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An Investigation of Different Dimensions of Loneliness

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Poster Presentation P25

AN INVESTIGATION OF DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS OF LONELINESS

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Loneliness is thought to have multiple-dimensions: isolation, connectedness, and belongingness (Hawkley, et al., 1999). Isolation is a feeling of isolation, that is not limited to a lack of intimate others (Bednar & Ernst, 1999). A lack of connectedness corresponds to the absence of a close friend or partner. (Hawkley et al., 1999). Lack of belongingness represents feelings of inadequacy in relating with and inclusion in a group (Hawkley, et al., 1999). Male and female undergraduates completed a new measure of loneliness, the Loneliness Dimension Scale, which is intended to assess these three dimensions of loneliness. Factor analyses will be presented to assess whether these three factors are separable. If loneliness can be separated into two or more reliable dimensions this would have theoretical implications for the study of loneliness.