

COMMUNICATING CLOSENESS:
HOW INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS ARE MAINTAINED
Interpersonal Relations

- I. Interdependence Theory (note that this is from Ch 3 under Social Exchange Theory)
 - A. Comparison Level
 - B. Comparison Level for Alternatives

- II. Maintaining Intimacy
 - A. Commitment
 - 1. Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment
 - 2. Commitment Preserving Processes
 - a. Derogation of Alternative Partners
 - b. Willingness to Sacrifice
 - c. Forgiveness
 - 1) Third-party Forgiveness
 - 2) Q29, Should I really "forgive and forget" when my partner isn't perfect or messes up?
 - B. Shared Activities – Self-expansion model
 - C. Social Support – visible and invisible (read in Bradbury & Karney, p. 300)
 - D. Trust
 - E. Sex and Physical Intimacy – Litzinger & Gordon (2005) "communication and sex" study (read in Bradbury & Karney, p. 310)

Optional Readings from Lewandowski et al.

- Q31 *Does sex lead to love, or does love lead to sex?*
- Q32 *Will we stop having sex once we are married?*