity and relationship satisfaction

We found a reliable and straightforward association between similarity on the left vs. right dimension and women's relationship satisfaction. This result is in line with early theories of attitude similarity (e.g. Byrne, 1961), and can be interpreted from the perspective of the

vulnerability-stress adaptation model of relationship development (e.g. Karney & Bradbury, 1995; Gonzaga, Campos, & Bradbury, 2007). That is, similarity of political attitudes may help one better understand one's spouse, thereby serving as a buffer against relationship-related distress.

Regarding personality similarity and relationship satisfaction, we replicated the previous (e.g. Weidmann et al., 2016) null results: similarity was unrelated to relationship satisfaction for all personality traits.

### **4.3 Limitations**

Our sample was relatively small when compared to some of the more large-scale studies on spousal similarity (e.g. Gestorf, Windsor, Hoppman, & Butterworth, 2013; Humbad et al., 2010). However, most of the results were similar to those obtained in larger samples. Another limitation was that our participants were recruited from child health clinics during pregnancy. This obviously limits the representativeness of the sample: couples in our sample could have been more committed to their relationship than couples in general. As a final methodological limitation, the relationship satisfaction variable was highly skewed. In a sample with less restricted variance in terms of relationship satisfaction, more associations between similarity and satisfaction could have been present.

### **4.4 Conclusions**

The intertwined topics of spousal similarity and relationship satisfaction have attracted plenty of interest in a broad array of disciplines. However, research on these topics has, in part because of the methodological challenges involved, not offered many firm conclusions. In the present research, we showed, for the first time using appropriate methods that a) spousal similarity in political attitudes and some personal values does contribute to relationship satisfaction; b) assortative mating in political attitudes is non-linear, with conservatives

mating with conservatives more often than liberals with liberals, and c) the associations between spousal similarity in attitudes and values and relationship satisfaction are often non-linear. Our results thus provide novel information about the complex patterns of spousal similarity and the happiness of a relationship.

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Table 1

Descriptive Statistics and Couple Similarity Correlations in Political Attitudes (Top),  
Personal Values (Middle), and Personality Traits (Bottom)

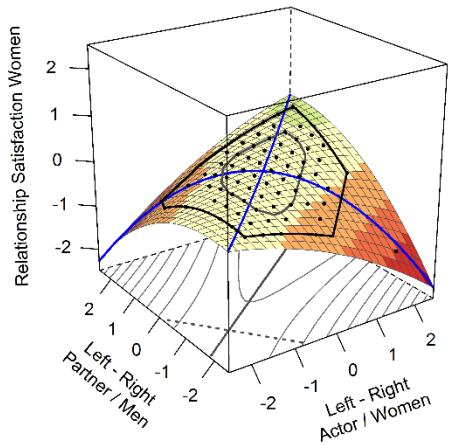
Variable	$\alpha$	Women		Men		Correlations		Analysis of curvilinear correlation			
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	zero- order	partial	Linear coef.	95 % CI	Squared coef.	95 % CI
Left-Right		4.60	2.34	5.16	2.57	.64***	.63***	0.64	[0.53, 0.74]	0.02	[-0.11, 0.14]
Liberal-Conservative		3.16	2.07	3.45	2.20	.50***	.49***	0.42	[0.30, 0.55]	0.10	[0.01, 0.19]
Environmentalism		5.68	1.62	5.44	1.67	.50***	.46***	0.45	[0.34, 0.57]	-0.05	[-0.14, 0.04]
Power	.81	0.63	0.18	0.70	0.20	.24***	.24***	0.22	[0.10, 0.34]	0.04	[-0.06, 0.14]
Achievement	.60	0.87	0.21	0.91	0.22	.17**	.18**	0.18	[0.06, 0.29]	0.04	[-0.06, 0.14]
Hedonism	.74	0.97	0.21	1.01	0.21	.22***	.21***	0.22	[0.09, 0.34]	-0.05	[-0.18, 0.07]
Stimulation	.79	0.86	0.25	0.91	0.25	.12*	.11†	0.12	[-0.001, 0.23]	-0.001	[-0.11, 0.10]
Self-Direction	.81	1.17	0.17	1.20	0.18	.19**	.15*	0.15	[0.03, 0.27]	0.04	[-0.05, 0.12]
Universalism	.84	1.11	0.18	1.05	0.19	.52***	.51***	0.52	[0.40, 0.65]	-0.02	[-0.09, 0.06]
Benevolence	.84	1.30	0.15	1.27	0.14	.05	.03	0.03	[-0.09, 0.15]	0.01	[-0.07, 0.10]
Tradition	.83	0.70	0.25	0.70	0.27	.39***	.37***	0.36	[0.23, 0.48]	0.04	[-0.06, 0.15]
Conformity	.83	0.90	0.21	0.87	0.22	.26***	.24***	0.24	[0.14, 0.36]	-0.01	[-0.09, 0.08]
Security	.65	1.19	0.13	1.17	0.14	.19**	.19***	0.19	[0.07, 0.31]	-0.03	[-0.11, 0.06]
Neuroticism	.74	-5.81	6.02	-7.79	5.69	.11†	.11†	0.12	[-0.02, 0.26]	-0.01	[-0.12, 0.12]
Agreeableness	.46	9.05	3.99	7.23	4.44	.17**	.17**	0.14	[0.02, 0.27]	-0.07	[-0.16, 0.03]
Conscientiousness	.63	8.82	4.54	7.17	5.05	.18**	.18**	0.21	[0.09, 0.33]	0.06	[-0.04, 0.16]
Extraversion	.72	4.58	6.09	3.86	5.53	.19**	.20***	0.19	[0.06, 0.32]	0.01	[-0.09, 0.13]
Openness	.62	8.50	5.15	7.38	5.54	.32***	.30***	0.30	[0.17, 0.43]	-0.01	[-0.12, 0.09]

*Note.*  $\alpha$  = Cronbach's alpha. *Ns* for couple correlations of personality traits, personal values, and political attitudes 304, 301, and 289, respectively. 95 % CI = bootstrap confidence interval.

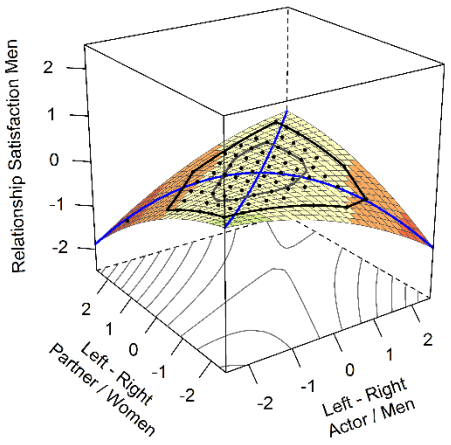
†  $p < .10$ . \*  $p < .05$ . \*\*  $p < .01$ . \*\*\*  $p < .001$



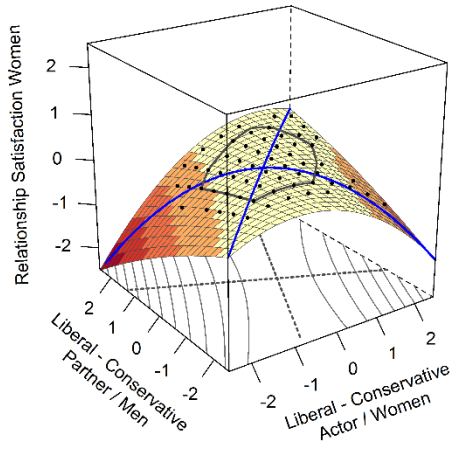
a) a1: 0.10† a2: 0.03 a3: 0.01 a4: -0.37\*\*\* p10: 0.02 p11: 0.75\*



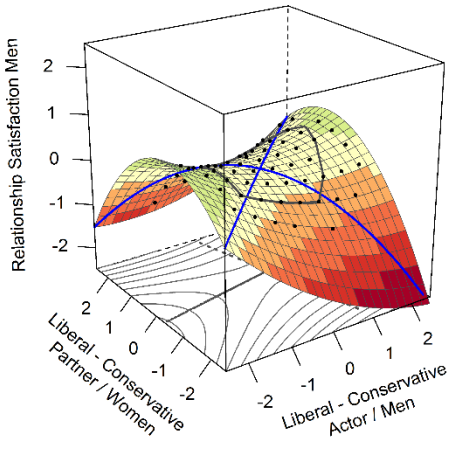
b) a1: -0.07 a2: 0.04 a3: 0.10 a4: -0.26† p10: -0.40 p11: 1.00



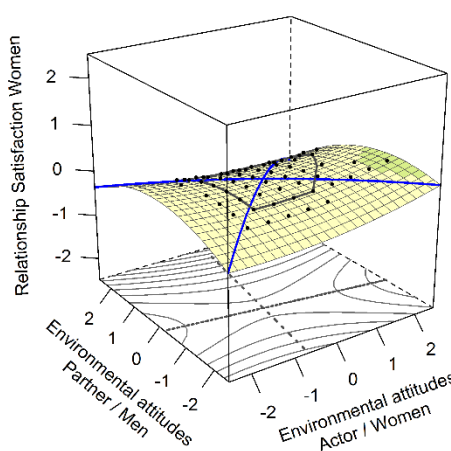
c) a1: 0.06 a2: -0.02 a3: 0.18 a4: -0.35\* p10: -0.77 p11: 2.13\*



d) a1: -0.02 a2: -0.02 a3: -0.23 a4: -0.35† p10: 0.24 p11: 0.23\*



e) a1: -0.12† a2: -0.11† a3: 0.12 a4: -0.03 p10: -0.61 p11: -0.16



f) a1: 0.04 a2: 0.04 a3: -0.09 a4: 0.18 p10: 0.27 p11: -2.47

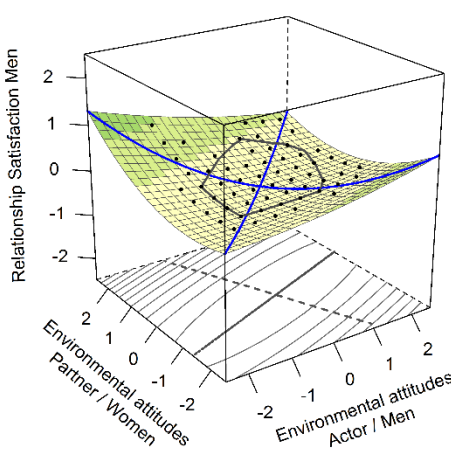


Figure 1. Response surfaces for relationship satisfaction (left column women, right column men) as function of political attitudes (first row left vs right orientation, middle liberal vs. conservative attitudes, and bottom row environmental attitudes).



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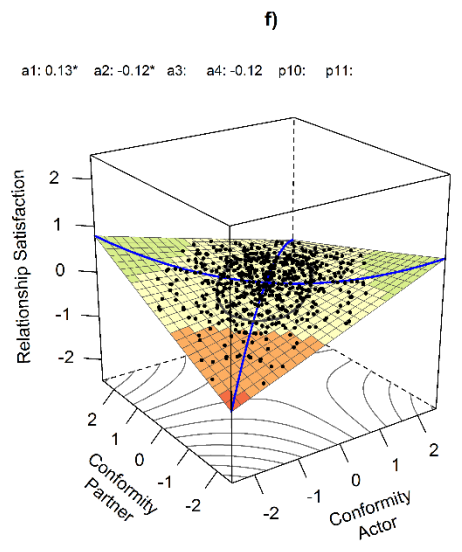
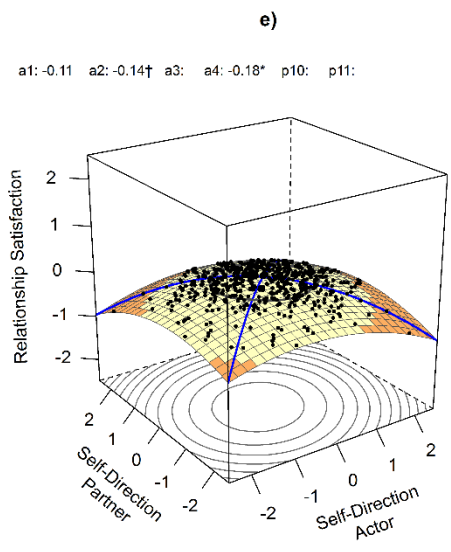
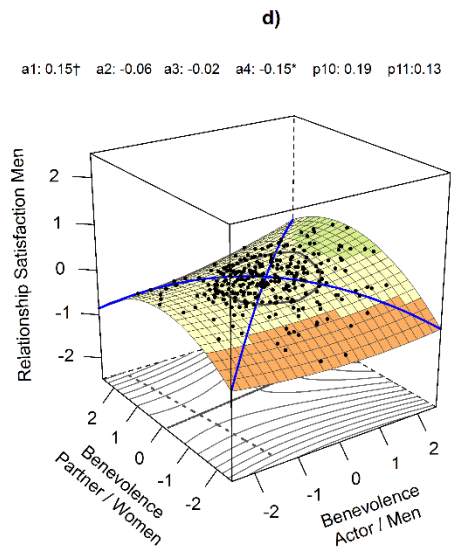
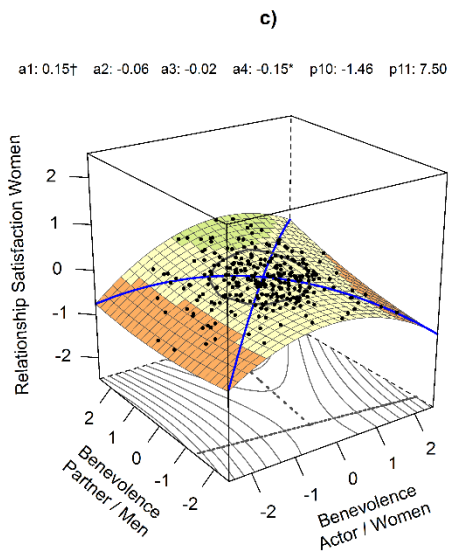
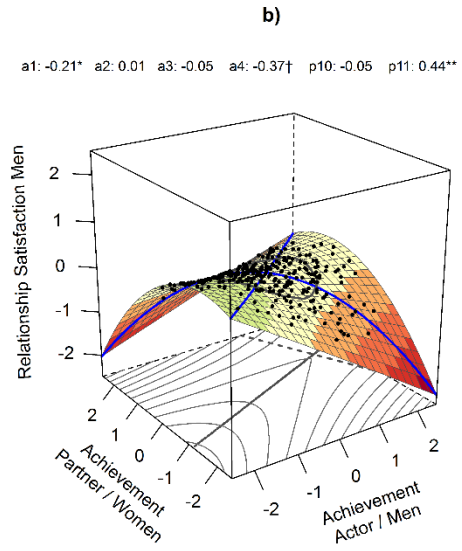
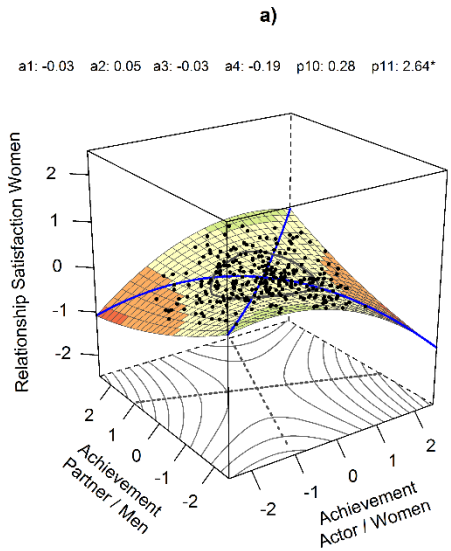
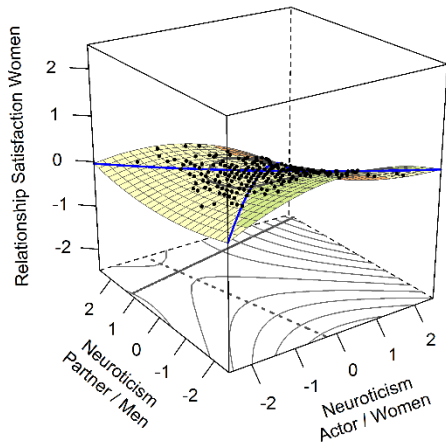
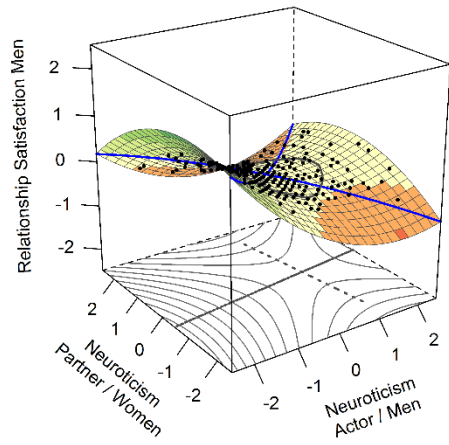


Figure 2. Response surfaces for relationship satisfaction as function of personal values (first row Achievement, middle row Benevolence, and bottom row Self-Direction and Conformity that were equal across gender).

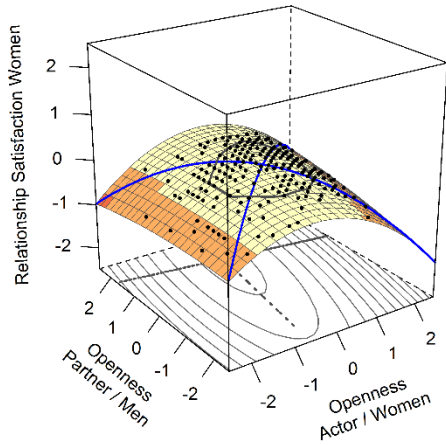
a) a1: -0.30\*\*\* a2: -0.11 a3: 0.08 a4: 0.02 p10: -3.59 p11: -4.35



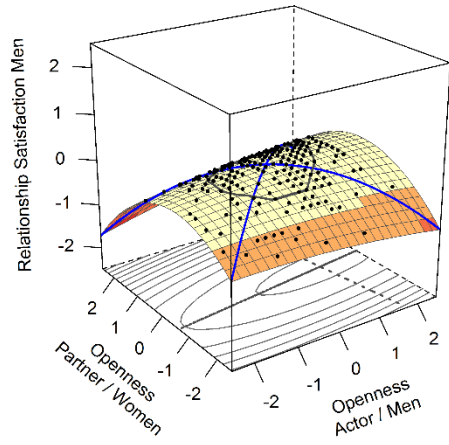
b) a1: -0.33\*\*\* a2: 0.09 a3: -0.19† a4: -0.04 p10: -0.14 p11: 0.14



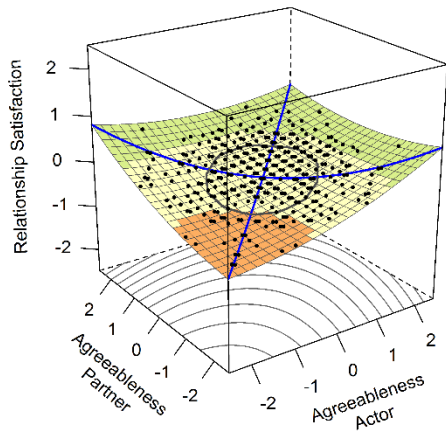
c) a1: -0.04 a2: -0.15† a3: 0.15 a4: -0.24\* p10: 1.91 p11: 6.83



d) a1: -0.04 a2: -0.15† a3: 0.15 a4: -0.24\* p10: 1.91 p11: 6.83



e) a1: 0.26\*\*\* a2: 0.03 a3: a4: 0.14 p10: p11:



f) a1: 0.10 a2: -0.02 a3: 0.04 a4: -0.16† p10: -0.74 p11: 2.60

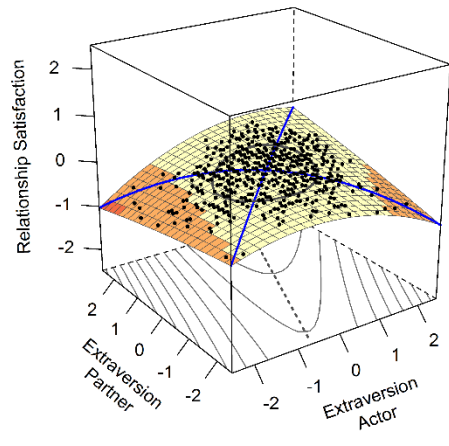


Figure 3. Response surfaces for relationship satisfaction as function of personality traits (first row Neuroticism, middle row Openness, and bottom row Agreeableness and Extraversion that were equal across gender).