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Romantic Relationship Termination

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Romantic Relationship Termination

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Romantic Relationship Termination

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An evolutionary model of long-term romantic relationship termination is proposed. According to the model, relationship termination is the functional output of psychological mechanisms evolved to solve adaptive problems faced by humans over evolutionary history. To the extent that men and women have faced similar adaptive problems in romantic relationships, their psychologies of romantic relationship termination are expected to be similar. To the extent that these adaptive problems have differed, their psychologies of relationship termination are expected to differ. Consequently, men and women are hypothesized to have evolved similar, but distinct psychological mechanisms that underlie the decision rules in the termination of long-term romantic relationships. Specific hypotheses and predictions about the contexts and tactics of relationship termination have been derived from this perspective, including: 1) a greater sensitivity in men than in women to declines in their long-term mate's physical attractiveness; 2) a greater sensitivity in women than in men to declines in their long-term

mate's investment of resources in them. To test these and other hypotheses about functional design in the psychological mechanisms underlying mating relationship termination several studies were conducted to investigate: 1) perceptions regarding the contexts in which men and women are likely to terminate romantic relationships; 2) perceptions regarding the tactics men and women employ to terminate romantic relationships; 3) thoughts of relationship termination; and 4) personal accounts of relationship termination. Men were judged more sensitive than women to decreases in their long-term mate's physical attractiveness, but did not differ from women in reporting decreased physical attractiveness as a cause of relationship termination. Women were judged more sensitive than men to a partner the decreasing investment of resources in them and reported decreased investment more frequently as a cause of relationship termination. Because several tests of the hypotheses described in this dissertation were disconfirmed, the results should be interpreted with caution.

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Chapter 1: *Background*

INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE OF LONG-TERM MATING RELATIONSHIP TERMINATION

Heterosexual mating relationships occur throughout the world and have occurred throughout human evolutionary history (Buss, 1994; Buss & Schmitt, 1993). Both men and women often end mating relationships. The divorce rate in the United States in 2005 was roughly 3.6 divorces per 1000 people (Munson & Sutton, 2006). Ostensibly, this may appear to be a low rate. However, data analyzed from retrospective marital histories paints a clearer picture of divorce in the United States. Looking at the 1940-45 birth cohorts, the most recent group for which complete marital histories through to age 55 are available, by age 30, one sixth of the marriages in this cohort had already ended. By age 45, around one third of first marriages had ended, and by age 55, only 53% of the population remained in intact first marriages (Stevenson and Wolfers, 2007). For marriages that occurred in the early 1970s, 51% dissolved within 25 years (Stevenson and Wolfers, 2007). Cherlin (1982) has suggested that half of all divorces occur within the first seven years of marriage. In the United States, 43 percent of first marriages end in separation or divorce within the first 15 years of marriage (National Center for Health Statistics [NCHS], 2001). In addition, 50% of all people in the United States will be divorced at least once (NCHS, 2001).

Divorce is cross-culturally ubiquitous from western societies to hunting and gathering groups (Betzig, 1989; United Nations, 2006). Divorce rates do vary cross-

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culturally. The United Nations demographic yearbook reports that in 2003 the nation with the highest divorce rate was Gibraltar (5.6 per 1000) and the lowest were Georgia, Mongolia, and Tajikstan (all with 0.4 per 1000) (United Nations, 2006). How representative these rates are of the range of divorce rates in the world are limited by the number of countries responding to the United Nations inquiry in a given year as well as the data collection methods used by each nation. Among the Ache, a hunter-gatherer society in Paraguay, the average man & woman marry and divorce more than 11 times each by age 40 (Hill, 1991). Of the 186 societies surveyed by Betzig (1989), a society without conjugal dissolution could not be found.

The incidence of divorce reported in the United States and by the United Nations Demographic Yearbook is affected by the ability of individuals ending long-term mating relationships to meet the costs (financial and otherwise) involved in formally ending a marriage. In addition, relationship dissolution by other than legal means, such as separation, is not measured in statistics for divorce (United Nations, 2006). Finally, formal recognition does not characterize all mating relationships (Buss & Schmitt, 1993), nor does it characterize all relationship terminations. Consequently, both long-term mating relationships and the termination of those relationships may be even more ubiquitous than what is reflected in the literature.

Long-term relationship termination is a complex event, involving considerable costs, both psychological and material. Holmes and Rahe (1967) found that it was one of the most stressful life events an individual can experience, second only to death of a spouse. It can damage social reputation and status (Buss, 1994). Divorce often leads to a decline in the standard of living of women, often pushing them below the poverty level

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(Duncan & Hoffman, 1985; Amato & Keith, 1991). Children of divorced parents are put at risk. Living in a stepparent home is the single most powerful risk factor for child abuse (Daly & Wilson, 1985). Relationship termination may also result in physical harm to the initiator of the divorce. Women who try to leave their long-term partners are at particular risk of physical abuse by their partners (Daly & Wilson, 1995; Dobash & Dobash, 1984). Daly and Wilson (1988) found that men who kill their wives or girlfriends typically do so under one of two conditions: the observation or suspicion of infidelity or when the woman is ending the relationship. Divorce negatively impacts the psychological, emotional, and physical health of those involved (Kitson and Sussman, 1982; Levinger, 1976).

REASONS OR CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO LONG-TERM MATING RELATIONSHIP TERMINATION

Extant research examining the contexts of long-term mating relationship termination has primarily focused on self-reported reasons for divorce. Most investigations of the reasons for relationship dissolution have focused on one member of the former relationship. However, several research groups have collected data from both members of terminated relationships.

Thurner, Hill, Rubin, and Peplau (1976) compared ex-partners' perspectives on their former relationships. When former partners were asked to provide their understanding of the reasons for relationship termination, there was moderate to high agreement on the contribution of non-dyadic factors ("desire to be independent", "interest in someone else", etc.), but low or no agreement on dyadic factors ("becoming bored with relationship", "differences in interests", etc.). They found that "man's desire to be

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independent," "woman's desire to be independent," "becoming bored with the relationship," and "differences in interest" were the most highly rated reasons for relationship termination. Women rated more reasons as important in the relationship termination than did men. More women than men cited "differences in interests," "differences in intelligence," "conflicting ideas about marriage," "my desire to be independent," and "my interest in someone else." The only reason that men were more likely to cite was "living too far apart."

Sprecher (1994) compared the reasons for relationship termination of both former partners. She classified reasons for breakup according to those referring to the self (e.g. I desired to be independent), the partner (e.g. partner became bored with the relationship, or the interaction (e.g. we had conflicting marriage ideas). She found that "we had different interests" and "we had communication problem," were the most important reasons cited for the relationship termination. Women did not report more reasons for relationship termination than men. In addition, she found no significant sex differences in the specific reasons given for breakup.

Fenn, Melichar & Chiriboga (1983) examined the reasons for divorce reported by 333 men and women. They found that two of the most commonly cited reasons were "conflicting lifestyles" and "spouse wants freedom." They found very few sex differences. Women were more likely than men to report "spouse drinking," "spouse violent," and "spouse running around". Men were more likely than women to report "spouse wants freedom."

Newcomb (1985) examined the self-reported reasons for divorce of 8 former couples. Women reported more specific reasons than men. Women, more than men,

rated "agree on friends" "agree on philosophy of life," "independence" and "other". No reasons were reported more by men than by women. The relative absence of sex differences found by Newcomb (1985) may be due to the small sample size and accompanied lack of statistical power.

Sex differences in the reported reasons for relationship termination are not reliably found in the literature, but several studies have found clear sex differences (Betzig, 1989; Gigy & Kelly, 1992; Goode, 1956; Palmer, 1971; Ponzetti, Zvonkovic, Cate, Huston,, 1992). Gigy & Kelly (1992) found that "loss of closeness", "feelings of emotional barrenness", "boredom with the marriage", and "serious differences in lifestyle and values" were the prevalent reasons given for divorce. Women were more likely than men to report a variety of reasons for divorce ranging from "not feeling loved" to "spouse's extramarital affairs" to "violence" (Gigy & Kelly, 1992). Women are more likely to refer to a "general lack of love" (Levinger, 1966), "relational or emotional issues" (Cleek & Pearson, 1985), and "their former spouse's personalities" (Kitson, 1992) as perceived causes of divorce. Men are more likely to refer to "Wife's extramarital sex" (Kitson, 1992), "sexual incompatibility" (Levinger, 1966), and "problems with in-laws" (Kitson, 1992; Levinger, 1966).

Other researchers have examined marriages using observational methods, identifying factors present at the beginning of a marital relationship that predict later dissolution (Gottman, 1994; Gottman, Coan, Carrere, and Swanson, 1998). From this perspective, the success or failure of a long-term mating relationship depends not on whether there is conflict between the individuals in the relationship, but rather how the conflict is handled. Researchers using this approach have identified a number of factors

that influence marital stability including: the ratio of positive to negative affect in marital interaction (Gottman & Levenson, 1992; Gottman et al., 1998), the presence or absence of a "neutral affective style" in marital interaction (Gottman and Levenson, 2002), as well as the "recasting" or marital histories in a negative light (Buehlman, Gottman, & Katz, 1992). Research by Gottman and others examining how marital interactions predict marital outcomes has important implications for marital therapy.

Extant research examining the reasons (or contexts) of relationship termination has provided a strong foundation from which to build a framework for understanding relationship termination. Researchers have examined self-reported reasons for relationship termination, compared ex-partners perceptions of the reasons, and examined the factors within relationships that predict later dissolution.

TACTICS USED TO TERMINATE LONG-TERM MATING RELATIONSHIPS

Unlike the reasons for marital dissolution, few researchers have investigated the tactics (self-reported or otherwise) that men and women employ to end long-mating relationships. Wilmot, Carbaugh & Baxter (1985) explored the communicative strategies used to terminate romantic relationships. They found that three factors characterize termination strategies: (1) verbal directedness; (2) verbal indirectedness; and, (3) non-verbal withdrawal. Wilmot et al (1985) also found that women were more likely than men to report the use of verbally direct strategies to end their romantic relationships.

Battaglia, Richard, Datteri & Lord (1998) investigated the sequential process of events that occurs in relationship dissolution. According to the authors, men and women go through sixteen ordered stages during relationship dissolution, starting with lack of

interest and ending with the breakup itself. They found that when ask to list the steps that normally occur during the dissolution of a close relationship, men were more likely than women to list "express frustration and annoyance" and "communicate feelings" when breaking up. Women were more likely than men to list "break up" in their break up script.

Baxter (1984) through her relationship trajectories theory has suggested that breaking up is similar to a flow chart of decisions and their subsequent consequences. They identified six critical features of the dissolution process: 1) the gradual versus sudden onset of relationship problems; 2) mutual versus individual desire to end the relationship; 3) slow versus rapid nature of the disengagement negotiation; 4) the use of direct versus indirect actions to accomplish dissolution; the presence versus absence of relationship repair attempts; 6) the final outcome of relationship termination versus continuation.

Reneau and Chaplin (2002) asked college-aged men and women to rate the likelihood that they would employ sixty-four different methods to end dating, romantic, and sexual relationships. Women reported a higher average likelihood to use methods across relationship type. Women were more likely to use excuses than men, to lie more than men, and to use more indirect methods than men. There was no difference between men and women in their judged likelihood of employing direct methods to end relationships.

THEORIES OF LONG-TERM MATING RELATIONSHIP TERMINATION

Long-term romantic relationships have been studied from many different perspectives. Several theories have been proposed to predict when and explain why men and women end romantic relationships. Some have focused on the social factors present in romantic relationships that influence relationship outcomes. Others, from an individual differences perspective, have focused on different types of long-term romantic relationships and their characteristic outcomes. Still others have focused on formative relationships early in development that may impact later relationship outcomes in adulthood. Finally, several evolutionary theories have been proposed to account for romantic relationship outcomes.

Non-evolutionary theories of mating relationship termination

Interdependence Theory

Interdependence theory has been used to explain romantic relationship termination. Thibaut and Kelley (1959) proposed that romantic relationships persist when the outcomes of a relationship are beneficial to the individuals involved. According to interdependence theory, men and women evaluate their current romantic relationship outcomes against the outcomes they expect to receive from a romantic relationship, also known as a "comparison level". A "comparison level" may include an idealized standard of what romantic relationships should be, or a personal standard based on past romantic relationships. An individual's satisfaction level in a romantic relationship is a function of the "comparison level" and current relationships outcomes. The "comparison level for alternatives" is also an important component of independence theory. The "comparison level for alternatives" involves the evaluation of the probable

outcomes obtainable in other possible alternative romantic relationships. If other alternative romantic relationships are present that may provide superior outcomes, an individual may end the current romantic relationship. Even if there are no possible alternative romantic relationships, an individual may end a romantic relationship because being single may offer superior outcomes to remaining in the current romantic relationship. Thus, current romantic relationship outcomes, the comparison level, and the comparison level of alternatives interact to determine the type of romantic relationship and the likelihood of relationship breakup. Research has demonstrated the importance of comparison levels in assessments of relationship satisfaction. Individuals in relationships that end report lower satisfaction with their relationships (comparison level) and more attractive alternatives to their current relationship (comparison level for alternatives) (Rusbult, 1983; Rusbult, Johnson, & Morrow, 1986; Sabatelli & Cecil-Pigo, 1985; Simpson, 1987).

Barrier Models

Levinger (1976) developed Thibaut and Kelley's (1959) social exchange theory further by specifying the factors that compose the current relationship, the comparison level, and the comparison level for alternatives. Levinger described three different forces that act on individuals in romantic relationships: attractions, barriers, and alternate attractions. Attractions are the aspects of the relationship which hold the relationship together. Barriers are the costs which prevent relationship breakup. Alternative attractions are the benefits that could be accrued by ending a romantic relationship. If the forces of attraction are lowered, if barriers are weakened, ad/or if alternative attractions

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are strengthened, relationship termination occurs.   Research has supported barrier models. Societies in which both men and women are self-sufficient and economically independent have higher divorce rates than those societies in which men and women are economically interdependent (Levinger, 1976).   Within the United States, having a working-class background, being of lower socioeconomic status, and possessing lower levels of education all lead to higher divorce rates (Norton & Miller, 1992; Castro & Bumpass, 1989).

Barrier models of relationship termination have received mixed support when examining romantic relationships among college students.   Attridge and Witt (1994) examined the perceived role of barriers to relationship termination in a college student sample. They found that shared material assets, shared debt, and living together were all perceived as factors helping to maintain their relationships. Choice & Lamke (1999) found that among college students in abusive relationships, barriers did not impact individual decisions to maintain or end romantic relationships.

Investment Models

Rusbult's (1980) Investment Model of commitment is theoretically grounded in independence theory. The Investment Model has found support in both relationship contexts (friendships, romantic relationships) and non-relationship contexts (job commitment). The Investment Model of romantic relationships (Rusbult, 1983) distinguishes itself from earlier models of romantic relationships by suggesting that relationship stability and breakup are influenced by the level of "investment" one has in a relationship. Investments might be financial, emotional, social, or temporal resources

that would be lost if the romantic relationship ends. According to Rusbult, these investments have a "sunk cost" effect – individuals remain in romantic relationships because they have invested significantly in those relationships. Thus, according to the Investment Model, satisfaction level, quality of alternatives, and investment size individually and collectively influence the persistence of a romantic relationship (Le & Agnew, 2003).

Rusbult and her co-investigators have demonstrated that relationship satisfaction and level of investment are positively correlated with relationship commitment while availability of alternatives is negatively correlated with commitment (Rusbult, 1980; Rusbult, 1983; Rusbult, Johnson, & Morrow, 1986b). Consistent with the "satisfaction level" component of Rusbult's model, Lo and Sporakowski (1989) found that dating partners were more likely to continue their relationship if they loved their partners, enjoyed dating their partners, and were happy in their relationships. They also found that longer dating relationship durations predicted greater likelihood that the individuals would continue their relationships. This suggests that perceived investment in relationships may influence the decision to maintain or dissolve a romantic relationship. Consistent with Rusbult's, "quality of alternatives" component, Cate, Henton, Koval, Christopher, & Lloyd (1982) and Henton, Cate, Koval, Llyod, & Christopher (1983) both found that the perceived lack of desirable dating alternatives influences the decision of male and female daters to remain in abusive relationships. In testing their multivariate model of "stay/leave" decision-making in abusive relationships, Choice and Lamke (1999) found that relationship factors relating to the question, "Will I be better off?", accounted for over 87% of the variance in the intention of individuals in abusive

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relationships stay in or leave their relationships. The "Will I be better off?" question included items relating to relationship satisfaction, quality of alternatives, irretrievable investments and subjective norms.   The Investment Model has also been used to predict infidelity. In a college-aged sample, commitment level at the beginning of the semester, predicted later emotional and physical infidelity during the semester as well as emotional and physical infidelity over the college holiday known as spring break (Drigotas, Safstrom, & Gentilia, 1999).

Type Theories

Type theories of love and romantic relationships focus on individual differences in the experience of love. Lee (1973) examined accounts of love written throughout history by authors, philosophers, and scientists. On the basis of his analysis he identified six unique "love styles" that characterize how people experience love in romantic relationships: Mania (possessive love), Pragma (logical love), Storge (friendship love), Ludus (game-playing love), Agape (selfless love), and Eros (Passionate love). Lee's theory is essentially a descriptive account of different types of love found in literature. A love styles perspective on relationship breakup suggests that certain types of relationships are more likely to result in breakup than other types. Some researchers have questioned the construct validity of love styles (Clark & Reis, 1988). However, love style does influence relationship satisfaction and stability (Bierhoff, 1991; Hendrick, Hendrick, & Adler, 1988).   Differences between individuals in specific love styles have been related to relationship quality measures for Eros, Agape and Ludus (Davis & Latty-Mann, 1987). Eros discrepancies between members of a couple are predictive of poorer

relationships for women, and Ludus discrepancies are predictive of generally poorer relationships for men

The triangular theory of love explains love in terms of three components: intimacy, passion, and decision/commitment (Sternberg, 1986). The intimacy component encompasses feelings of closeness, and connectedness with your long-term mate. The passion component is often described as the physical or "drive" component of love. Passion includes what are sometimes described as the "motivational" aspects of love: physical attraction and related physical responses. The decision/commitment component of love refers to the decision to love someone and the commitment to maintain that love. Romantic relationships vary in the extent to which they embody the three components. This variance produces eight types of love: Consummate love, Romantic love, Infatuation, Fatuous love, Companionate love, Empty love, Liking, and Non-love. From this theoretical perspective, the stability and trajectory of a romantic relationship are dependent upon the type of love embodied in the relationship. According to Sternberg, Passion is the quickest love to develop and quickest to fade. Companionate love is important for relationships to last. Contrary to the argument for three components of love, the subscales of intimacy, passion, and commitment are highly intercorrelated (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1989). All three components have been linked with relationship rating form measures of conflict developed by Davis and Todd (1982) (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1989). Though Sternberg's model of love does possess face validity, it fails to predict how and where intimacy, passion, and commitment develop in a relationship, how they are maintained, and how they diminish, resulting in relationship breakup. .

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Attachment Theories

Attachment theories of romantic relationship breakup focus on the relationship between an individual's early attachment to their caregiver (secure, anxious, or avoidant) and their later psychological functioning (Bowlby, 1969, 1973, 1980). Attachment research is theoretically grounded in Bowlby's attachment theory (Bowlby, 1973). Attachment theory argues that when an infant is separated from his or her primary caregiver (typically the mother), the infant will exhibit specific behaviors in order to return to the primary caregiver. Ainsworth, Blehar, Waters, and Wall (1978) found that attachment to primary caregiver differs – there are different "styles" of attachment. Attachment style is formed during childhood through an interaction of the mother, the child, and the culture. Depending on the infants "attachment style", the infant will present different behaviors in response to the absence of the primary caregiver.

Attachment theory suggests that in the same way that attachment style predicts behaviors in response to caregiver absence, it also predicts behaviors in response to separation from a romantic partner. Hazan and Shaver (1987) examined how the role of the primary attachment figure changes from the primary caregiver to a romantic partner as individuals become adults. Securely attached adults have close, confident romantic relationships. Anxious/ambivalent adults are hesitant to become close in romantic relationships while simultaneously desiring a closer relationship. Avoidant adults are uncomfortable with close romantic relationships and have difficulty trusting romantic partners.

Several studies have demonstrated that attachment style influences relationship satisfaction and commitment (Collins & Read, 1990; Feeney & Noller, 1990; Simpson,

1990). Hazan and Shaver (1987) have demonstrated that secure individuals report longer relationship duration and are less likely to be divorced.

An evaluation of non-evolutionary theories of mating relationship termination

As outlined above, social, individual differences, and developmental theories of relationship termination have guided researchers to many important findings regarding the contexts and tactics relationship termination. However, existing social psychological perspectives are limited in several respects.

First, when sex differences in contexts of relationship termination do appear, extant theories fail to provide a reliable a priori account of why and where men and women should differ in their reasons for relationship termination. Why is a "wife's extramarital sex" perceived as costly by men? Why isn't the complementary reason, "husband's extramarital sex", reported as frequently by women? When researchers do address the origins of reported differences, their explanations are ad hoc. Sex differences in the reported reasons for relationship termination have been attributed to recent changes in the role of women, as well as shifts and convergences in socio-cultural values (Gigy & Kelly, 1992; Thurnher, Fenn, Melichar, & Chiriboga, 1983). Neither of these hypotheses regarding the origins of sex differences is offered a priori. Nor do they generate any new predictions.

Second, most accounts rely on very general, and hence imprecise reasons when describing the contexts of relationship termination. What leads to the emotional barrenness (Gigy & Kelly, 1992) reported by some as their reason for divorce? What specific differences in lifestyles and values led to the divorces studied by Thurnher et al.

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(1983)? Reasons lacking specific, fitness relevant content are common across a variety of research accounts of divorce. It is possible that the reasons individuals report when asked about their divorce are general and devoid of specific fitness relevant content. Individuals may not be consciously aware of the reasons which led to their relationship termination. However, general responses may also encompass a number of other, more distinct contextual factors. Without examining specific reasons for ending romantic relationships, it is difficult to make specific predictions about domains in which reasons for relationship termination should differ between the sexes.

In sum, non-evolutionary theories of long-term mating relationship termination have led to the bulk of what is currently known about romantic relationship termination. However, there are several limitations to the theories presented. An evolutionary perspective may provide heuristic guidance, leading to novel, specific predictions of when and where men and women should differ in their reasons for relationship termination. Additionally, existing theories have not led to a greater understanding of the tactics men and women use to end mating relationships. A complete theory of long-term mating relationship termination must address these concerns.

Evolutionary Theories of Long-Term Mating Relationship Termination

Prior efforts to apply an evolutionary perspective to the study of human mating have been fruitful. Evolutionary psychologists have thoroughly explored the evolved psychologies of mate attraction (Buss, 1988a; Schmitt & Buss, 1996), mate retention (Buss, 1988b; Buss & Shackelford, 1997), and mate poaching (Schmitt, 2004; Schmitt &

Buss, 2001). There is also a growing literature examining mating relationship termination from an evolutionary perspective.

Laura Betzig (1989) conducted the most extensive cross-cultural study ever undertaken on the causes of divorce. Using date on the 160 societies of the Standard Cross-Cultural Sample (Murdock & White, 1969), Betzig (1989) examined causes of "conjugal dissolution". Although limited by the ethnographies available, the study identified forty-three causes of conjugal dissolution. The most commonly reported cause of divorce was infidelity, followed closely by infertility (both evolutionarily relevant causes).

Buss (1994) outlined three general circumstances in which it would have been beneficial to leave a long-term mate: 1) when a current mate became less desirable (mate value decline), losing the value inherent in the initial mate selection; 2) when an individual experienced an increase in desirability (mate value increase) that opened up previously unavailable mating possibilities; and, 3) when incrementally better mates became available. These conditions likely recurred with regularity among our ancestors resulting in the evolution of distinct, domain specific, psychological mechanisms devoted to romantic relationship termination.

Buss (1994) argues that men and women constantly assess and evaluate other possible mates and compare those alternatives with their current mate. Current and alternative mates are evaluated based on our evolved mate preferences. Because of sex differences in benefits from long-term mating over evolutionary history, men and women evaluate current and other possible mates by very different standards. According to Buss, decisions to remain in a romantic relationship or terminate a relationship depend on these

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calculations. The psychological mechanisms responsible for these calculations would have contained decision rules favoring relationship termination when the net benefits of such a choice were sufficient to outweigh the net costs.

Buss (1994) describes a number of specific relationship events that psychological mechanisms for relationship termination might be sensitive to and supports his argument for these mechanism with evidence from mating research across cultures. These events include infidelity, infertility, sexual withdrawal, lack of economic support, conflict among multiple wives (in polygynous societies), and cruelty and unkindness.

Buss (1994) was also the first researcher to discuss tactics of relationship dissolution from an evolutionary perspective. He argued that the most effective tactics to end romantic relationships are likely to be those that violate the partner's expectations for their mate, so that the partner no longer desired to remain in the relationship. Such tactics exploit existing psychological mechanisms in the opposite sex, mechanisms responsible for assessing and evaluating whether or not a current mate is suitable.

Shackelford (1998) examined divorce as a solution to the adaptive problem of spousal infidelity. He found that men judged to be higher in relative mate value provided higher likelihood estimates of seeking divorce if their wife flirted with another man. As predicted, women judged to be higher in relative mate than their partner as well as women judged to be more attractive than their partner both provided higher likelihood estimates of seeking a divorce in response to a number of different types of infidelities. Shackelford argued that the decision to divorce as a consequence of infidelity involves a costs benefit analysis by the betrayed partner - weighing the perceived costs and benefits of divorce versus remaining married. Shackelford (1998) demonstrated that men's and

women's decisions regarding divorce in response to infidelity are often influenced by other costs inflicted by their partner. His research also underscored the importance of considering mate value and attractiveness discrepancies between mates when examining the contexts leading to relationship termination.

Shackelford, Buss, & Bennett (2002) examined sex differences in response to a partner's infidelity. Because men and women have confronted different adaptive problems over evolutionary history associated with different forms of infidelity, they hypothesized the existence of sex differences in which aspects of infidelity would affect the decision to forgive a partner or breakup. They demonstrated that men, relative to women: (a) find it more difficult to forgive a sexual infidelity than an emotional infidelity; and (b) are more likely to terminate a current relationship following a partner's sexual infidelity than an emotional infidelity (Shackelford, Buss, & Bennett, 2002).

Fisher (1992) argued that humans have been designed by natural selection to pair up only long enough to rear a single child through infancy; about 4 years. Using the demographic yearbooks of the United Nations, she found three interesting patterns: 1) divorce generally peaks around the fourth year of marriage; 2) divorce peaks among the young; and, 3) the more children a couple bear, the less likely they are to divorce. According to Fisher, divorce in long-term relationships may be the output of an evolved psychological adaptation for the "planned obsolescence of the pair bond" (Fisher, 1992).

An Evaluation of Evolutionary Theories of Long-Term Mating Relationship Termination

The application of evolutionary principles to the study of relationship termination has lead to a number of important discoveries, ranging from Betzig's investigation of

cross-cultural patterns of reasons for relationship dissolution to Shackelford and colleagues research on the impact of infidelity on decisions to divorce. However, current evolutionary research is limited in several key respects.

Betzig (1989) has made significant contributions toward describing the evolutionary underpinnings of relationship termination. Her research established the cross-cultural ubiquity of several reasons for divorce and illustrated patterns of sex differences in those reasons. However, her research has been limited by the ethnographies available. The ethnographies that served as a basis for her research were not focused on divorce, or even mating relationships.

Fisher (1992) highlighted the damaging effect childlessness can have on marriage. However, her research was also limited by her data source – United Nations demographic yearbooks. A more focused, psychological approach to mating relationship termination may reveal: (1) additional differences between men and women in the reasons for relationship termination; (2) differential perceptions within sex of reasons for relationship termination. Fisher (1992) offers her own theory of divorce – "the planned obsolescence of the pair bond". She argues that natural selection may have designed humans to pair up only long enough to rear a single child through infancy. Fisher's theory is flawed in several respects. Her theory fails to explain why men and women would ever remain in a romantic relationship beyond their children's years of infancy. It also postulates identical psychological mechanisms of long-term mating for men and women. With the differential costs of commitment, identical psychological mechanisms for men and women seem unlikely. Fisher's theory also fails to make predictions about the specific contexts in which men and women should end long-term romantic relationships.

Decisions to end romantic relationships are complicated and likely involve an evaluation of a myriad costs and benefits in the relationship. A mating mechanism, the output of which is relationship termination after four years, would be ill-suited to environments where mate selection and attraction is effortful and costly and quality long-term mates are rare. In such contexts, "the planned obsolescence of the pair bond." would have a large, negative impact on fitness. A complete theory of mating relationship termination should generate predictions about reasons for relationship termination and account for why some relationships extend beyond a child's years of infancy.

Existing evolutionary research on mating relationship termination has examined the adaptive problems for which mating relationship termination may be a solution. It has not examined the adaptive problem of mating relationship termination itself. How do men and women end long-term mating relationships? Researchers from a social psychological perspective have examined social interactions within married couples and the relationship between those interactions and marital stability and divorce (Gottman, Coan, Carrere, & Swanson, 1998). However, the specific tactics men and women use to end mating relationships have remain unexamined and neglected by existing theories. Mating relationships do not invariably end once a man or woman decides to end their mating relationship. To end a mating relationship requires specific behavioral effort. Choosing an inappropriate tactic to end a long-term mating relationship could lead to numerous fitness costs. These include the disruption of extended kinship ties forged through the mateship, the loss of parental resources for existing children, potential reputational damage linked with relationship termination, physical abuse, and even homicide. Men and women should employ tactics to end romantic relationships that

minimize such costs and maximize the likelihood of relationship termination. The

potential costs of a failed mating relationship termination highlight the necessity of a

theoretical and empirical account of mating relationship termination tactics.

THEORETICAL INTEGRATION

A fundamental problem evident in research stemming from non-evolutionary

relationship theories and evolutionary relationship theories is the lack of theoretical

integration of the two perspectives. Research pursued using social psychological

perspectives have led to the bulk of what is currently known about relationships

dissolution. Social psychologists have employed diverse methods to examine romantic

relationships, how they function, and how they fail. Social psychological models ranging

from Thibault and Kelley's Interdependence Theory (1959) to Rusbult's Investment

Model (1980) offer compelling frameworks with which to consider the costs and benefits

to which the psychological mechanism or mechanisms responsible for mating

relationship termination should be sensitive. However, they lack a compelling a priori

account of the *specific* costs and benefits to which individuals should be sensitive when

making decisions regarding long-term mating relationship and the *specific* tactics they

should employ when the decision to terminate a relationship has been made.

An evolutionary perspective on romantic relationships offers explicit and

informed theory to guide research. The derivations of general evolutionary theory are

explicit and the predictions are specific. An evolutionary account of mating relationship

termination may offer testable predictions regarding sex differences in the sensitivity to

particular relationship contexts and the employment of particular tactics to end long-term

mating relationships.   Given the prevalence and importance of mating relationship dissolution, and the success of evolutionary theory in leading to new discoveries in other realms of human mating, an evolutionary perspective might yield new understandings of the psychologies of men and women, and how those psychologies result in the termination of long-term mating relationships.

An integration of evolutionary and social psychological perspectives of long-term mating relationship termination would allow for the integration of the conceptual framework provided by social psychological theories with the additional predictive power, content, and theoretical consilience with the "hard" sciences (biology, chemistry, physics, etc.), provided by the evolutionary perspective.

Chapter 2: *An Evolved Psychology of Romantic Relationship Termination*

I propose that the benefits of ending a romantic relationship, on average, have outweighed the costs in specific contexts, providing recurrent selection over evolutionary time. I propose that humans have evolved distinct, domain specific, psychological mechanisms devoted to romantic relationship termination. Relationship termination may be one of several strategies that are evaluated as solutions to specific adaptive problems. Under a variety of circumstances, it would have been beneficial to end a mating relationship. The psychological mechanisms responsible for relationship termination decisions should be sensitive to the specific adaptive problems for which relationship termination was a possible solution. Selection would forge decision rules favoring relationship termination when the net benefits of such a choice were sufficient to outweigh the net costs. Thibault and Kelly (1959) proposed that men and women evaluate their current romantic relationship outcomes against a "comparison level," and the "comparison level for alternatives." Levinger (1976) developed Thibaut and Kelley's (1959) social exchange theory further by specifying the factors that compose the current relationship, the comparison level, and the comparison level for alternatives. Rusbult (1983) and others have proposed that in relationships satisfaction level, quality of alternatives, and investment size individually and collectively influence relationship stability and duration. An evolutionary perspective provides specific content for the basic mechanisms of relationship dissolution described by previous authors. It suggests specific fitness-related variables that might differentially affect comparison levels,

relationship outcomes, satisfaction levels, the quality of alternatives, and assessment of investment size across the sexes.

While relationship termination may be a solution to a range of adaptive problems, it is also an adaptive problem. A host of costs linked with breakup militate against relationship termination. These include the disruption of extended kinship ties forged through the mateship, the loss of parental resources for existing children, and potential reputational damage linked with mateship dissolution. (These costs were described above). The psychological mechanisms involved in relationship termination should be sensitive to a specific and distinct array of environmental inputs; should include domain specific algorithms for evaluating the costs and benefits of a given tactic; and should generate tactics that are likely to result in the successful termination of a romantic relationship. An evolutionary perspective suggests specific tactic usage based on the costs and benefits accrued to individuals who employed those tactics over evolutionary time.

To the extent that men and women have faced similar adaptive problems in romantic relationships, we should expect their psychologies of romantic relationship termination to be similar. To the extent that these adaptive problems have differed, we should expect their psychologies of relationship termination to differ. Consequently, I hypothesize that men and women have evolved similar, but distinct psychological mechanisms that underlie the decision rules in the termination of long-term romantic relationships.

The proposed research will investigate the psychology of romantic relationship termination with the following objectives: 1) reveal among the contexts and tactics of romantic relationship termination examined, which contexts are most likely to lead to relationship termination and which tactics are most likely to be used, 2) examine whether the contexts which activate men's and women's relationship termination psychologies and the tactics they use differ in predictable ways, and 3) examine whether men's and women's judgments about tactic effectiveness differ in predictable ways. This research is not intended to evaluate an evolutionary perspective of relationship termination versus other possible perspectives. However, the results will have bearing on other theories of relationship termination to the extent that the results confirm evolutionary models. Support for the specific hypotheses outlined below, hypotheses not generated by non-evolutionary models, may reveal the utility of evolutionary models in understanding mating relationship termination.

Reasons for or Contexts of Long-Term Mating Relationship Termination

Hypothesis 1: Men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to initiate relationship termination in response to a long-term mate's sexual infidelity (Buss, 1994). Because fertilization occurs within women, women can be entirely certain of their maternity. Men who did not breakup when their mates were adulterous ran a high risk of being cuckolded (investing in unrelated offspring) (Daly & Wilson, 1983). Consequently, the costs imposed by sexual infidelity are much higher for men than for women (Buss 1994). Daly and Wilson (1988) found that a woman's infidelity is a more

prevalent cause of divorce than a man's infidelity. Relationship termination may be an evolved solution to the problem of paternity uncertainty.

Prediction 1a: All else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's infidelity.

Prediction1 b: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a long-term mate's sexual infidelity.

Prediction 1c: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's sexual infidelity.

Prediction 1d: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their own sexual infidelity.

Prediction 1e: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a woman's sexual infidelity will more frequently be reported as a cause than a man's sexual infidelity.

Hypothesis 2: Men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to initiate relationship termination as a result of cues that their mate has contracted a sexually transmitted disease. Contracting sexually transmitted disease could inflict several possible costs. First, if the disease is passed to the partner, it could harm his reproductive value.   It could kill the partner or lower the amount of potential future mating

opportunities. Second, some sexual transmitted diseases can harm a developing fetus. Third, if a long-term mate contracts a sexually transmitted disease (and the man did not give it to her), the long-term mate contracted it from extra-pair mating. A sexually transmitted disease in a mate is a clear signal of sexual infidelity. Women's long-term mate value is primarily based on her reproductive value and her fertility. Damage to or diversion of her reproductive value and fertility to an intrasexual competitor would impose considerable fitness costs on a man. Relationship termination may be an evolved solution to a long-term mate contracting a sexually transmitted disease.

Prediction 2a: All else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of cues that their mate has contracted a sexually transmitted disease.

Prediction 2b: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of cues that their mate has contracted a sexually transmitted disease.

Prediction 2c: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of cues that their mate has contracted a sexually transmitted disease.

Prediction 2d: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report their partner terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their contraction of a sexually transmitted disease.

Prediction 2e: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a woman's sexually transmitted disease will more frequently be reported as a cause than a man's sexually transmitted disease.

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Hypothesis 3: Men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to initiate relationship termination as a result of a mate value discrepancy caused by a decrease in their long-term mate's physical attractiveness. Physical attractiveness is a primary component of women's long-term mate value. Men place a high premium on physical attractiveness in long-term mates (Buss, 1989). Any negative change in a woman's physical attractiveness, such as weight gain or loss, change in WHR, or disfigurement, would correspond to a negative change in reproductive value (Singh, 1993). Men's mate value is not as closely linked to physical appearance (Ellis, 1992). I hypothesize that men possess an evolved long-term mating mechanism designed to track the physical attractiveness of their long-term mate. This mechanism is sensitive to decreases in the physical attractiveness of their long-term mate. Relationship termination may have evolved in men as one possible solution to the adaptive problem of decreased physical attractiveness of a long-term mate (Buss, 1994).

> *Prediction 3a:* All else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in their long-term mate's physical attractiveness.

> *Prediction 3b:* All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a decrease in their long-term mate's physical attractiveness.

> *Prediction 3c:* All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in their long-term mate's physical attractiveness.

Prediction 3d: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in their personal physical attractiveness.

Prediction 3e: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a woman's decrease in physical attractiveness will more frequently be reported as a cause than a man's decrease in physical attractiveness.

Hypothesis 4: Men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to initiate relationship termination as a result of a mate value discrepancy caused by the increased age of their mate (Buss, 1994). Women's reproductive value increases until age twenty and begins to decline with age thereafter (Daly & Wilson, 1983). By the age of forty, women's reproductive value is low. Once a woman reaches menopause, her reproductive value is zero (Symons, 1979; Williams, 1975). Men's reproductive value does not decline significantly with age. Men who prefer youth in women are more likely to reproduce. Men who mate expulsed once their mates were beyond reproductive age would have greater reproductive success than those that stayed with their post-reproductive mate. Because the reproductive value of men does not decline significantly with age, women would reap few benefits from divorce under these circumstances. Romantic relationship termination may have evolved in men as one possible solution to the adaptive problem of increased age of a long-term mate.

Prediction 4a: All else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of the increased age of his mate.

Prediction 4b: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of the increased age of his mate.

Prediction 4c: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of the increased age of his mate.

Prediction 4d: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report their partner terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their own increased age.

Prediction 4e: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a woman's increased age will more frequently be reported as a cause than a man's increased age.

Hypothesis 5: Men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to initiate relationship termination as a result of an increase in the availability of short-term mates. Compared with women, men express a desire for more than four times as many sex partners in the course of their lifetimes (Buss & Schmitt, 1993). Over the course of evolutionary history, men appear to have increased their reproductive success primarily through increases in the number of sexual partners, rather than increases in the number of offspring per partner (Dawkins, 1986). I hypothesize that men possess an evolved long-term mating mechanism designed to track the availability of short-term mates. This mechanism is sensitive to changes in the mating pool leading to greater sexual access to short-term mates. Relationship termination may have evolved in men as one possible solution to increased sexual access to short-term mates.

Prediction 5a: All else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in the availability of short-term mates.

Prediction 5b: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of an increase in the availability of short-term mates.

Prediction 5c: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in the availability of short-term mates.

Prediction 5d: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of an increase in the availability of short-term mates for their long-term mate.

Prediction 5e: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, an increase in the availability of short-term mates for the man will more frequently be reported as a cause than an increase in the availability of short-term mates for the woman.

Hypothesis 6: Men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to initiate relationship termination as a result of mate value discrepancy caused by an increase in his resources or resource generation potential (Buss, 1994). Women prefer long-term mates with resources and the potential to generate resources (Buss, 1989; Buss, 1994; Daly & Wilson, 1983; Ellis, 1992; Kenrick et al., 1990; Wiederman, 1993). If a man experiences an increase in resources or potential resources, incrementally better long-

term mates may become available (Buss, 1994). I hypothesize that men possess an evolved long-term mating mechanism designed to track their own resources and resource generation potential. This mechanism is sensitive to increases in their own resources and resource generation potential. In agreement with Buss (1994), I hypothesize that divorce may have evolved in men as one possible solution to the availability of incrementally better long-term mates.

Prediction 6a: All else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in his resources or resource generation potential.

Prediction 6b: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of an increase in his resources or resource generation potential.

Prediction 6c: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in his resources or resource generation potential.

Prediction 6d: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report their partner terminating their romantic relationship as a result of an increase in their long-term mate's personal resources.

Prediction 6e: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a man's increase in resources or resource generation potential will more frequently be reported as a cause than a woman's increase in resources or resource generation potential.

Hypothesis 7: Men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to initiate relationship termination as a result of a decrease in sexual access offered by his long-term mate (Buss, 1994). Men possess evolved mate preferences for women who provide sexual access (Buss, 1994). A wife who refuses to have sex with her husband effectively denies him access to her reproductive value (Buss, 1994). Twelve societies in the cross-cultural study of conjugal dissolution identify the refusal of sex as a cause for conjugal dissolution (Betzig, 1989). I hypothesize that men possess an evolved long-term mating mechanism designed to track the sexual access provided by their long-term mate. This mechanism is sensitive to decreases in sexual access. Relationship termination may have evolved in men as one possible solution to decreased sexual access offered by their long-term mate (Buss, 1994).

Prediction 7a: All else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in sexual access offered by his long-term mate.

Prediction 7b: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a decrease in sexual access offered by his long-term mate.

Prediction 7c: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in sexual access offered by his long-term mate.

Prediction 7d: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report their partner terminating their romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in the sexual access they offered their mate.

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Prediction 7e: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a decrease in sexual access offered by the woman will more frequently be reported as a cause than a decrease in sexual access offered by the man.

Hypothesis 8: Women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to initiate relationship termination as a result of a long-term mate's reduction or reallocation of resources (Buss, 1994). Women posses evolved mate preferences for men with the ability and willingness to invest resources in them and their offspring (Buss, 1989; Hill, 1945; Hudson & Henze, 1969; Kenrick, Sadalla, Groth, & Trost, 1990; McGinnis, 1958). In her cross-cultural study of "conjugal dissolution", Betzig (1989) found that when inadequate support was reported as a cause for divorce, it was ascribed exclusively to husbands in all but one unspecified case. I hypothesize that women possess an evolved long-term mating mechanism designed to track resource investment and estimate potential future resource investment by their long-term mate. This mechanism is sensitive to decreases in their mate's investment resources in the mateship as well as decreases in their long-term mate's resource generation potential. When a woman's long-term mate fails to invest resources, he violates her evolved mate preferences, imposing costs on her. Following Buss (1994), I hypothesize that relationship termination has evolved in women as one possible solution to a decrease in the investment of resources by their long-term mate.

Prediction 8a: All else being equal, women will be judged as more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's reduction or reallocation of resources.

Prediction 8b: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a long-term mate's reduction or reallocation of resources.

Prediction 8c: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's reduction or reallocation of resources.

Prediction 8d: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report their long-term mate terminating a romantic relationship as a result of a reduction or reallocation of the resources invested in their long-term mate.

Prediction 8e: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a reduction in the man's investment resources will more frequently be reported as a cause than a decrease in the woman's investment of resources.

Hypothesis 9: Women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to initiate relationship termination as a result of a long-term mate's reduction of time invested in the mateship. Women posses evolved mate preferences for men with the ability and willingness to invest time in them and their offspring (Buss, 1989; Ellis, 1992). Roughly 41 percent of newlywed women and 45 percent of women married for four years report that their partners do not spend enough time with them (Buss, 1994). Concerns about investment of time may stem from women's efforts to secure their mate's

investment (Buss, 1994). From the woman's perspective, decreased time investment may indicate an extra-pair mating or diversion of resources outside of the mateship. I hypothesize that women possess an evolved long-term mating mechanism designed to track investment of time by their long-term mate. This mechanism is sensitive to decreases in their mate's investment of time in the mateship. Relationship termination may have evolved in women as one possible solution to decreased investment of time by their long-term mate.

Prediction 9a: All else being equal, women will be judged as more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's reduction of time invested in the mateship.

Prediction 9b: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a long-term mate's reduction of time invested in the mateship.

Prediction 9c: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's reduction of time invested in the mateship.

Prediction 9d: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report their long-term mate terminating a romantic relationship as a result of their reduction of time invested in the relationship with their long-term mate.

Prediction 9e: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a reduction in the man's investment of time will more frequently be reported as a cause than a decrease in the woman's investment of time.

Hypothesis 10: Women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to initiate relationship termination as a result of physical abuse inflicted on them by their long-term mate (Buss, 1994). Cruelty, maltreatment, and ruthlessness are among the most frequently reported causes of conjugal dissolution across cultures (Betzig, 1989). Physical abuse imposes costs on women, both physical and psychological. Physical abuse also imposes costs on men. However, given the sexual asymmetry in potential damage caused by physical abuse, women should be more sensitive to physical abuse than men. In some contexts, physical abuse can lead a woman to remain in a costly mating relationship (Buss, 1988). However, given the potential costs to a woman being abused, relationship termination may have evolved as a solution to the problem of physical abuse by a long-term mate. I hypothesize that women possess an evolved long-term mating mechanism designed to track physical abuse inflicted upon them by their long-term mate. This mechanism is sensitive to increased physical abuse by their long-term mate. Relationship termination has co-evolved in women as one possible solution to increased physical abuse by a long-term mate (Buss, 1994).

> *Prediction 10a:* All else being equal, women will be judged as more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of physical abuse inflicted on them by their long-term mate.

> *Prediction 10b:* All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of physical abuse inflicted on them by their long-term mate.

Prediction 10c: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of physical abuse inflicted on them by their long-term mate.

Prediction 10d: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of physical abuse they inflicted upon their long-term mate.

Prediction 10e: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, physical abuse inflicted by the man will more frequently be reported as a cause than by the woman.

Hypothesis 11: Women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to initiate relationship termination as a result of a mate value discrepancy caused by an increase in her physical attractiveness. Men possess evolved mate preferences for women who are physically attractive (Buss, 1989). Men, more than women, list physical attractiveness as a characteristic they desire in a future husband or wife (Langhorne & Secord, 1955). Across all thirty-seven cultures surveyed, men, more than women, value physical attractiveness in a mate (Buss; 1989). Because a women's mate value is closely tied to their reproductive value, women cannot usually increase her desirability to other potential mates to the same degree that men can (Buss, 1994). However, any positive change in a woman's physical attractiveness, such as significant weight gain or loss or change in waist-to-hip ratio may correspond to a positive change in reproductive value (Buss, 1994). If a woman did experience an increase in physical attractiveness, incrementally better long-term mates may become available (Buss, 1994). I hypothesize

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that women possess an evolved long-term mating mechanisms designed to track their own physical attractiveness. This mechanism is sensitive to increases in their own physical attractiveness. Relationship termination may have evolved in women as one possible solution to the availability of incrementally better long-term mates due to increased physical attractiveness.

Prediction 11a: All else being equal, women will be judged as more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in her physical attractiveness.

Prediction 11b: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of an increase in her physical attractiveness.

Prediction 11c: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in her physical attractiveness.

Prediction 11d: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of an increase in physical attractiveness experienced by their long-term mate.

Prediction 11e: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, an increase in the physical attractiveness of the woman will more frequently be reported as a cause than of the man.

Hypothesis 12: Women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to initiate relationship termination as one possible solution to an emotional infidelity

committed by her long-term mate. Emotional infidelity may be indicative of a diversion of resources (Buss, 1994). Because men's mate value is dependent on resources, women should divorce when their mate's have been emotionally unfaithful. Relationship termination may have evolved in women as one possible solution to emotional infidelity by their long-term mate.

> *Prediction 12a:* All else being equal, women will be judged as more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's emotional infidelity.

> *Prediction 12b:* All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a long-term mate's emotional infidelity.

> *Prediction 12c:* All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's emotional infidelity.

> *Prediction 12d:* All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their own emotional infidelity.

> *Prediction 12e:* When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, emotional infidelity by a man will more frequently be reported as a cause than emotional infidelity by a woman.

> *Hypothesis 13: Women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to initiate relationship termination as a result of decreased protection offered by her long-*

term mate. Women possess evolved mate preferences for men who are willing and able to offer protection to themselves and their offspring (Buss, 1989). Decreasing the level of protection offered violates her long-term mate preferences. Relationship termination may have evolved in women as one possible solution to decreased protection offered by their long-term mate when other alternative mates who can provide better protection are present.

> *Prediction 13a:* All else being equal, women will be judged as more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of decreased protection offered by her long-term mate.
>
> *Prediction 13b:* All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of decreased protection offered by her long-term mate.
>
> *Prediction 13c:* All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of decreased protection offered by her long-term mate.
>
> *Prediction 13d:* All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in protection they provided their long-term mate.
>
> *Prediction 13e:* When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a reduction protection provided by the man will more frequently be reported as a cause than by the woman.

Hypothesis 14: Both men and women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to initiate relationship termination as a result of a failure to produce children (Buss, 1994). Failure to produce children is a leading cause of divorce for humans (Betzig, 1989; Buss, 1994; Fisher, 1992). Both men and women who divorced when their long-term mate was unable or unwilling to reproduce would have had greater reproductive success than those who did not. While it may be true that one cannot know whether or not he or she is the non-reproductive mate, those who divorced when the mateship produced no viable offspring would still have greater reproductive success than those that remained in a non-reproductive relationship.

> *Prediction 14a:* All else being equal, men and women will be judged as equally likely to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's inability to reproduce.

> *Prediction 14b:* All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a long-term mate's inability to reproduce.

> *Prediction 14c:* All else being equal, men and women will be equally likely to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's inability to reproduce.

> *Prediction 14d:* All else being equal, men and women will be equally likely to report their partner terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their inability or unwillingness to reproduce.

Prediction 14e: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, an inability or unwillingness to reproduce by the man will be as frequently reported as an inability or unwillingness by the woman.

Hypothesis 15: Both men and women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to initiate relationship termination as a result of a partner acquiring a physical handicap, mental illness, or disease. Ability to care for offspring is an important component of women's mate value (Buss, 1994). Offspring of women who were handicapped, mentally ill, or suffering from a disease would likely have a lower survival rate. Despite the costs, a man might stay with his long-term mate if they already had children. If no one is available to care for the children, leaving the mate could be very costly to the man's reproductive success. Any decrease in a man's physical function could have a corresponding decrease in his ability to provide resources. Ability to provide resources is a significant component of women's long-term mating preferences (Buss, 1994). Without resources any offspring would likely have lower fitness. Despite the costs, a woman might stay with a long-term mate if they already had resources and the mate's illness or handicap is not burdening the family. Relationship termination may have evolved in men and women as a solution to the problem of a physically handicapped, mentally ill, or physically ill long-term mate.

Prediction 15a: All else being equal, men and women will be judged as equally likely to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate acquiring a physical handicap, mental illness or disease.

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Prediction 15b: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a long-term mate acquiring a physical handicap, mental illness, or disease.

Prediction 15c: All else being equal, men and women will be equally likely to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate acquiring a physical handicap, mental illness, or disease.

Prediction 15d: All else being equal, men and women will be equally likely to report their partner terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their own physical handicap, mental illness, or disease.

Prediction 15e: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a physical handicap, mental illness, or disease affecting the man will be as frequently reported as a physical handicap, mental illness, or disease affecting the woman.

Tactics of Romantic Relationship Termination

Hypothesis 16: Men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal decreased investment resources in the mateship in order to facilitate a romantic relationship termination (Buss, 1994). Women have evolved mate preferences for men with the ability and willingness to invest resources in them and their offspring (Buss, 1989; Ellis, 1992). Research has supported this (Buss, 1989; Hill, 1945; Hudson & Henze, 1969; Kenrick, Sadalla, Groth, & Trost, 1990; McGinnis, 1958). In her cross-cultural study of "conjugal dissolution", Betzig (1989) found that when inadequate

support was reported as a cause for divorce, it was ascribed exclusively to husbands in all but one unspecified case.

Prediction 16a: All else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve signaling decreased investment of resources in their long-term mate will be judged as more effective for men than for women.

Prediction 16b: All else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of breakup that involve signaling decreased investment of resources in their long-term mate.

Prediction 16c: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involved signaling decreased investment of resources in their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 16d: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report signaling decreased investment of resources in their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 16e: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report their partner decreasing their investment of resources in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 16f: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, decreased investment of resources by the man will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than decreased investment of resources by the woman.

Hypothesis 17: Men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal decreased investment of time in their long-term mate in order to facilitate a romantic relationship termination. Women have evolved mate preferences for men with the ability and willingness to invest time in them and their offspring (Buss, 1989; Ellis, 1992). Roughly 41 percent of newlywed women and 45 percent of women married for four years report that their partners do not spend enough time with them (Buss, 1994). Concerns about investment of time may stem from women's efforts to secure their mate's investment (Buss, 1994). From the woman's perspective, decreased time investment may indicate an extra-pair mating or diversion of resources outside of the mateship. Signaling decreases investment of time may have evolved in men as one possible solution to the problem of ending a long-term romantic relationship.

Prediction 17a: All else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve signaling decreased investment of time in their long-term mate will be judged as more effective for men than for women.

Prediction 17b: All else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of breakup that involve signaling decreased investment of time in their long-term mate.

Prediction 17c: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involved signaling decreased investment of time in their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 17d: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report signaling decreased investment of time in their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 17e: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report their long-term mate decreasing their investment of time in their relationship in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 17f: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, decreased investment of time by the man will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than decreased investment of time by the woman.

Hypothesis 18: Men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal decreased protection of their long-term mate in order to facilitate a romantic relationship termination. Women possess evolved mate preferences for men who are willing and able to offer protection to themselves and their offspring (Buss, 1989). Decreasing the level of protection offered violates her long-term mate preferences. Decreased protection offered may have evolved in men as one possible solution to the problem of ending a long-term romantic relationship.

Prediction 18a: All else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve signaling decreased protection of their long-term mate will be judged as more effective for men than for women.

Prediction 18b: All else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of breakup that involve signaling decreased protection of their long-term mate.

Prediction 18c: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involved signaling decreased protection of their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 18d: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report signaling decreased protection of their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 18e: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report their long-term mate decreasing protection of them in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 18f: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, decreased protection by the man will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than decreased protection by the woman.

Hypothesis 19: Women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to decrease sexual access in order to facilitate a romantic relationship termination (Buss, 1994). Men possess evolved mate preferences for women who provide sexual access (Buss, 1989; Buss, 1994). Research supports this: Men complain more about sexual withholding by their partners and wives (Buss, 1989). Both men and women judge sexual rejection or withholding to be far more upsetting when performed by a woman than by a man (Buss, 1989). Among newlyweds, the strongest predictor of sexual

dissatisfaction for males is sexual withholding by the wife (Buss, 1989). Decreased sexual access offered may have evolved in women as one possible solution to the problem of ending a long-term romantic relationship.

Prediction 19a: All else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve decreasing sexual access offered to their long-term mate will be judged as more effective for women than for men.

Prediction 19b: All else being equal, women will be judged as more likely than men to employ tactics of breakup that involve decreasing sexual access offered to their long-term mate.

Prediction 19c: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involved decreasing sexual access offered to their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 19d: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report decreasing sexual access offered to their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 19e: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report their long-term mate decreasing sexual access offered in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 19f: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a woman decreasing sexual access will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than a man decreasing sexual access.

Hypothesis 20: Women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal sexual infidelity in order to facilitate a romantic relationship termination (Buss, 1994). Men possess evolved mate preferences for women who are sexually faithful. Men value faithfulness and sexual loyalty more than any other traits in a marriage partner (Buss & Schmitt, 1993). Sexual infidelity was the single most pervasive cause of conjugal dissolution found by Betzig (1989) in her survey of eighty-eight societies. Men are more likely than women to be sexually unfaithful (Daly & Wilson, 1988). Despite this, among those societies that cite sexual infidelity as a cause for conjugal dissolution, divorces more often occur in response to a woman's infidelity (Betzig, 1989). Men possess an evolved long-term mating mechanism designed to track and maintain the sexual fidelity of their long-term mate (Buss, Larsen, Westen & Semmelroth, 1992; Daly, Wilson, & Weghorst, 1982; Symons, 1979). Sexual infidelity may have evolved in women as one possible solution to the problem of ending a long-term romantic relationship (Buss, 1994).

> *Prediction 20a:* All else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve signaling sexual infidelity will be judged as more effective for women than for men.
>
> *Prediction 20b:* All else being equal, women will be judged as more likely than men to employ tactics of breakup that involve signaling sexual infidelity.
>
> *Prediction 20c:* All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involves signaling sexual infidelity in order to facilitate a divorce.
>
> *Prediction 20d:* All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report signaling sexual infidelity in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 20e: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report their long-term partner signaling sexual infidelity in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 20f: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a woman signaling sexual infidelity will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than a man signaling sexual infidelity.

Hypothesis 21: Women possess evolved psychological mechanisms design to signal decreased physical attractiveness to their mate to facilitate a romantic relationship termination. Men possess evolved mate preferences for women who are physically attractive (Buss, 1989). Men, more than women, list physical attractiveness as a characteristic they desire in a future husband or wife (Langhorne & Secord, 1955). Across all thirty-seven cultures surveyed, men, more than women, value physical attractiveness in a mate (Buss; 1989). Indiscriminately signaling decreased physical attractiveness could limit a woman's ability to attract other potential mates. However, selectively decreasing physical attractiveness to her mate would violate his long-term mating desires without damaging her mate value in the eyes of other possible mates. Selectively decreasing one's physical attractiveness around a long-term mate may have evolved as one possible solution to the problem of ending a long-term romantic relationship.

Prediction 21a: All else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve selectively decreasing one's physical attractiveness around a long-term mate will be judged as more effective for women than for men.

Prediction 21b: All else being equal, women will be judged as more likely than men to employ tactics of breakup that involve selectively decreasing one's physical attractiveness around a long-term mate.

Prediction 21c: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that that involves selectively decreasing one's physical attractiveness around a long-term mate.

Prediction 21d: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report selectively decreasing one's physical attractiveness around a long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 21e: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report their long-term mate decreasing their physical attractiveness in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 21f: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a woman decreasing her physical attractiveness will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than a man decreasing his physical attractiveness.

Hypothesis 22: Consistent with Buss (1994), men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to physically abuse their mate in order to facilitate a divorce. Cruelty, maltreatment, and ruthlessness are among the most frequently reported causes of conjugal dissolution across cultures (Betzig, 1989). Physical abuse imposes costs on women, both physical and psychological. Given the sexual asymmetry in potential damage caused by physical abuse, men may be more likely than women to posses

psychological mechanisms of relationship termination, the output of which is physical abuse.

Prediction 22a: All else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve physically abusing a long-term mate will be judged as more effective for men than for women.

Prediction 22b: All else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of breakup that involves physically abusing a long-term mate.

Prediction 22c: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involves physically abusing a long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 22d: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report physically abusing a long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 22e: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report their long-term mate physically abusing them in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 22f: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a man physically abusing his long-term mate will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than a woman physically abusing her long-term mate.

Hypothesis 23: Women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to refuse resources in order to facilitate a divorce. Women have evolved mate preferences

for men with the ability and willingness to invest resources in them and their offspring (Buss, 1989; Ellis, 1992). Reduced acceptance of resources by a woman may indicate that she is obtaining resources elsewhere.

Prediction 23a: All else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve refusing or returning gifts will be judged as more effective for women than for men.

Prediction 23b: All else being equal, women will be judged as more likely than men to employ tactics of breakup that involve refusing or returning gifts.

Prediction 23c: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involves refusing or returning gifts in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 23d: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report refusing or returning gifts in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 23e: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report their long-term mate refusing or returning gifts in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 23f: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a woman refusing or returning gifts will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than a man refusing or returning gifts.

Hypothesis 24: Men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal emotional infidelity in order to facilitate a divorce (Buss, 1994). Women possess evolved mate preferences for men who are emotionally faithful.   Research has demonstrated this (Buss, 1992; Shackelford, Buss, & Bennett, 2002). Emotions may be

an honest signal of a man's mating strategy. If he has developed an emotional relationship with a woman outside of his current mateship, it may be indicative of a diversion of a diversion of resources.

Prediction 24a: All else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve signaling emotional infidelity will be judged as more effective for men than for women.

Prediction 24b: All else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of breakup that involve signaling emotional infidelity.

Prediction 24c: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involves signaling emotional infidelity in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 24d: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report signaling emotional infidelity in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 24e: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report their long-term mate signaling emotional infidelity in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 24f: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a man signaling emotional infidelity will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than a woman signaling emotional infidelity.

Hypothesis 25: Men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal decreased emotional investment in order to facilitate a divorce. Women possess evolved mate preferences for men who invest emotionally in them (Buss, 1994). By

remaining stoic, a man may be able to conceal the diversion of resources to another mate (Buss, 1994). The resources that men bring to long-term mating relationships are more easily divided than those of women (Buss, 1994). Women should be sensitive to cues to the reallocation of resources to other mates. Romantic relationship termination may have evolved as one possible solution to decreased emotional investment.

Prediction 25a: All else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve signaling decreased emotional investment will be judged as more effective for men than for women.

Prediction 25b: All else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of breakup that involve signaling emotional infidelity.

Prediction 25c: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involves signaling decreased emotional investment in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 25d: All else being equal, men will be more likely than women to report signaling decreased emotional investment in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 25e: All else being equal, women will be more likely than men to report their long-term mate signaling decreased emotional investment in order to facilitate a divorce.

Prediction 25f: When a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a man decreasing emotional investment will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than a woman decreasing emotional investment.

Chapter 3: *Study 1: Identifying Contexts of Long-Term Relationship Termination*

Overview

This study was designed to empirically identify naturally occurring contexts in which men and women end long-term romantic relationships.

Participants

The participants were 80 undergraduates (40 men and 40 women) at a large southwestern university. Participation partially fulfilled an experimental requirement for a psychology course. The average age was 19.43 for men (SD =2.54, range =18-32) and 20.3 for women (SD =5.59, range =18-47).

Materials

Using a web-based questionnaire, I asked college-aged men and women to list why they or people they know have ended long-term romantic relationships. The questionnaire employed a nomination procedure adapted from Buss & Craik (1983) originally used to identify naturally occurring acts. The instructions were as follows:

> "Instructions: In this study, we are interested in reasons why people get out of or end long-term romantic relationships (e.g. steady dating relationships, committed relationships, marriages). Please think of people you know (this could include yourself) who have been in long-term romantic relationships that they ended. Why did they end the relationship? We are interested in specific reasons why people "break up" or end long-term romantic relationships. Please list these reasons below. This is extremely important research. Please be thoughtful and honest when responding to each item."

Directions were followed by 10 lines for women and 10 lines for men in which participants could type their reason nominations.

Results and Discussion

Following completion of the data collection, all nominated reasons were compiled into one list. A total of 954 reasons for ending long-term romantic relationships were nominated. After I eliminated obvious redundant reasons, four judges (2 men and 2 women, including myself) eliminated additional redundant reasons, generalized overly specific reasons, and divided complex reasons into their simple components. Reasons judged to be redundant or overly specific by two or more judges were eliminated. This procedure left 184 reasons for ending a long-term romantic relationship. Twelve reasons were added to test specific hypotheses. The complete list of reasons for long-term romantic relationship termination is shown in Table One. This list of reasons served as the basis for Study 3.

Sex Differences in the Number of Contexts Nominated

There was no significant difference in the number of contexts nominated. Men's average number of nominations ($\underline{M}$ = 11.40, $\underline{SD}$ = 5.72) was not significantly different from women's average number of nominations ($\underline{M}$ = 12.45, $\underline{SD}$ = 6.18; t (78) = -.789, $\underline{p}$ > n.s.). I had no a priori prediction about sex differences in the number of contexts nominated by men and women.

The strength of the Buss & Craik (1983) methodology is evident in the fact that the participants in Study 1 were able to nominate reasons they or people they have known have ended romantic relationships. One weakness of this methodology is that participants can only nominate reasons that they can verbally articulate. Men and women have likely evolved to be sensitive to the contexts in which ending a romantic relationship would be adaptive. It does not necessarily follow that they should be

consciously aware of those contexts. Consequently, the reasons collected in Study 1 may not represent a comprehensive list of reasons for ending romantic relationships.

In addition, the participants in Study 1 were drawn from a population of students enrolled in an introductory psychology course. It is likely that the participants in this study have not experienced long-term relationships of the same level of commitment and duration as older men and women. This may have resulted in a more limited representation of the true range of reasons for romantic relationship termination.

Study 1 identified 184 reasons for ending a long-term romantic relationship. As discussed in Chapter 1, prior research has examined the contexts which prompt men and women to end long-term romantic relationships. The advantage of this particular study over past studies is that by asking people to nominate multiple reasons for both men and women to end a long-term romantic relationship, I was left with 184 distinct reasons rather than the typically general and indistinct "differing goals" or "grew apart" cited by others authors (See Chapter 1 for a review).

CHAPTER 4: *STUDY 2: IDENTIFYING TACTICS USED TO END ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS*

Overview

This study was designed to empirically identify naturally occurring tactics employed by men and women to end long-term romantic relationships.

Participants

Participants were 60 undergraduates (30 men and 30 women) at a large southwestern university. Participation partially fulfilled an experimental requirement for an introductory psychology course.

Materials

Using a web-based questionnaire, I asked college-aged men and women to list tactics they or people they know have used to end long-term romantic relationships. Similar to Study 1, the questionnaire employed a nomination procedure adopted from Buss & Craik (1983). The instructions were as follows:

> "Instructions: In this study, we are interested in tactics people use to get out of or end long-term romantic relationships (e.g. steady dating relationships, committed relationships, marriages). Please think of people you know (this could include yourself) who have been in long-term romantic relationships that they ended. What did they do to end the relationship? We are interested in specific behaviors people perform in order to "break up" or end long-term romantic relationships. This is extremely important research. Please be thoughtful and honest when responding to each item."

Directions were followed by 10 lines for women and 10 lines for men in which participants could type their tactic nominations.

Results and Discussion

Upon completion of the data collection, all nominated tactics were compiled into one list. A total of 593 tactics for ending long-term romantic relationships were nominated. After I eliminated obviously redundant tactics, four judges (2 men and 2 women, including myself) eliminated additional redundant tactics, generalized overly specific tactics, and divided complex tactics into their simple components. This procedure left 135 tactics to end a long-term romantic relationship. Eight tactics were added to test specific hypotheses. This list of 143 tactics served as the basis for studies 4 and 5. The complete list of tactics for long-term relationship termination is shown in Table 2. The tactics collected in Study 2 may not represent a comprehensive list of tactics for ending romantic relationships.

Sex Differences in the Number of Tactics Nominated

There was no significant difference in the number of tactics nominated. Men's average number of nominations ($\underline{M}$ = 9.90, $\underline{SD}$ = 5.33) was not significantly different from women's average number of nominations ($\underline{M}$ = 9.87, $\underline{SD}$ = 4.98; t (58) = .025, $\underline{p}$ > .05). I had no a priori prediction about sex differences in the number of tactics nominated.

Study 2 identified 135 tactics to end a long-term romantic relationship. No previous research has identified such a broad and diverse range of tactics to terminate romantic relationships.

As mentioned in Chapters 3 and 4, one weakness of these studies is that participants can only nominate tactics that they can verbally articulate. Men and women

may have evolved to be sensitive to the contexts in which ending a romantic relationship would be adaptive and to employ specific tactics to end those relationships. It does not necessarily follow that they should be consciously aware of those tactics. Consequently, the tactics collected in Study 2 may not represent a comprehensive list of tactics of romantic relationship termination.

In addition, the participants in Study 2 were drawn from a population of students enrolled in an introductory psychology course. It is likely that the participants in this study have not experienced long-term relationships of the same level of commitment and duration as older men and women. This may have resulted in a more limited representation of the true range of tactics of romantic relationship termination.

Chapter 5: *Study 3: Perceived Likelihood of Romantic Relationship Termination.*

Overview

        Study 3 was designed to: 1) identify the contexts in which men and women judge men and women to be most likely to end romantic relationships; and 2) test 15 hypotheses about the design of men's and women's mating psychologies.

Participants

        Participants in this study were 109 undergraduates (52 men and 57 women) at a large southwestern university. Participation partially fulfilled an experimental requirement for a psychology course. The average age of men and women in the sample was 18.00 (SD = 0.56) and 18.05 (SD = 1.093) respectively.

Design

        The design of both studies was a 2 x 2 between-subjects factorial design. The first variable was sex of participant. The second variable was sex of target.

Materials

        In Study 2, participants made judgments about the contexts for mating relationship termination collected in Study 1. Each participant completed an internet-based questionnaire in the lab. Men and women were asked to complete one of two surveys rating the likelihood of either a man or a woman ending a long-term romantic relationship given each context presented. Participants were asked to rate the likelihood of either a man or a woman ending a long-term mating relationship given each context

presented. The first part of the survey contained several biographical questions.

Following the biographical portion of the survey, participants received the following

instructions:

> "Please imagine a woman in a long-term romantic relationship. Below is a list of contexts that might cause someone to end a long-term romantic relationship. In this study we are interested in your judgments about how likely it is that a woman would end a long-term romantic relationship given each context. Please read each context carefully, and think about its likely consequences. Then rate the likelihood that a woman would end a long-term romantic relationship given the context. Use this 7-point scale: a "7" means that you feel that a woman would be extremely likely to end a long-term romantic relationship. A "1" means that you feel a woman would be not at all likely to end a long-term romantic relationship. A "4" means that a woman would be moderately likely to end a long-term romantic relationship. Use intermediate numbers for intermediate judgments. This is extremely important research. Please be thoughtful and honest when responding to each item. How likely is it that <u>a woman </u>would end a long-term romantic relationship given the following context?"

Participants were then presented with 195 contexts (the 184 contexts collected from

Study 1 plus 12 contexts added by the experimenter in order to test specific predictions;

See Appendix for entire survey). Following each context was a seven-point Likert-type

scale. Participants clicked on a button above each anchor on the scale to submit their

rating. Completion of the survey took approximately 30 minutes.

Data Analysis

To determine if data from men's and women's judgments should be analyzed

separately, sex of participant was added to each hypothesis test as an independent

variable. When a single item was used to test a hypothesis, a one-way univariate analysis

of variance (ANOVA) was employed. When multiple items tested a given hypothesis a

one-way multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) was conducted. MANOVA F

values were approximated from Pillai's Trace.

Results

Most Likely Contexts in which Men and Women Terminate Long-Term Relationships

Table 3 shows the twenty contexts in which men are perceived most likely to

terminate a long-term relationship. These contexts included his partner is sexually

abusing their children, he discovers that his partner has been seeing someone else, his

partner refuses to stop dating other people, he falls in love with someone else, and his

partner hits their children.

Table 4 shows the twenty contexts in which women are perceived most likely to

terminate a long-term relationship. These contexts included her partner is sexually

abusing their children, she discovers that she is homosexual, her partner hits their

children, she discovers that his partner has been seeing someone else, and she falls in

love with someone else.

Reliability of Likelihood Judgments

I computed the alpha reliabilities for each category of mating relationship termination

contexts (Cronbach, 1951). For each category of contexts, the average alpha reached

appreciable levels. The specific items used to examine each category of contexts along

with the alpha reliability of each category are displayed in Table 5.   The number of main

effects due to sex of participant did not reach levels above those expected by chance

alone, indicating that there appears to be sufficiently high agreement among men and women to allow composite judgments to be made.

Tests of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1 - Long-term mate's sexual infidelity.

According to Hypothesis 1, men's relationship termination adaptations will be more sensitive than women's adaptations to sexual infidelity. One prediction was designed to test this hypothesis in Study 2.

Prediction 1a was that that, all else being equal, men would be judged as more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's infidelity. A significant main effect of sex of target was not found ($\underline{F}(1, 103) = 0.827$, p $= 0.365$, $\eta^2=.008$), nor were the ratings for men and women in the predicted direction. Men were not more perceived as more likely to terminate a romantic relationship due to the sexual infidelity of a mate, disconfirming the prediction. A main effect of sex of participant was found ($F(1,103) = 4.435$, $p < .05$, $\eta^2=.041$). Men rated the likelihood of relationship termination as a result of sexual infidelity as higher across sex of target. The results suggest that either Hypothesis One is incorrect or the study design employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 2 – Long-term mate's sexually transmitted disease.

According to Hypothesis 2, men's relationship termination adaptations will be more sensitive than women's adaptations to cues that their long-term mate has contracted a sexually transmitted disease. One prediction was designed to test this hypothesis in Study 2.

Prediction 2a was that all else being equal, men would be judged as more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of cues that their mate has contracted a sexually transmitted disease. Although the ratings for men and women were in the predicted direction, a significant main effect of sex of target was not found ($F(1, 104) = .797$, $p = .374$, $\eta^2 = .008$). Men were not judged as more likely than women to end a romantic relationship due to cues that their long-term mate has contracted a sexually transmitted disease. A significant main effect of sex of subject was found ($F(1, 104) = 3.967$, $p < .05$, $\eta^2 = .036$). Men rated the likelihood of relationship termination as a result of a partner's sexually transmitted disease as higher across sex of target. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Two is incorrect or the study design employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 3: Decrease in physical attractiveness.

According to Hypothesis 3, men's relationship termination adaptations will be more sensitive than women's adaptations to decreases in their long-term mate's physical attractiveness. One prediction was designed to test this hypothesis in Study 2.

Prediction 3a was that that all else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in their long-term mate's physical attractiveness. A significant main effect of sex of target was found ($F(4, 98) = 3.549$, $p < .01$, $\eta^2 = .153$). In support of Hypothesis 3, Men were perceived as more likely than women to end a romantic relationship in response to a decrease in their long-term mate's physical attractiveness, confirming the prediction.

Hypothesis 4: Increased age of long-term mate.

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According to Hypothesis 4, men's relationship termination adaptations will be more sensitive than women's adaptations to the aging of their long-term mate. One prediction was designed to test this hypothesis in Study 2.

Prediction 4a was that all else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of the increased age of his mate. Although the ratings for men and women were in the predicted direction, a significant main effect of sex of target was not found ($\underline{F}(1, 104) = 1.625$, $p = .431$, $\eta^2 = .015$). Men were not perceived as more likely than women to end a romantic relationship as a result of the increased age of their long-term mate, disconfirming the prediction. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Four is incorrect or the study design employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 5: Increased availability of short-term mates.

According to Hypothesis 5, men's relationship termination adaptations will be more sensitive than women's adaptations to increases in the availability of short-term mates.

Prediction 5a was that all else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of as a result of an increase in the availability of short-term mates. A significant main effect of sex of target was found, confirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(1, 102) = 11.497$, $p < .001$, $\eta^2 = .101$). In support of Hypothesis 5, men were perceived as more likely than women to end a romantic relationship in response to the increased availability of short-term mates.

Hypothesis 6: Increase in personal resources.

69

According to Hypothesis 6, men's relationship termination adaptations will be more sensitive than women's adaptations to increases in their resources or resource generation potential. One prediction was designed to test this hypothesis in Study 2.

Prediction 6a was that all else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in his resources or resource generation potential. A significant main effect of sex was not found, nor were the ratings for men and women in the predicted direction, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(3, 98) = 1.020$, $p = .401$, $\eta^2 = .040$). Men were not perceived as more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in their resources or resource generation potential. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Six is incorrect or the study design employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 7: Decrease in sexual access.

According to Hypothesis 7, men's relationship termination adaptations will be more sensitive than women's adaptations to a decrease in sexual access offered by a long-term mate. One prediction was designed to test this hypothesis in Study 2.

Prediction 7a was that all else being equal, men will be judged as more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in sexual access offered by his long-term mate. A significant main effect of sex of target was found, confirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(3, 103) = 2.071$, $p < .05$, $\eta^2 = .083$). In support of Hypothesis 7, men were perceived as more likely to end a romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in sexual access offered by a long-term mate.

Hypothesis 8: Reduction or reallocation of resources.

70

According to Hypothesis 8, women's relationship termination adaptations will be more sensitive than men's adaptations to a reduction of reallocation of resources by a long-term mate. One prediction was designed to test this hypothesis in Study 2.

Prediction 8a was that, all else being equal, women will be judged as more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's reduction or reallocation of resources. A significant main effect of sex of target was found, confirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(20, 70) = 3.395$, $p < .001$, $\eta^2 = .492$). In support of Hypothesis 8, women were perceived as more likely than men to end a romantic relationship in response to a long-term mate's reduction or reallocation of resources.

Hypothesis 9: Reduction of time investment.

According to Hypothesis 9, women's relationship termination adaptation will be more sensitive than men's adaptations to a reduction of time investment in them by a long-term mate. One prediction was designed to test this hypothesis in Study 2.

Prediction 9a was that all else being equal, women will be judged as more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's reduction of time invested in the mateship. A significant main effect of sex of target was found, confirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(6, 96) = 2.518$, $p < .05$, $\eta^2 = .136$). A significant main effect of sex of subject was found ($\underline{F}(6, 96) = 2.518$, $p < .01$, $\eta^2 = .170$). Men rated the likelihood of relationship termination due to a reduction in time investment as higher across sex of subject. In support of Hypothesis 9, women were perceived as more likely than men to end a romantic relationship in response to a long-term mate reducing the amount of time spent with them.

Hypothesis 10: Physical abuse.

According to Hypothesis 10, women's relationship termination adaptation will be more sensitive than men's adaptations to physical abuse of them by a long-term mate. One prediction was designed to test this hypothesis in Study 2.

Prediction 10a was that, all else being equal, women would be judged as more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of physical abuse inflicted on them by their long-term mate. A significant main effect of sex of target was found, confirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(2,104) = 7.158$, $p < .01$, $\eta^2=.122$). In support of Hypothesis 10, women were perceived as more likely than men to end a romantic relationship if their long-term mate became physically abusive.

Hypothesis 11: Increase in personal physical attractiveness.

According to Hypothesis 11, women's relationship termination adaptation will be more sensitive than men's adaptations to an increase in her physical attractiveness. One prediction was designed to test this hypothesis in Study 2.

Prediction 11a was that all else being equal, women will be judged as more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in her physical attractiveness. A significant main effect of sex of target was not found, nor wre the ratings for men and women in the predicted direction, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(3,101) = .995$, $p = .398$, $\eta^2=.029$). Women were not perceived as more likely than men to end a romantic relationship after experiencing an increase in their physical attractiveness. The results suggest that either Hypothesis 11 is incorrect or the study design employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 12: Emotional infidelity.

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According to Hypothesis 12, women's relationship termination adaptation will be more sensitive than men's adaptations to an emotional infidelity by a long-term mate. One prediction was designed to test this hypothesis in Study 2.

Prediction 12a was that, all else being equal, women would be judged as more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's emotional infidelity. Although the ratings for men and women were in the predicted direction, a significant main effect of sex of target was not found, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(2,103) = .581$, $p = .561$, $\eta^2=.011$). Women were not judged as more likely than men to end a romantic relationship in response to a long-term mate's emotional infidelity. The results suggest that either Hypothesis 12 is incorrect or the study design employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 13: Decrease in protection.

According to Hypothesis 9, women's relationship termination adaptation will be more sensitive than men's adaptations to a decrease in the protection offered them by a long-term mate. One prediction was designed to test this hypothesis in Study 2.

Prediction 13a was that all else being equal, women will be judged as more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of decreased protection offered by her long-term mate. A significant main effect of sex of target was found, confirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(2,103) = 20.456$, $p < .001$, $\eta^2=.284$). In support of Hypothesis 13, women were judged as more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's failure to afford them protection.

Hypothesis 14: Failure or unwillingness to produce children.

According to Hypothesis 14, men's and women's relationship termination adaptations will be equally sensitive to a failure or unwillingness to reproduce. One prediction was designed to test this hypothesis in Study 2.

Prediction 14a was that all else being equal, men and women will be judged as equally likely to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's inability to reproduce. A significant main effect of sex of target was found, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(6, 99) = 7.498$, $p < .001$, $\eta^2 = .312$). Women were rated as more likely than men to end a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's inability or unwillingness to reproduce. The results suggest that either Hypothesis 14 is incorrect or the study design employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 15: Physical handicap, mental illness, or disease.

According to Hypothesis 15, men's and women's relationship termination adaptations will be equally sensitive to the acquisition of a physical handicap, mental illness, or disease by their long-term mate. One prediction was designed to test this hypothesis in Study 2.

Prediction 15a was that all else being equal, men and women will be judged as equally likely to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate acquiring a physical handicap, mental illness or disease. A main effect of sex of target was not found, confirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(9, 93) = .786$, $p = .630$; $\eta^2 = .071$). In support of Hypothesis 15, men and women were judged as equally likely to end a long-term romantic relationship in response to a partner's physical handicap, mental illness, or disease.

Discussion: Study 3

Study 3 examined people's judgments about the contexts in which men and women end long-term romantic relationship. Participants were asked to judge the likelihood that a man or woman would end a long-term romantic relationship given a variety of singularly occurring contexts.

Study 3 identified which contexts the sexes are perceived to be most likely to end a long-term romantic relationship. Contexts rated with the greatest likelihood of relationship termination for men included his partner is sexually abusing their children, he discovers that his partner has been seeing someone else, his partner refuses to stop dating other people, he falls in love with someone else, and his partner hits their children. The top twenty contexts in which men are perceived likely to terminate a long-term relationship can be found in Table 3. Contexts rated with the greatest likelihood of relationship termination for women included her partner is sexually abusing their children, she discovers that she is homosexual, her partner hits their children, she discovers that his partner has been seeing someone else, and she falls in love with someone else. The top twenty contexts can be found in Table 4.

In total, 8 of the 15 hypotheses tested in Study 3 were supported. As predicted, men were perceived as more likely than women to end a long-term romantic relationship given a decrease in physical attractiveness of their long-term mate (Hypothesis 3), the increased availability of short-term mates (Hypothesis Five), and a decrease in sexual access offered by his long-term mate (Hypothesis 7). As predicted, women were perceived as more likely than men to end a long-term romantic relationship given a

reduction or reallocation of resources provided by her long-term mate (Hypothesis 8), a reduction of time invested by her long-term mate (Hypothesis 9), physical abuse inflicted upon her by her long-term mate (Hypothesis 10) and a decrease in protection provided by her long-term mate (Hypothesis 13). Finally, as predicted, men and women were perceived as equally likely to end a long-term romantic relationship if their partner suffers from a personal handicap, mental illness, or disease (Hypothesis 15).

In total, 7 of 15 of hypotheses tested in Study 3 were not supported. Contrary to Hypothesis 1, men were not more perceived as more likely to terminate a romantic relationship due to the sexual infidelity of a mate. Support for the existence of sex differences in reactions to long-term partner's sexual infidelity is robust (Buss et al., 1992; Buunk, Angleitner, Oubaid, & Buss, 1996; Buss et al, 1999). The lack of a sex difference in the present study may be due to ceiling effects (both men and women were judged as extremely likely to end a romantic relationship given a partner's sexual infidelity). It may also be due to the absence of the forced choice methodology implemented in the original study (Buss et al., 1992).

Contrary to Hypothesis 2, men were not judged as more likely than women to end a romantic relationship due to cues that their long-term mate has contracted a sexually transmitted disease. It is interesting to note that men rated the likelihood of relationship termination given a long-term mate's sexually transmitted disease as higher than women across sex of target. This could reflect support for the hypothesis. However, due to the unplanned nature of the sex of subject test, the reported effect should be considered with caution. The absence of the predicted effect could be due to a number of possible reasons. First, the items used to test this prediction were not cues to a sexually

transmitted disease, but rather knowledge that a partner has contracted a sexually transmitted disease. Second, large group living is a relatively recent phenomenon evolutionarily. Consequently, men may not have evolved an increased sensitivity to such cues.

Contrary to Hypothesis 4, Men were not perceived as more likely than women to end a romantic relationship as a result of the increased age of their long-term mate, disconfirming the prediction. The lack of an observed sex difference may be due to the population from which the sample used to test the prediction was derived. Reaction to such a context may be dependent on the age of the individual. College-aged participants may have never encountered the adaptive problem of decreased fertility due to increased age of mate, and consequently cannot accurately judge such a context.

Contrary to Hypothesis 6, men were not perceived as more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in their resources or resource generation potential. The absence of a significant sex difference in this context could have a number of explanations. College-aged participants may have never experienced the fitness benefits associated with increased resources and status and so are unable to judge such a context. There may not be sufficient variance in status and resources within college mating pools for increased resources and status to have an impact on men's relationship termination decisions. Finally, men may not possess relationship termination mechanisms that are sensitive to the contexts described in Hypothesis 6.

Contrary to Hypothesis 11, women were not perceived as more likely than men to end a romantic relationship after experiencing an increase in their physical attractiveness. The absence of a sex difference in response to this context may have a number of

explanations. As may have been the case with resources and status, college-aged participants may never have experienced the fitness benefits associated with increased resources and status and so are unable to judge the contexts described in Hypothesis 11. Second, college-aged participants may live in communities with relatively less variation in physical attractiveness than the community at large. Such an environment may hide benefits associated with increased attractiveness. Third, increases in personal physical attractiveness outside of those associated with age may be relatively rare and not sufficiently recurrent over evolutionary history to have resulted in an evolved psychological mechanism attuned to such increases.

Contrary to Hypothesis 12, women were not judged as more likely than men to end a romantic relationship in response to a long-term mate's emotional infidelity. As may have been the case in the test of Hypothesis One, the lack of a sex difference in the present study may be due to ceiling effects (both men and women were judged as extremely likely to end a romantic relationship given a partner's emotional infidelity). It may also be due to the absence of the forced choice methodology implemented in early studies of sex differences in response to emotional infidelity (Buss et al., 1992).

Contrary to Hypothesis 14, women were judged as more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's inability to reproduce. The observed sex difference may have several explanations. First, women are generally more affectionate toward and concerned with children (Lamb, 1977; Parke & Tinsley, 1987). The observed effect could be due to participants judging whether women have more affection for children than men, as opposed to the relationship of failure or unwillingness to have children to relationship termination. Second, if a woman in a long-

term relationship with a man who is clearly unable or unwilling to reproduce became pregnant, it could only be due to evident sexual infidelity. Consequently, it may be very difficult for her to reproduce at all in such a relationship, considerably increasing the costs of remaining in such a relationship. A man in such a relationship may still be able to reproduce by reproducing with other women surreptitiously (or with other long-term mates in polygynous societies). Consequently, the costs associated with an inability or unwillingness of a long-term mate to reproduce may be greater for women than men, resulting in the observed sex difference. Third, the college-aged students surveyed in this study may not be representative of mating relationships in general.

Future studies examining the contexts collected in Study 1 could include a methodology designed to force participants to prioritize their likelihood judgments of the contexts (akin to the budget allocation methodology developed by Li, Kenrick, & Linsenmeier (2002)). Such methods might provide a better lens with which to view differences between the sexes in their reactions to different relationship contexts.

In total, 8 of the 15 hypotheses were supported. Three of seven of the predictions regarding contexts in which men were predicted to be judged more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship were confirmed. Four of six of the predictions regarding contexts in which women were predicted to be judged more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship were confirmed. One of two of the predictions about contexts in which men and women were predicted to be judged as equally likely to terminate a long-term romantic relationship was confirmed. Study 3

provides moderate support for the evolutionary perspective of relationship termination

outlined in Chapter 2.

Chapter 6: *Studies 4 and 5: Perceived likelihood of use and effectiveness of relationship termination tactics*

Overview

Studies 4 and 5 were designed to 1) identify the tactics of relationship termination which men and women judge as most likely to be employed by men and women; 2) identify the tactics the tactics of relationship termination which men and women judge as most effective for both men and women; and 3) test 10 hypotheses about the design of men's and women's mating psychologies. In Study 4, I examined the perceived likelihood of use of various mating relationship termination tactics. In Study 5, I examined the perceived effectiveness of various mating relationship termination tactics. I have combined the methods and results sections of the two studies for reportorial efficiency.

Participants

Participants in Study 4 were 159 undergraduates (95 women and 64 men). In Study 4, the average age was 18.81 for women (SD = 1.232, range 17-24) and 19.02 for men (SD = 1.253, range 17-23). Participants in Study 5 were 209 undergraduates (132 women and 77 men). In Study 5, the average age was 18.90 for women (SD = 1.607, range 17-32) and 18.77 for men (SD = 1.037, range 17-23). None of the students who participated in Study 4 participated in Study 5.

Design

The design of both studies was a 2 x 2 between-subjects factorial design. The first variable was sex of participant. The second variable was sex of target.

Materials

Four versions of the survey were constructed. Each participant completed a web-based questionnaire in the lab. Men and women were asked to complete one of four surveys rating either the likelihood or the effectiveness of men and women using different tactics to end long-term romantic relationships. The first part of the survey contained several biographical questions. Following the biographical portion of the survey, participants in the judgment of likelihood condition received the following instructions.

> "Instructions: Please imagine a woman in a long-term romantic relationship. Sometimes people do things in order to break up with their partner or get their partner to break up with them. Below is a list of acts that someone might perform in order to end a long-term romantic relationship. In this study we are interested in your judgments about how likely it is that a woman would perform each act to end a long-term romantic relationship. Please read each act carefully, and think about its likely consequences. Then rate the likelihood that a woman would perform the act to end a long-term romantic relationship. Use this 7-point scale: a "7" means that you feel that a woman would be extremely likely to perform the act to end a long-term romantic relationship. A "1" means that you feel a woman would be not at all likely to perform the act to end a long-term romantic relationship. A "4" means that a woman would be moderately likely to perform the act to end a long-term romantic relationship. Use intermediate numbers for intermediate judgments. This is extremely important research. Please be thoughtful and honest when responding to each item. How likely is it that a woman would perform the following act to end a long-term romantic relationship?"

The instructions in the tactic effectiveness condition were as follows:

"Instructions: Please imagine a woman in a long-term romantic relationship. Sometimes people do things in order to break up with their partner or get their partner to break up with them. Below is a list of acts that someone might perform in order to end a long-term romantic relationship. In this study we are interested in your judgments about how effective each act would be for a woman to end a long-term romantic relationship. Please read each act carefully, and think about its likely consequences. Then rate each act on how effective would be for a woman to end a long-term romantic relationship. Use this 7-point scale: a "7" means that you feel the act will be extremely effective for a woman to end a long-term romantic relationship. A "1" means that you feel the act will be not at all effective for a woman to end a long-term romantic relationship. A "4" means that you feel the act will be moderately effective for a woman to end a long-term romantic relationship. Use intermediate numbers for intermediate judgments. This is extremely important research. Please be thoughtful and honest when responding to each item. How effective would it be for a woman to perform the following tactic to end a long-term romantic relationship?"

The tactics collected from study three followed the instructions above. Eleven items were added to test specific predictions. A list of the tactics used is presented in Table 2. The tactics used to test each hypothesis can be found in Table 10. Following each tactic was a seven-point Likert-type scale. Participants clicked on a button above each anchor on the scale to submit their rating. Completion of the survey took approximately 30 minutes.

Data Analysis

To determine if data from men's and women's judgments should be analyzed separately, sex of participant was added to each hypothesis test as an independent variable. When a single item was used to test a hypothesis, a one-way univariate analysis of variance (ANOVA) was employed. When multiple items tested a given hypothesis a one-way multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) was conducted. MANOVA F values were approximated from Pillai's Trace.

Tactics Men and Women Are Perceived Most Likely To Employ To Terminate Long-Term Relationships

Table 6 shows the twenty tactics men are perceived most likely employ to terminate a long-term relationship. These tactics included Tell his partner that breaking up is the best for both of them, Put other things in his life before his partner, and Say 'I think we'd be better off as friends', Stop saying "I Love You".

Table 7 shows the twenty tactics women are perceived most likely employ to terminate a long-term relationship. These tactics included Spend more time with friends without her partner, Tell her partner that breaking up is the best for both of them, Stop touching her partner as much, and Say 'I think we'd be better off as friends'.

Tactics Perceived As Most Effective For Men And Women To Employ To Terminate Long-Term Relationships

Table 8 shows the twenty tactics perceived as most effective for men to employ to terminate a long-term relationship. These tactics included Have sex with other people and let his partner find out, Tell them face to face, Tell his partner that he loves someone else, and Have sex with his partner's friends and let his partner find out.

Table 9 shows the twenty tactics perceived as most effective for women to employ to terminate a long-term relationship. These tactics included Have sex with other people and let her partner find out, Tell them face to face, Get caught cheating on her partner, and Tell her partner that she loves someone else.

Reliabilities of Tactic Judgments

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I computed the alpha reliabilities for each category of tactics of mating relationship termination (Cronbach, 1951). For each category of tactic, the average alpha reached appreciable levels. The specific items used to examine each category of tactics along with the alpha reliabilities of each category of tactic across both studies are displayed in Table 10. The number of main effects due to sex of participant did not reach levels above those expected by chance alone, indicating that there appears to be sufficiently high agreement among men and women to allow composite judgments to be made.

Results of Tests of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 16 – Signaling decreased investment of resources.

According to Hypothesis 16, men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal decreased investment resources in the mateship in order to facilitate a divorce. Two predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Studies 4 and 5.

Prediction 16a was that all else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve signaling decreased investment of resources in their long-term mate would be judged as more effective for men than for women. Although the ratings were in the predicted direction, a significant main effect of sex of target was not found, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(1, 198) = 1.963$, $p = .086$, $\eta^2 = .047$). These tactics were not judged as more effective for men than for women.

Prediction 16b was that, all else being equal, men would be judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of breakup that involve signaling decreased investment of resources in their long-term mate. Although the ratings were in the predicted direction, a

significant main effect of sex of target was not found, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}$(4, 147) = 1.717, p = .134, η^2=.055). Men were not perceived as being more likely than women to employ tactics of relationship termination that involve reducing the resources invested in a long-term mate.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis 16 were confirmed. The findings suggest that either Hypothesis 16 is incorrect, or the employed study design was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 17 – Signaling decreased investment of time.

According to Hypothesis 17, men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal decreased investment of time in their long-term relationship in order to facilitate a divorce. Two predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Studies 4 and 5.

Prediction 17a was that, all else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve signaling decreased investment of time in their long-term mate would be judged as more effective for men than for women A significant main effect of sex of target was not found, nor were the ratings in the predicted direction, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}$(1, 190) = 1.223, p = .278, η^2=.060). Tactics that involve a reduction of time invested in a long-term mate were not perceived as more effective for men than for women.

Prediction 17b was that, all else being equal, men would be judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of breakup that involve signaling decreased investment of time in their long-term mate. Although the ratings were in the predicted direction, a significant main effect of sex of target was not found, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}$(9, 140) = 1.517, p = .139, η^2=.098). Tactics that involve a reduction of time invested in a

long-term mate were not perceived as more likely to be employed by men than by women.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis 17 were confirmed. The findings suggest that either Hypothesis 17 is incorrect, or the employed study design was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 18 - Signaling decreased protection.

According to Hypothesis 18, men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal decreased protection of their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce. Two predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Studies 4 and 5.

Prediction 18a was that, all else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve signaling decreased protection of their long-term mate would be judged as more effective for men than for women A significant main effect of sex of target was found, confirming the prediction ($\underline{F}$(3, 199) = 17.480, p < .001, η^2=.260). Tactics of relationship termination that involve signaling decreased protection were perceived as more effective for men than for women.

Prediction 18b was that, all else being equal, men would be judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of breakup that involve signaling decreased protection of their long-term mate. A significant main effect of sex of target was not found, nor were the ratings in the predicted direction, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}$(3, 149) = 2.160, p = .076, η^2=.055). Men were not perceived as more likely than women to employ tactics of relationship termination that involve signaling decreased protection.

In summary, one of two of tests of Hypothesis 18 was confirmed. The findings offer weak support for Hypothesis 18.

Hypothesis 19 - Decreasing sexual access.

According to Hypothesis 19, women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to decrease sexual access in order to facilitate a divorce (Buss, 1994). Two predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Studies 4 and 5.

Prediction 19a was that, all else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve decreasing sexual access offered to their long-term mate would be judged as more effective for women than for men. Although the ratings were in the predicted direction, a significant main effect of sex of target was not found, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}$(2, 201) = 2.042, p =.109, η^2=.030). Tactics that involve reducing sexual access were not judged as more effective for women than for men.

Prediction 19b was that, all else being equal, women would be judged as more likely than men to employ tactics of breakup that involve decreasing sexual access offered to their long-term mate. A significant main effect of sex of target was found, confirming the prediction ($\underline{F}$(2, 151) = 5.874, p < .01, η^2=.0105). In support of Hypothesis 19, women were perceived as more likely than men to employ tactics of relationship termination that involve decreasing sexual access.

In summary, one of the two tests of Hypothesis 19 was confirmed. The findings offer weak support for Hypothesis 19.

Hypothesis 20 - Signaling sexual infidelity.

According to Hypothesis 20, women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal sexual infidelity in order to facilitate a divorce (Buss, 1994). Two predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Studies 4 and 5.

Prediction 20a was that, all else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve signaling sexual infidelity would be judged as more effective for women than for men. Although the ratings were in the predicted direction, a significant main effect of sex of target was not found, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(3, 199) = 1.029$, $p = .393$, $\eta^2 = .020$). Tactics that involve signaling sexual infidelity were not perceived as more effective for women than for men.

Prediction 20b was that, all else being equal, women would be judged as more likely than men to employ tactics of breakup that involve signaling sexual infidelity. A significant main effect of sex of target was not found, nor were the ratings in the predicted direction, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(3, 150) = 0.735$, $p = .570$, $\eta^2 = .019$). Women were not perceived as more likely than men to employ tactics of relationship termination that involve signaling sexual infidelity.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis 18 were confirmed. The findings suggest that either Hypothesis 20 is incorrect, or the employed study design was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 21 - Signal decreased physical attractiveness.

According to Hypothesis 21, women possess evolved psychological mechanisms design to signal decreased physical attractiveness to their mate to facilitate a divorce. Two predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Studies 4 and 5.

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Prediction 21a was that, all else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve selectively decreasing one's physical attractiveness around a long-term mate would be judged as more effective for women than for men. A significant main effect of sex of target was found, confirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(5, 192) = 3.962$, $p < .01$, $\eta^2=.110$). In support of Hypothesis 21, tactics of relationship termination that involve selectively decreasing one's physical attractiveness around a long-term mate were judged as more effective for women than for men.

Prediction 21b was that, all else being equal, women would be judged as more likely than men to employ tactics of breakup that involve selectively decreasing one's physical attractiveness around a long-term mate. A significant main effect of sex of target was found, confirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(5, 140) = 2.563$, $p < .05$, $\eta^2=.099$). In support of Hypothesis 21, women were judged as more likely than men to employ tactics of relationship termination than involve signaling decreased attractiveness to a long-term mate.

In summary, two of two of tests of Hypothesis 21 were confirmed. The findings offer support for the hypothesis that women possess evolved psychological mechanisms of relationship termination that produce output involving selectively decreasing one's physical attractiveness around a long-term mate.

Hypothesis 22 - Physical abuse.

According to Hypothesis 22, men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to physically abuse their mate in order to facilitate a divorce. Two predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Studies 4 and 5.

Prediction 22a was that, all else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve physically abusing a long-term mate would be judged as more effective for men than for women. A significant main effect of sex of target was found, confirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(3, 199) = 10.927$, $p < .001$, $\eta^2 = .180$). In support of Hypothesis 22, tactics of relationship termination that involve physically abusing a long-term mate were judged as more effective for men than for women.

Prediction 22b was that, all else being equal, men would be judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of breakup that involve physically abusing a long-term mate. A significant main effect of sex of target was found, confirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(3, 146) = 8.253$, $p < .001$, $\eta^2 = .184$). Men were rated as more likely than women to employ tactics of breakup that involve physically abusing a mate. A significant main effect of sex of subject was also found ($F (3, 146) = 2.658$, $p < .05$). Women rated the likelihood of employing tactics of relationship termination involved physical abuse higher than men across sex of target. In support of Hypothesis 22, men were judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of relationship termination that involve physically abusing a long-term mate.

In summary, two of two tests of Hypothesis 22 were confirmed. The findings offer support for the hypothesis that men possess evolved psychological mechanisms that produce physical abuse of a long-term mate as output.

Hypothesis 23 - Refusal of resources.

According to Hypothesis 23, women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to refuse resources in order to facilitate a divorce. Two predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Studies 4 and 5.

Prediction 23a was that, all else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve refusing or returning gifts would be judged as more effective for women than for men. A significant main effect of sex of target was found, confirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(3, 202) = 2.906$, $p < .05$, $\eta^2 = .054$). In support of Hypothesis 23, tactics of relationship termination that involve refusing or returning gifts were judged more effective for women than for men.

Prediction 23b was that, all else being equal, women would be judged as more likely than men to employ tactics of breakup that involve refusing or returning gifts. Although the ratings were in the predicted direction, a significant main effect of sex of target was not found, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}(3, 147) = 0.411$, $p = .800$, $\eta^2 = .011$). Women were not judged as more likely than men to employ tactics of relationship termination that involve returning resources.

In summary, one of two of tests of Hypothesis 23 was confirmed. The findings offer weak support for the hypothesis that women possess evolved psychological mechanisms of relationship termination that produce output involving a refusal of resources.

Hypothesis 24 - Signal emotional infidelity.

According to Hypothesis 24, men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal emotional infidelity in order to facilitate a divorce. Two predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Studies 4 and 5.

Prediction 24a was that, all else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve signaling emotional infidelity would be judged as more effective for men than for women. Although the ratings were in the predicted direction, a significant main effect of

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sex of target was not found, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}$(3, 199) = .750, p = .559, η^2=.015). Tactics of relationship termination that involve signaling emotional infidelity were not judged as more effective for men than for women.

Prediction 24b was that, all else being equal, men would be judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of breakup that involve signaling emotional infidelity. Although the ratings were in the predicted direction, a significant main effect of sex of target was not found, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}$(3, 149) = 0.311, p = .870, η^2=.008). Men were not judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of relationship termination that involve signaling emotional infidelity.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis 24 were confirmed. The findings suggest that either Hypothesis 24 was incorrect or the employed study design was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 25 - Decrease emotional investment.

According to Hypothesis 25, men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal decreased emotional investment in order to facilitate a divorce. Two predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Studies 4 and 5.

Prediction 25a was that, all else being equal, tactics of breakup that involve signaling decreased emotional investment would be judged as more effective for men than for women. A significant main effect of sex of target was not found, nor were the ratings in the predicted direction, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}$(6, 192) = 1.038, p = .406, η^2=.036). Tactics of relationship termination that involve decreasing emotional investment were not judged as more effective for men than for women.

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Prediction 25b was that, all else being equal, men would be judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of breakup that involve signaling emotional infidelity. Although the ratings were in the predicted direction, a significant main effect of sex of target was not found, disconfirming the prediction ($\underline{F}$(6, 141) = 0.832, p = .563, η^2=.040). Men were not judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of relationship termination that involve decreasing emotional investment.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis 25 were confirmed. The findings suggest that either Hypothesis 25 was incorrect or the employed study design was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Discussion: Studies 4 and 5

Studies 4 and 5 examined people's judgments about the tactics men and women may employ to end long-term romantic relationships. In Study 4, participants were asked to judge likelihood of use of various mating relationship termination tactics. In Study 5, participants were asked to judge the effectiveness of various mating relationship termination tactics.

Study 4 identified which tactics people perceive the sexes to be most likely to employ to end a long-term romantic relationship. Tactics rated with the greatest likelihood of use for relationship termination for men included tell his partner that breaking up is the best for both of them, Put other things in his life before his partner, Say 'I think we'd be better off as friends', Stop saying "I Love You", and Tell her face to face. The top twenty tactics which men are perceived most likely employ to terminate a long-term relationship can be found in Table 6. Tactics rated with the greatest likelihood of

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use for relationship termination for women included Spend more time with friends without her partner, Tell her partner that breaking up is the best for both of them, Stop touching her partner as much, Say 'I think we'd be better off as friends', and Claim that her school work requires too much of her time.. The top twenty tactics for women can be found in Table 7.

Study 5 identified which tactics people perceive as the most effective for them to employ to end a long-term romantic relationship. Tactics rated with the greatest effectiveness for relationship termination for men included Have sex with other people and let his partner find out, Tell them face to face, Tell his partner that he loves someone else, Have sex with his partner's friends and let his partner find out, and Get caught cheating on his partner. The top twenty tactics which are perceived most effective for men can be found in Table 8. Tactics rated with the greatest effectiveness for relationship termination for women included Have sex with other people and let her partner find out, Tell them face to face, Get caught cheating on her partner, Tell her partner that she loves someone else, and Have sex with her partner's friends and let her partner find out. The top twenty most effective tactics for women can be found in Table 9.

Two of ten predictions regarding tactics of relationship termination were fully supported in Studies 4 and 5. As predicted, women were perceived as more likely than men to employ tactics involving signaling decreased physical attractiveness to the long-term mate (Hypothesis 21). As predicted, such tactics were also perceived as more effective for women. As predicted, men were perceived as more likely than women to

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physically abuse their long-term mate in order to terminate a relationship (Hypothesis 22). As predicted, such tactics were also perceived as more effective for men than for women. It is interesting to note that women rated the likelihood of employing tactics of relationship termination involved physical abuse higher than men across sex of target. This could be due to a greater sensitivity to physical abuse in general. However, any conclusions drawn from this analysis should be made with caution. The sex of subject test was unplanned.

Three of ten predictions received mixed support: Signal Decreased Protection, Decrease Sexual Access, and Refusal of Resources.   Five of ten predictions received no support in Studies 4 and 5: Signal Decreased Investment of Resources, Signal Decreased Investment of Time, Signal Sexual Infidelity, Signal Emotional Infidelity, and Decrease Emotional Investment.

In total, 8 of 10 of the hypotheses tested in Studies 4 and 5 received mixed or no support. Contrary to Hypothesis 16, tactics of breakup that involve signaling decreased investment of resources were not judged as more effective for men than for women, nor were men perceived as being more likely than women to employ tactics of relationship termination that involve reducing the resources invested in a long-term mate. There are a number of possible explanations for the absence of a significant sex differences in perceived effectiveness and perceived likelihood of use. First, the items used to test this hypothesis (listed in Table 10) may not have reflected great enough resource withdrawal to produce a significant sex difference. Second, while research indicates that women do prefer long-term mates who are willing and able to provide resources (Buss, 1989), the

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college-aged participants used in this study may not emphasize immediate resource investment in their selection of mates. Instead, they may focus on resource generation potential. Consequently, signaling reduced investment of resources this age group may not be a very effective or likely to be used relationship termination tactic. Third, men may not possess evolved psychological mechanisms of relationship termination, the output of which is reduced investment of resources.

Contrary to Hypothesis 17, tactics that involve a reduction of time invested in a long-term mate were not perceived as more effective for men than for women, nor were they perceived as more likely to be employed by men than by women. The absence of observed sex differences in perceived effectiveness or likelihood may have several explanations. First, as may have been the case with Hypothesis 16, the items used to test this hypothesis (listed in Table 10) may not have reflected great enough of a reduction in time investment to produce a significant sex difference. Second, the items used to test the predictions may not have been sufficiently concrete to elicit the predicted response. More concrete items ("do not spend any time with her partner for two weeks" rather than "spend more time with friends without her partner") might produce better results. Third, the average amount of time that college-aged individuals in long-term relationships spend with each other may be minimal due to the demands associated with college enrollment. Consequently, the relatively mild reduction of time investment reflected in the items may not be strong enough to produce an effect. Fourth, men may not possess evolved psychological mechanisms of relationship termination, the output of which is reduced investment of time.

Hypothesis 18 received mixed support. Tactics of relationship termination that involve signaling decreased protection were perceived as more effective for men than for women. However, men were not perceived as more likely than women to employ tactics of relationship termination that involve signaling decreased protection. Women value the protection offered by a long-term mate (Buss, 1989). Failing to protect a long-term mate would be a considerable violation of a woman's desires, and likely a very effective termination tactic. Women may not employ a withdrawal of protection to end a long-term relationship. (Men don't express desires for long-term mates that are willing and able to protect them). Men may be equally unlikely to employ tactics of relationship termination that involve reducing protection because of the associated reputational costs. Failing to protect a current romantic partner may reduce a man's ability to attract future mates. Consequently, men may not possess evolved psychological mechanisms of relationship termination, the output of which is reduced investment of time.

Hypothesis 19 received mixed support. Tactics that involve reducing sexual access were not judged as more effective for women than for men. However, women were perceived as more likely than men to employ tactics of relationship termination that involve decreasing sexual access. There are a number of possible explanations the mixed results described above. First, sexual disinterest of a mate is a cue to infidelity for both men and women (Shackelford & Buss, 1997). This may increase the perceived effectiveness of the tactic for men, eliminating the sex difference in effectiveness. However, as described in Chapter 2, both men and women judge sexual rejection or withholding to be far more upsetting when performed by a woman than by a man (Buss, 1989). Such an effect, paired with the value that men place on sexual access, might have

produced the predicted sex difference in likelihood. Consequently, women may not possess relationship termination tactics the output of which is sexual withdrawal.

Contrary to Hypothesis 20, Tactics that involve signaling sexual infidelity were not perceived as more effective for women than for men, nor were women perceived as more likely than men to employ tactics of relationship termination that involve signaling sexual infidelity. There are a number of possible explanations for the absence of sex differences described above. First, committing a sexual infidelity may inflict sufficient costs on a long-term mate to end a mateship. However, those employing such a tactic likely risk physical abuse as well as reputational damage. Sex differences in both the effectiveness and likelihood of use of tactics of relationship dissolution that involve committing sexual infidelity may be tempered by the possible costs incurred by both men and women who commit sexual infidelity. These conditions may have selected for no sex difference in the likelihood of employing tactics of relationship termination that involve committing sexual infidelity. Second, the considerable costs associated with committing a sexual infidelity and being discovered may have selective conditions that resulted psychologies of relationship termination in men and women the output of which is not sexual infidelity.

Hypothesis 23 received mixed support in studies 4 and 5. Tactics of relationship termination that involve refusing or returning gifts were judged more effective for women than for men. However, women were not judged as more likely than men to employ tactics of relationship termination that involve returning resources. One possible explanation of the conflicting results described above involves the costs associated with such a tactic. Such tactics may be judged as highly effective for women because women

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value resource investment by a long-term mate. Women who refusing resource investment incur a high cost and are acting contrary to their preferences. This may send a strong, honest signal to a long-term mate that the woman wants to end the relationship. However, because of the cost associated with such a tactic, women may not employ it. The sex difference in perceived effectiveness may be more reflective of the costs incurred by women who would behave in such a way than a sex difference in evolved relationship termination psychologies. The tactic may not be effective for men or likely to be employed by men because they are not typically able to demand resource investment from a mate, much less refuse it.

Contrary to Hypothesis 24, tactics of relationship termination that involve signaling emotional infidelity were not judged as more effective for men than for women, nor were men judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of relationship termination that involve signaling emotional infidelity. There are a number of possible explanations for the absence of sex differences described above. First, as was the case with Hypothesis 20, committing a infidelity may inflict sufficient costs on a long-term mate to end a mateship. However, those employing such a tactic may risk physical abuse as well as reputational damage. Sex differences in both the effectiveness and likelihood of use of tactics of relationship dissolution that involve committing an emotional infidelity may be tempered by the possible costs incurred by both men and women who commit emotional infidelity. These conditions may have selected for no sex difference in the likelihood of employing tactics of relationship termination that involve committing emotional infidelity. Second, the considerable costs associated with committing an emotional infidelity and being discovered may have selective conditions that resulted

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psychologies of relationship termination in men and women the output of which is not emotional infidelity. Third, a woman may only initiate a relationship termination in response to emotional infidelity only if the emotional infidelity actually signals a long-term diversion of resources. Instead of relationship termination, women might increase mate guarding if she detected emotional infidelity (Buss, personal communication, July 22, 2007).

Contrary to Hypothesis 25, tactics of relationship termination that involve decreasing emotional investment were not judged as more effective for men than for women, nor were men judged as more likely than women to employ tactics of relationship termination that involve decreasing emotional investment. One possible explanation for the absence of sex differences described above is that the tactics used to test Hypothesis 25 may not have reflected sufficient emotional disengagement to elicit a sex difference. A second possible explanation is that men do not possess evolved psychological mechanisms of relationship termination the output of which reflects is emotional disengagement from a long-term mate.

Like Study 3, future studies examining the tactic collected in Study 2 could include a methodology designed to force participants to prioritize their likelihood and effectiveness judgments (akin to the budget allocation methodology developed by Li, Kenrick, & Linsenmeier (2002)). Such methods might provide a better lens with which to view differences between the sexes in their judgments of relationship termination tactics.

Two of ten predictions regarding tactics of relationship termination were fully supported in Studies 4 and 5: Signal Decreased Physical Attractiveness and Physical Abuse. Three of ten predictions received mixed support: Signal Decreased Protection, Decrease Sexual Access, and Refusal of Resources.   Five of ten predictions received no support in Studies 4 and 5: Signal Decreased Investment of Resources, Signal Decreased Investment of Time, Signal Sexual Infidelity, Signal Emotional Infidelity, and Decrease Emotional Investment. Studies 4 and 5 provide weak support for the evolutionary perspective on relationship termination outlined in Chapter 2.

Chapter 7: *Study 6: Accounts of romantic relationship termination*

Overview

Study 6 was designed to test the hypotheses outlined in Chapter 2 using information about actual long-term romantic relationship terminations and thoughts of relationship termination. Participants currently in long-term romantic relationships were asked to describe their most memorable thoughts of breakup with their current partner in as much detail as possible. They were also asked to describe the events that led them to have the thought. Ellis and Symons (1990) argue that differences in the sexual fantasies of men and women are a result of different selective pressures that have operated on men and women over evolutionary history. According to the authors, a comparison of the sexual fantasies of men and women illuminates differences in the sexual psychologies of men and women. Other researchers have argued that fantasy may itself be a psychological adaptation. Buss & Duntley (under review) argue that homicidal ideation may be a design feature of adaptations for homicide. An examination of thoughts of relationship termination may reflect the output of specific evolved mechanisms designed to facilitate relationship termination.

Following the questions about thoughts of breakup, participants who reported having been in a long-term romantic relationship that ended were asked to describe their breakup experience in as much detail as possible. They were also asked to describe the events that led to dissolution of their mating relationship. Accounts of actual relationship terminations should reflect the evolved psychological mechanisms outlined in Chapter 2. The instrument used to collect the data for Study Six can be found in Appendix A.

Participants

A total of 1204 individuals participated in Study 6. Data from 426 heterosexual men and 778 women were included in this study. Participants in Study 6 were recruited from two sources.

University Sample: The first source of participants consisted of 1057 heterosexual undergraduates (369 men and 688 women) at a large southwestern university. The average age of male participants in the university sample was 19.4. The average age of female participants in the university sample was 19.3.

Internet Community Sample: The second group of participants consisted of 147 heterosexual individuals (57 men and 90 women) drawn from the internet community. The average age of the male participants in the internet sample was 34.2. The average age of the female participants in the internet sample was 33.2. Participation by the individuals from the university community partially fulfilled an experimental requirement for a psychology course. The internet sample was collected using a snowball sampling method. Internet participants were recruited by means of an email sent to friends, family and colleagues of the experimenter who then forwarded the email to others.

Materials

Participants in Study 6 completed a survey that was divided into several sections. The first section collected demographic information (such as their sex, sexual orientation, age, and socioeconomic status), family history information, and information about their current relationship status. The second section included questions designed to gather information about thoughts of relationship termination. Participants were asked to estimate the frequency with which they experienced thoughts of relationship termination,

as well as the duration and intensity of those thoughts. The third section of the survey asked participants to recall their most memorable thought of relationship termination, including what events precipitated their thought, the content of their thought, and what prevented them from acting out their thought (terminating their romantic relationship). The fourth section asked participants to recall their most memorable romantic relationship termination. This section included questions about their former partner, the events that precipitated the relationship termination, the reasons for the relationship termination, and the methods employed by themselves, their partner, or both of them in order to terminate the relationship. The fifth (and final) section of the survey included questions about the participant's former partner, their current relationship status, and the likelihood that participants would renew a romantic relationship with their former partner. [See Appendix A].

Data Coding

All of the questions examined in Study 6 were open ended, requiring coding for subsequent analysis. All data coding was completed independently by two trained research assistants. Any disagreements between the coders were resolved by the author. The categories used in coding the data were derived from the hypotheses outlined in Chapter One. If a given account of breakup could not be categorized, the coders suggested a possible additional category, agreement between the coders led to the addition of a category. Chi Square analyses were used to examine frequency differences in context presence and tactic usage in participants' thoughts of relationship termination and in participants' accounts of actual relationship termination.

Results

The results below reflect the data collected from the two samples described above. Participants were asked to recall their most memorable relationship termination thought and their most memorable relationship termination event whether the termination was initiated by themselves, their partner, or both individuals in the relationship. Results are organized by sample and by the category of relationship termination account (thought, self-initiated termination, partner-initiated termination, and both-initiated termination).

Relationship Brachiation

Self-Initiated: In the university sample, 16.1% of women and 7.8% of men who initiated their relationship termination did so while beginning a new romantic relationship. In the internet community sample, 11.5 % of women and 35.0% of men who initiated their relationship termination did so while beginning a new romantic relationship.

Partner-Initiated: In the university sample, 21.4% of women and 35.3% of men reported that their romantic partner ended their romantic relationship while beginning a new romantic relationship. In the internet community sample, 33.3% of women and 62.5% of men reported that their romantic partner ended their romantic relationship while beginning a new romantic relationship.

Both-initiated: In the university sample, 14.4% of women and 25.0% of men report that either they or their partner began a new romantic relationship while their current relationship was ending. In the internet community sample, 10% of women and

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27.3% of men reported that either they or their partner began a new romantic relationship while their current relationship was ending.

Tests of Hypotheses

Contexts in Which Men are Hypothesized to be More Likely to End a Long-Term Romantic relationship

Hypothesis 1: Long-term mate's sexual infidelity.

According to Hypothesis 1, men's relationship termination adaptations will be more sensitive than women's adaptations to sexual infidelity. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 1b was that men would be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a long-term mate's sexual infidelity. Men from the university sample did not have significantly more thoughts of relationship termination due to a long-term partner's sexual infidelity, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)= 1.105$, p = .573), nor did men from the internet community sample ($\chi_2(1)= 1.049$, p = .562), disconfirming the prediction.

Prediction 1c was that men would be more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's sexual infidelity. Men from the university sample were not more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a results of a long-term mate's sexual infidelity ($\chi_2(1)= 1.194$, p = .367), nor were men from the internet community sample ($\chi_2(1)= 2.204$, p = .260), disconfirming the prediction.

Prediction 1d was that women would be more likely than men to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their own sexual infidelity. Women from the university sample were not more likely to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their own sexual infidelity, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi2(1)= 0.114$, $p = 1.00$). There were no reported instances in the internet community sample.

Prediction 1e was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a woman's sexual infidelity would more frequently be reported as a cause than a man's sexual infidelity. Men and women from the university sample did not differ in their frequency of reporting their partner's sexual infidelity as a cause of relationship termination ($\chi2(1)= 0.322$, $p = 1.00$), nor did the differ in their frequency of reporting their own sexual infidelity as a cause of relationship termination ($\chi2(1)= 0.004$, $p = 1.00$). Men and women from the internet community sample did not differ in their frequency of reporting their partner's sexual infidelity as a cause of relationship termination ($\chi2(1)= 0.005$, $p = 1.00$), disconfirming the prediction. There were no reported instances by men or women of their sexual infidelity causing a mutual relationship termination.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis One were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis One is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 2: Long-term mate's sexually transmitted disease.

According to Hypothesis 2, men's relationship termination adaptations will be more sensitive than women's adaptations to cues that their long-term mate has contracted

a sexually transmitted disease. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 2b was that men would be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of cues that their mate has contracted a sexually transmitted disease. Men from the university sample did not have significantly more thoughts of relationship termination than women due to a long-term partner's sexually transmitted disease, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)=.343$, p = 1.00). There were no reported thoughts related to sexually transmitted diseases in the internet community sample.

Prediction 2c was that men will be more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of cues that their mate has contracted a sexually transmitted disease. There were no reported instances of sexually transmitted diseases in the university sample. There were no reported instances of sexually transmitted diseases in the university community sample.

Prediction 2d was that women would be more likely than men to report their partner terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their contraction of a sexually transmitted disease. There were no reported instances of sexually transmitted diseases in the university sample or in the internet community sample.

Prediction 2e was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a woman's sexually transmitted disease would more frequently be reported as a cause than a man's sexually transmitted disease. There were no reported instances of sexually transmitted diseases in the university sample or in the internet community sample.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Two were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Two is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 3: Decrease in physical attractiveness.

According to Hypothesis 3, men's relationship termination adaptations will be more sensitive than women's adaptations to decreases in their long-term mate's physical attractiveness. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 3b was that men would be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a decrease in their long-term mate's physical attractiveness. Men in the university sample were not more likely than women to report a thought of relationship termination due to a decrease in their partner's physical attractiveness ($\chi_2(1)$= 2.935, p = .255). There were no reported thoughts of relationship breakup due to a decrease in a long-term mate's physical attractiveness in the university sample or in the internet community sample, disconfirming the prediction.

Prediction 3c was that men would be more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in their long-term mate's physical attractiveness. Men in the university sample were not more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in their long-term mate's physical attractiveness, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)$= 0.428, p = 1.00). Men in the internet community sample were not more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in their long-term mate's physical attractiveness, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)$= 0.704, p = 1.00).

Prediction 3d was that women would be more likely than men to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in their personal physical attractiveness. There were not reported instances in either the university sample or the internet community sample of long-term mates terminating their romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in the reporter's own physical attractiveness.

Prediction 3e was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a woman's decrease in physical attractiveness would more frequently be reported as a cause than a man's decrease in physical attractiveness. Men and women in the university sample did not report any instances of their own decrease in physical attractiveness causing their mutual relationship termination. Men and women in the university sample did not differ in their frequency of reporting their partner's decrease in physical attractiveness as a cause of their relationship termination, ($\chi_2(1)= 0.634$, $p = 1.00$). Men and women in the internet community sample did not report any instances of their own decrease, or a partner's decrease, in physical attractiveness causing their mutual relationship termination.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Three were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Three is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 4: Increased age of long-term mate.

According to hypothesis 4, men's relationship termination adaptations will be more sensitive than women's adaptations to the aging of their long-term mate. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

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Prediction 4b was that men would be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of the increased age of his mate. There were no reported thoughts of relationship breakup due to the increased age of a long-term mate in the university sample or the internet community sample, disconfirming the prediction. Consequently, Prediction 4b could not be tested.

Prediction 4c was that men would be more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of the increased age of his mate. Men and women did not report any instances of terminating a romantic relationship as a result of the increased age of their mate in the university sample or in the internet community sample. Consequently, Prediction 4c could not be tested.

Prediction 4d was that women would be more likely than men to report their partner terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their own increased age. Women in the university sample did not report any instances of their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship with them as a result of their increased age. Women in the internet community sample were not more likely than men to report their partner terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their own increased age, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)= 0.702$, p = 1.00).

Prediction 4e was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a woman's increased age would more frequently be reported as a cause than a man's increased age. There were no reported instances of increased age causing a mutual relationship termination in the university sample, nor were there any reported instances in the internet community sample.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Four were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Four is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 5: Increased availability of short-term mates.

According to Hypothesis 5, men's relationship termination adaptations will be more sensitive than women's adaptations to increases in the availability of short-term mates. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 5b was that men would be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of an increase in the availability of short-term mates. Men, more than women, in the university sample reported experiencing thoughts of relationship breakup as a result of an increase in the availability of short-term mates, confirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)=8.874$, p<.05). Men, more than women, in the internet community sample reported experiencing thoughts of relationship termination as a result of an increase in the availability of short-term mates, confirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)= 6.578$, p< .05).

Prediction 5c was that men would be more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in the availability of short-term mates. Men in the university sample were not more likely than women to report terminating a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in the availability of short-term mates, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)= 1.932$, p = .165). Men in the internet community sample were not more likely than women to report terminating a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in the availability of short-term mates, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)= 0.073$, p = 1.00).

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Prediction 5d was that women would be more likely than men to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of an increase in the availability of short-term mates for their long-term mate. Women in the university sample were more likely than men to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of an increase in the availability of short-term mates, confirming the prediction (χ_2(1)= 5.334, p < .05). Women in the internet community sample were not more likely than men to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of an increase in the availability of short-term mates, disconfirming the prediction (χ_2(1)= 1.481, p = .95).

Prediction 5e was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, an increase in the availability of short-term mates for the man would more frequently be reported as a cause than an increase in the availability of short-term mates for the woman. Men, more than women, in the university sample reported an increase in the availability of short-term mates for themselves as a cause of a mutual relationship termination, confirming the prediction (χ_2(1)= 4.869, p < .05). Men and women in the university sample did not differ in reporting an increase in the availability of short-term mates for their partner as a cause of a mutual relationship termination, disconfirming the prediction (χ_2(1)= 2.071, p = .185). Men and women in the internet sample did not differ in their frequency of reporting an increase in the availability of short-term mates for themselves as a cause of a mutual relationship termination, disconfirming the prediction (χ_2(1)= 0.955, p = 1.00). There were no reported instances of an increase in the availability of short-term mates for a partner as a cause of a mutual relationship termination in the internet community sample.

In summary, four of the tests of Hypothesis Five were confirmed. The findings offer some support that men possess evolved psychological mechanisms of relationship termination that lead them to be sensitive to the availability of short-term mates.

Hypothesis 6: Increase in personal resources.

According to Hypothesis 6, men's relationship termination adaptations will be more sensitive than women's adaptations to increases in their resources or resource generation potential. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 2.

Prediction 6b was that men would be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of an increase in his resources or resource generation potential. There were no reported thoughts of breakup due to an increase in personal resources or resource generation potential reported in the university, nor in the internet community sample.

Prediction 6c was that men would be more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in his resources or resource generation potential. There were no reported instances in the university sample or the internet community sample of a man or woman terminating a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in their resources or resource generation potential.

Prediction 6d was that women would be more likely than men to report their partner terminating their romantic relationship as a result of an increase in their long-term mate's personal resources. There were no reported instances in the university sample or the internet community sample of a man or woman terminating a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in their resources or resource generation potential.

Prediction 6e was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a man's increase in resources or resource generation potential would more frequently be reported as a cause than a woman's increase in resources or resource generation potential. There were no reported instances in the university sample or the internet community sample of an increase in personal resources causing a mutual relationship termination.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Six were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Six is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 7: Decrease in sexual access.

According to Hypothesis 7, men's relationship termination adaptations will be more sensitive than women's adaptations to a decrease in sexual access offered by a long-term mate. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 7b was that men would be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a decrease in sexual access offered by his long-term mate. Men and women in the university sample did not differ in their frequency experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a decrease in sexual access offered by a long-term mate ($\chi_2(1)=0.343$, $p = 1.00$), nor did men and women in the internet community sample, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)=3.198$, $p = .243$).

Prediction 7c was that men would be more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in sexual access offered by his long-term mate. Men in the university sample did not report any instances of terminating a

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romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in the sexual access offered to them by their long-term mates. Men in the internet community sample were not more likely than women to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in sexual access offered by his long-term mate, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)$= 3.539, p = .144).

Prediction 7d was that women would be more likely than men to report their partner terminating their romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in the sexual access they offered their mate. Women were not more likely than men to report their partner terminating their romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in the sexual access they offered their mate in the university sample ($\chi_2(1)$= 0.480, p = .639), nor were they in the internet community sample, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)$= 1.481, p = .495).

Prediction 7e was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a decrease in sexual access offered by the woman would more frequently be reported as a cause than a decrease in sexual access offered by the man. Men and women in the university sample did not differ in their frequency of reporting a decrease in the sexual access they offered their mate as a cause of their mutual relationship termination ($\chi_2(1)$= .634, p = 1.00), nor did they differ in their frequency of reporting a decrease in sexual access offered by a partner as a cause of mutual relationship termination ($\chi_2(1)$= 0.111, p = 1.00), disconfirming the prediction. There were no reported instances by men and women in the internet community sample of their own decrease in sexual access offered causing a mutual relationship termination. Finally, men and women in the internet community sample did not differ in the frequency of reporting the decrease in sexual

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access offered by a partner as causing their mutual relationship termination, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)= 0.955$, p = 1.00).

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Seven were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Seven is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Contexts in Which Women are Hypothesized to be More Likely to end a Long-Term Romantic Relationship

Hypothesis 8: Reduction or reallocation of resources.

According to Hypothesis 8, women's relationship termination adaptations will be more sensitive than men's adaptations to a reduction of reallocation of resources by a long-term mate. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 8b was that men would be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a long-term mate's reduction or reallocation of resources. Men and women in the university sample did not differ in their frequency experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a long-term mate's reduction or reallocation of resources ($\chi_2(1)=0.343$, p = 1.00), nor did men and women in the internet community sample, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)= 1.858$, p = .307).

Prediction 8c was that women would be more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's reduction or reallocation of resources. Men and women in the university sample did not differ in their frequency of reporting terminating a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's reduction

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or reallocation of resources ($\chi_2(1)$= 0.017, p = 1.00). However, women in the university sample were more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's reduced potential resources ($\chi_2(1)$= 5.057, p<.05). Within the internet sample, men and women did not differ in their frequency of reporting terminating a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's reduction or reallocation of resources ($\chi_2(1)$= 2.204, p = .260). However, women in the internet community sample were more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's reduced potential resources ($\chi_2(1)$= 4.715, p<.05).

Prediction 8d was that men would be more likely than women to report their long-term mate terminating a romantic relationship as a result of a reduction or reallocation of the resources invested in their long-term mate. There were no reported instances by man or women in the university sample or the internet community sample of a long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their reduction or reallocation of resources invested in their long-term mate, nor were there any reported instances relating to a reduction in potential resources.

Prediction 8e was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a reduction in the man's investment resources would more frequently be reported as a cause than a decrease in the woman's investment of resources. Men and women in the university sample did not report any instances of their own reduction of resource investment causing a mutual relationship termination. Men and women did report a decrease in their own *potential* resources causing a mutual relationship termination, but their frequency of reporting did not differ ($\chi_2(1)$= 0.111, p = 1.00). Men and women in the university sample did not differ in their frequency of reporting a

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decrease their partner's resources ($\chi_2(1)= 0.634$, p = 1.00), or *potential* resources ($\chi_2(1)= 0.634$, p = 1.00) causing a mutual relationship termination. Men and women in the internet community sample did not differ in their frequency of reporting their own decrease in resource investment as a cause of mutual relationship termination ($\chi_2(1)= 2.010$, p = .476). There were no reported instances of an individual's own decrease in potential resources as causing a mutual relationship termination. There were no reported instances in the internet community sample of a partner's decrease in resource investment or potential resource investment causing a mutual relationship termination.

In summary, two of the tests of Hypothesis Eight were confirmed. The findings provide weak support for the hypothesis than women possess evolved psychological mechanisms sensitive to decreases in the investment of resources or potential resources of a long-term mate.

Hypothesis 9: Reduction of time investment.

According to Hypothesis 9, women's relationship termination adaptation will be more sensitive than men's adaptations to a reduction of time investment in them by a long-term mate. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 9b was that men would be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a long-term mate's reduction of time invested in the mateship. Men and women in the university sample did not differ in their frequency experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a long-term mate's reduction time investment *($\chi_2(1)=3.754$, p = .076)*, nor did they differ in the internet community sample, *($\chi_2(1)=0.316$, p = .620)* disconfirming the prediction.

Prediction 9c was that women would be more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's reduction of time invested in the mateship. Women were not more likely than men in the university sample to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's reduction of time invested in the relationship ($\chi_2(1)= 0.594$, $p = .441$). Women were more likely than men in the internet community sample to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's reduction of time invested in the relationship ($\chi_2(1)= 5.369$, $p<.05$).

Prediction 9d was that men would be more likely than women to report their long-term mate terminating a romantic relationship as a result of their reduction of time invested in the relationship with their long-term mate. Men were more likely than women in the university sample to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their reduction of time they invested in the relationship ($\chi_2(1)= 4.752$, $p<.05$). Men were also more likely than women in the internet community sample to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their reduction of time invested in the relationship ($\chi_2(1)= 5.249$, $p<.05$).

Prediction 9e was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a reduction in the man's investment of time would more frequently be reported as a cause than a decrease in the woman's investment of time. Men and women in the university sample did not differ in their frequency of reporting their own decrease in time investment ($\chi_2(1)= 1.009$, $p = .238$) or their partner's decreased investment of time ($\chi_2(1)= 1.397$, $p = .237$) as a cause of mutual relationship termination. Men and women in the internet community sample did not report their own decrease in time

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investment ($\chi_2(1)$= 2.010, p = .476) or their partner's decreased investment of time ($\chi_2(1)$= 0.509, p = .586) as a cause of mutual relationship termination.

In summary, three of the tests of Hypothesis Nine were confirmed. The findings provide weak support for the hypothesis that women possess evolved psychological mechanisms of relationship termination sensitive to a long-term mate's investment of time in them.

Hypothesis 10: Physical abuse.

According to Hypothesis 10, women's relationship termination adaptation will be more sensitive than men's adaptations to physical abuse of them by a long-term mate. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 10b was that women would be more likely than men to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of physical abuse inflicted on them by their long-term mate. There were no reported thoughts involving physical abuse in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

Prediction 10c was that women would be more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of physical abuse inflicted on them by their long-term mate. Women were not more likely than men in the university sample to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of physical abuse inflicted on them by their long-term mate *(*$\chi_2(1)$=0.094, p = 1.00), nor were they more likely in the internet community sample ($\chi_2(1)$= 2.204, p = .260), disconfirming the prediction.

Prediction 10d was that men would be more likely than women to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of physical abuse they inflicted upon their long-term mate. Men and women in neither the university sample,

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nor the internet community sample reported instances their long-term mates terminating their romantic relationship as a result of physical abuse they inflicted.

Prediction 10e was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, physical abuse inflicted by the man would more frequently be reported as a cause than by the woman. There were no reported instances of physical abuse causing a mutual relationship termination in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Ten were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Ten is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 11: Increase in personal physical attractiveness.

According to Hypothesis 11, women's relationship termination adaptation will be more sensitive than men's adaptations to an increase in her physical attractiveness. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 11b was that men would be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of an increase in her physical attractiveness. There were no reported thoughts of breakup due to an increase in personal attractiveness in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

Prediction 11c was that women would be more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of an increase in her physical attractiveness. No men or women in either the university sample or the internet community sample reported instances of terminating their romantic relationship as a result of an increase in their own physical attractiveness.

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Prediction 11d was that men would be more likely than women to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of an increase in physical attractiveness experienced by their long-term mate. No men or women in either the university sample or the internet community sample reported any instances of long-term mates terminating their romantic relationship with them as a result of an increase in their physical attractiveness.

Prediction 11e was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, an increase in the physical attractiveness of the woman would more frequently be reported as a cause than of the man. No men or women in either the university sample or the internet community sample reported instances of an increase in physical attractiveness causing a mutual relationship termination in the internet community sample.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Eleven were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Eleven is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 12: Emotional infidelity.

According to Hypothesis 12, women's relationship termination adaptation will be more sensitive than men's adaptations to an emotional infidelity by a long-term mate. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 12b was that men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a long-term mate's emotional infidelity. There were no reported thoughts of breakup due to emotional infidelity in the university sample. Women were not more likely than men in the internet

community sample to report experiencing a thought of terminating a romantic relationship as a result of their long-term mate's emotional infidelity, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)$=0.330, p = 1.00).

Prediction 12c was that women will be more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's emotional infidelity. Women were not more likely than men in the university sample to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of their long-term mate's emotional infidelity, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)$=0.026, p = 1.00). There were no reported instances of men or women terminating a romantic relationship as a result of their partner's emotional infidelity in the internet community sample.

Prediction 12d was that men will be more likely than women to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their own emotional infidelity. Men in the university sample were not more likely than women to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their emotional infidelity ($\chi_2(1)$= 1.384, p = .421). There were no reported instances of long-term mates terminating a romantic relationship as a result of a man or woman's emotional infidelity in the internet community sample.

Prediction 12e was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, emotional infidelity by a man will more frequently be reported as a cause than emotional infidelity by a woman. There were no reported instances of one's own emotional infidelity causing a mutual relationship termination in the university community sample. There were no reported instances of emotional infidelity causing a

mutual relationship termination in either the university community sample or the internet community sample.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Twelve were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Twelve is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 13: Decrease in protection.

According to Hypothesis 9, women's relationship termination adaptation will be more sensitive than men's adaptations to a decrease in the protection offered them by a long-term mate. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 13b was that women will be more likely than men to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of decreased protection offered by her long-term mate. Men and women in the university sample did not differ in the frequency of reported thoughts of breakup due to a decrease in protection offered by a long-term mate, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)=0.343$, p = 1.00). There were no reported thoughts of relationship termination due to decreased protection offered by a long term mate in the internet community sample.

Prediction 13c was that women will be more likely than men to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of decreased protection offered by her long-term mate. Women in the university sample did not report any instances of terminating their romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in the protection offered by their long-term mate, nor did women in the internet community sample, disconfirming the prediction.

Prediction 13d was that men will be more likely than women to report their long-term mate terminating their romantic relationship as a result of a decrease in protection

they provided their long-term mate. No men or women in either the university sample or the internet community sample reported any instances of their long-term mates terminating their romantic relationship as a result of decrease in the protection they offered their long-term mate.

Prediction 13e was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a reduction of protection provided by the man will more frequently be reported as a cause than by the woman. There were no reported instances of a reduction in protection provided resulting in a mutual relationship termination in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Thirteen were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Thirteen is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Contexts in Which Men and Women are Hypothesized to be Equally Likely to end a Long-Term Romantic Relationship

Hypothesis 14: Failure or unwillingness to produce children.

According to Hypothesis 14, men's and women's relationship termination adaptations will be equally sensitive to a failure or unwillingness to reproduce. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 14b was that men and women will be equally likely to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a long-term mate's inability to reproduce. There were no reported thoughts of breakup due to a failure or unwillingness to reproduce in the university sample. Men and women in the internet

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community sample did not differ in their frequency of reporting thoughts of relationship termination due to a long-term mate's failure or unwillingness to reproduce, supporting the prediction ($\chi_2(1)$= .680, p = 1.00).

Prediction 14c was that men and women will be equally likely to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's inability to reproduce. There were no reported instances in either the university sample or the internet community sample of terminating a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate's inability or refusal to reproduce.

Prediction 14d was that men and women will be equally likely to report their partner terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their inability or unwillingness to reproduce. Men and women were equally likely to report their partner terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their inability or unwillingness to reproduce, supporting the prediction ($\chi_2(1)$= .056, p = 1.00). There were no reported instances in the internet community sample of long-term mates terminating a romantic relationship because of the participant's inability or unwillingness to reproduce.

Prediction 14e was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, an inability or unwillingness to reproduce by the man will be as frequently reported as an inability or unwillingness by the woman. There were no reported instances of an inability or unwillingness to reproduce in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

In summary, two of the tests of Hypothesis Fourteen were confirmed. The results provide weak support for the hypothesis that men and women possess evolved

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psychological mechanisms sensitive to a long-term mate's willingness or ability to reproduce.

Hypothesis 15: Physical handicap, mental illness, or disease.

According to Hypothesis 15, men's and women's relationship termination adaptations will be equally sensitive to the acquisition of a physical handicap, mental illness, or disease by their long-term mate. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction15b was that men and women will be equally likely to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup as a result of a long-term mate acquiring a physical handicap, mental illness, or disease. Men and women in the university sample did not differ in the frequency of reported thoughts of breakup due to a long-term mate's physical handicap, mental illness, or disease, supporting the prediction ($\chi_2(1)$=1.315, p = .460). Men and women in the internet community sample did not differ in the frequency of reported thoughts of breakup due to a long-term mate's physical handicap, mental illness, or disease, supporting the prediction ($\chi_2(1)$=0.330, p = 1.00).

Prediction 15c was that men and women will be equally likely to terminate a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate acquiring a physical handicap, mental illness, or disease. Men and women in the university sample did not differ in their frequencies of reporting terminating a romantic relationship as a result of a long-term mate acquiring a physical handicap, mental illness, or disease ($\chi_2(1)$=0.487, p = .485), nor did men and women differ in the internet community sample, supporting the prediction ($\chi_2(1)$= 0. 152, p = 1.00).

Prediction 15d was that men and women will be equally likely to report their partner terminating their romantic relationship as a result of their own physical handicap, mental illness, or disease. There were no reported instances by men and women in either the university sample or the internet sample of long-term mates terminating a romantic relationship due to their physical handicap, mental illness, or disease.

Prediction 15e was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a physical handicap, mental illness, or disease affecting the man will be as frequently reported as a physical handicap, mental illness, or disease affecting the woman. There were no reported instances in the university sample of an individual's own handicap, mental illness, or disease causing a mutual relationship termination. Men and women in the internet community sample did not differ in their frequency of reporting a partner's handicap, mental illness, or disease causing a mutual relationship termination, supporting the prediction ($\chi_2(1)$= .111, p = 1.00). There were no reported instances in the internet community sample of handicap mental illness, or disease causing a mutual relationship termination.

In summary, five of the tests of Hypothesis Fifteen were confirmed. The results provide moderate support for the hypothesis that men and women possess evolved psychological mechanisms of relationship termination sensitive to a long-term mate's physical handicap, mental illness, or disease.

Tactics of Romantic Relationship Termination

Hypothesis 16: Signaling decreased investment of resources.

According to Hypothesis 16, men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal decreased investment resources in the mateship in order to facilitate a divorce. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 16c was that men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involved signaling decreased investment of resources in their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported thoughts of breakup involving signaling decreased investment of resources in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

Prediction 16d was that men will be more likely than women to report signaling decreased investment of resources in their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported instances of breakup involving signaling decreased investment of resources in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

Prediction 16e was that women will be more likely than men to report their partner decreasing their investment of resources in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported instances of breakup involving signaling decreased investment of resources in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

Prediction 16f was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, decreased investment of resources by the man will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than decreased investment of resources by the woman. There were no reported instances of breakup involving signaling decreased investment of resources in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Sixteen were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Sixteen is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 17: Signaling decreased investment of time.

According to Hypothesis 17, men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal decreased investment of time in their long-term relationship in order to facilitate a divorce. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 17c was that men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involved signaling decreased investment of time in their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported thoughts of breakup involving signaling decreased investment of time in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

Prediction 17d was that men will be more likely than women to report signaling decreased investment of time in their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce. Men and women in the university sample did not differ in their frequency of reporting decreasing their investment of time in their relationship in order to facilitate a divorce, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)=0.428$, $p = 1.00$). There were no reported instances of relationship termination involving signaling decreased investment of time in the internet community sample.

Prediction 17e was that women will be more likely than men to report their long-term mate decreasing their investment of time in their relationship in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported instances of relationship termination of breakup

involving a partner signaling decreased investment of time in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

Prediction 17f was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, decreased investment of time by the man will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than decreased investment of time by the woman. There were no reported instances of mutual relationship termination involving signaling decreased investment of time in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Seventeen were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Seventeen is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 18 - Signaling decreased protection.

According to Hypothesis 18, men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal decreased protection of their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 18c was that men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involved signaling decreased protection of their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce. University Sample: There were no reported thoughts of relationship termination involving signaling decreased protection in the either the university sample or the internet community sample.

Prediction 18d was that men will be more likely than women to report signaling decreased protection of their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce. There were

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no reported instances of men or women signaling decreased protection of their mate in order to facilitate a relationship termination in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

Prediction 18e was that women will be more likely than men to report their long-term mate decreasing protection of them in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported instances long-term mates signaling decreased protection in order to facilitate a relationship termination in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

Prediction 18f was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, decreased protection by the man will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than decreased protection by the woman. There were no reported instances of men or women signaling decreased protection of their mate in order to facilitate a mutual relationship termination in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Eighteen were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Eighteen is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 19 - Decreasing sexual access.

According to Hypothesis 19, women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to decrease sexual access in order to facilitate a divorce (Buss, 1994). Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 19c was that women will be more likely than men to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involved decreasing sexual access offered to their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported

thoughts of breakup involving decreasing sexual access offered to a long-term mate in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

Prediction 19d was that women will be more likely than men to report decreasing sexual access offered to their long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported instances of men or women in either the university Sample or the internet community sample decreasing sexual access offered to a long-term mate as a tactic to terminate a relationship.

Prediction 19e was that men will be more likely than women to report their long-term mate decreasing sexual access offered in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported instances in either the university sample or the internet community sample of long-term mates decreasing sexual access as a tactic to terminate a relationship.

Prediction 19f was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a woman decreasing sexual access will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than a man decreasing sexual access. There were no reported instances in either the university sample or the internet community sample of participants or reported long-term mates decreasing sexual access as a tactic to mutually terminate a relationship.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Nineteen were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Nineteen is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 20: Signaling sexual infidelity.

According to Hypothesis 20, women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal sexual infidelity in order to facilitate a divorce (Buss, 1994). Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 20c was that women will be more likely than men to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involves signaling sexual infidelity in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported thoughts of breakup involving signaling sexual infidelity in the university sample. Men and women in the internet community sample did not differ in their frequency of reporting a thought of relationship termination that involves signaling sexual infidelity as a tactic to terminate a relationship, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)$=3.198, p = .243).

Prediction 20d was that women will be more likely than men to report signaling sexual infidelity as a tactic to terminate a romantic relationship. There were no reported instances of men or women signaling sexual infidelity as a tactic to terminate a romantic relationship.

Prediction 20e was that men will be more likely than women to report their long-term partner signaling sexual infidelity as a tactic to terminate a romantic relationship. There were no reported instances long-term mates signaling sexual infidelity as a tactic to terminate a romantic relationship in either the university or internet community samples.

Prediction 20f was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a woman signaling sexual infidelity will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than a man signaling sexual infidelity. There were no reported instances of a man or woman signaling sexual infidelity as a tactic to mutually terminate a romantic relationship in the university sample. There were no

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reported instances in the internet community sample of an individual signaling their own sexual infidelity as a tactic to precipitate a mutual relationship termination. Men and women did not differ in their frequency of reporting their partner signaling sexual infidelity as a tactic to precipitate a mutual relationship termination, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)$=0.955, p = 1.00).

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Twenty were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Twenty is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 21: Signal decreased physical attractiveness.

According to Hypothesis 21, women possess evolved psychological mechanisms design to signal decreased physical attractiveness to their mate to facilitate a divorce. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 21c was that women will be more likely than men to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that that involves selectively decreasing one's physical attractiveness around a long-term mate. There were no reported thoughts of breakup involving selectively decreasing one's physical attractiveness around a long-term mate in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

Prediction 21d was that women will be more likely than men to report selectively decreasing one's physical attractiveness around a long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported instances of men or women selectively decreasing one's physical attractiveness in order to end a romantic relationship in either the university or community samples.

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Prediction 21e was that men will be more likely than women to report their long-term mate decreasing their physical attractiveness in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported instances of long-term mates selectively decreasing their physical attractiveness in order to end a romantic relationship.

Prediction 21f was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a woman decreasing her physical attractiveness will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than a man decreasing his physical attractiveness. There no reported instances of men or women in either the university or internet community samples selectively decreasing their physical attractiveness in order to end a romantic relationship.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Twenty-One were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Twenty-One is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 22 - Physical abuse.

According to Hypothesis 22, men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to physically abuse their mate in order to facilitate a divorce. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 22c was that men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involves physically abusing a long-term mate in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported thoughts of breakup involving physical abuse in either the university or internet community samples.

Prediction 22d was that men will be more likely than women to report physically abusing a long-term mate as a tactic to end their romantic relationship. There were no

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reported instances of men or women physically abusing their long-term mate in order to end their romantic relationship in either the university or internet community samples.

Prediction 22e was that women will be more likely than men to report their long-term mate physically abusing them in order to end their romantic relationship. There were no reported instances of long-term mates physically abusing them as a tactic to end a romantic relationship in either the university or internet community samples.

Prediction 22f was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a man physically abusing his long-term mate will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than a woman physically abusing her long-term mate. There were no reported instances of physical abuse as a tactic to mutually end a romantic relationship in either the university or internet community samples.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Twenty-Two were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Twenty-Two is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 23 - Refusal of resources.

According to Hypothesis 23, women possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to refuse resources in order to facilitate a divorce. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 23c was that women will be more likely than men to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involves refusing or returning gifts in order to facilitate a divorce. University Sample: There were no reported thoughts of

breakup involving a refusal of resources in the either university sample or the internet community sample, disconfirming the prediction.

Prediction 23d was that women will be more likely than men to report refusing or returning gifts in order to facilitate a divorce. Women in the university sample were not more likely than men to report refusing or returning gifts in order to end a romantic relationship, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)=0.428$, p $=$ 1.00). There were no reported instances of men or women refusing resources as a tactic to end a romantic relationship in the internet community sample.

Prediction 23e was that men will be more likely than women to report their long-term mate refusing or returning gifts in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported instances of long-term mates refusing resources as a tactic to end a romantic relationship in either the university sample or internet community sample.

Prediction 23f was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a woman refusing or returning gifts will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than a man refusing or returning gifts. There were no reported instances of men or women refusing resources as a tactic to mutually end a romantic relationship in either the university sample or internet community sample.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Twenty-Three were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Twenty-Three is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 24 - Signal emotional infidelity.

According to Hypothesis 24, men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal emotional infidelity in order to facilitate a divorce. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 24c was that men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involves signaling emotional infidelity in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported thoughts of breakup involving signaling emotional infidelity in either the university sample or internet community sample.

Prediction 24d was that men will be more likely than women to report signaling emotional infidelity in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported instances of signaling emotional infidelity in order to end a romantic relationship in either the university sample or internet community samples.

Prediction 24e was that women will be more likely than men to report their long-term mate signaling emotional infidelity in order to end a romantic relationship. There were no reported instances of long-term mates signaling emotional infidelity in order to end a romantic relationship in either the university sample or internet community samples.

Prediction 24f was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a man signaling emotional infidelity will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than a woman signaling emotional infidelity. There were no reported instances of signaling emotional infidelity in order to mutually end a romantic relationship in either the university sample or internet community samples.

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In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Twenty-Four were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Twenty-Four is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

Hypothesis 25: Decrease emotional investment.

According to Hypothesis 25, men possess evolved psychological mechanisms designed to signal decreased emotional investment in order to facilitate a divorce. Four predictions were designed to test this hypothesis in Study 6.

Prediction 25c was that men will be more likely than women to report experiencing a thought of relationship breakup that involves signaling decreased emotional investment in order to facilitate a divorce. There were no reported thoughts of breakup involving signaling decreased emotional investment in either the university sample or the internet community sample.

Prediction 25d was that men will be more likely than women to report signaling decreased emotional investment in order to facilitate a divorce. Men and women in the university sample did not differ in the frequency with which they reported signaling decreased emotional investment in order to end a romantic relationship ($\chi_2(1)=0.428$, p = 1), nor did men and women differ in the internet community sample, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)=1.480$, p = .408).

Prediction 25e was that women will be more likely than men to report their long-term mate signaling decreased emotional investment in order to end a romantic relationship. There were no reported instances in the university sample of long-term mates signaling decreased investment in order to end a romantic relationship. Women in the internet community sample were not more likely than men to report their long-term

mate signaling decreased emotional investment in order to facilitate a divorce, disconfirming the prediction ($\chi_2(1)=0.702$, p = 1.00).

Prediction 25f was that when a man and woman mutually decide to terminate their relationship, a man decreasing emotional investment will be more frequently reported as a tactic to terminate the relationship than a woman decreasing emotional investment. There were no reported instances in either the university sample or the internet community sample or men or women decreasing emotional investment in order to end a romantic relationship.

In summary, none of the tests of Hypothesis Twenty-Five were confirmed. The results suggest that either Hypothesis Twenty-Five is incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

STUDY 6 DISCUSSION

Instead of relying on people's perceptions of the reasons and tactics of relationship termination, Study 6 examined: 1) actual thoughts of relationship termination experienced by men and women; and 2) actual experiences of men and women with relationship termination. Many of the questions in the survey used in Study 6 were open-ended, allowing participants to fully explain the circumstances of their relationship termination thoughts and experiences.

Most Frequent Thoughts

Study 6 examined the thoughts of relationship termination experienced by both college-aged participants and an older community sample. The most frequent reasons men and women from the university sample have thoughts of ending long-term

relationships can be found in Tables 11 and 12 respectively. The most frequent reasons men and women from the internet community sample have thoughts of ending long-term relationships can be found in Tables 13 and 14 respectively.

The most frequent tactics men and women from the university sample employ in their thoughts of ending long-term relationships can be found in Tables 15 and 16 respectively. The most frequent tactics men and women from the internet community sample employ in their thoughts of ending long-term relationships can be found in Tables 17 and 18 respectively.

Future studies examining thoughts of relationship termination might examine the factors that cause people to remain in relationships despite thoughts of breakup. Perhaps sensitivity to these factors has been influenced by natural selection.

Most Frequent Reasons and Tactics in Self-initiated Relationship Terminations

Study 6 identified the most frequent reasons men and women end long-term romantic relationships. The most frequent reasons men and women from the university sample end long-term relationships can be found in Tables 19 and 20 respectively. The most frequent reasons men and women from the internet community sample end long-term relationships can be found in Tables 21 and 22 respectively.

The most frequent tactics men and women from the university sample employ to end long-term relationships can be found in Tables 23 and 24 respectively. The most frequent tactics men and women from the internet community sample employ to end long-term relationships can be found in Tables 25 and 26 respectively.

A qualitative comparison of the reasons for relationship termination men and women in the university report versus those reasons reported by the older, internet community sample, suggests that samples obtained from introductory psychology classes may not be representative of relationships outside of the college setting. Future studies implementing the methods outlined above would benefit from larger, more representative samples.

Relationship Brachiation

Across both the university sample and the internet community sample, both men and women appear to "brachiate" between relationships. Consistent with Rusbult's, "quality of alternatives" component, the presence of dating alternatives appears to influence the decision to end romantic relationships.

Study 6 Discussion of Hypothesis Tests

Reasons for Romantic Relationship Termination

In total, 5 of the 15 hypothesis about the contexts which may prompt men and women to terminate a long-term romantic relationship found some support in Study 6. Hypothesis Five (Increased availability of short-term mates), Hypothesis Eight (Reduction of or reallocation of resources), Hypothesis Nine (Reduction of time investment), Hypothesis Fourteen (Failure or unwillingness to produce children), and Hypothesis 15 (Physical handicap, mental illness, or disease) all found some support.

Ten of 15 of hypotheses about contexts were not supported in Study 6. Hypothesis 1 (Long-term mate's sexual infidelity), Hypothesis 2 (Long-term mate's

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sexually transmitted disease), Hypothesis 3 (Decrease in physical attractiveness), Hypothesis 4 (Increased age of long-term mate), Hypothesis 6 (Increase in personal resources), Hypothesis 7 (Decrease in sexual access), Hypothesis 10 (Physical abuse), Hypothesis 11 (Increase in personal physical attractiveness), Hypothesis 12 (Emotional infidelity), and Hypothesis 13 (Decrease in protection) all failed to find support in Study Six. The results suggest that either the hypotheses above are incorrect or the methodology employed was insufficient to find the predicted effects.

The failure to support many of the hypotheses of Study 6 regarding contexts of relationship termination might be corrected in future studies by: 1) Following open-ended questions with more specific questions geared toward the hypothesized contexts; 2) including Likert scale type questions asking participants to rate how much a given context influenced their decision to terminate a relationship.

Tactics of Romantic Relationship Termination
None of the ten hypotheses about tactics of relationship termination were supported in Study 6. Only tactics of relationship termination involving Signaling a decreased investment of time (Hypothesis 17), Signaling sexual infidelity (Hypothesis 20), Refusal of resources (Hypothesis 23), and Decrease emotional investment (Hypothesis 25), had reported instances. The remaining six hypothesized tactics had no reported instances in either sample. The most frequently reported tactic used to terminate a relationship across both thoughts and actual relationship terminations, across both sexes, and across both samples was "Talk to them directly and end the relationship." The results suggest that either Hypotheses 15-25 are incorrect or the methodology employed

was insufficient to find the predicted effects. Possibly, participants are not aware of the tactics they, or their former partners have employed to terminate their romantic relationships. Another possibility is that the evolved psychological mechanisms responsible for producing the relationship termination do not possess such elaborated output as hypothesized. If it is the case that men and women are simply unaware of the tactics they or their partners employ, the relative absence of any of the hypothesized tactics of relationship tactics might be corrected in future studies by following open-ended questions with more specific questions about the use of tactics (e.g. checklists following free-report questions). Observational methods similar to those employed by Gottman (1994) and others may also provide some evidence for the cost-inflicting tactics hypothesized in Chapter 2. If the tactics of relationship termination used by men and women are limited to "Talk to them directly and end the relationship" as suggested by Study 6, future studies could also examine more closely the conversations that are employed to end relationships. An investigation of other characteristics of direct relationship terminations (e.g. the location of the breakup, the other people involved in the breakup, etc.) may also shed light on men's and women's psychologies of relationship termination.

Chapter 8: *General Discussion and Conclusion*

Past research has demonstrated that men and women end romantic relationships for a variety of reasons (See Chapter 1 for a review). Several researchers have begun to investigate specifically how men and women end their romantic relationships. In this dissertation, I proposed that humans have evolved distinct, domain specific, psychological mechanisms devoted to romantic relationship termination. To the extent that evidence suggests that men and women have faced similar adaptive problems in romantic relationships over the course of evolutionary history, I expected that their psychologies of romantic relationship termination to be similar. To the extent that these adaptive problems have differed over the course of evolutionary history, I expected they would differ.

The intent of this dissertation was to demonstrate that the contexts which prompt men and women to end long-term romantic relationships as well as the tactics men and women employ to end those relationships, may be the product of different evolved psychologies of relationship termination. I tested 25 hypotheses about sex differences in psychological design by examining: 1) people's perceptions about the contexts and tactics of relationship termination: 2) the thoughts of relationship termination experienced by men and women currently in romantic relationships; and 3) the experiences of actual relationship termination of men and women.

TESTS OF HYPOTHESES

The data collected in the studies presented in this dissertation produced several interesting findings. Each hypothesis was tested using 2 methodologies (ratings studies

based on collected nominations and a study examining actual thoughts of relationship termination and relationship termination accounts). Table 27 summarizes the tests of each hypothesis across the studies of this dissertation.

Hypothesis 1, that men's romantic relationship termination mechanisms should be more sensitive than women's mechanisms to their long-term mate's sexual infidelity, received no support in any of the 5 tests of the hypothesis. Despite the absence of support in this dissertation, Hypothesis One may still be viable. Shackelford, Buss, & Bennett (2002) have already demonstrated sex differences in the influence of sexual infidelity on the decision to terminate a romantic relationship. Evidence for sex differences in the response to a partner's sexual infidelity is robust (Buss et al., 1992; Buss et al., 1999; Cann, Mangum, & Wells, 2001; Dijkstra & Buunk, 2001). Across both samples investigate in Study 6, "Partner Infidelity (Type Unclear)" was a top reason for ending a romantic relationships. Perhaps better designed questions, asking participants to describe what aspect of their partner's infidelity bothered them, might lead to more support for Hypothesis One.

Hypothesis 2, that men's romantic relationship termination mechanisms should be more sensitive than women's mechanisms to a long-term mate contracting a sexually transmitted disease, received no support in any of the 5 tests of the hypothesis. The original rationale for Hypothesis Two was that a sexually-transmitted disease may be a cue to sexual infidelity. With the absence of support in this dissertation, I am not convinced that Hypothesis 2 is still viable. It is not clear that sexually transmitted diseases were a recurrent feature of human evolutionary history. It is also unclear

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whether or not the symptoms of a sexually transmitted disease can be linked by a long-term mate to its mode of transmission (sexual).

Hypothesis 3, that men's romantic relationship termination mechanisms should be more sensitive than women's mechanisms to a decrease in their long-term mate's physical attractiveness, received support in Study 3, but failed to find support in Study 6. Despite the mixed support in this dissertation, Hypothesis 3 may still be viable. Extant research has demonstrated a robust sex difference in preferences for physical attractiveness in a long-term mate (Buss, 1989; Ellis, 1992). A larger, older sample, one in which the relationships surveyed were longer than those represented in the university sample, might lead to greater support for Hypothesis 3. Longer relationship durations would reflect greater age-independent and age-related changes in physical attractiveness, possibly leading to greater support for the Hypothesis.

Hypothesis 4, that men's romantic relationship termination mechanisms should be more sensitive than women's mechanisms to an increase in their mate's age, received no support across its 5 tests. Despite the lack of support, Hypothesis 4 may still be viable. The sample surveyed in Study 3 was very young. It is unlikely, if not impossible, that they have experienced age-related changes in their long-term mate's physical attractiveness. Testing Hypothesis 4 using a larger, older sample may lead to greater support.

Hypothesis 5, that men's romantic relationship termination mechanisms should be more sensitive than women's mechanisms to an increase in the availability of short-term mates, received moderate support across all of the studies testing the hypothesis. This is consistent with previous findings that men have a desire for more sexual partners over the

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course of their lifetime than women (Buss & Schmitt, 1993). Testing Hypothesis 4 using a larger sample might lead to greater support.

Hypothesis 6, that men's romantic relationship termination mechanisms should be more sensitive than women's mechanisms to an increase in their personal resources or resource generation potential, received no support across any of the tests. Men may not be sensitive specifically to the increase in resources or resource generation potential. Instead, they may be sensitive to the benefits that such mate value increases produce. Still, I consider Hypothesis 6 to be viable. The samples employed in this dissertation may not have been appropriate to test the hypothesis. College-aged participants may not have yet experienced resource increases independent of their parent's wealth. An older sample might lead to greater support for the hypothesis.

Hypothesis 7, that men's relationship termination mechanisms will be more sensitive than women's adaptations to a decrease in sexual access offered by a long-term mate, received support in Study 3, but no support in Study 6. Men's responses in Study 6 may reflect the possibility that men could pursue simultaneous long-term and short-term mating strategies. If that is that is true, the presence of available short-term mates may not lead to a long-term relationship termination and Hypothesis 7 may not be viable.

Hypothesis 8, that women's romantic relationship termination mechanisms should be more sensitive than men's mechanisms to a reduction or reallocation of resources, received support in Study 3, but mixed support in Study 6 via Prediction 8c. Prediction 8c was that more women than men should report terminating a romantic relationship due to a reduction or reallocation of resources received. Due to a self-presentational bias, men may be unwilling to report their partner breaking up with them due to their failure to

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invest. However, the presence of the effect in the university sample is consistent with Buss's (1994) hypothesis that relationship termination may have evolved in women as one possible solution to a decrease in the investment of resources by their long-term mate.   It suggests that a larger sample might lead to greater support for the hypothesis. Despite the mixed support, Hypothesis 8 may still be viable.

Hypothesis 9, that women's romantic relationship termination mechanisms should be more sensitive than men's mechanisms to a reduction in the time invested by their long-term mate received strong support in Study 3 and moderate support in Study 6. This is consistent with previous findings that both newlyweds and women married for four years report concerns about the amount of time their partners spend with them (Buss, 1994). Hypothesis Nine was not supported in thoughts of relationship termination (Prediction 9b) and "Both-initiated" relationship termination (Prediction 9e). Time investment may not be a factor in "Both-initiated" terminations. However, the presence of support across the two methodologies suggests that Hypothesis Nine may be valid. Future studies, employing larger, and older samples may provide more support for the hypothesis.

Hypothesis 10, that women's romantic relationship termination mechanisms should be more sensitive than men's mechanisms to physical abuse received support in Study 3, but no support in Study 6. This may be due to the relative infrequency of physical abuse compared to other relationship events (e.g. a reduction in time investment, a reduction in resources). A larger sample may lead to more support for Hypothesis 10. Despite the mixed support, Hypothesis 10 may still be viable.

Hypothesis 11, that women's romantic relationship termination mechanisms should be more sensitive than men's mechanisms to an increase in their own physical attractiveness received no support across the tests of its 5 predictions. Increases in physical attractiveness may have been rare across human evolutionary history. Even if increases occurred, women might be sensitive to the increase in available mates associated with their increased mate value, rather than their increased mate value. Consequently, women may not be more sensitive than men to increases in their physical attractiveness. Hypothesis 11 may not be viable for future testing.

Hypothesis 12, that women's romantic relationship termination mechanisms should be more sensitive than men's mechanisms to the emotional infidelity of a mate, received no support across the tests of its 5 predictions. Despite the absence of support in this dissertation, Hypothesis 12 may still be viable. As mentioned in the discussion of Hypothesis 1, evidence for sex differences in the response to a partner's infidelity (sexual versus emotional) is robust (Buss et al., 1992; Buss et al., 1999; Cann, Mangum, & Wells, 2001; Dijkstra & Buunk, 2001). Across both samples investigate in Study 6, "Partner Infidelity (Type Unclear)" was a top reason for ending a romantic relationships. Perhaps better designed questions, asking participants to describe what aspect of their partner's infidelity bothered them, might lead to more support for Hypothesis 12.

Hypothesis 13, that women's romantic relationship termination mechanisms should be more sensitive than men's mechanisms to a decrease in protection offered by their long-term mate, received support in Study 3, but no support in Study 6. The presence of support in Study 1 suggests that the hypothesis may be viable. The samples employed in Study 6 may have been inappropriate for testing the hypothesis. First, the

participants in the university sample may not have had encountered contexts in which protecting their long-term mate was necessary. The internet community sample was drawn from participants with internet access. A more economically diverse sample might lead to more support for the hypothesis. A larger, older sample may also lead to more support. A larger sample may be necessary to capture relationship termination accounts that include such events. In addition, failing to protect a long-term mate may be a relatively infrequent event.

Hypothesis 14, that men's and women's romantic relationship termination mechanisms should be equally sensitive to a long-term mate's inability or unwillingness to reproduce received no support across tests of its 5 predictions. Despite the mixed support, Hypothesis 14 may still be viable. The relationships represented in the university sample may not have been sufficiently long-term to have encountered the adaptive problems of a mate who is unwilling or unable to reproduce. Instances of unwillingness or inability to reproduce were reported in the internet community sample. A larger, older sample may provide greater support for Hypothesis 14.

Hypothesis 15, that men's and women's romantic relationship termination mechanisms should be equally sensitive to the acquisition of a physical handicap, mental illness, or disease by their long-term mate received support in Study 3 and mixed support in Study 6. The moderate support for Hypothesis 15 suggests that it is a viable hypothesis. Men's and women's relationship termination psychologies may not differ in sensitivity to the domains outlined in Hypothesis 15.

Hypotheses 16-25 all described tactic output of evolved psychological mechanisms of relationship termination. None of the 10 hypotheses describing

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relationship termination tactics received support in Study 6. The significant lack of support for tactics of relationship termination hypotheses may have been to methodological limitations of the questions in the open-ended survey employed in Study 6. A more thorough discussion of those limitations can be found in the next section of the discussion labeled "Directions for Future Research". The lack of support for many of the hypotheses in Studies 4 and 5 may be due to the incorrect characterization of the relationship between effectiveness and likelihood of use. Often, effectiveness and likelihood may be related. Men's relationship termination mechanisms may produce tactics of relationship termination that involve reducing the investment of time in a long-term mate both because such tactics are effective. However, an assessment of associated costs must be involved in the decision rules involved in choosing a relationship termination tactic. No matter how effective a tactic may be, if employing that tactic results in massive fitness costs, the tactic will not be employed, nor will it be selected for if those costs are recurrent over evolutionary time. This neglect of costs in the formulation of the above hypotheses regarding tactics likely reduced the chances of finding support for any of the tactic hypotheses. The implementation of more refined questions regarding tactic usage in Study 6 (described below), and the addition of cost ratings to the items investigated in Studies 4-5 may lead to greater support for Hypothesis 16-25. Consequently, I believe that all ten of the hypotheses are still viable.

In examining Table 27, it is evident that many hypotheses were supported by the results of the ratings studies (Studies 3-5), but failed to find support in Study 6. If the reasons for relationship termination investigated in Study 3 occur infrequently in long-term relationships, they may not be represented in the samples used in Study 6 because of

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sample size. If the tactics of relationship termination investigated in Studies 4 and 5 were not adequately assessed by the survey questions in Study 6, they too may not be represented in Study 6.

Independent of the hypotheses presented and tested in this dissertation, a clear strength of applying an evolutionary perspective to the study of the contexts and tactics of relationship termination is the focus on domain specificity. As discussed in Chapter 1, prior investigations of the reasons men and women end romantic relationships have focused on very general reasons, devoid of fitness-relevant content. As evidenced by the diverse reasons for relationship termination nominated in Study 1 and the varied tactics of relationship termination nominated in Study 2, men and women often terminate romantic relationships for specific reasons and employ specific tactics to terminate those relationships.

LIMITATIONS

When evaluating the findings presented in this dissertation several limitations should be considered. First, there is no theoretical expectation that the mechanism underlying decisions to terminate long-term romantic relationships are conscious. Most research investigating the reasons (or contexts) of relationship termination suffers from the unreliability of self-report. Alexander (1987) argued that people are often unaware of their motives. If men and women are not consciously aware all of the contexts to which their psychologies are sensitive or all of the tactics they employ to end their relationships, the items used in Studies 3-4 may not represent the full range of contexts which activate those mechanisms or tactics which are the output of those mechanisms. In addition, the

reports of thoughts and actual relationship terminations in Study 6 may not accurately represent the contexts and tactics of relationship termination. Participants may be unaware of the contexts which prompted them to consider relationship termination or the tactics they used to terminate their relationship. Victims of relationship termination investigated in Study 6 may not be consciously aware of the reasons their partner had for ending the romantic relationship or the tactics their partners used to terminate the relationship (either due to inability to recognize such circumstances or because of deception by their former partners. The absence of any data in Study Six supporting the hypotheses regarding tactics could be due to participants failing to consciously identify the fitness costs inflicted upon them by their long-term mate as their long-term mate's tactics, instead, recognizing those costs as reasons for their own consideration of relationship termination.

Second, the judgments made by participants in Studies 3-5, could be a reflection of psychological mechanisms not specifically designed for romantic relationship termination. Rather than reflecting the output of relationship termination mechanisms, partner responses could be the output of mechanisms of attraction and desire. For example, the perception by participants that men have a greater likelihood than women of ending a long-term relationship because of the increased availability of short-term mates (support for Hypothesis 5) could be due to the output of psychological mechanism of desire or attraction, not relationship termination mechanisms. It is also possible that partner responses could reflect the output of a more general relationship termination mechanism responsible for both romantic relationship termination and the termination of

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other relationships such as friendships. However, the evident sex differences found in Studies 3-5 suggest a specificity at least to the level of mating relationships.

Third, college samples may not have typical long-term relationships. They may not yet have encountered the adaptive problems outlined in my hypotheses. They may also encounter evolutionarily novel environmental circumstances (large groups of women near the peak of their fertility in one place isolated from their kin, for example). The most frequently reported reason for ending a long-term relationship for both men and women in the university sample was "Long-distance relationship". The great frequency of this reason likely reflects novel environmental circumstances produced in the college setting. Consequently, the results of most of the tests of hypotheses across all six studies may not generalize to romantic relationships outside of college.

Fourth, according to Betzig (1989), husbands and wives may deceive themselves as well as the investigator about why they divorced. It's also possible that husbands and wives may deceive each other about why they ended their romantic relationship. Given these possibilities, the relationship accounts provided by the men and women participating in these studies may not accurate represent the relationship termination. Men may be motivated to minimize the likelihood of their long-term mate ending a romantic relationship given a decrease in their resource generation potential. Women may be motivated to minimize the likelihood of their long-term mate ending a romantic relationship given a decrease in their physical attractiveness. Men and women, whether reporting a self-initiated, partner-initiated, or mutual relationship termination may distort the actual circumstances of their relationship termination.

Fifth, Studies 3-5 ask participants to make judgments about a male or female third party. Predicting the absence or presence of a sex difference in judgments of a set of contexts or tactics does not directly speak to whether men and women are designed to be sensitive to those contexts or employ those tactics in actual romantic relationships (Friedman, 2002). In addition, Studies 3-5 require participants to make judgments about contexts and tactics in the absence of any other factors. Relationship terminations are complex event. It is likely that multiple reasons influence the decision to terminate a relationship. In addition, multiple tactics may be employed to terminate the relationship. If so, asking participants to judge the likelihood of a breakup given a context, or the effectiveness of a given tactic in the absence of any other contextual information is artificial and not representative of actual relationship terminations.

Sixth, the failure to support most of the hypotheses regarding contexts of relationship termination in Study 6 could be due to the low frequency of such events occurring rather than the absence of evolved sensitivities to those contexts.

Seventh, the frequency estimates used to test predictions relating to thoughts of relationship termination may misrepresent the influence of a given context on a decision to terminate a romantic relationship. In order to report a thought of relationship termination, you must currently be in a long-term romantic relationship. This presupposes the absence of any relationship events that inflict significant fitness costs. For example, no participants from either sample in Study 6 reported thoughts of relationship termination due to physical abuse inflicted upon them by their long-term mate. This may be explained by the fact physical abuse to an appreciable level may result in a relationship termination, removing said thought from sampling.

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Eighth, the frequency estimates employed in Study 6, may not accurately reflect the sensitivity or output of relationship termination mechanisms. Greater frequency of thoughts due to a given context could be due to the opposite sex creating those contexts more often rather than a differential sensitivity to a given context.

DIRECTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Sample Size
Study 1 suggests that men and women end long-term romantic relationships for many diverse reasons. A number of these contexts were not reported by participants in Study 6. If it is the case that men and women end romantic relationships for diverse reasons (as suggested by Study 1), a larger sample size may be necessary to capture the full range of relationship termination reasons and lead to a greater representation of the contexts hypothesized in Chapter 2. Future studies may benefit from such an increase in sample size.

Sample age
The participants in Studies 1-5, and the university sample in Study 6 were recruited from introductory psychology courses at a large southwestern university. Introductory psychology students may not have encountered the hypothesized contexts of relationship termination or employed the hypothesized tactics outlined in Chapter 2. College students, especially those in introductory courses, may not have sufficient relationship experience to accurately rate reasons for and tactics of relationship termination. Also, their reported relationship termination thoughts and relationship terminations may not be representative of romantic relationships in general. An older

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sample might result in a more complex understanding of relationship termination (and might lead to greater support for the hypotheses outlined in this dissertation). Similarly, recruiting participants from a population of divorced individuals might lead to a better understanding of the contexts and tactics of romantic relationship termination.

Survey Issues

The survey questions employed in Study 6 were lacking in several key respects. First, open-ended questions may not fully capture the events that influenced a decision to terminate a romantic relationship. If it is the case that men and women terminate romantic relationships for a wide range of reasons (as suggested by Study 1), then when investigating the reasons for romantic relationship termination, it may be useful to employ a series of close-ended questions asking about the occurrence of specific relationship events and their impact on the decision to terminate the relationship. These questions could follow the open-ended questions listed in Appendix A. If men and women are unaware of the reasons that they have ended their relationship or the tactics that they have employed to end their relationship, such questions may at least suggest that the contexts and tactics hypothesized in Hypotheses 1-25 are present during relationship terminations.

Second, the method in which questions were asked in Study 6 regarding tactics may have biased certain answers, encouraging participants to focus on the very end of their relationship termination. The data from Study 6 relating to tactics of relationship termination suggest that men's and women's psychologies of relationship termination tactics are not particularly elaborate. The most represented tactic across both samples

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was "Talk to them directly and end the relationship." Stage models of relationship termination suggest that breaking up is an extended process with multiple stages (Rollie & Duck, 2006). If romantic relationship terminations have durations longer than a single conversation (contrary to the results of Study 6), future studies should incorporate questions that focus participants on the actions they took to end the romantic relationship previous to the final conversation between the individuals in the relationship. Such questions would hopefully lead to a more complete picture of relationship termination tactic usage (and perhaps greater support for hypotheses 16-25).

CONCLUSION

Relationship termination occurs across cultures and has likely occurred across time. Recent developments in sexual conflict theory (Arnqvist & Rowe, 2005) suggest that the assumption that relationships should be harmonious is fundamentally wrong. Instead, the norm may be conflict. This dissertation has demonstrated that romantic relationship termination does not occur passively. Men and women end romantic relationships for specific reasons, often reasons related to conflict with their long-term mate and actively employ tactics to end those romantic relationships.

I have argued that an evolutionary perspective provides specific content for the basic mechanisms of relationship dissolution described by previous social psychological researchers. It suggests specific fitness-related variables that might differentially affect comparison levels, relationship outcomes, satisfaction levels, the quality of alternatives, and assessment of investment size across the sexes. This dissertation has demonstrated the psychological mechanisms responsible for relationship termination are sensitive to a

diverse range of environmental input. I also argued that the psychological mechanisms involved in relationship termination should generate tactics that are likely to result in the successful termination of a romantic relationship. Though the specific tactic usage predicted in Chapter 2 received only weak support in Studies 3-6, Study 2 demonstrated that men and women employ a diverse range of tactics to end romantic relationships. Finally, I argued that that men and women have evolved similar, but distinct psychological mechanisms that underlie the decision rules in the termination of long-term romantic relationships. Studies 3-6 have demonstrated that there are differences in the relationship context sensitivity and relationship termination tactic usage of men and women.

The six studies presented in this dissertation offer some support for a model of relationship termination that combines both social psychological and evolutionary perspectives. Studies 3-5 provided moderate support for the model. Perhaps due to methodological limitations, Study 6 provided only weak support for the model. Social psychological researchers have provided a strong foundation of research investigating the contexts of relationship termination and to a lesser extent, the tactics that men and women employ to end romantic relationships. Researchers guided by evolutionary theory have discovered a number of important features of human relationship termination psychology. This dissertation was a step in the direction toward combining the two perspectives –social psychological and evolutionary. Hopefully, research guided by both social psychological and evolutionary principles in the area of relationship termination will continue to progress.

Tables

Table 1

<u>Reasons for relationship termination</u>

Reason

Cultural differences interfere with their relationship.

He and his partner argue constantly.

He and his partner disagree about who is in charge of relationship.

He and his partner do not communicate well with each other.

He and his partner have grown apart.

He and his partner no longer share the same long-term goals.

He becomes an alcoholic.

He becomes a drug user.

He becomes sexually interested in another woman.

He completes his professional degree.*

He discovers that he is homosexual.

He discovers that his partner had sex with another man during their relationship.

He discovers that his partner has a sexually transmitted disease.

He discovers that his partner has been seeing someone else.

He discovers that his partner is homosexual.

He discovers that she has a child, but she didn't tell him.

He discovers too many annoying character traits of his partner.

He does not trust his partner.

He does not want children, but his partner does.

He doesn't feel desired by his partner.

He doesn't get along with his partner's friends.

He doesn't get along with his partner's family.

He doesn't love his partner anymore.

He doesn't think that his partner would be a good parent.

He earns enough money to be financially independent.

He enjoyed the "chase" of the beginning of the relationship more than the long-term commitment the relationship has become.

Table 1 Continued

Reasons for relationship termination

Reason

He experiences a religious conversion and their values now differ.

He falls in love with someone else.

He feels as though his partner is "stalking" him.

He feels shut out from surrounding social circles because of his commitment to the relationship.

He feels that he and his partner are not sexually compatible.

He feels that he puts more into the relationship than his partner does.

He feels that his partner is no longer in love with him.

He feels that his partner is not good enough to marry.

He feels that his partner is too immature.

He feels that his partner neglects him.

He feels the relationship is holding him back from his personal goals.

He feels unappreciated by his partner.

He finds someone else who seems more motivated than his current partner.

He found someone "younger".

He found someone else more physically attractive.

He found someone else that he feels would be a better long-term partner.

He found someone more compatible.

He found someone who is less demanding.

He frequently catches his partner lying to him.

He gets a new, better job.*

He gets hired in a very high paying job.*

He gets in shape.*

He gets tired of his partner's constant whining.

He has sex with another woman during their relationship.

He has started seeing someone else.

He has to support his partner financially.

He is afraid of being with someone who will depend on his decisions.

He is afraid that his partner is only interested in him because of his money.

He is better educated than his partner.

Table 1 Continued

Reasons for relationship termination

Reason

He is no longer intellectually stimulated by his partner.

He is not ready to get married, but his partner is.

He is not satisfied with having only one sexual partner.

He is promoted at his job.*

He is ready for marriage, but his partner isn't.

He is sexually attracted to other women.

He is tired of trying to change his partner after a long period of time and effort.

He looks more attractive than he did when they first started dating.*

He loses weight.*

He lost good friends because of the relationship.

He loves his partner more than his partner loves him.

He makes more money than his partner does.

He never has anything to talk about with his partner.

He no longer finds his partner to be physically attractive.

He realizes that he has never experienced a relationship outside of the one with his current partner.

He thinks that he could find someone better than his partner.

He thinks that his partner is going to break up with him.

He wanted to have a "short term relationship", but the relationship became long term.

He wants to develop his own identity separate from a relationship.

He wants to pursue a demanding career and doesn't have time for his partner.

He wants to spend more time with his friends.

He was bored by the sex life of the relationship.

His family disapproves of the relationship.

His morals and her morals differ significantly.

His parents did not approve of the relationship.

His partner abuses alcohol and is unwilling to quit.

His partner acts like she is going to break up with him.

His partner always asks him for money.

His partner appears to be losing focus of her goals in life.

Table 1 Continued

Reasons for relationship termination

Reason

His partner becomes extremely jealous of his female friends.
His partner becomes irritable all the time.
His partner becomes less physically attractive.
His partner becomes overweight.
His partner becomes too possessive of him.
His partner becomes verbally abusive.
His partner can not make enough time for their relationship.
His partner constantly wants to have sex with him.
His partner demands too much attention.
His partner discusses their sex life publicly.
His partner does not express her emotions freely.
His partner does not get along with his friends.
His partner does not have a job.
His partner does not like him socializing with his friends.
His partner does not make enough money.
His partner doesn't pay enough attention to him.
His partner doesn't spend enough time with him.
His partner doesn't stand up for him in social situations.
His partner doesn't like working.
His partner doesn't listen to him.
His partner doesn't make him feel "special".
His partner doesn't pay enough attention to him.
His partner doesn't take him out anymore.
His partner expresses sexual interest in other men.
His partner flirts excessively with other men.
His partner frequently insults him.
His partner has become overly-jealous.
His partner has become too shy.
His partner has been passed over for promotion several times at her job.*

Table 1 Continued

Reasons for relationship termination

Reason

His partner has drug problem and is unwilling to quit.
His partner has fallen in love with someone else.
His partner has kinky sexual interests.
His partner has strange obsessions.
His partner hits him.
His partner hits their children.
His partner is a workaholic.
His partner is always late for everything that they do together.
His partner is better educated than he is.
His partner is confined to a wheelchair.*
His partner is constantly depressed.
His partner is constantly trying to change him.
His partner is diagnosed with a terminal disease.*
His partner is financially irresponsible.
His partner is getting old.*
His partner is in a dead-end job.
His partner is inexperienced sexually.
His partner is infertile.
His partner is less interested in having sex than he is.
His partner is manipulative.
His partner is mentally ill.
His partner is no longer as romantic as when they first started dating.
His partner is not a good parent to their children.
His partner is not as attractive as she once was.
His partner is not as generous as she once was.
His partner is not confident in her own abilities.
His partner is not good in bed.
His partner is not motivated in school.
His partner is not physically affectionate.

Table 1 Continued

Reasons for relationship termination

Reason

His partner is not sensitive to his feelings or emotions.

His partner is not the same person as when they first met.

His partner is often looks at other men in his presence.

His partner is psychologically abusive.

His partner is sexually abusing their children.

His partner is too "clingy".

His partner is too dependent on him.

His partner is too dependent on others outside of their relationship.

His partner is too high maintenance.

His partner is too materialistic.

His partner is too young.

His partner is unwilling to have children.

His partner isn't motivated in her job.

His partner isn't ready to have sex yet.

His partner isn't smart enough.

His partner keeps a separate life and he is never invited to socialize with her friends or family.

His partner loses her job.

His partner makes more money than he does.

His partner nags him too much.

His partner never tells him that he is attractive.

His partner never tells him that she loves him.

His partner no longer seems interested in having sex with him.

His partner often criticizes his appearance.

His partner refuses to compromise on anything.

His partner refuses to stop dating other people.

His partner refuses to take on her share of the domestic responsibilities.

His partner requires too much commitment.

His partner seems unlikely to have a successful future.

His partner spends too much of their money.

Table 1 Continued

Reasons for relationship termination

Reason
His partner spends too much time with her friends.
His partner stops taking him out.
His partner stops trying to impress him.
His partner takes up all of his time.
His partner treats him disrespectfully.
His partner treats him in a condescending manner.
His partner tries to control too much of his life.
His partner wants him to be more expressive with emotions and he doesn't want to.
His partner was interested in another man for a significant period of time during their relationship.
His partner was sentenced to a long prison term.
His partner will do anything for him and never sticks up for herself no matter what he does.
Other women recently expressed sexual interest in him.
She became pregnant and had an abortion.
She became pregnant and she does not want a child.
She becomes pregnant unexpectedly.
She enters menopause.
Someone threatens him in his partner's presence and she doesn't defend him.*
The relationship becomes long distance.
The relationship becomes routine.
The relationship hinders his ability to meet other possible partners.
The relationship interferes with his work.
The relationship is not as passionate as it was in the beginning.
Their only child dies.
They are having financial difficulties.
They were trying to have a child and she had a miscarriage (spontaneous abortion).

* indicates an item that was added to test a particular hypothesis.

Table 2

Tactics of relationship termination

Tactic

Become emotionally involved with another person
Hit her partner
Become too skinny.
Don't take her partner's side when someone is arguing with him.
Stop referring to their belongings as 'ours ' and start saying "yours" and "mine"
Leave a written note at their mutual residence stating she is leaving.
Meet and discuss the breakup in a public place
Stop saying "I Love You".
Stop touching her partner as much.
Talk about future plans that she never mentioned to her partner before.
Kick her partner out of her residence.
Choose a job that is very far away
Commit criminal acts
Stop giving any affection to her partner
Give an ultimatum for marriage when she knows it will scare her partner away
Become irritable all the time
Don't go out to eat with her partner as much
Refuse sexual activities with her partner
Claim that her school work requires too much of her time.
Ignore her partner in public
Quit her job
Pretend she is having fun without her partner
Stand her partner up on dates
Act with hatred and disgust at everything that her partner does
Stop giving flowers to her partner
Send back mementos from her partner.
Tell her partner's friends intimate secrets from the relationship.
Make out with other people and let her partner find out
Flirt with other men in front of her partner

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Table 2 Continued

Tactics of relationship termination

Tactic

Get caught cheating on her partner
Kill her partner
Be mean to her partner's mother
Yell and throw things
Start sleeping in a different room
Stop spending time with her partner
Become aloof toward her partner
Start spending lots of time with her extended family without her partner
Mock her partner in front of his friends
Lie and deceive her partner
Start drinking alcohol heavily.
Make it seem as she is not good enough for her partner
Put other things in her life before her partner
Move out
Talk to a mutual friend about problems.
Stop trying to make herself seem more attractive
Say "Its not you its me"
Tell her partner that breaking up is the best for both of them
Internet message them
Don't defend her partner when someone physically threatens him.
Become psychologically involved with another person
Don't let her partner buy her dinner
Push her partner up against a wall
Tell mate at a restaurant.
Stop wearing makeup
Spend more time with friends without her partner
Tell her partner that she will never be ready for marriage
Act as though he is being a burden on her time
Stop giving her partner meaningful gifts.
Pick up new interests that does not include her partner

Table 2 Continued

Tactics of relationship termination

Tactic

Responds with one word answers to her partner's questions
Ignore her partner in order to make her partner break up with her
Give back expensive gift items given to her by her partner
Have sex with other people and let her partner find out
Publicly flirt with her partner's friends
Obviously look at other men
Be mean to her partner's pets
Start frequent arguments with her partner
Don't go with her partner to his parents on the holidays
Raise her voice more often when speaking to her partner
Tell her partner that she never wants to have children
Tell her partner that she wants to break up and blame them.
Work longer hours
Become fat.
Let her home become very messy
Slap her partner across his face
Don't defend her partner when someone is insulting him.
Say 'I think we'd be better off as friends'
Come to a mutual break up agreement.
Whine
Try to find someone else that her partner might be more interested in
Break up with her partner with her friends nearby for support
Change her phone number
Be mean to her partner's family
Always talk to someone else on the phone while she is with her partner
Leave evidence of an affair in plain sight so her partner will discover it.
Have sex with her partner's friends and let her partner find out
Take her partner on a trip and tell them.
Return jewelry
Be sarcastic around her partner

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Table 2 Continued

Tactics of relationship termination

|
| --- |
| Tactic |

Never return messages from her partner
Seem distracted around her partner
Watch too much television
Spread rumors about her partner
Falsely accuse her partner of cheating with someone else.
Refuse to allow her partner to go out without her
Stop giving her partner feedback on his actions
Nag her partner all the time
Forget special occasions
Start using drugs heavily
Stop doing the things for her partner that he normally takes for granted.
Tell her partner that they should both see other people
Tell her partner's friends that she wants to break up with him
Take all of her partner's money
Tell them face to face
Stop dressing attractively
Leave a message on their voicemail telling your partner its over.
Make her partner want to break up with her.
Physically abuse her partner
Make big changes to her appearance
Verbally abuse her partner
Don't go out to movies with her partner as much
Refuse to have sex with her partner
Claim that her job requires too much of her time.
Stop asking how her partner is doing
Stop all communication with her partner
Change the locks on her home
Stop spending money on her partner
Do things to avoid contact with her partner
Remove her partner's personal items from her place and give them back to him

Table 2 Continued

Tactics of relationship termination

Tactic

Get more defensive when partner criticizes you.
Stop returning phone calls from her partner
Nit pick at all of her partner's faults
Tell her partner that she wants to have a child even though she doesn't.
Stop doing what made her partner interested in her initially
Do not make eye contact with her partner
Stop calling her partner
Stop giving presents to her partner
Make her partner jealous of other men
Publicly flirt with others in front of her partner's friends
See other people
Say that she is not ready for a commitment, but then get engaged to someone else
Act less interested in sex with her partner
Become quiet when she is in the presence of her partner.
Casually mention other men more often in normal conversation
Act irrationally
Be seen at social gathering with another man
Refuse to talk to her partner
Tell her partner that she loves someone else
Tell mate while speaking on phone.
Have her friends tell her partner that she wants to breakup
Stop dressing when she goes out with her partner
Send an email to her partner saying its over.
Refuse to visit her partner's family with him.

Table 3

Twenty contexts in which men are perceived most likely to end a long-term relationship

	Reason	M	SD
1	His partner is sexually abusing their children.	5.62	0.74
2	He discovers that his partner has been seeing someone else.	5.60	0.68
3	His partner refuses to stop dating other people.	5.57	0.80
4	He falls in love with someone else.	5.53	0.93
5	His partner hits their children.	5.40	1.14
6	He discovers that his partner is homosexual.	5.32	1.29
7	He discovers that he is homosexual.	5.28	1.31
8	He discovers that his partner had sex with another man during their relationship.	5.24	1.07
9	He frequently catches his partner lying to him.	5.22	0.73
10	He doesn't love his partner anymore.	5.19	0.90
11	His partner has fallen in love with someone else.	5.15	1.22
12	His partner was interested in another man for a significant period of time during their relationship.	4.85	1.22
13	His partner was sentenced to a long prison term.	4.79	1.37
14	He discovers that she has a child, but she didn't tell him.	4.74	1.28
15	He found someone else that he feels would be a better long-term partner.	4.72	1.19
16	His partner has drug problem and is unwilling to quit.	4.70	1.06
17	He has started seeing someone else.	4.68	1.11
18	His partner is psychologically abusive.	4.47	0.97
19	He found someone more compatible.	4.45	1.27
20	His partner expresses sexual interest in other men.	4.45	1.12

Note. Likelihood ratings range from 0 (He is not at all likely to end the relationship) to 6 (He is extremely likely to end the relationship). Due to missing data, Ns range from 43 – 47.

Table 4

Twenty contexts in which women are perceived most likely to end a long-term relationship

	Reason	M	SD
1	Her partner is sexually abusing their children.	5.70	0.99
2	She discovers that she is homosexual.	5.64	0.75
3	Her partner hits their children.	5.53	1.29
4	She discovers that his partner has been seeing someone else.	5.52	1.08
5	She falls in love with someone else.	5.50	0.88
6	She discovers that her partner had sex with another woman during their relationship.	5.47	1.08
7	Her partner refuses to stop dating other people.	5.44	1.31
8	She discovers that her partner is homosexual.	5.42	1.36
9	She doesn't love her partner anymore.	5.40	1.09
10	She frequently catches her partner lying to her.	5.32	1.02
11	Her partner has fallen in love with someone else.	5.30	1.37
12	Her partner hits her.	5.24	1.40
13	Her partner was interested in another woman for a significant period of time during their relationship.	5.08	1.08
14	She has started seeing someone else.	5.08	1.14
15	Her partner has drug problem and is unwilling to quit.	4.95	1.22
16	Her partner was sentenced to a long prison term.	4.90	1.52
17	She found someone else that she feels would be a better long-term partner.	4.84	1.15
18	Her partner abuses alcohol and is unwilling to quit.	4.79	1.22
19	She and her partner argue constantly.	4.76	1.36
20	She does not trust her partner.	4.69	1.22

Note. Likelihood ratings range from 0 (She is not at all likely to end the relationship) to 6 (She is extremely likely to end the relationship). Due to missing data, Ns range from 60 – 62.

Table 5

Reason for relationship termination by hypothesis with alpha reliabilities

Reason	α
Hypothesis 1: Sexual infidelity of partner	*
He discovers that his partner had sex with another man during their relationship.	
Hypothesis 2: Partner contracts a sexually transmitted disease.	*
He discovers that his partner has a sexually transmitted disease.	
Hypothesis 3: Decrease in long-term mate's physical attractiveness	0.895
His partner becomes less physically attractive.	
His partner becomes overweight.	
He no longer finds his partner to be physically attractive.	
His partner becomes overweight.	
His partner is not as attractive as she once was.	
Hypothesis 4: Increased age of long-term mate	*
His partner is getting old.	
Hypothesis 5: Increased availability of short-term mates	*
Other women recently expressed sexual interest in him.	
Hypothesis 6: Increase in personal resources	0.838
He completes his professional degree.	
He gets hired in a very high paying job.	
He is promoted at his job.	
He gets a new, better job.	

Table 5 Continued

Reason for relationship termination by hypothesis with alpha reliabilities

Reason	α
Hypothesis 7: Decreased sexual access offered by long-term mate	0.737
His partner is less interested in having sex than he is.	
His partner no longer seems interested in having sex with him.	
His partner is not physically affectionate.	
The relationship is not as passionate as it was in the beginning.	
Hypothesis 8: Reduction or reallocation of resources by long-term mate	
His partner does not make enough money.	
He has to support his partner financially.	
He makes more money than his partner does.	0.898
They are having financial difficulties.	
His partner doesn't like working.	
His partner does not have a job.	
His partner isn't motivated in her job.	
His partner is financially irresponsible.	
His partner is not motivated in school.	
His partner seems unlikely to have a successful future.	
His partner spends too much of their money.	
His partner is in a dead-end job.	
His partner stops taking him out.	
His partner refuses to take on her share of the domestic responsibilities.	
His partner doesn't take him out anymore.	
His partner loses her job.	
His partner is in a dead end job.	
His partner is not as generous as she once was.	
His partner always asks him for money.	
His partner has been passed over for promotion several times at her job.	

Table 5 Continued

Reason for relationship termination by hypothesis with alpha reliabilities

Reason	α
Hypothesis 9: Reduction of time investment by long-term mate His partner doesn't pay enough attention to him. His partner doesn't spend enough time with him. He feels that his partner neglects him. His partner can not make enough time for their relationship. He feels that he puts more into the relationship than his partner does. His partner doesn't pay enough attention to him.	0.828
Hypothesis 10: Physical abuse His partner hits him. His partner hits their children.	0.816
Hypothesis 11: Increase in personal physical attractiveness He gets in shape. He loses weight. He looks more attractive than he did when they first started dating.	0.806
Hypothesis 12: Emotional infidelity of long-term mate He discovers that his partner has been seeing someone else. His partner has fallen in love with someone else.	0.685
Hypothesis 13: Long-term mate fails to provide protection His partner doesn't stand up for him in social situations. Someone threatens him in his partner's presence and she doesn't defend his.	0.686

Table 5 Continued

Reason for relationship termination by hypothesis with alpha reliabilities

Reason	α
Hypothesis 14: Inability to reproduce	0.588
They were trying to have a child and she had a miscarriage (spontaneous abortion).	
Their only child dies.	
She became pregnant and had an abortion.	
His partner is infertile.	
His partner is unwilling to have children.	
She became pregnant and she does not want a child.	
Hypothesis 15: Handicap, mental illness, or disease of long-term mate	0.655
His partner is diagnosed with a terminal disease.	
His partner abuses alcohol and is unwilling to quit.	
His partner has drug problem and is unwilling to quit.	
His partner is mentally ill.	
His partner has strange obsessions.	
He becomes an alcoholic.	
He becomes an drug user.	
His partner is constantly depressed.	
His partner is confined to a wheelchair.	

* Not applicable.

Table 6

Twenty tactics perceived most likely for men to employ to end a long-term relationship

	Tactic	M	SD
1	Tell his partner that breaking up is the best for both of them.	4.85	1.29
2	Put other things in his life before his partner.	4.83	1.18
3	Say 'I think we'd be better off as friends'.	4.78	1.39
4	Stop saying "I Love You".	4.72	1.41
5	Tell her face to face.	4.71	1.23
6	Stop spending time with his partner.	4.69	1.16
7	Spend more time with friends without his partner.	4.68	1.36
8	Say "Its not you it's me".	4.54	1.57
9	Stop giving any affection to his partner.	4.54	1.19
10	Stop giving his partner meaningful gifts.	4.48	1.42
11	Stop touching his partner as much.	4.46	1.48
12	Stop doing the things for his partner that she normally takes for granted.	4.46	1.20
13	Tell his partner that they should both see other people.	4.43	1.19
14	Claim that his school work requires too much of his time.	4.38	1.22
15	Seem distracted around his partner.	4.38	1.28
16	Come to a mutual break up agreement.	4.38	1.51
17	Tell his partner that he will never be ready for marriage.	4.34	1.23
18	Claim that his job requires too much of his time.	4.32	1.16
19	Responds with one word answers to his partner's questions.	4.31	1.25
20	Pick up new interests that do not include his partner.	4.31	1.26

Note. Likelihood ratings range from 0 (Not at all likely to employ the tactic) to 6 (Extremely likely to employ the tactic). Due to missing data, Ns range from 64 – 65.

Table 7

<u>Twenty tactics perceived most likely for women to employ to end a long-term relationship</u>

	Tactic	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>
1	Spend more time with friends without her partner.	5.04	1.15
2	Tell her partner that breaking up is the best for both of them.	5.01	1.16
3	Stop touching her partner as much.	4.87	1.41
4	Say 'I think we'd be better off as friends'.	4.87	1.38
5	Claim that her school work requires too much of her time.	4.86	1.27
6	Put other things in her life before his partner.	4.77	1.11
7	Tell him face to face.	4.76	1.42
8	Stop spending time with her partner.	4.75	1.19
9	Tell her partner that they should both see other people.	4.67	1.29
10	Refuse sexual activities with her partner.	4.65	1.19
11	Come to a mutual break up agreement.	4.61	1.44
12	Act less interested in sex with her partner.	4.55	1.36
13	Say "Its not you its me".	4.54	1.45
14	Talk to a mutual friend about problems.	4.52	1.37
15	Start frequent arguments with her partner.	4.48	1.26
16	Stop saying "I Love You".	4.47	1.49
17	Become irritable all the time.	4.45	1.36
18	Respond with one word answers to her partner's questions.	4.44	1.34
19	Pick up new interests that do not include her partner.	4.44	1.40
20	Refuse to have sex with her partner.	4.43	1.46

Note. Likelihood ratings range from 0 (Not at all likely to employ the tactic) to 6 (Extremely likely to employ the tactic). Due to missing data, Ns range from 91 – 94.

Table 8

Twenty tactics perceived most effective for men to end a long-term relationship

	Tactic	M	SD
1	Have sex with other people and let his partner find out.	5.49	1.22
2	Tell them face to face.	5.32	1.03
3	Tell his partner that he loves someone else.	5.16	1.24
4	Have sex with his partner's friends and let his partner find out.	5.13	1.84
5	Get caught cheating on his partner.	5.10	1.81
6	Say that he is not ready for a commitment, but then get engaged to someone else.	4.98	1.60
7	Kill his partner.	4.84	2.26
8	Tell his partner that they should both see other people.	4.83	1.11
9	Physically abuse his partner.	4.76	1.90
10	Kick his partner out of his residence.	4.73	1.64
11	Stop all communication with his partner.	4.73	1.57
12	Leave evidence of an affair in plain sight so his partner will discover it.	4.66	1.80
13	Make out with other people and let his partner find out.	4.51	1.72
14	Slap his partner across her face.	4.45	2.05
15	Come to a mutual break up agreement.	4.44	1.40
16	Move out.	4.39	1.53
17	Act with hatred and disgust at everything that his partner does.	4.36	1.88
18	Become emotionally involved with another person.	4.34	1.67
19	Stop giving any affection to his partner.	4.32	1.58
20	Verbally abuse his partner.	4.31	1.68

Note. Effectiveness ratings range from 0 (Not at all effective to end the relationship) to 6 (Extremely effective to end the relationship).

Table 9

<u>Twenty tactics perceived most effective for women to end a long-term relationship</u>

	Tactic	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>
1	Have sex with other people and let her partner find out.	5.29	1.59
2	Tell them face to face.	5.25	1.04
3	Get caught cheating on her partner.	5.18	1.64
4	Tell her partner that she loves someone else.	5.18	1.39
5	Have sex with her partner's friends and let her partner find out.	5.16	1.82
6	Stop all communication with her partner.	5.09	1.49
7	Kill her partner.	4.88	2.23
8	Tell her partner that they should both see other people.	4.78	1.26
9	See other people.	4.76	1.30
10	Say that she is not ready for a commitment, but then get engaged to someone else.	4.73	1.76
11	Move out.	4.65	1.42
12	Stop giving any affection to her partner.	4.60	1.37
13	Leave evidence of an affair in plain sight so her partner will discover it.	4.60	1.87
14	Become emotionally involved with another person.	4.53	1.56
15	Refuse to talk to her partner	4.45	1.45
16	Come to a mutual break up agreement.	4.45	1.46
17	Kick her partner out of his residence.	4.42	1.42
18	Lie and deceive her partner.	4.42	1.77
19	Be seen at social gathering with another man.	4.41	1.66
20	Make out with other people and let her partner find out.	4.39	1.73

<u>Note.</u> Effectiveness ratings range from 0 (Not at all effective to end the relationship) to 6 (Extremely effective to end the relationship). Due to missing data, Ns range from 128 – 130.

Table 10

Tactics of relationship termination by hypothesis with alpha reliabilities

Tactic	Study 4 α	Study 5 α
Hypothesis 16: Decrease resource investment Quit your job. Stop giving flowers to your partner. Stop giving presents to your partner. Stop spending money on your partner. Stop giving your partner meaningful gifts.	0.731	0.804
Hypothesis 17: Decrease investment of time Spend more time with friends without her partner. Pick up new interests that do not include her partner. Ignore your partner in order to make your partner break up with you. Do things to avoid contact with your partner. Stop spending time with your partner. Stop calling your partner. Start spending lots of time with your extended family without your partner. Don't go out to eat with your partner as much. Don't go out to movies with your partner as much. Act as though she is being a burden on your time.	0.815	0.84
Hypothesis 18: Decrease protection offered Choose a job that is very far away. *Don't take your partner's side when someone is arguing with him/her. *Don't defend your partner when someone physically threatens him/her. *Don't defend your partner when someone is insulting him/her.	0.51	0.68
Hypothesis 19:Decrease sexual access Refuse sexual activities with your partner. Refuse to have sex with your partner. Act less interested in sex with her partner.	0.825	0.817

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Table 10 Continued

Tactics of relationship termination by hypothesis with alpha reliabilities

Tactic	Study 4 α	Study 5 α
Hypothesis 20: Signal sexual infidelity Get caught cheating on your partner. Leave evidence of an affair in plain sight so your partner will discover it. Have sex with other people and let your partner find out. Have sex with your partner's friends and let your partner find out.	0.918	0.926
Hypothesis 21: Signal decreased physical attractiveness Stop dressing up to go out with her partner. Stop trying to make yourself seem more attractive. Stop wearing makeup. Stop dressing attractively. Become fat. *Become too skinny	0.746	0.816
Hypothesis 22: Physical abuse *Physically abuse your partner. *Push your partner up against a wall. *Slap your partner across his/her face. *Hit your partner.	0.799	0.895
Hypothesis 23: Refuse resource investment Return jewelry given to you by your partner. Send back mementos from your partner. *Don't let your partner buy you dinner. Give back expensive gift items given to you by your partner.	0.681	0.517

Table 10 Continued

Tactics of relationship termination by hypothesis with alpha reliabilities

Tactic	Study 4 α	Study 5 α
Hypothesis 24: Signal emotional infidelity Always talk to someone else on the phone while you are with your partner. Tell your partner that you love someone else. Become emotionally involved with someone else. Become psychologically involved with someone else.	0.514	0.777
Hypothesis 25: Signal decreased emotional investment Ignore your partner in order to make your partner break up with you. Become aloof toward partner. Responds with one word answers to your partner's questions. Stop all communication with your partner. Seem distracted around your partner. Stop caring about your partner. Refuse to talk to your partner. Stop asking how your partner is doing.	0.754	0.801

*Item added to test specific prediction.

Table 11

Men's most frequently reported thoughts of reasons for relationship termination
(University Sample).

Reason	Percentage of Sample
Long-distance relationship.	30.77
Partner demands too much time.	13.85
Other available mates for self (Type Unclear).	10.77
Constant arguing.	9.23
Suspected partner infidelity (Type Unclear).	7.69
Partner too jealous.	6.15
Religious/spiritual differences.	6.15
My family/friend disapproved.	6.15
Partner infidelity (Type Unclear).	4.62
Short-term mates available for self.	6.15
I didn't want to commit.	4.62
Partner was too controlling/possessive.	6.15
Partner too young	3.08
Decreased Investment of time by partner	3.08
Partner Personality/Attitude	3.08
Self Infidelity (Type Unclear).	1.54
Short term mates available for my partner.	1.54
Decrease in partner's physical attractiveness.	1.54
I felt jealous.	1.54
My partner became pregnant.	1.54
Partner's physical handicap, mental illness, disease	1.54
I was drinking too much.	1.54
Cultural differences.	1.54
I couldn't trust partner.	1.54
My partner did not communicate well.	1.54

Table 12

<u>Women's twenty most frequently reported thoughts of reasons for relationship termination (University Sample).</u>

Reason	Percentage of Sample
Long-distance relationship.	31.58
Other available mates for self (Type Unclear).	12.11
Decreased investment of time by partner.	11.05
Suspected partner Infidelity (Type Unclear).	7.37
Partner infidelity (Type Unclear).	6.84
Partner too jealous	6.32
Decrease in partner's potential resources.	4.74
Partner demands too much time.	4.74
Partner physical handicap, mental illness, disease.	4.74
Constant arguing.	4.21
Decreased investment of resources by partner.	3.68
Partner substance abuse.	3.68
I did not want to commit.	3.68
Partner too controlling/possessive	3.16
My family/friend disapproved.	3.16
Partner poor communication	3.16
Dissatisfied with sex life.	2.63
Partner psychologically abusive.	2.63
Partner Personality.	2.63
Religious/spiritual differences.	2.11

Table 13

Men's most frequently reported thoughts of reasons for relationship termination
(Internet Sample).

Reason	Percentage of Sample
Short-term mates available for self.	22.22
Decreased Investment of time by partner	22.22
I wanted to be single.	22.22
Other available mates for self (Type Unclear).	11.11
Decreased investment of resources by self.	11.11
Decreased investment of time by self.	11.11
Partner demands too much time.	11.11
Decreased sexual access offered by partner.	11.11
Long-distance relationship.	11.11
I didn't want to commit.	11.11

Table 14

Women's most frequently reported thoughts of reasons for relationship termination
(Internet Sample).

Reason	Percentage of Sample
Decreased potential resources of partner.	17.86
Decreased investment of resources by partner.	14.29
Decreased investment of time by partner.	14.29
Partner sexual infidelity.	10.71
Partner infidelity (Type Unclear).	10.71
Substance abuse by partner.	10.71
Long-distance relationship.	10.71
Partner does not want to commit.	10.71
Poor communication	10.71
Other available mates for self (Type Unclear).	7.14
Partner is too jealous	7.14
Unable/Unwilling to have children (Partner)	7.14
My partner found someone else.	3.57
Partner emotional infidelity.	3.57
Other available mates for partner (Type Unclear).	3.57
Partner psychologically abusive.	3.57
Physical handicap, mental illness, disease (Partner).	3.57
I didn't want to commit.	3.57
I don't like my partner's family/friend.	3.57
Partner flirted with others.	3.57
My partner doesn't trust me.	3.57
I wanted to be single.	3.57
Constant arguing.	3.57

Table 15

Top tactics men employ in thoughts to end Long-term relationships. (University Sample).

Tactic	Percentage of Sample
Talk to partner and end the relationship	79.69
No method considered	15.63
Stop communication with partner	4.69
Just leave	1.56

Table 16

Top tactics women employ in thoughts to end long-term relationships.
(University Sample).

Tactic	Percentage of Sample
Talk to partner and end the relationship.	83.16
No method considered	14.74
Stop communication	1.05
Avoid partner.	0.53
Just leave.	0.53

Table 17

Top tactics men employ in thoughts to end long-term relationships. (Internet Community Sample).

Tactic	Percentage of Sample
Talk to partner and end the relationship.	55.56
Did not consider a method.	22.22
Commit sexual infidelity.	11.11
Become less dependable.	11.11
Indicate attraction to others.	11.11
Leave cues of infidelity.	11.11
Act selfishly.	11.11
Stop communication.	11.11
Get partner to break up with you.	11.11

Table 18

Top tactics women employ in thoughts to end long-term relationships.
(Internet Community Sample).

Tactic	Percentage of Sample
Talk to partner and end the relationship	57.14
Did not consider a method	35.71
Just leave.	14.29
Stop communication.	3.57
Avoid partner.	3.57
Kill partner.	3.57

Table 19

Men's most frequently reported reasons for self-initiated relationship termination
(University Sample).

Reason	Percentage of Sample
Long-distance relationship	30.30
Partner Infidelity (Type Unclear)	19.70
I didn't want to commit.	16.67
I could not trust my partner.	12.12
Other available mates for self (Type Unclear)	10.61
Relationship became boring/routine.	10.61
We were not compatible.	9.09
I was too young.	7.58
Decreased Investment of time by partner	7.58
Partner demands too much time.	7.58
My partner was too controlling/possessive.	7.58
Physical Handicap, mental illness, disease (Partner)	7.58
Other available mates for partner (Type Unclear)	6.06
Partner demands too much sex	6.06
Partner Personality	6.06
Constant Arguing	6.06
I wanted to be single.	6.06
Partner Sexual Infidelity	4.55
Self Infidelity(Type Unclear)	4.55
Partner Physically Abusive	4.55
Partner Psychologically Abusive	4.55
Substance Abuse (Partner)	4.55
I found someone else.	4.55
Religious/spiritual differences	4.55
My family and friends disapproved.	4.55
My partner flirted with others.	4.55
We grew apart.	4.55

Table 20

Women's most frequently reported reasons for self-initiated relationship termination
(University Sample).

Reason	Percentage of Sample
Long-distance relationship.	47.74
I didn't want to commit.	27.10
My partner was too controlling/possessive.	21.29
Partner Infidelity (Type Unclear)	20.65
Other available mates for self (Type Unclear)	18.06
I was too young.	13.55
We were not compatible.	12.90
My partner demanded too much time.	11.61
My partner was too jealous.	11.61
I wanted to be single.	11.61
Decreased Investment of time by partner.	10.97
Decreased potential resources of partner.	10.32
I could not trust my partner.	10.32
Constant Arguing	9.68
My partner was immature.	8.39
I found someone else.	8.39
Partner Psychologically Abusive	7.74
Relationship became boring/routine.	7.74
Substance Abuse (Partner)	7.10
I needed to focus on school/career.	6.45

Table 21

Men's most frequently reported reasons for self-initiated relationship termination
(Internet Sample).

Reason	Percentage of Sample
Other available mates for self (Type Unclear).	21.05
Partner demands too much time.	21.05
Decreased sexual access offered by Partner.	21.05
I was dissatisfied with our sex life.	21.05
Partner Psychologically Abusive	15.79
Partner Physical Handicap, mental illness, disease	15.79
I wanted to be single.	15.79
Self Sexual Infidelity.	10.53
Other long-term mates available for self.	10.53
Partner was too controlling/possessive.	10.53
I did not want to commit.	10.53
Cultural differences.	10.53
Relationship became boring/routine	10.53
We were not compatible.	10.53
Self Infidelity (Type Unclear)	5.26
Partner had a sexually transmitted disease.	5.26
Short-term mates available for self.	5.26
Decreased potential of resources of self	5.26
Partner demands too many resources	5.26
Decrease in sexual interest(Self)	5.26
Partner Physically Abusive	5.26
Partner too jealous	5.26
Substance (both)	5.26
Long-distance relationship	5.26
Self homosexuality	5.26
Constant arguing.	5.26

Table 22

Women's most frequently reported reasons for self-initiated relationship termination (Internet Sample).

Reason	Percentage of Sample
Decreased potential resources of partner.	31.03
Decreased Investment of time by partner.	24.14
Decreased investment of resources by partner.	17.24
Substance abuse by partner.	17.24
Partner Infidelity (Type Unclear).	13.79
Partner Psychologically Abusive.	13.79
Long-distance relationship.	13.79
Cannot trust partner.	13.79
Partner Sexual Infidelity.	10.34
Partner Physically Abusive.	10.34
Partner Physical Handicap, mental illness, disease/unstable	10.34
Self Sexual Infidelity.	6.90
Partner is unreliable.	6.90
Decreased protection by partner.	6.90
I wanted to be single.	6.90
Other available mates for self (Type Unclear).	3.45
Decreased investment of time by self.	3.45
Decrease in Partner's Physical Attractiveness.	3.45
Decreased sexual access offered by partner.	3.45
I was dissatisfied with our sex life.	3.45
My partner was too jealous.	3.45
My partner was too controlling/possessive.	3.45
My partner was homosexual.	3.45
I didn't want to commit.	3.45
Relationship became boring/routine.	3.45
We had poor communication.	3.45

Table 23

Tactics men employ to end long-term relationships. (University Sample).

Tactic	Percentage of Sample
Talk to them directly and end the relationship.	96.97
Become emotionally unstable.	1.52
Lie.	1.52
Get partner to break up with you.	1.52
Use friend/family.	1.52

Table 24

Tactics women employ to end long-term relationships. (University Sample).

Tactic	Percentage of Sample
Talk to them directly and end the relationship.	95.48
Stop communication with partner.	5.81
Use friend/family to end the relationship.	3.87
Avoid partner.	1.94
Indicate attraction to others.	1.29
Decrease investment of time.	0.65
Decrease protection offered.	0.65
Commit sexual infidelity.	0.65
Become emotionally unstable.	0.65
Psychologically abuse mate.	0.65
Lie.	0.65
Return/dispose of gifts/resources.	0.65
Decrease emotional investment.	0.65
Get partner to break up with you.	0.65
Tactic unclear.	0.65

Table 25

Tactics men employ to end long-term relationships. (Internet Community Sample).

Tactic	Percentage of Sample
Talk to them directly and end the relationship.	78.95
Decrease emotional investment.	5.26
Stop communication.	5.26
Avoid partner.	5.26
Just leave.	5.26

Table 26

Tactics women employ to end long-term relationships. (Internet Community Sample).

Tactic	Percentage of Sample
Talk to them directly and end the relationship.	86.21
Just leave (Self)	13.79
Kick partner out of home.	10.34
Stop communication.	6.90
Avoid partner (Self)	3.45

Table 27

Summary of all tests of hypotheses

Hypothesis	Result

Context Hypotheses
Hypothesis 1: Sexual Infidelity

Prediction a	Not supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported

Hypothesis 2: Sexually Transmitted Disease

Prediction a	Not supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported

Hypothesis 3: Decreased Physical Attractiveness

Prediction a	Supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported

Hypothesis 4: Increased Age

Prediction a	Not supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported

Table 27 Continued

Summary of all tests of hypotheses.

	Hypothesis	Result

Hypothesis 5: Increased Availability of Short-Term Mates

Prediction a	Supported
Prediction b	Supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Mixed support
Prediction e	Mixed support

Hypothesis 6: Increase in Personal Resources

Prediction a	Not supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported

Hypothesis 7: Decreased Sexual Access

Prediction a	Supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported

Hypothesis 8: Reduction or Reallocation of Resources

Prediction a	Supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Mixed support
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported

<u>Table 27 Continued</u>

<u>Summary of all tests of hypotheses.</u>

Hypothesis	Result

Hypothesis 9: Reduction of Time Investment

Prediction a	Supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Mixed support
Prediction d	Supported
Prediction e	Not supported

Hypothesis 10: Physical Abuse

Prediction a	Supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported

Hypothesis 11: Increase in Personal Physical Attractiveness

Prediction a	Not supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported

Hypothesis 12: Emotional Infidelity

Prediction a	Not supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported

Table 27 Continued

Summary of all tests of hypotheses.

Hypothesis	Result

Hypothesis 13: Decrease in Protection

Prediction a	Supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported

Hypothesis 14: Failure or Unwillingness to Produce Children

Prediction a	Not supported
Prediction b	Mixed support
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Mixed support
Prediction e	Not supported

Hypothesis 15: Physical Handicap, Mental Illness, or Disease

Prediction a	Supported
Prediction b	Supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Mixed support

Table 27 Continued

Summary of all tests of hypotheses.

Hypothesis	Result

Tactics Hypotheses
Hypothesis 16: Signaling Decreased Investment of Resources

Prediction a	Not supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported
Prediction f	Not supported

Hypothesis 17: Signaling Decreased Investment of Time

Prediction a	Not supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported
Prediction f	Not supported

Hypothesis 18: Signaling Decreased Protection

Prediction a	Supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported
Prediction f	Not supported

Table 27 Continued

Summary of all tests of hypotheses.

Hypothesis	Result

Hypothesis 19: Decreasing Sexual Access

Prediction a	Not supported
Prediction b	Supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported
Prediction f	Not supported

Hypothesis 20: Signaling Sexual Infidelity

Prediction a	Not supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported
Prediction f	Not supported

Hypothesis 21: Signaling Decreased Physical Attractiveness

Prediction a	Supported
Prediction b	Supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported
Prediction f	Not supported

Table 27 Continued

Summary of all tests of hypotheses.

Hypothesis	Result

Hypothesis 22: Physical Abuse

Prediction a	Supported
Prediction b	Supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported
Prediction f	Not supported

Hypothesis 23: Refusal of Resources

Prediction a	Supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported
Prediction f	Not supported

Hypothesis 24: Signaling Emotional Infidelity

Prediction a	Not supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported
Prediction f	Not supported

Table 27 Continued

<u>Summary of all tests of hypotheses.</u>

Hypothesis	Result

Hypothesis 25: Decreasing Emotional Investment

Prediction a	Not supported
Prediction b	Not supported
Prediction c	Not supported
Prediction d	Not supported
Prediction e	Not supported
Prediction f	Not supported

Appendix A. Romantic relationship termination and relationship termination thoughts questionnaire.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

For each question, please fill in the blanks, circle a number, or mark "√" in the appropriate box(es).

1. Your age: _____

2. Your sex: **Male** **Female**

3. Your sexual orientation:

                Heterosexual   **Bisexual**

                Homosexual   **Unsure**

Family Information

4. Is your father alive?   **Yes**   **No**

5. Is your mother alive?   **Yes**   **No**

6. Are your parents divorced?   **Yes**   **No**

7. How many children do you have?

	Biological	**Adopted**	**Step**
Sons			
Daughters			

8. If you have one or more children, at what age did you become a parent? ____

9. How many siblings do you have?

	Biological	Step
Brothers		
Sisters		

Relationship Information

10. Check the box that best describes your <u>present</u> situation:

> **Single, never married   Married   Separated**
>
> **Engaged   Divorced   Widowed**
>
> **In a serious romantic relationship, but not married**

CURRENTLY IN RELATIONSHIP

IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY IN A SERIOUS ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP, ENGAGED, OR MARRIED, PLEASE COMPLETE QUESTIONS 11-15. OTHERWISE, PLEASE SKIP TO PAGE 6.

11. How long have you been in this relationship? _____

12. How old were you when you began this marriage or serious romantic relationship? ___

13. What is your significant other's age? _____

14. What is your significant other's date of birth (day/month/year)? _____

How do you feel about your sex life in your relationship? Check one box:

Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

How do you feel about the communication in your relationship?

Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

How do you feel about the amount of time you spend with your partner in your relationship? Check one box:

Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied

$\downarrow$ $\downarrow$ $\downarrow$ $\downarrow$ $\downarrow$ $\downarrow$ $\downarrow$

Overall, how satisfied are you with this relationship? Check one box:

			Neither			
Very		Somewhat	satisfied nor	Somewhat		Very
Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	dissatisfied	dissatisfied	satisfied	Satisfied	Satisfied
$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$

Have you every thought about breaking-up with your current partner, even for just a moment?

Yes   **No**   (*circle one*)

IMPORTANT: If you answered "yes" to the previous question, please continue. If you answered "no," please turn to page 6.

How long ago did you have your first thought of breaking up with your partner? _____

About how many times have you thought about breaking up with your partner?

a. In the past month ____

b. In the past year ____

c. In the past five years ____

Some of your thoughts about breaking up with your romantic partner may have been more vivid (detailed, intense**) or memorable than others. Think of the <u>most </u>vivid or <u> memorable</u> thought about breaking up with your romantic partner that you ever had.**

<u>In this thought,</u> (*Please only include information that was part of your original thought.*)

What was *their age* at the time you first had the thought? _____

What was *your age* at the first time that you had the thought? _____

What else should we know about this person? _____

_____

Please describe, *step by step*, what events happened that <u>caused</u> you to think about breaking up with your serious romantic partner.   If there were multiple causes, please describe the important ones. *Please be as detailed and specific as possible. Please write 2-3 paragraphs. This is an extremely important question.*

Please describe, *step by step*, <u>how</u> you went about breaking up with your partner in your thought. *Please be as detailed and specific as possible. Please write 2-3 paragraphs. This is an extremely important question.*

Please answer the following questions about your thought. If any of the following items do not apply to your thought, please leave them blank.

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In your thought:

Where did you break up with your romantic partner? _____

What method did you use to break up with your romantic partner? _____

_____

Did anyone help you break up with your partner?

        Yes   **No**   (*circle one*)

   If yes, what is your relationship to this person? _____

   If yes, please describe precisely how this person helped you to break up with your partner. *Please be as detailed and specific as possible. Please write 2-3 paragraphs. This is an extremely important question.*

In your thought, did you leave your romantic partner for someone else?   **Yes**   **No** (*circle one*)

   If yes, what was it about the other person that made you want to leave your partner? _____

_____

What was it about your partner that made you want to leave them for this other person?

_____

_____

How psychologically involved were you with this other person prior to your thought of breakup?

Not at all involved			Somewhat involved			Extremely involved
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

How emotionally involved were you with this other person prior to your thought of breakup?

Not at all involved			Somewhat involved			Extremely involved
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

How sexually involved were you with this other person prior to your thought of breakup?

Not at all involved			Somewhat involved			Extremely involved
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

How often did you spend time with this other person prior to your thought of breakup?

Never spent time			Spent some time			Frequently spent time
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

Did you talk to anyone about your thought of breaking up?

Yes   **No**   (*circle one*)

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If yes, what is your relationship to this person? _____

If yes, what did they tell you? _____
_____
_____

What prevented you from actually breaking up with your romantic partner? *Please be as detailed and specific as possible*

What could have pushed you over the edge and led you to actually break up with your romantic partner? *Please be as detailed and specific as possible*

Over what time span (from the first time you had the thought until the last time you had the thought) did this thought appear in your mind? (i.e. How many days, weeks, months, or years)?

_____

During the period when you were actively thinking about breaking up with your romantic partner, how many times did you have the thought each day? _____

When you had this thought, how long did it usually last? (i.e. How many seconds, minutes, hours)? _____

When was the last time that you had a thought of breaking up with your partner? _____

How close did you come to actually breaking up with your romantic partner?

Not close at all	Somewhat close	close	Very Close	Extremely close	I did break up with them
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

GENERAL BREAKUP QUESTIONS

Have you ever been in a serious romantic relationship or marriage that ended?   **Yes**
                                                                                      No

IMPORTANT: If you answered "yes" to the previous question please continue, if you answered "no" please turn to…

Please think about your experience breaking up with your romantic partner.

How long did this serious romantic relationship or marriage last? _____

How old were you when you entered this serious romantic relationship or marriage? _____

What was your significant other's date of birth (day/month/year)? _____

What was *their age* at the time of the breakup? _____
What was *your age* at the time of the breakup? _____

What else should we know about this person? _____
_____

Before the breakup, did you every think about breaking-up with your partner, even for just a moment?

                    Yes   **No**   (*circle one*)

IMPORTANT: If you answered "yes" to the previous question, please continue. If you answered "no," please turn to page 9.

How long before the end of the relationship, did you have your first thought of breaking up with your partner? _____

 About how many times during the relationship did you think about breaking up with your partner?

a. In the month before the breakup____

b. In the past year before the breakup____

c. In the past five years before the breakup ____

Some of your thoughts about breaking up with your romantic partner may have been more vivid (detailed, intense) **or memorable than others. Think of the most vivid or memorable thought about breaking up with your romantic partner that you ever had.**

In this thought, (*Please only include information that was part of your original thought.*)

What was *their age* at the time you first had the thought? _____

What was *your age* at the first time that you had the thought? _____

Please describe, *step by step*, what happened that caused you to think about breaking up with your serious romantic partner. If there were multiple causes, please describe the important ones. *Please be as detailed and specific as possible. Please write 2-3 paragraphs. This is an extremely important question.*

Please describe, *step by step*, <u>how</u> you went about breaking up with your partner in your thought. *Please be as detailed and specific as possible. Please write 2-3 paragraphs. This is an extremely important question.*

Please answer the following questions about your thought. If any of the following items do not apply to your thought, please leave them blank.

<u>In your thought:</u>

Where did you break up with your romantic partner? _____

What method did you use to break up with your romantic partner?
_____

Did anyone help you break up with your partner?   Yes   No   (*circle one*)

   If yes, what is your relationship to this person? _____

If yes, please describe precisely how this person helped you to break up with your partner. *Please be as detailed and specific as possible. Please write 2-3 paragraphs. This is an extremely important question.*

In your thought, did you leave your romantic partner for someone else?   Yes   No (*circle one*)

If yes, what was it about the other person that made you want to leave your partner?

_____

_____

If yes, what was it about your partner that made you want to leave them for this other person?

_____

_____

How psychologically involved were you with this other person at the time of the thought?

Not at all			**Somewhat**			**Extremely**
involved			**involved**			**involved**
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

How emotionally involved were you with this other person at the time of the thought?

Not at all			**Somewhat**			**Extremely**
involved			**involved**			**involved**
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

How sexually involved were you with this other person at the time of the thought?

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Not at all			Somewhat			Extremely
involved			involved			involved
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

How often did you spend time with this other person at the time of the thought?

Never spent			Spent some			Frequently
time			time			spent time
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

Did you talk to anyone about your thought of breaking up?   Yes   No   (*circle one*)

If yes, what is your relationship to this person?_____

_____

If yes, what did they tell you? _____

_____

What prevented you from actually breaking up with your romantic partner? *Please be as detailed and specific as possible*

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What could have pushed you over the edge and led you to actually break up with your romantic partner? *Please be as detailed and specific as possible*

Over what time span (from the first time you had the thought until the last time you had the thought) did this thought appear in your mind? (i.e. How many days, weeks, months, or years)?

_____

During the period when you were actively thinking about breaking up with your romantic partner, how many times did you have the thought each day? _____

When you had this thought, how long did it usually last? (i.e. How many seconds, minutes, hours)? _____

When was the last time that you had a thought of breaking up with your partner? _____

How close did you come to actually breaking up with your romantic partner?

Not close at all	Somewhat close	close	Very Close	Extremely close	I did break up with them
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

Who initiated the breakup of your serious romantic relationship?

Me   My partner   Both   *(circle one)*

IMPORTANT: If you answered "me" to the previous question, please continue. If you answered "my partner" please turn to page 16. If you answered "Both" please turn to page

I BROKE UP WITH MY PARTNER

Please describe, *step by step*, what happened that <u>caused</u> you to break up with your serious romantic partner. If there were multiple causes, please explain all of the important ones. <u>*Please be as detailed and specific as possible.*</u>

Please describe, *step by step*, <u>how</u> you went about breaking up with your partner. <u>*Please be as detailed and specific as possible.*</u>

Please answer the following questions about your breakup. If any of the following items do not apply to your breakup, please leave them blank.

Where did you break up with your romantic partner? _____

What method did you use to break up with your romantic partner?
_____

Did anyone help you break up with your partner? Yes   No   (*circle one*)

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If yes, what is your relationship to this person? _____

How did this person help you breakup? _____
_____

Did you leave your romantic partner for someone else? Yes   No   (*circle one***)**

If yes, what was it about the other person that made you want to leave your partner?
_____

_____

If yes, what was it about your partner that made you want to leave them for this other person?
_____

_____

How psychologically involved were you with this other person prior to breakup?

Not at all			**Somewhat**			**Extremely**
involved			**involved**			**involved**
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

How emotionally involved were you with this other person prior to breakup?

Not at all			**Somewhat**			**Extremely**
involved			**involved**			**involved**
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

How sexually involved were you with this other person prior to breakup?

| **Not at all** | | | **Somewhat** | | | **Extremely** |
| **involved** | | | **involved** | | | **involved** |

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$\downarrow$ $\qquad$ $\downarrow$ $\qquad$ $\downarrow$ $\qquad$ $\downarrow$ $\qquad$ $\downarrow$ $\qquad$ $\downarrow$ $\qquad$ $\downarrow$

How often did you spend time with this other person prior to your breakup?

| **Never spent** | | **Spent some** | | **Frequently** |
| time | | time | | spent time |

$\downarrow$ $\quad$ $\downarrow$ $\quad$ $\downarrow$ $\quad$ $\downarrow$ $\quad$ $\downarrow$ $\quad$ $\downarrow$ $\quad$ $\downarrow$

Did you talk to anyone else about breaking up before breaking up? Yes   No   (*circle one*)

 If yes, what is your relationship to this person? _____

_____

 If yes, what did they tell you? _____
 _____
 _____

What could have prevented you from actually breaking up with your romantic partner?
Please be as detailed and specific as possible

What pushed you over the edge and led you to actually break up with your romantic partner? *Please be as detailed and specific as possible*

MY PARTNER BROKE UP WITH ME

Please describe, *step by step*, what you believe happened that <u>caused</u> your serious romantic partner to break up with you. *Please be as detailed and specific as possible.*

Please describe, *step by step*, <u>how</u> your serious romantic partner went about breaking up with you. *Please be as detailed and specific as possible.*

Please answer the following questions about your breakup. If any of the following items do not apply to your breakup, please leave them blank.

Where did your serious romantic partner break up with you? _____

What method did your serious romantic partner use to break up with you?
_____
_____

Did anyone help your partner break up with you?   Yes   No   (*circle one*)

If yes, what is your partner's relationship to this person?   _____

      How did this person help your partner breakup with you? _____
      _____

Did your romantic partner leave you for someone else?   Yes   No   (*circle one*)

  If yes, what do you think it was about the <u>other person</u> that made your partner leave you?
_____
_____

    If yes, what was it about <u>your partner</u> that made them want to leave you for this other person?

  _____

_____

    How psychologically involved with this other person was your partner prior to breakup?

Not at all			**Somewhat**			**Extremely**
involved			**involved**			**involved**
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

How emotionally involved with this other person was your partner prior to breakup?

Not at all			**Somewhat**			**Extremely**
involved			involved			involved
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

How sexually involved were you with this other person was your partner prior to breakup?

Not at all			**Somewhat**			**Extremely**
involved			involved			involved
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

How often did your partner spend time with this other person prior to breakup?

Never spent			**Spent some**			**Frequently**
time			time			spent time
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

What do you think could have prevented your partner from actually breaking up with you? *Please be as detailed and specific as possible*

What do you think pushed your partner over the edge and led your partner to actually break up with you? *Please be as detailed and specific as possible*

WE BOTH BROKE UP

Please describe, *step by step*, what you believe happened that <u>caused</u> your serious romantic relationship to end. *<u>Please be as detailed and specific as possible.</u>*

Please describe, *step by step*, <u>how</u> your serious romantic relationship ended. *<u>Please be as detailed and specific as possible.</u>*

Please answer the following questions about your breakup. If any of the following items do not apply to your breakup, please leave them blank.

Where did your serious romantic relationship end? _____

What method was used to end your serious romantic relationship? _____

_____

_____

Did anyone help you and partner break up? Yes   No   (*circle one***)**

If yes, what is your relationship to this person? _____

     How did this person help you and your partner breakup? _____

     _____

Did your romantic partner leave you for someone else?   Yes   No (*circle one***)**

     If yes, what do you think it was about the <u>other person</u> that made your partner leave you?
_____
_____

     If yes, what was it about <u>your partner</u> that made them want to leave you for this other person?

     _____
_____

How psychologically involved with this other person was your partner prior to breakup?

     Not at all   **Somewhat**

                                              Extremely

     involved   **involved**   **involved**

     ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓

How emotionally involved with this other person was your partner prior to breakup?

     Not at all   **Somewhat**   **Extremely**
     involved   **involved**   **involved**

     ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓

How sexually involved were you with this other person was your partner prior to breakup?

Not at all involved			Somewhat involved			Extremely involved
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

How often did your partner spend time with this other person prior to breakup?

Never spent time			Spent some time			Frequently spent time
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

Did you leave your romantic partner for someone else? Yes   No   (*circle one*)

If yes, what was it about the other person that made you want to leave your partner?
_____
_____

If yes, what was it about your partner that made you want to leave them for this other person?
_____
_____

How psychologically involved were you with this other person prior to breakup?

Not at all involved			Somewhat involved			Extremely involved
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

How emotionally involved were you with this other person prior to breakup?

Not at all involved			Somewhat involved			Extremely involved

↓   ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓

How sexually involved were you with this other person prior to breakup?

Not at all   **Somewhat**   **Extremely**
involved   **involved**   **involved**

↓   ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓

How often did you spend time with this other person prior to your breakup?

Never spent   **Spent some**   **Frequently**
time   **time**   **spent time**

↓   ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓   ↓

Did you talk to anyone about your breakup prior to breaking up with your partner?
                    Yes   **No**   (*circle one*)

  If yes, what is your relationship to this person? _____
  If yes, what did they tell you? _____
  _____
  _____

What do you think could have prevented your romantic relationship from ending? *Please
be as detailed and specific as possible*

What do you think pushed your relationship over the edge and led your relationship to end?
Please be as detailed and specific as possible

CURRENT RELATIONSHIP WITH EX-PARTNER

1. How would you rate your former partner's desirability as a long-term mate (e.g. a partner in a long-term committed relationship or marriage), relative to you?

☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

Much less desirable than me   About equally desirable   Much more desirable than me

2. How would you rate your former partner's desirability as a short-term mate (e.g. a partner in a one-night sexual encounter or a brief affair), relative to you?

☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

Much less desirable than me   About equally desirable   Much more desirable than me

3. How would you rate your former partner's overall desirability to the opposite sex, relative to you?

☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

Much less desirable than me   About equally desirable   Much more desirable than me

4. How easy or difficult has it been for you to find a long-term mate (e.g. a partner in a long-term committed relationship or marriage) who was as desirable as your former partner?

☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

Not interested   Very easy to find   Neither easy nor difficult to find   Very difficult to find

5. How easy or difficult has it been for you to find a short-term mate (e.g. a partner in a one-night sexual encounter or a brief affair) who was as desirable as your former partner?

☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐

Not interested　Very easy to find　　　Neither easy nor difficult to find　　　Very difficult to find

6. How would you rate your former partner's likely future professional success, relative to you?

☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐

Much less successful than me　　　About equally successful　　　Much more successful than me

7. How would you rate your former partner's physical attractiveness, relative to you?

☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐

Much less attractive than me　　　About equally attractive　　　Much more attractive than me

8. How psychologically involved are you with your former partner?

☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐

Not at all involved　　　Somewhat involved　　　Extremely involved

9. How emotionally involved are you with your former partner?

☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐　　　☐

Not at all involved　　　Somewhat involved　　　Extremely involved

10. How sexually involved are you with your former partner?

   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

Not at all   Somewhat   Extremely
involved   involved   involved

11. How much time do you currently spend with your former partner?

   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

Never   Spend   Frequently
spend time   some time   spend time

12. About how many times have you had contact with your former partner since your breakup?

a. In the past month ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

b. In the past year ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

c. In the past five years ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

13. How would you characterize your current relationship with your former partner?

   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

Very   Neutral   Very
negative   positive

14. Have you ever had thoughts of renewing the relationship with your former partner? Yes No

15. If yes, what has stopped you from renewing the relationship?

16. What would have to occur in order for you to renew the relationship?

17. How likely is it that you will renew the relationship with your former partner?

☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

Very   Neither   Very

unlikely   likely nor   likely

                              unlikely

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