

Romantic Relationship Initiation Preferences Across Cultures: Aggregate Summary

The following information is related to a study that you may have participated in at some point in January or February of 2024. If you participated in this study, you completed an online survey about your current romantic relationship and beliefs about romantic relationship initiation.

This study was designed to investigate whether preferences for family involvement in romantic relationship initiation could be influenced by an individual's country of birth, value for family and family, and cultural identity. If you completed this survey, you were asked to provide information about your cultural identity, familism values (how much you value family in relation to yourself), relational-interdependent self-construal (how you see yourself in relation to others around you), romantic relationship initiation preferences, your ethnic background and some information about your partner.

Key Findings:

The results indicated that generally, people within this sample preferred to begin a relationship using friends-first initiation (i.e., you begin a platonic friendship with someone and later on develop a romantic relationship), when compared to dating initiation. There was no association between familism scores, relational-interdependent self-construal scores, cultural identity, and preferences for family involvement in romantic relationship initiation. Regardless of country of birth, friends-first initiation was preferred over any other type of initiation.

These results reflect previous findings from studies on relationship initiation. To further investigate the possibility of culturally influenced ways to begin a relationship, researchers may want to recruit participants from a greater variety of countries.

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

Joel, S., & MacDonald, G. (2021). We're not that choosy: Emerging evidence of a progression bias in romantic relationships. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 25(4), 317-343.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/10888683211025860>

Karandashev, V. (2023). Cross-cultural variation in relationship initiation. In J. K. Mogilski, & T. K. Shackelford, *The Oxford handbook of evolutionary psychology and romantic relationships* (pp. 267-302). Oxford University Press.

https://edisciplinas.usp.br/pluginfile.php/7262442/mod_resource/content/1/OHEPRR%20-%20proof%208-16-2022.pdf#page=281

Stinson, D. A., Cameron, J. J., & Hoplock, L. B. (2022). The friends-to-lovers pathway to romance: Prevalent, preferred, and neglected by science. *Social and Personality Psychology Science*, 13(2), 562-571.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/19485506211026992>

Podcast with the Toronto Star: <https://www.thestar.com/podcasts/thismatters/2021/07/28/the-science-behind-why-you-should-date-your-friends-no-really.html>

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

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Thank you again for your participation!