



Apr 12th, 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Perceptions of Parents' Marital Conflict as a Predictor of Young Adult Attachment and Caregiving Styles in Romantic Relationships

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Poster Presentation 6

**PERCEPTIONS OF PARENTS' MARITAL CONFLICT AS A
PREDICTOR OF YOUNG ADULT ATTACHMENT AND CAREGIVING
STYLES IN ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS**

Ben Chapman and Linda Kunce*, Department of Psychology, IWU

Attachment styles and caregiving styles have provided a useful framework for conceptualizing romantic relationships. The present study examined whether perceptions of parental conflict would predict attachment and caregiving styles in the romantic relationships of young adults. It was hypothesized that higher perceptions of parental conflict, as measured by the marital conflict subscale of the Family Structure Survey (Lopez, 1986) and by the Conflict Tactics Scale (Strauss, 1985), would correlate positively with maladaptive extremes of caregiving styles, measured using the Caregiving Questionnaire (Kunce and Shaver, 1994), and with less secure attachment styles, measured using both the Discreet Attachment Item (Bartholemew and Horowitz, 1991), and the Dimensional Attachment Style Questionnaire (Shaver, in press). Results are discussed in the context of a social-learning hypothesis for attachment and caregiving styles in the romantic relationships of young adults, with the parents' marriage considered as the primary model of romantic relationships.