

Testing the Concept of Relational Entitlement in the Dyadic Context: Further Validation and Associations With Relationship Satisfaction

Sivan George-Levi and Noa Vilchinsky
Bar Ilan University

Rami Tolmacz
Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya, Israel

Gabriel Liberman
Data-Graph, Research and Statistical Counseling, Holon, Israel

The sense of relational entitlement is the perception one has of what one deserves from one's partner, and it may play a crucial role in determining the quality of a couple's relationship. However, the concept was only recently subjected to empirical examination. The main goals of the current study were to continue the work initiated by the scale developers (Tolmacz & Mikulincer, 2011) by (1) further validating the Sense of Relational Entitlement Scale (SRE) in a sample of adult couples; and (2) examining the contribution of each partner's sense of relational entitlement to his or her own and his or her partner's relationship satisfaction. A sample of 120 Israeli, heterosexual, older couples (age = 58 years) in long-term relationships completed the study measurements. Factor analyses revealed that the SRE scale consisted of two major dimensions: conflicted entitlement and assertive entitlement. Applying an Actor-Partner-Interdependence Model (APIM) analysis indicated that the more conflicted one felt with regard to what one was entitled to, the less satisfaction one felt with the relationship. Additionally, the higher one's entitlement expectations were of one's partner (a subfactor of the assertive entitlement dimension), the more one's partner was satisfied with the relationship. The sense of entitlement construct seems to be relevant to the context of dyadic relationships and, as such, is worthy of further attention and investigation.

Keywords: Actor-Partner-Interdependence Model, couples, relationship satisfaction, sense of entitlement

Sense of entitlement—the subjective perception of what one deserves in a specific situation—is part of every interpersonal relationship (Solomon & Leven, 1975; Spiegel, 1987). Though one's sense of entitlement might be relevant in many areas of human existence, there is growing evidence attesting to the crucial role it plays in determining the quality of couples' relationships (Campbell, Bonacci, Shelton, Exline, & Bushman, 2004). This kind of *relational* entitlement is conceptualized as the extent to which an individual feels that his or her wishes, needs, and expectations should be fulfilled by a romantic partner (Tolmacz & Mikulincer, 2011).

Tolmacz and Mikulincer (2011) recently developed the Sense of Relational Entitlement Scale (SRE) and showed its associations with relationship satisfaction in a sample of young adults, most of whom were single. Pursuant to Tolmacz and Mikulincer's own recommendation to further validate the SRE along an individual's

entire life span, in the current study we assessed the SRE scale among middle-aged partners in long-term dyadic relationships. Adopting the well-established dyadic perspective (Revenson & DeLongis, 2011; Robins, Caspi, & Moffitt, 2000), we also assessed, among this same sample, the contribution of one's sense of relational entitlement to both one's own and one's partner's relationship satisfaction.

Sense of Entitlement

The first conceptualization of entitlement in the psychology literature can be traced back to Freud (1916). Freud wrote about patients who claimed they were entitled to some sort of compensation from life, mostly because of their congenital deficiencies. Freud found Shakespeare's Richard III to be a prototypical example of this kind of character. He also claimed that—albeit to a lesser degree—this personality characteristic was shared by all human beings in general. Edith Jacobson (1959) elaborated on Freud's ideas and added that the notion that certain individuals felt they deserved more than others may not in fact have stemmed from early disadvantages but, on the contrary, from the feeling that they were in possession of exceptional virtues. Therefore, because of their alleged superiority, these individuals may have felt more entitled than others (Jacobson, 1959).

In the field of personality psychology, entitlement has been regarded mostly within the context of narcissism, (e.g., Campbell et al., 2004; Edelstein, Newton, & Stewart, 2012; Emmons, 1984; Wink, 1991). Narcissism is an individual differences concept that

Sivan George-Levi and Noa Vilchinsky, Department of Psychology, Bar Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel; Rami Tolmacz, Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya, Israel, Gabriel Liberman, Data-graph, Research and Statistical Counseling, Holon, Israel.

This study was supported by a grant from the Israel Foundation Trustees. This study is partially based on the first author's dissertation study carried out at Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel.

Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Sivan George-Levi, Department of Psychology, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel 52900. E-mail: sivan.george@gmail.com

is comprised of grandiosity and an exaggerated sense of self on the one hand, and feelings of inferiority and low self-esteem on the other (Emmons, 1984; Exline, Baumeister, Bushman, Campbell, & Finkel, 2004). The entitlement component within the spectrum of narcissism consists of the tendency to expect favored treatment from others (Exline et al., 2004).

Although the concept of entitlement was initially perceived as a negative characteristic, contemporary scholars (Kriegman, 1983; Levin, 1970; Moses & Moses-Hrushovski, 1990) have expanded the sense of entitlement concept to include the healthy assertion of needs and rights. The concept has since been differentiated into three attitudes toward personal entitlement: assertive or appropriate entitlement, excessive or exaggerated entitlement, and restricted or understated entitlement (Kriegman, 1983; Levin, 1970; Moses & Moses-Hrushovski, 1990). An *assertive or appropriate* sense of entitlement characterizes people who are able to realistically appraise what they can expect from others. This appropriate sense includes the ability to assertively and confidently stand up for one's preferences and is considered an adaptive form of entitlement, crucial to one's well-being. Individuals who have a sense of *restricted* entitlement are characterized by a limited sense of sovereignty and self-assuredness; they are usually reserved, unassertive and timid. Finally, people characterized by an *excessive* sense of entitlement believe they deserve to have their needs and wishes fulfilled regardless of others' emotions and wishes.

Sense of Relational Entitlement

Although theorists conceptualized the sense of entitlement as a global trait (e.g., Campbell et al., 2004), it is generally agreed upon that an individual's sense of entitlement takes on different forms depending on the social situation he or she is in (Moses & Moses-Hrushovski, 1990). Tolmacz and Mikulincer (2011) have stressed that entitlement plays an especially important role in a couple's relationship. From the perspective of personality psychology and according to Bowlby's attachment theory (Bowlby, 1979), perceptions and memories of the type or quality of care that individuals received from early attachment figures shape the way they respond to their attachment figures in adulthood. Person (1989) claimed that the romantic relationship is the prototypical scenario in which people expect to have their emotional needs fulfilled, especially those that were neglected during childhood development. In addition, social exchange theories also suggest that entitlement issues are relevant to the distribution of resources within romantic relationships and thus are crucial to the understanding of relationship function and satisfaction (Lerner & Mikula, 1994). Thus, it is plausible to suggest that romantic relationships are the primary domain in which entitlement-related wishes, needs, and expectations will be uniquely expressed.

Indeed, there are several clinical reports showing how crucial the sense of entitlement is to a couple's relationship (e.g., Billow, 1999; Blechner, 1987). For instance, empirical studies have shown that excessive entitlement is associated with issues such as violence and aggression among couples (Wood, 2004), divorce rates (Sanchez & Gager, 2000), and selfishness in romantic relationships (Campbell et al., 2004). Fortunately, the SRE scale, recently developed by Tolmacz and Mikulincer (2011), enables an empirical investigation of the sense of entitlement in the context of the romantic relationship. The authors found both the excessive and

restricted types of relational entitlement to be maladaptive, and high scores on these two types were associated with higher levels of distress and lower levels of relationship satisfaction.

The Current Study

Tolmacz and Mikulincer (2011) were innovative in conceptualizing the idea of relational sense of entitlement and in developing a specific scale measuring entitlement in couples' relationships. However, most of their sample consisted of young singles, and their self-reported relational entitlement scale was therefore not related to actual long-term dyadic bonds. In addition, Tolmacz and Mikulincer (2011) themselves raised concerns regarding the inner structure of the SRE they had devised (p. 85) and recommended that further validation steps of the SRE be conducted. Therefore, in the current study we further invested in assessing the SREs inner structure as well as in assessing its associations with attachment that, as stated earlier, is theoretically conceived to be the bedrock of sense of entitlement.

Assuming that issues of entitlement are relevant to the dyadic relationship along the entire course of the couple's life together, in the current study we extended the work initiated by Tolmacz and Mikulincer (2011) by focusing on long-term relationships between mature adults versus shorter-term relationships among singles. By testing and revalidating the entitlement construct among a mature sample, we attempted to assess its usefulness for understanding dyads at a later phase of life span development.

Until recently, research on couples' relationships largely focused on the individual, with much less attention given to both partners (Revenson & DeLongis, 2011). Recent studies, however, support the notion that the dyadic perspective on relationships is critical as there is a growing need to combine the individual view with a contextual one (Robins, Caspi, & Moffitt, 2000). The dyadic perspective considers how each partner influences the other partner's cognitions, emotions, and actions. Methodologically, the recent development of sophisticated multilevel statistical models has permitted a more accurate examination of couples' data. Multilevel modeling takes into account the dependency among couples that standard regression analysis is unable to account for (Bryk & Raudenbush, 1992; Kashy & Kenny, 2000; Kenny, Kashy & Cook, 2006).

Therefore, the current study focuses on couples in long-term relationships and in doing so extends prior findings by investigating the concept of relational entitlement from a dyadic perspective. Overall, our goals in this research were (1) to further validate the measure of relational entitlement in a sample of adult couples in long-term romantic relationships and (2) to use this measure to demonstrate the contribution of each partner's sense of relational entitlement to one's own and one's partner's relationship satisfaction. We hypothesized that whereas assertive entitlement would be positively associated with relationship satisfaction for both partners, restrictive and excessive senses of relational entitlement would be negatively associated with both partners' relationship satisfaction.

Method

Participants and Procedure

The current sample consisted of 120 Israeli heterosexual couples. The average age for men was 59.64 years ($SD = 8.40$) and for

women 57.24 years ($SD = 8.01$). The average number of years of education was 15.8 for men ($SD = 2.6$) and 15.5 for women ($SD = 2.6$), and the majority of both men (80%) and women (73.5%) described themselves as having a good to very good economic status. The couples had been married or living together for an average of 32.64 years ($SD = 10.90$) and had on average 2.9 children ($SD = .92$).

The study was approved by the Bar Ilan University IRB. The couples were recruited between April 1st, 2011, and March 15th, 2012 via a convenience sample ("snowball" procedure). The research team was instructed to look for middle-aged couples among their and their parents' acquaintances. Approximately 150 middle-aged couples in long-term relationships were approached, of which 120 agreed to complete the study's battery of self-report questionnaires. Upon approval of the IRB, the completion of the questionnaires was regarded as agreement to participate in the study (informed consent was not required), and no incentives were offered. The couples were instructed to fill out the questionnaires at a time and place of their choosing, as long they did so independently, without consulting one another. The couples completed the questionnaires in one sitting, and completion lasted between 25 and 35 min. Ten couples completed the questionnaires using a free Web-based method (qualtrics.com) that was specifically programmed for the current study and that was an option offered to participants. Most of them, however, preferred to use the standard paper/pencil method.

Measures

Sense of Relational Entitlement. Participants completed the 33-item SRE (Tolmacz & Mikulincer, 2011). Participants were asked to rate the extent to which each item was descriptive of their attitudes, feelings, beliefs, and reactions in romantic relationships. Ratings were done on a 5-point scale (1 = *not at all*, 5 = *very much*). The authors of the instrument conducted a factor analysis that yielded a five-factor solution as follows: (1) "Vigilance regarding negative aspects of partner and relationship" describes the person's tendency to overfocus on the negative features of the partner and the relationship, as well as a tendency to end the relationship when it does not meet the person's expectations or needs (e.g., "I'm often preoccupied with the question of whether my partner is good enough for me"); (2) "Sensitivity to relational transgressions and frustrations" describes the intensity of the person's negative feelings and thoughts when facing frustrations or conflicts in the relationship (e.g., "When I'm not getting what I deserve from my partner, I become very tense"); (3) "Expectations for partner's attention and understanding" describes expectations for the partner's attention, concern and understanding (e.g., "I have high expectations of my partner"); (4) "Assertive entitlement" describes the ability to assertively and realistically stand up for one's needs and wishes in the relationship (e.g., "I insist on getting what I deserve in my relationship"); and (5) "Restricted entitlement" describes an inhibited ability to express one's needs, wishes and expectations in the relationship (e.g., "I'm often preoccupied with the question of whether I deserve my partner").

In Tolmacz & Mikulincer's study, Cronbach's α for the five SRE factors ranged from .74 to .91. Based on the intercorrelations between the five factors and following a second-order factor analysis, the three factors of "vigilance," "sensitivity," and "ex-

pectations" were unified into one major factor titled "excessive entitlement." Scores were computed by averaging the relevant items of each of the three major factors ("excessive," "assertive," and "restricted" entitlement).

Relationship satisfaction. Relationship satisfaction was measured using the 10-item Hebrew version (Lavee, 1995) of the ENRICH scale (Fowers & Olson, 1993; Olson, Fournier, & Druckman, 1987). Items were answered on a 7-point Likert scale and the score was calculated as the mean of the items. Example items were: "To what extent are you satisfied with your financial position and the way you and your partner make financial decisions?" and "To what extent are you satisfied with the personality characteristics and personal habits of your partner?" Studies have shown a good test-retest and internal consistency reliability of the subscales and the total measure (Fowers & Olson, 1993). The Israeli version was found to be valid in many studies (Lavee & Katz, 2002; Lavee & Mey-Dan, 2003). Cronbach's α for the 10 items in the current sample was .80.

Attachment orientations. Attachment orientations were assessed via use of the Hebrew version of the Experiences in Close Relationships scale (ECR; Brennan, Clark, & Shaver, 1998). The ECR is a 36-item measure assessing the two major dimensions of adult attachment orientations: attachment anxiety (e.g., "I worry a lot about my relationships") and attachment avoidance (e.g., "I don't feel comfortable opening up to other people"). Participants rated the extent to which each item was descriptive of their feelings in close relationships on a 7-point scale ranging from 1 (*not at all*) to 7 (*very much*). In the current sample, Cronbach's α were high for the 18 anxiety items (.92) and the 18 avoidance items (.86). Following the standard scoring procedure for the scale (Brennan et al., 1998), two scores were computed by averaging items on each subscale.

Statistical Analysis

The statistical analysis consisted of three steps: preparation of the data for the statistical analyses; validation of the SRE; and testing of the study hypotheses regarding the contribution of relational entitlement to relationship satisfaction.

Handling missing data. Multiple imputation analysis was applied to deal with the issue of missing data for the 120 couples who completed the study questionnaires. In short, according to Enders (2010), the multiple imputation technique uses a regression-based procedure to generate multiple copies of the data-set, each of which contains different estimates of the missing values. In the current analysis, we applied the SPSS.20 MI procedure, and 10 copies of the data set were generated. After creating these complete data sets, we estimated the models based on each filled-in data set and subsequently used Rubin's (1987) formulas to combine the parameter estimates and *SEs* into a single set of results. This procedure allows for the use of the full sample and provides unbiased parameter estimates as long as the imputation is done at random (missing completely at random, or MCAR).

Validation of the SRE. To validate the SRE, we applied a confirmatory factor analysis followed by an exploratory factor analysis and a second-order exploratory factor analysis. Pearson correlation analyses were applied to assess the associations among the different entitlement factors and the attachment orientations.

Testing the study hypotheses. To test the hypothesized models, we followed *Kenny, Kashy, and Cook's (2006)* suggestion and applied the APIM, using the Hierarchical Linear Model with HLM-7.0. The first step in conducting an analysis of dyadic data are to examine the degree of independence in the dependent variable (*West, Popp, & Kenny, 2008*). Independence was assessed by computing the intraclass correlation (*Kenny et al., 2006*), which was found to be significant ($ICC = .37$). Given this nonzero correlation, the data for this set was considered dependent, and was analyzed using dyadic analysis. Next, we compared the following models: the unconditioned model consisting of the assessment of the variance among the dyads regardless of any other explanatory variable; the model which assesses the direct actor and partner effects on relationship satisfaction; and the model with both actor and partner effects and the interactions between these effects and gender. Following *Kenny et al. (2006)*, power (β) was calculated by adding the design effect: $(1 + (n-1) ICC)$.

Results

Construct Validation of the SRE for Older Adults

Handling missing data. Overall, all of the items except two had less than 2% missing values. Because of the fact that Little's test for MCAR (*Little, 1988*) was nonsignificant, indicating that all of the missing values in the current sample were indeed missing at random $\chi^2(1225) = 1160.89, p = .90$, a multiple imputations procedure was applied.

Validation of the SRE. To examine the SREs internal structure, the following steps were carried out. First, we conducted a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) to confirm the original five-factor structure as reported by *Tolmacz and Mikulincer (2011)*, using M-plus version 5.2 software. The standard measurements for goodness of fit are "Comparative Fit Index" (CFI) and "Tucker-Lewis Index" (TLI). The recommended cut-off is 0.9 and above for both goodness-of-fit measurements (*Wang & Wang, 2012*). The goodness-of-fit of this solution was fair but not satisfactory: $\chi^2(473) = 1075.19, p < .001; \chi^2/df = 2.27; CFI = .832; TLI = .812; \text{root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA)} = .073; p < .001$.

Subsequently, we omitted three items (items 19, 22, and 25), which had the lowest loadings on each factor. These items were also irrelevant and ambiguous for most participants (e.g., item 19 consisted of the following: "I am unable to make compromises in

choosing a partner." The couples, being in long-term relationships for many years, found this item difficult to relate to). Indeed, these three items had the highest percentage of missing data (6.67%, 2.92%, and 1.25% of the participants did not answer items 25, 19, and 22, respectively).

Next, we ran the confirmatory factor analysis again, this time with the remaining 30 items. As expected, the solution's goodness-of-fit improved; however, it was still nonsatisfactory: $\chi^2(383) = 853.71, p < .001; \chi^2/df = 2.22; CFI = .859; TLI = .839; RMSEA = .072; p < .001$. Because of the lack of a satisfactory solution at this point, and to obtain a better understanding of the factors' inner structure, we computed Pearson correlations among the five factors (see *Table 1*) and compared them with the original results of *Tolmacz and Mikulincer (2011)*. The authors of the original instrument found the "vigilance," "sensitivity," and "expectations" factors to be highly correlated. They also found only weak positive correlations between these three factors and both the "assertive" and the "restricted" factors. However, in the current study a different picture of associations among the factors emerged. Most notably, the factor of "sensitivity" was correlated moderately to highly (*Cohen, 1988*) with all the other factors and not only with the "vigilance" and "expectations" factors. Subsequently, we also examined the correlations between all nine items composing the "sensitivity" factor and the other four factors and found that all "sensitivity" items correlated moderately to highly with all the other factors (these correlations are not presented because of space limitations). The finding that the "sensitivity" factor had high covariance with all of the other factors explained the inability to exert a satisfactory differentiating five-factor solution, and the "sensitivity" factor was therefore removed from any further analysis.

Next, we conducted an additional confirmatory factor analysis with the remaining 21 items after omitting the "sensitivity" factor. The goodness-of-fit of this solution was now much improved: $\chi^2(173) = 357.09, p < .001; \chi^2/df = 2.06; CFI = .905; TLI = .884; RMSEA = .067; p < .001$. However, because we did not have an a priori four-factor structure hypothesis, we applied a much stricter criterion and conducted an additional exploratory factor analysis with Oblimin rotation on the 21 items. We found that items 14 and 15 of the "vigilance" original factor loaded high on more than one factor, and less on their original theoretical-bound factor, and thus we omitted these items from the analysis. After omitting these two items, we conducted a final exploratory

Table 1
Pearson Correlations Among the Original Five Sense of Relational Entitlement Scale (SRE) Factors (N = 240)

Factors	1	2	3	4
1. Vigilance regarding negative aspects of partner and relationship				
2. Sensitivity to relational transgressions and frustrations	.60***			
3. Assertive entitlement	.31***	.70***		
4. Expectations for partner's attention and understanding	.11	.49***	.55***	
5. Restricted entitlement	.44***	.32**	-.09	-.08

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

analysis and a confirmatory factor analysis to finalize the solution and obtain the relevant and final indexes.

The analyses of the remaining 19 items revealed a clear and unequivocal four-factor solution with eigenvalues >1 , explaining 60.1% of the total variance. The items' loadings, as well as the reliabilities of each factor and their explained variance, are presented in Table 2. As can be seen, each item loaded exclusively on only one of the four factors. The goodness-of-fit of this final solution was satisfactory according to the following indexes: $\chi^2(137) = 264.13$, $p < .001$; $\chi^2/df = 1.92$; CFI = .924; TLI = .906; RMSEA = .062; $p < .001$. This four-factor structure with the 19 items was found to be more satisfactory than all the former factor structure solutions. The four factors revealed were identical to the original four factors after omitting the "sensitivity" factor, and they included: "assertive entitlement"; "restricted entitlement"; "entitlement expectations" (shortened from the original title: "expectations for partner's attention and understanding"); and "vigilance regarding negative aspects of partner and relationship." We subsequently rephrased the last factor as "excessive entitlement," as this factor was considered part of the "excessive factor" in the original Tolmacz and Mikulincer (2011) study. In addition, close scrutiny of the "excessive entitlement" factor items indeed confirmed that this factor accurately reflects what was theoretically meant by excessive entitlement.

Next, we computed Pearson correlations among these four factors. As can be seen in Table 3, the intercorrelations between the two factors representing a more conflicted, preoccupied, insecure, or unresolved sense of entitlement ("excessive entitlement" and "restricted entitlement") were found to be significant and positive.

The intercorrelations between the two factors representing a more secure, mature, healthy, or assertive sense of entitlement ("assertive entitlement" and "entitlement expectations") were also found to be significant and positive. Thus, these intercorrelations indicate the putative existence of a two-factor structure of the SRE scales. In light of the above, we conducted a second-order factor analysis of the four SRE factors, which revealed two major factors with eigenvalues >1 , explaining 69.8% of the total variance. The item loadings and the variance explained by each factor are presented in Table 4. As can be seen, each item loaded exclusively on only one of the two factors.

The first major factor consisted of the original factor describing a person's ability to express his or her needs in the romantic relationship in an assertive, regulated, and appropriate manner, together with legitimate expectations of a partner's understanding, acceptance, and empathy. This factor was therefore labeled "assertive entitlement." The second factor consisted of: (a) exaggerated feelings that one's needs should be fulfilled by one's partner, as well as tendencies to focus on negative aspects of a romantic partner when he or she did not meet these wishes ("excessive entitlement"); and (b) an inhibited expression of one's needs and expectations in romantic relationships ("restricted entitlement"). This factor was labeled "conflicted entitlement" as it mainly describes a state of imbalance with regard to one's experience of entitlement and a tendency to be preoccupied with entitlement needs. No significant correlations were found between the two new factors ($r = .04$, $p = .39$). On the basis of these findings, we computed two total scores (an assertive entitlement score and a conflicted entitlement score) for each participant by averaging the

Table 2

Content, Structural Coefficients, Explained Variance, and Reliabilities of the Sense of Relational Entitlement Scale (SRE) ($N = 240$)

SRE items	1	2	3	4
1. Excessive entitlement	0.86	0.05	-0.06	-0.09
I'm often preoccupied with the question of whether my partner is good enough for me (10)				
Sometimes I feel my partner is not good enough for me (13)	0.85	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02
I am obsessed with my partner's faults (11)	0.79	0.07	0.01	-0.00
When my partner frustrates me, I contemplate ending the relationship (27)	0.75	-0.05	-0.00	-0.01
When my partner frustrates me, I start thinking about new relationships (6)	0.75	0.07	-0.03	-0.14
When my partner hurts me, I'm immediately filled with a sense of distrust (12)	0.60	-0.15	0.03	0.24
I often feel I deserve to get more than I do in my relationship (31)	0.56	0.02	0.20	0.26
In my relationship, I'm sometimes filled with a kind of rage that I hardly ever experience in daily life (33)	0.51	0.06	0.26	0.12
2. Expectations for partner's attention and understanding				
I have high expectations of my partner (2)	-0.11	0.85	0.07	0.02
I expect my partner to understand me without my having to explain myself (1)	0.14	0.79	-0.16	-0.06
I can't give up my expectations of my partner in a relationship (3)	0.01	0.77	0.19	0.02
I expect my partner to be very attentive to me (5)	0.01	0.60	-0.16	0.24
3. Restricted entitlement				
Sometimes I feel I am not good enough for my partner (32)	-0.09	0.06	0.83	0.04
I'm often preoccupied with the question of whether I deserve my partner (23)	0.10	-0.05	0.74	-0.02
I feel my partner deserves to get more than he or she does in our relationship (26)	0.09	-0.06	0.62	-0.13
4. Assertive entitlement				
I insist on getting what I deserve out of my relationship (30)	0.07	0.06	0.0	0.82
I deserve a partner who is very sensitive (18)	0.02	0.08	0.07	0.73
I think my partner is lucky to be with me (28)	0.01	-0.13	-0.22	0.69
I won't make do with less than what I deserve in my relationship (7)	-0.09	0.22	0.05	0.62
Factor reliabilities (Cronbach's α)	.88	.81	.63	.75
Explained variance (%)	26.14	17.60	9.70	6.86

Note. Numbers within parentheses refer to the ordering of the items in the scale. Numbers in bold represent loadings of the items grouped under each specific factor.

Table 3
Means, SDs and Pearson Correlations Among the Four Senses of Relational Entitlement Scale (SRE) Factors ($N = 240$)

Factors	$M (SD)$	1	2	3
1. Excessive entitlement	1.57 (.68)	1		
2. Entitlement expectations	3.43 (.88)	.09	1	
3. Restricted entitlement	1.63 (.69)	.34***	-.01	1
4. Assertive entitlement	3.14 (.93)	.20**	.39***	.07

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

relevant items. We also computed the four separate subfactor scores (excessive, restricted, expectations, and assertive) for each participant by averaging the items on each factor.

Finally, anxious attachment orientation was positively associated with "Total Conflicted Entitlement" ($r = .18, p < .001$) as well as with its two subfactors ($r = .14, p < .05$, and $r = .15, p < .05$ for the excessive and the restricted subfactors, respectively), indicating that the more anxiously attached one is the more one reports a conflicted sense of entitlement. In addition, avoidant attachment was negatively associated with the subfactor of assertive entitlement ($r = -.17, p < .001$). Thus, the higher one is on the avoidant attachment dimension the lower one is on assertive sense of entitlement. However, it should be noted that these correlations, albeit significant, were small in size. No significant associations were found among any of the attachment scales and either the subfactor of expectations or the "Total Assertive Entitlement" score.

The Contribution of SRE to Relationship Satisfaction

As was previously stated, we hypothesized that assertive entitlement would be positively associated with relationship satisfaction for both partners and that restrictive and excessive senses of relational entitlement would be negatively associated with both partners' relationship satisfaction. We used the APIM framework to analyze the association between one's sense of entitlement and one's own relationship satisfaction as well as one's partner's satisfaction. We conducted two APIM analyses: one with the two SRE major factors (conflicted and assertive), and one with the four entitlement subfactors (excessive, restricted, expectations, and assertive) as the independent variables. The analyses consisted of both partners' relationship satisfaction as the dependent variables. The assertive entitlement subfactor was found to be negatively associated with women's age ($r = -.18, p < .05$), and positively associated with women's number of children ($r = .19, p < .05$). Therefore, women's age and number of children were factored in, to control for them (no associations were found between any of the sociodemographic variables and the SRE scores among men).

Three models were compared in each analysis: *Model 1* was the unconditional model with no independent variables; *Model 2* consisted of all actor and partner effects; and *Model 3* added the interactions among all actor and partner effects and gender. Tables 5 and 6 depict the hierarchical linear modeling coefficients for the actor and partner effects for the two major SRE factors (see Table 5), the four SRE subfactors (see Table 6), and relationship satisfaction. Significant actor effects were found for conflicted entitlement as well as its two subfactors: excessive entitlement and

restricted entitlement. For each partner, one's level of either excessive entitlement or restricted entitlement was associated negatively with one's relationship satisfaction. Thus, the more one was characterized by a conflicted sense of relational entitlement, the less one was satisfied with the relationship.

Although no significant partner effect was detected with regard to the two major entitlement factors, when we tested the APIM for each of the four SRE subfactors, a significant partner effect with regard to the subfactor of entitlement expectations was detected. It was found that the higher the entitlement expectations one had of his or her partner were, the more satisfied his or her partner was with the relationship. Finally, one significant interaction regarding relationship satisfaction was detected, between gender and actor's excessive entitlement subfactor, showing that the negative association between one's excessive entitlement and one's relationship satisfaction was stronger for men than for women. However, the added variance of this interaction was not found to be significant. Figure 1 summarizes the study results. Finally, effect sizes for both models were very high (nearly 80% for the two second-order factors model, and 99% for the four subfactors model), an acknowledgment of the fact that the odds of tracing existing effects were very high.

Discussion

Our main goal in the current study was to broaden the knowledge regarding the interplay between an individual's personality makeup and his or her relationship with an intimate partner. We focused on the theoretical concept of entitlement, rooted in both psychoanalytic and personality literature as well as in the field of social psychology. Though the concept of entitlement has been studied extensively in various arenas, the relatively novel conceptualization of *relational* entitlement has only recently been subjected to empirical operationalization. Therefore, the current study aim was twofold: first, to further validate the SRE scale by subjecting it to a series of factor analyses and by assessing its associations with attachment orientations; and, second, to test the associations among the SRE factors and relationship satisfaction within dyads.

SRE-Scale Validation

The current analysis of the SRE scale identified a personality construct that was similar although not identical to the original one reported by Tolmacz and Mikulincer (2011). Four of the original factors also emerged in the current study: "excessive entitlement" (formerly termed "vigilance"), "restricted entitlement," "assertive entitlement," and "entitlement expectations." One deviation from

Table 4
Structural Coefficients and Explained Variance of the Sense of Relational Entitlement Scale (SRE) ($N = 240$)

Factors	1	2
1. Assertive entitlement	.85	-.00
2. Entitlement expectations	.78	.00
3. Restricted entitlement	-.21	.84
4. Excessive entitlement	-.24	.79
Explained variance (%)	37.25	37.57

Table 5
Hierarchical Linear Modeling Coefficients for Actor and Partner Effects of Sense of Relational Entitlement Scale (SRE) Second-Order Factor Scores on Relationship Satisfaction

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Fixed effects			
Intercept	5.61 (0.07)	5.57 (0.08)	5.53 (0.09)
Gender		0.06 (0.10)	0.08 (0.10)
Number of children		0.10 (0.07)	0.10 (0.07)
Women's Age		-0.01 (0.01)	-0.003 (0.01)
Actor effects			
Assertive entitlement		0.06 (0.08)	0.02 (0.11)
Conflicted entitlement		-0.28* (0.12)	-0.28 (0.15)
Gender × Assertive			0.05 (0.15)
Gender × Conflicted			0.03 (0.22)
Partner effects			
Assertive entitlement		0.10 (0.08)	0.24* (0.11)
Conflicted entitlement		-0.06 (0.11)	0.08 (0.14)
Gender × Assertive			-0.23 (0.14)
Gender × Conflicted			-0.29 (0.21)
Random effects			
Level 1 σ_e^2	0.52 (0.72)	0.51 (0.71)	0.49 (0.70)
Level 2 σ_0^2	0.30*** (0.55)	0.27*** (0.52)	0.27*** (0.52)
Deviance	615.88	604.02	599.53
$\Delta\chi^2$	—	11.86	4.49
Pseudo R^2	—	.05	.07
Power (β)		.76	.79

Note. SEs are in parentheses for fixed effects and SDs for random parameters. Results are reported with robust SEs. The intercept represents the expected scores for relationship satisfaction at the mean of all included explanatory variables for men. Unconditional ICC = .37.

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Tolmacz and Mikulincer's (2011) suggested structure, which was introduced in the current study, was the omission of the fifth factor, originally labeled "sensitivity to relational transgressions and frustrations." This factor was formerly associated with only two factors, hence creating a differentiated second-order factor. In our study, however, this sensitivity factor correlated with *all* the other four factors, which suggests that—unlike for young singles—for couples in long-term relationships it perhaps expresses a more general tendency toward sensitivity in relationships and is unable to differentiate between entitlement attitudes.

Additionally, whereas in the Tolmacz and Mikulincer (2011) study a three-factor solution was suggested (albeit without sufficient statistical justification), a more valid structure emerged in the current study, in which four factors integrated into two second-order factors that we titled *conflicted* relational entitlement and *assertive* relational entitlement. We suggest that the conflicted dimension of the SRE, which consists of both the excessive and the restricted factors of entitlement, expresses one's imbalance in terms of two dialectical ends: the inflated confidence that one deserves everything, and—at the other end of the spectrum—the strong belief that one deserves nothing. The conflicted dimension might therefore reflect the narcissistic conflict between grandiosity on the one hand and vulnerability on the other (Edelstein et al., 2012). Indeed, according to Wink (1991), the sense of entitlement encompasses both aspects of narcissism.

The assertive dimension found in our study expresses a person's ability to maturely evaluate and assertively negotiate those things that one can expect from his or her partner. No correlation was found between the conflicted and assertive dimensions of relational entitlement, implying that being high on the assertive di-

mension does not automatically necessitate being low on the conflicted dimension. These results support the assumption that relational entitlement does not simply reflect a continuum ranging from a low to a high level. Rather, one's sense of relational entitlement may be comprised of both assertive and conflicted aspects concurrently.

Tolmacz and Mikulincer (2011) claimed that relational entitlement is a personality construct deriving from early relationships with primal attachment figures. Indeed, the authors reported on significant associations among attachment avoidance and anxiety orientations on the one hand and items representing excessive and restricted entitlement (that we later labeled "conflicted entitlement") on the other hand. However, the authors also detected much weaker associations among the attachment orientations and the entitlement expectations items, and no associations at all were found among attachment orientations and the assertive entitlement items (note that both the expectations and assertive items were unified into the assertive dimension of relational entitlement in the current study).

Consistent with Tolmacz and Mikulincer's study, we also found that conflicted entitlement was moderately related to attachment anxiety: that is, the less one feels his or her emotional needs will be reliably attended to, the more one seems ambivalent regarding whether or not one is entitled to anything at all from one's partner. These consistent associations seem to be in line with Tolmacz and Mikulincer's assertion that sense of entitlement in adulthood is rooted in the crystallization of attachment security; however, sense of entitlement is not synonymous with attachment. Future studies, preferably longitudinal, which will focus on the developmental processes underlying the manifestation of entitlement in adult-

Table 6
Hierarchical Linear Modeling Coefficients for Actor and Partner Effects of Sense of Relational Entitlement Scale (SRE) Subfactor Scores on Relationship Satisfaction

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Fixed effects			
Intercept	5.61 (0.07)	5.55 (0.08)	5.47 (0.10)
Gender		0.11 (0.12)	0.14 (0.12)
Number of children		0.08 (0.07)	0.08 (0.06)
Women's Age		-0.01 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)
Actor effects			
Excessive		-0.68*** (0.10)	-1.06*** (0.21)
Assertive		0.10 (0.06)	0.11 (0.07)
Expectation		0.05 (0.06)	0.02 (0.09)
Restricted		-0.18* (0.09)	-0.09 (0.10)
Gender × excessive			0.50* (0.22)
Gender × assertive			0.04 (0.10)
Gender × expectation			0.06 (0.14)
Gender × restricted			-0.07 (0.16)
Partner effects			
Excessive		-0.09 (0.10)	-0.01 (0.10)
Assertive		-0.04 (0.05)	-0.04 (0.09)
Expectation		0.10* (0.05)	0.14 (0.09)
Restricted		-0.03 (0.08)	0.04 (0.10)
Gender × excessive			-0.10 (0.22)
Gender × assertive			-0.02 (0.10)
Gender × expectation			-0.09 (0.12)
Gender × restricted			-0.12 (0.14)
Random effects			
Level 1 σ^2	0.52 (0.72)	0.41 (0.64)	0.39 (0.63)
Level 2 σ^2	0.30*** (0.55)	0.11*** (0.33)	0.11*** (0.33)
Deviance	615.88	512.52	504.10
$\Delta\chi^2$	—	103.36***	8.42
Pseudo R^2	—	.37	.39
Power (β)		.999	.999

Note. SEs are in parentheses for fixed effects and SDs for random parameters. Results are reported with robust SEs. The intercept represents the expected scores for relationship satisfaction at the mean of all included explanatory variables for men. Unconditional ICC = .37.

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

hood, will be better able to determine whether conflicted entitlement is indeed a *consequence* of insecure attachment.

The Association Between SRE and Relationship Satisfaction

The second goal of the current study was to assess the association between one's sense of relational entitlement and his or her own relationship satisfaction and his or her partner's satisfaction. Findings showed that the more one was characterized by conflicted entitlement, the less he or she felt satisfied with the relationship. These results were found for the conflicted second-order factor as well as for its two components: excessive and restricted entitlement. The findings are consistent with the assumption that holding either an inflated or a restricted sense of entitlement is maladaptive within the context of a romantic relationship (Kriegman, 1983; Moses & Moses-Hrushovski, 1990; Tolmacz & Mikulincer, 2011), at least on the individual level.

From the psychoanalytic point of view, many intrapsychic and interpersonal conflicts are the result of unmet childhood needs because of deficiencies in the early parental bond, and individuals who experienced such deficiencies will, therefore, continually seek to fulfill these needs in their adult romantic relationships (Bowlby,

1979; Kernberg, 1975; Kohut, 1971; Millon, 1981). Thus, one putative explanation for the current results is that people high on the conflicted entitlement dimension will feel permanently dissatisfied with their partners' ability to fulfill their extensive, never fully met primary needs and expectations. The reason that this explanation is referred to as putative is because of the highly plausible alternative that after 30 years of being in an intimate relationship, actual negative transactions within the dyads might truly have heightened feelings of conflicted entitlement in each partner.

We have found that the more entitlement expectations an individual had of his or her partner, the more satisfaction the *partner* took in the relationship. What individuals expect to receive from their partners affects their evaluations and perceptions of their relationships (Fletcher, Simpson, & Thomas, 2000; Reis, Clark, & Holmes, 2004; Stanley, Blumberg, & Markman, 1999). Our findings add to the literature by showing that the positive expectations held by one partner of the other are also associated with the relationship satisfaction experienced by the *partner*. Simpson (2010) asserted that individuals who hold expectations of their partners also transfer to them a sense of security, care and trust, and one possible explanation for this finding may be that these

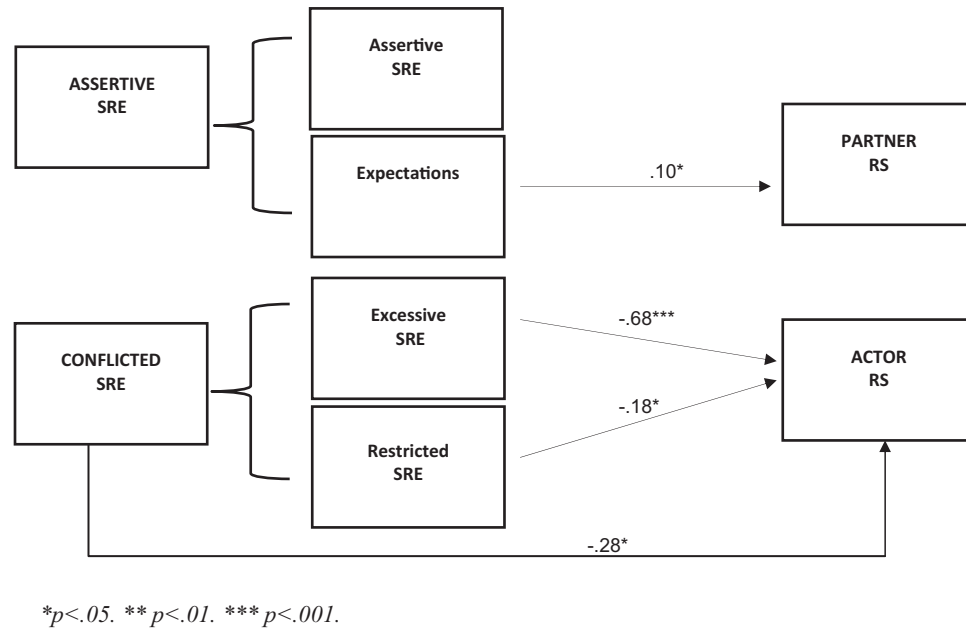


Figure 1. Schematic summary of the study findings.

positive feelings add to the partner's relationship satisfaction. Thus, for couples in long-term relationships, high entitlement expectations may imply that one's partner still cares about him or her and is highly invested in the relationship; one partner's entitlement expectations are therefore associated with the other partner's relationship satisfaction.

Interestingly, we did not find any associations between one's expectations and one's *own* relationship satisfaction. Authors argue that high expectations do not have a solely positive impact on the relationship, and the flipside of high expectations can be disappointment (Stanley et al., 1999). Partners seem to compare what they receive in the relationship with the expectations they have of it; if the outcomes do not meet their expectations, they will be less satisfied with their relationships (Fletcher, Simpson, & Thomas, 2000). Therefore, because of their occasional disappointments, it appears that individuals who have high expectations of their partners are not always satisfied with their relationships, especially if their expectations are unrealistic (Florian & Vilchinsky, 2001). Our findings suggest that even if one's sense of assertive entitlement (entitlement expectations in particular) is not associated with one's own relationship satisfaction, it may still be associated with the other partner's relationship satisfaction.

In summary, a thorough examination of the original SRE items reveals a two-dimensional structure. The first factor, conflicted entitlement, expresses the disparity in one's own entitlement needs and wishes: on the one hand one retains a strong belief that one deserves to have all his or her needs and demands met by the partner, and on the other hand one retains a strong sense that one is not worthy of getting anything at all from the partner. Our findings indicate that this conflicted dimension is associated with less satisfaction within the context of the couple relationship. The second dimension—assertive entitlement—expresses a person's ability to appropriately and realistically evaluate those things that one can expect from his or her partner. This dimension seems to be

associated with the partner's relationship satisfaction in the context of the couple relationship.

The present study has several limitations. First, data was collected at one time-point only, and therefore, we cannot conclusively determine the degree to which the current results are a function of developmental processes, rooted in early childhood experiences, or of one's reaction to one's current, actual romantic relationship. Moreover, we cannot determine the direction of the association between relational entitlement and relationship satisfaction. It is possible that it is the degree of relationship satisfaction that generates specific wishes and expectations regarding the fulfillment of one's needs, and not the other way around, as hypothesized. Furthermore, the participants in our study were older married or cohabiting heterosexual couples, characterized by a high economic status and level of education: a set of factors that limits the ability to generalize from the findings. Finally, the couples in our study were identified via a snowball procedure. Despite the fact that "snowball" sampling is a helpful and acceptable method when the target population is scattered (Gilbert, 1993; Salganik & Salganik, 2004), this kind of sampling can still limit the generalizability of the findings.

Because of the current study's cross-sectional design and other limitations, we still cannot determine the developmental nature of the two entitlement dimensions. We would recommend that future studies investigate the SRE construct prospectively, across different age groups, and longitudinally, along the relationship timeline. It would also be useful to assess this construct during transitional stages—for example, parenthood, or a period when one partner is coping with an acute illness—times during which relational entitlement needs, expectations, and conflicts are likely to be highly activated within the dyad. By doing so, future studies might help uncover the underlying process mechanism of relational entitlement.

The research regarding relational entitlement is still in its infancy; it is therefore premature to draw detailed clinical recommendations from it. However, we cautiously suggest that marital and family therapists may benefit from detecting the form of relational entitlement (conflicted or assertive) that is more dominant among their clients to apply an appropriate intervention. Studies have shown that one of the greatest challenges in couple's therapy is partners' unrealistic expectations and wishes from each other and/or from the relationship (Amato & Rogers, 1997; Florian & Vilchinsky, 2001). Entitlement wishes and expectations could therefore be interpreted and reevaluated in the context of the individual's current romantic relationship, a process which might lead to the adoption of a more realistic sense of entitlement toward each partner.

References

- Amato, P., & Rogers, S. (1997). A longitudinal study of marital problems and subsequent divorce. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, *59*, 612–624. doi:10.2307/353949
- Billow, R. M. (1999). Power and entitlement: Or, mine versus yours. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, *35*, 473–489. doi:10.1080/00107530.1999.10746395
- Blechner, M. J. (1987). Entitlement and narcissism: Paradise sought. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, *23*, 244–255. doi:10.1080/00107530.1987.10746178
- Bowlby, J. (1979). *The making and braking of affectional bonds*. London: Tavistock.
- Brennan, K. A., Clark, C. L., & Shaver, P. R. (1998). *Self report measurements of adult attachment: An integrative overview*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.
- Bryk, A. S., & Raudenbush, S. W. (1992). *Hierarchical linear models: Applications and data analysis techniques*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.
- Campbell, W. K., Bonacci, A. M., Shelton, J., Exline, J. J., & Bushman, B. J. (2004). Psychological entitlement: Interpersonal consequences and validation of a self report measure. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, *83*, 29–45. doi:10.1207/s15327752jpa8301_04
- Cohen, J. (1988). *Statistical power analysis for behavioral science*. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Edelstein, R. S., Newton, N. J., & Stewart, A. J. (2012). Narcissism in midlife: Longitudinal changes in and correlates of women's narcissistic personality traits. *Journal of Personality*, *80*, 1179–1204. doi:10.1111/j.1467-6494.2011.00755
- Emmons, R. A. (1984). Factor analysis and construct validity of the narcissistic empirical evidence. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *48*, 53–78. doi:10.1207/s15327752jpa4803_11
- Enders, C. K. (2010). *Applied missing data analysis*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.
- Exline, J. J., Baumeister, R. F., Bushman, B. J., Campbell, W. K., & Finkel, E. J. (2004). Too proud to let go: Narcissistic entitlement as a barrier to forgiveness. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *87*, 894–912. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.87.6.894
- Fletcher, G. J., Simpson, J. A., & Thomas, G. (2000). Ideals, perceptions, and evaluations in early relationship development. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *79*, 933–940. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.79.6.933
- Florian, V., & Vilchinsky, N. (2001). Frequency of marital problems and their treatment difficulty: The Israeli therapists' perspective. *Society and Welfare*, *21*, 281–309.
- Fowers, B. J., & Olson, D. H. (1993). ENRICH marital satisfaction scale: A brief research and clinical tool. *Journal of Family Psychology*, *7*, 176–185. doi:10.1037/0893-3200.7.2.176
- Freud, S. (1916). Some character-types met with in psycho-analytic work. *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud, Volume XIV (1914–1916): On the History of the Psycho-Analytic Movement, Papers on Metapsychology and Other Works*, 309–333.
- Gilbert, N. (1993). *Researching social life*. London: Sage.
- Jacobson, E. (1959). The "exceptions": An elaboration of Freud's character study. *The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, *14*, 135–154.
- Kashy, D. A., & Kenny, D. A. (2000). The analysis of data from dyads and groups. In H. Reis & C. M. Judd (Eds.), *Handbook of research methods in social and personality psychology* (pp. 451–477). New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Kenny, D. A., Kashy, D. A., & Cook, W. L. (2006). *Dyadic data analysis*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.
- Kernberg, O. F. (1975). *Borderline conditions and pathological narcissism*. New York, NY: Aronson.
- Kohut, H. (1971). *The analysis of self*. New York, NY: International University Press.
- Kriegman, G. (1983). Entitlement attitudes: Psychosocial and therapeutic implications. *Journal of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis*, *11*, 265–281.
- Lavee, Y. (1995). *Marital quality inventory: Research and clinical uses*. Scientific Conference of the Psychologists Association. Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva, Israel.
- Lavee, Y., & Katz, R. (2002). Division of labor, perceived fairness, and marital quality: The effect of gender ideology. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *64*, 27–39. doi:10.1111/j.1741-3737.2002.00027
- Lavee, Y., & Mey-Dan, M. (2003). Patterns of change in marital relationships among parents of children with cancer. *Health & Social Work*, *28*, 255–263. doi:10.1093/hsw/28.4.255
- Lerner, M. J., & Mikula, G. (Eds.). (1994). *Entitlement and the affectional bond: Justice in close relationships*. New York, NY: Plenum Press. doi:10.1007/978-1-4899-0984-8
- Levin, S. (1970). On the psychoanalysis of attitudes of entitlement. *Bulletin of the Philadelphia Association for Psychoanalysis*, *20*, 1–10.
- Little, R. J. A. (1988). A test of missing completely at random for multivariate data with missing values. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, *83*, 1198–1202. doi:10.1080/01621459.1988.10478722
- Millon, T. (1981). *Disorders of personality: DSM-III: Axis II*. New York, NY: Wiley.
- Moses, R., & Moses-Hrushovski, R. (1990). Reflections on the sense of entitlement. *The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, *45*, 61–78.
- Olson, D. H., Fournier, D. G., & Druckman, J. M. (1987). *Counselor's manual for PREPARE/ENRICH* (Rev. Ed.). Minneapolis, MN: PREPARE/ENRICH, Inc.
- Person, E. S. (1989). *Dreams of love and fateful encounters: The power of romantic passion*. London, United Kingdom: Penguin.
- Reis, H. T., Clark, M. S., & Holmes, J. G. (2004). Perceived partner responsiveness as an organizing construct in the study of intimacy and closeness. In D. Mashek & A. Aron (Eds.), *The handbook of closeness and intimacy* (pp. 201–225). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Revenson, T. A., & DeLongis, A. (2011). Couples coping with chronic illness. In S. F. Olkman (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of stress, health, and coping* (pp. 101–123). New York, NY: Oxford University.
- Robins, R. W., Caspi, A., & Moffitt, T. E. (2000). Two personalities, one relationship: Both partners' personality traits shape the quality of their relationship. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *79*, 251–259. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.79.2.251
- Rubin, D. B. (Ed.). (1987). *Multiple imputation for nonresponse in surveys*. New York, NY: Wiley. doi:10.1002/9780470316696
- Salganik, M. J., & Heckathorn, D. D. (2004). Sampling and estimation in hidden populations using respondent-driven sampling. *Sociological Methodology*, *34*, 193–239. doi:10.1111/j.0081-1750.2004.00152.x

- Sanchez, L., & Gager, C. T. (2000). Hard living, perceived entitlement to a great marriage, and marital dissolution. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, *62*, 708–722. doi:10.1111/j.1741-3737.2000.00708.x
- Simpson, J. (2010). Psychological foundations of trust. In T. D. Fisher & J. McNulty (Eds.), *Current directions in human sexuality and intimate relationships* (pp. 168–176). Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.
- Solomon, L., & Leven, S. (1975). Entitlement. *Psychotherapy: Theory, Research and Practice*, *12*, 280–285. doi:10.1037/h0086444
- Spiegel, R. (1987). Reflections on entitlement and idealization. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, *23*, 272–277. doi:10.1080/00107530.1987.10746181
- Stanley, S. M., Blumberg, S. L., & Markman, H. J. (1999). Helping couples fight for their marriages: The PREP approach. In B. Rony & H. M. Therese (Eds.), *Preventive approaches in couples' therapy* (pp. 279–303). Philadelphia, PA: Brunner/Mazel.
- Tolmacz, R., & Mikulincer, M. (2011). The sense of entitlement in romantic relationships—scale construction, factor structure, construct validity, and its associations with attachment orientations. *Psychoanalytic Psychology*, *28*, 75–94. doi:10.1037/a0021479
- Wang, J., & Wang, X. (2012). *Structural equation modeling, applications using Mplus*. New York, NY: Wiley. doi:10.1002/9781118356258
- West, T. V., Popp, D., & Kenny, D. A. (2008). A guide for the estimation of gender and sexual orientation effects in dyadic data: An actor-partner interdependence model approach. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *34*, 321–336. doi:10.1177/0146167207311199
- Wink, P. (1991). Two faces of narcissism. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *61*, 590–597. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.61.4.590
- Wood, J. T. (2004). Monsters and victims: Male felons' accounts of intimate partner violence. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, *21*, 555–576. doi:10.1177/0265407504045887

Received February 6, 2013

Revision received December 16, 2013

Accepted January 22, 2014 ■