

Close Relationships



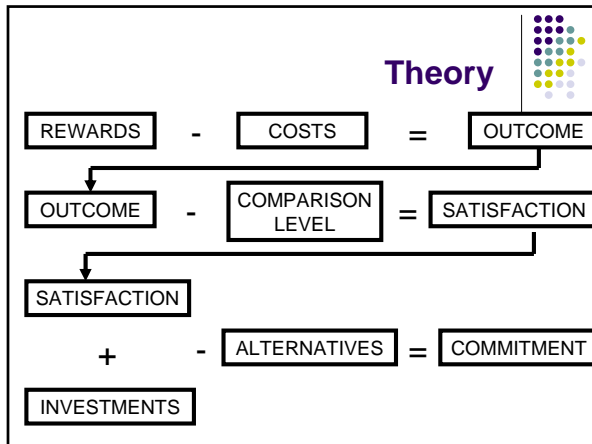
Stages of Development

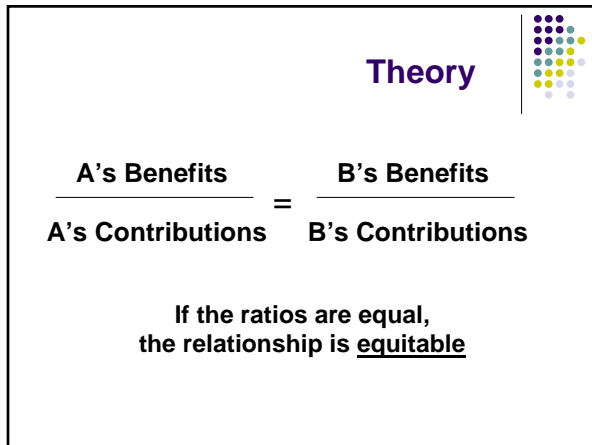


- _____ **Stage**
 - "Chemistry"
- _____ **Stage**
 - Shared beliefs and interests
- _____ **Stage**
 - Fitting into socialized niche

Relationship Theories







Theory

Intimate disclosure is typically held back until
after the initial stages of relationship
development

Gore, Cross, & Morris (2006)



More personal information disclosed →
Closer to college roommate

- Sandra Murray and others
- Seeing partner as better than they really are is key to relationship success



- William Swann and others
- Being with someone who verifies your self-concept is key to relationship success



Who's Right?



- **Illusions** predict satisfaction
 - May be more important during initial stages
- **Verification** predicts commitment
 - May be more important during later stages
 - Explains why some people prefer those who treat them badly

Relationship Conflicts



Tit-for-tat exchange of negative affect





When conflict arises, women want to talk about their feelings and men want to solve the problem

Demand / Withdraw Interaction Pattern



- _____
 - Demanding partner tries to discuss problems
 - Withdrawing partner tries to avoid discussion.
- _____
 - Demanding partner nags and demands
 - Withdrawing partner is silent and withdrawn.
- _____
 - Demanding partner criticizes
 - Withdrawing partner is defensive.



- Explanations for partner's positive and negative behaviors
- External vs. internal (source)
- Unstable vs. stable (consistency over time)
- Global vs. specific (generalizability)

