

EXPLANATIONS AND JUSTIFICATIONS:  
MAKING MEANING IN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS  
Interpersonal Relations

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- I. Information Processing
  - A. Hawkins et al. (2002) “talk table” study
  - B. Fatal attraction
  
- II. Motivated Reasoning
  - A. Enhancement: Believing the Best about Relationships
  - B. Accuracy: Knowing and Being Known in Relationships
  - C. Justification: Being Right in Relationships
  
- III. How do We Reach Desired Conclusions about our Intimate Relationships?
  - A. Accommodation and Assimilation - read in Bradbury & Karney, p. 420
  - B. Keeping Negative Information out of Awareness
    - 1. Selective Attention
    - 2. Memory Bias
  - C. Minimizing the Impact of Negative Information
    - 1. Adaptive Attributions
    - 2. Flexible Standards – read in Bradbury & Karney, pp. 428-430
    - 3. Downward Social Comparison
  
- IV. Ability: When We Can and Can’t Protect our Relationships
  - A. Cognitive Complexity – read one long paragraph in Bradbury & Karney, p. 437, 439

**Optional Readings from Lewandowski et al.**

Q6 *Is love really blind?*

Q15 *Are people less happy after they get married?*