General Beliefs, Relationship Beliefs, and Relationship Quality: Aggregate Summary of Results

The following information relates to a study you might have participated in July of 2018. If you participated in this study, you completed on online survey. We were interested in how one type of relationship belief, called the sexes are different belief (SDB), was related to overall relationship quality and attitudes towards men and women. This belief has been theorized to influence relationship quality, however, few studies have examined how this belief relates to many indicators of relationship quality. Even fewer studies have investigated how SDB is associated with attitudes towards men and women. Participants were asked to complete a variety of questionnaires regarding their general and relationship beliefs. In addition, participants were asked to evaluate their current romantic relationship. The goal of this study was to determine whether participants who reported higher levels of SDB would also report (1) lower levels of relationship quality, indicated by trust, intimacy, relational assurance, intent to persist, satisfaction, felt understanding, and perspective taking, and (2) more traditional gender-stereotyped attitudes towards men and women (i.e., sexism).

KEY FINDINGS

Did people who reported higher levels of SDB report lower levels of relationship quality?

Yes and no. Individuals with greater endorsement of SDB reported lower levels of both relational assurance and perspective taking. However, SDB did not significantly correlate with any other measures of relationship quality. Yet, people who more strongly believed that the sexes are different reported engaging in fewer attempts to understand their partner’s perspective which in turn led to lower relationship quality overall.

Did people who reported higher levels of SDB report more traditional gender-stereotyped attitudes towards men and women?

Yes. Higher reported levels of SDB was positively related to all measures of sexism, meaning that people who believe that men and women are inherently different, also hold more gender stereotypical attitudes about men and women and how they should interact.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

This research is part of a larger project that is examining how SDB is related to relationship quality. In the future we hope to examine whether SDB causes lower relationship quality. This could not be done within the current study because we used a correlational design and thus, we could not determine causation.

If you would like more information related to this study, please refer to:

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If you have any questions or concerns about the study, please contact:

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Thank you again for your participation!